



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1988

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen): Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 23rd. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Zoe.

Point Of Privilege

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a point of privilege concerning an article which appeared in yesterday's News/North, entitled "Simpson gets most jobs." In this article, the reporter, Kathy Welbourn, quoted me as referring to the Hon. Dennis Patterson's response to my questioning about the Fort Smith decentralization in very uncomplimentary terms. Mr. Speaker, while I may very well have thought of the plan in those terms, I certainly did not refer to it in those terms in this House. The reporter was in error in quoting me and I wish to take this opportunity to set the record straight. Thank you.

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

Sympathy Expressed

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, a point of privilege. I have an information item of what happened in my community yesterday. I am sorry to say that yesterday we had a sudden death in my community. It is a woman who died yesterday and I would like to express my sympathy to the relatives of that woman. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 17-88(1): Public Accounts For The Fiscal Year 1986-87

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to announce that today I will be tabling the Public Accounts of the NWT for the Year Ended March 31st, 1987. This tabling of the public accounts is in accordance with section 74 of the Financial Administration Act.

The public accounts present the formal financial statements of this government, as have been audited by the Auditor General of Canada. They are in agreement with the interim financial report that was tabled on November 19, 1987. The accounts represent the "state of the art" in presentation, Mr. Richard...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: ...complying with all pertinent recommendations of the accounting profession in Canada.

The method of presentation is continually updated by the office of the comptroller general, to ensure that the information reflects the needs of the users. This year, the schedule of lease commitments on page 73 has been added, in order to respond to demands for timely information of the ongoing financial commitments that leases represent.

Such public agencies as the NWT Housing Corporation continue to be reported separately from those of the government. Work is continuing to enable the consolidation of public agency and government financial statements. The accounting profession's current studies on government consolidation will be reviewed when they are made available, prior to any consolidations being conducted.

The public accounts represent a fair picture of this government's financial status and incorporate the latest policies recommended to make government financial statements useful to readers. On these bases, I believe the accounts will provide government and public users with an accurate and informative review of the 1986-87 fiscal year. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 18-88(1): Student Financial Assistance

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the current student loans program in the Northwest Territories has been under a tremendous strain. It currently allows students to have their loans completely forgiven if they successfully complete their programs and return to work in the North.

In four years, the number of students attending colleges and universities has nearly doubled. Even more remarkably, the number of native students attending post-secondary schools has tripled. In an effort to control costs in this program without creating undue hardships for students, I proposed to the standing committee on finance that in the future the full benefits be reduced.

The standing committee on finance expressed concern that the proposed cuts would discourage and demoralize students considering post-secondary studies. The standing committee was concerned that the effect could be to slow down or reverse the trend toward higher learning and cause some students to remain in the South after graduation, at a time when we need more northern graduates in our work force.

After carefully considering the advice of the standing committee on finance following the start of this session, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that cuts in tuition ceilings and the second round trip will be withdrawn.

---Applause

The cut in support for students who are receiving adequate levels of support from their employer will remain. Most students in this circumstance are government employees who are studying on educational leave at up to 50 per cent of their salary.

On the matter of student loans, I have decided as follows: Currently students must live in the Northwest Territories for only two years to receive student loans up to \$26,000. If they return to live in the North, these loans do not have to be repaid. From now on, short-term residents will be eligible for one year of forgivable loan for every three years they live in the North.

All people who live in the Northwest Territories for at least one year will be eligible for a repayable loan. No change will be made with regard to forgiveness of loans for long-term residents.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce these adjustments and am sure they are welcome news to students. Our student financial assistance program remains the most generous in Canada.

All students raised and educated in the Northwest Territories, whether native or non-native, can receive support from us to complete their studies without a means test and will not have to repay loans after graduation, provided they return to the North.

Mr. Speaker, I stress that students in the system now and long-term residents will not be affected by any of these changes. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You have another one?

Ministers' Statement 19-88(1): Inuvik Youth Conference

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, if I may, Mr. Speaker. This is about the Inuvik youth conference. Mr. Speaker, in response to the widespread concern in the Inuvik Region about drug and substance abuse, the Inuvik youth conference was held in January. This conference was regarded by the community as the first step in their response to the ongoing problems of drug and substance abuse by young people.

Led by the board of directors of the Inuvik alcohol and drug rehabilitation committee, the conference received strong backing from our government and the federal government. The Inuvik education society, civic groups, native organizations and businesses all supported the conference and its organizers. About 600 people took part in the workshops and discussions that took place from January 20 to 22. Participants in the conference included students and staff at Samuel Hearne Secondary School, grade six students from Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, Grollier Hall staff, health workers, Arctic College students and staff, RCMP, social services workers and drug and alcohol workers from the Delta.

The conference organizers, facilitators and teachers were so concerned about the problems related to substance abuse that all insisted that community help groups for students be organized immediately. These groups are now active and working hard toward helping the young people in Inuvik face these problems.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that all participants of the conference felt it was a success. Both teachers and students learned a great deal about drug and substance abuse and how to avoid becoming involved in these serious and deadly activities. I commend the energy and commitment of the people of Inuvik for helping their young people try to solve these problems. Thank you.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Translation Services

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a concern that I would like to state at this time. Yesterday there was talk about translation services for those of us who are unilingual people. It was felt that it is too expensive when our documents have to be translated. I am very concerned because there are many Inuit who are unilingual. Probably more in the Baffin Region than anywhere else, maybe 70 or 80 per cent are unilingual Inuit and can read only in Inuktitut and syllabics. That is their only way of communicating with us. The Minister of Culture and Communications said that it was too expensive to do translations into Inuktitut and it seems that this is not right. I think that certain Minister is probably more accountable to the Inuit than anybody else and this is not the first time that he has said that it is too expensive to do translations into Inuktitut. I expect that he will keep bringing that up, and I am very concerned that he is not too concerned about the use of our language and thinks that it is too expensive, even though it is his responsibility.

It has been stated, too, that Inuit do not read Inuktitut literature but that is not the case. It is due to the fact that there are not very many documents or books available in Inuktitut. If the Minister is going to treat this service...

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On CBC Broadcast Re Role Of Status Of Women

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about a broadcast which I heard, partly, on CBC Mackenzie this morning. It had to do with the role of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women in promoting a better deal for women in the NWT. This is, I suppose, to give notice, Mr. Speaker, that during question period I shall be pursuing both the Government Leader and the Minister responsible for the Status of Women on this issue. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Translation Services

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make a short comment regarding translation. Why is it too expensive to provide that service? Or are you treating us as being smaller than you, even though we are elected officials in the NWT? Should we be denied access just because of cost? You are treating all the Inuit of the NWT as being smaller than you are. If you are going to keep saying that and keep thinking of us as being lower than you are, then we also have the right to say that it is not necessary to put everything into Inuktitut or other native languages of the NWT. What importance does the language play in your role as Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Members' statements. Mr. Ernerk.

Member's Statement On Cost Of Translation Services

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to hear that the language of the Inuit is regarded as too expensive by the government. That is a statement. Our language is not for sale. The government is a government. Our people, in our constituencies and Kitikmeot should be provided with a service in our own language, especially if we want to provide them with documents in their own language, because the government is committed to helping these people. (Translation ends)

You are not here to provide a favour, you are here to provide a service. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I am really concerned with what I heard yesterday and I want to ask the Executive Council if that, in fact, is their policy with regard to the translation with various materials into Inuktitut. I am really concerned about that and I do not ever want it to be a stumbling block for government programs and services.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Item 3, Members' statements. That appears to conclude Item 3. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question 076-88(1): Funding For Keewatin Youth Council

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the honourable Mr. Ernerk's question asked on February 18th regarding the funding for the Keewatin Youth Council that was held in Rankin Inlet, I am pleased to advise that the Department of Social Services provided a \$10,000 contribution to the Keewatin Regional Council to enable them to hold a regional youth conference. This conference, attended by youth from throughout the Keewatin Region, was held in Rankin Inlet last month. As Minister of Youth, I was pleased to send the delegates a telex to confirm my support for their initiatives. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 075-88(1): Comprehensive Evaluation Of HAP

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a response to a question asked by Mr. Ernerk on February 18th regarding the evaluation of the home-ownership assistance program.

I would like to inform the Assembly that I intend to release the report once the document has been summarized and translated so that all Members of this Legislature will have equal access to the document at the same time, because I know the Members are very interested. I asked the department to complete the summary and translation as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 039-88(1): Charges Of Illegal Hunting Of Migratory Birds

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 039-88(1), asked by Mr. Ludy Pudluk on February 12th, 1988, concerning charges of illegal hunting of migratory birds.

Over the course of the last four years, officers from the Department of Renewable Resources have investigated six cases of alleged violations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act or the associated regulations.

Of the six investigations, four were closed with warnings to the individuals involved, one concerned wastage that could not be identified to any person in particular, and one resulted in a fine of \$100 to a non-native person for hunting without a licence.

The Migratory Birds Convention Act is also enforced by officers from the Canadian Wildlife Service and the RCMP. Over the last two years, members of the RCMP have laid three charges. Of these, one was for hunting out of season. The enforcement efforts of renewable resource officers are directed first at education and preventive measures rather than court action. We have always attempted to work with the hunters and trappers in an area and gain their active co-operation in ensuring compliance with wildlife legislation. When the co-operative approach fails, we will take the necessary steps to prevent damage to the resource or wastage, including court action. Thank you.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 0110-88(1): Cost Of Job Advertising In News/North

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Personnel, the Hon. Gordon Wray. It concerns the costs involved in advertising job competitions in News/North. Mr. Speaker, I have a concern with the amount of money that this government is spending on this type of advertising and a concern that it may not be equitable for all parts of the Northwest Territories. Could the Minister please provide me with the actual costs of advertising of positions in News/North since April 1, 1987 to the present?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0110-88(1): Cost Of Job Advertising In News/North

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The system of advertising with newspapers is handled through two agencies. I can tell the Member that the total amount spent on advertising in 1986-87 was \$2,112,000. However, with regard to the specific item of how much was the Department of Personnel's costs vis-a-vis the News/North, I do not have the figures for this fiscal year, but I will get them for the Member. For fiscal year 1986-87, my information is that advertising costs just for job advertisements in the News/North -- this does not include DPW or any other government advertisements -- was \$47,523 for 1986-87.

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



Question 0111-88(1): Reported Reclassification Of Job Descriptions

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to another Minister. Thank you. My question is to the Minister of Social Services. On February 22nd, 1988, News/North reported that reclassification of social workers' job descriptions will come into effect in April, 1988. It also indicated that social workers will soon be required to do more than just hand out welfare cheques, according to John Simpson, planning consultant, human resources, GNWT Social Services department. My question to the Minister is this: Does the Minister feel that her staff up until now have only been handing out welfare cheques and does this mean that the Minister shares the views of Mr. Simpson?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question 0111-88(1): Reported Reclassification Of Job Descriptions

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I do not apologize for taking the time out to read News/North because I sincerely feel I have not had the time and I do not take time to read all these types of papers that do, quite a few times, misquote. As for the article that the Member has explained, I do not share the view that my social workers are welfare agencies and, in particular, people who only hand out cheques. In fact, I commend the social workers for being so diversified in their positions and being able to handle their positions as well as they do, taking into account all the social problems that we do face in the North. I will make it a point to look at that particular paper and correct the viewpoint of the editor which was raised in that particular article. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Ernerk, is this a supplementary?

Supplementary To Question 0111-88(1): Reported Reclassification Of Job Descriptions

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the Minister is this. It is also reported that up until now the Department of Social Services' approach has been to hire people from within the communities as social workers but the lack of proper training, education and skills has sometimes led to bad service for the people at the community level. Again, my question is this, Mr. Speaker: Does this mean that local hires are not qualified and if the Minister feels that way, does this mean that local hires will be moved for upgrading to Iqaluit and will attend Arctic College there?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question 0111-88(1): Reported Reclassification Of Job Descriptions

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the honourable Member's question, I must state that I know the department sincerely does attempt to utilize as much local help as they can in regard to the delivery of services. I have requested that the department try to continue that practice and I do not apologize for the viewpoint of some editor that has his own particular methodology of thinking. I will take that particular article into consideration, review it and correct the viewpoint of our department's implementation of program delivery at the community level as opposed to an editor's viewpoint. Thank you.

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

Question 0112-88(1): Public Housing Rent Arrears, Deceased Tenants

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. It is concerning Cape Dorset residents. In Cape Dorset, the tenants of the public housing have some arrears and they pass away before they can pay up the amount of money they owe. The money that is owed is just sitting at the housing association for a long time and nothing has been done about it and nobody knows who should be paying this. For that reason, I would like to ask what the Department of Justice can do about these moneys that are owed by people who are not around any more. The moneys are just sitting in the housing association's offices. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Who would like to handle it?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was not aware that a problem like this was going on. I will look into it and take the question as notice and get back to the honourable Member. Thank you.

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

Question 0113-88(1): Assistance From Public Trustee's Office

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was speaking before the session this afternoon with Mr. Arlooktoo about this problem. I would like to ask a follow-up question, to assist Mr. Arlooktoo, of the Minister of Justice. It also relates to the Housing portfolio. The concern in Mr. Arlooktoo's riding is that there are deceased former tenants of the housing association who still have a liability on the books of the housing association and Mr. Arlooktoo is concerned that there might be some assistance from the public trustee's office within the Minister of Justice's department. That is the request: that someone from the public trustee's office provide some assistance to the people in that situation and resolve the issue between the estate and the local housing association.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard, for that clarification. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0113-88(1): Assistance From Public Trustee's Office

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for his comments. My understanding was that in a lot of associations these issues handle the situation by policy and that the board decides to write it off. But if that is not the case, I certainly will take it up with the public trustee's office and give what assistance I can to the honourable Member to try to resolve the issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question 0114-88(1): Authority To Deal With Liability Against Estate

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary question. The local housing authorities do not have the authority and for that reason the records of the amounts of money that are owed are just sitting in their office. They cannot take any steps. I think the Department of Justice has the only authority to solve this problem on these moneys owed to the housing authorities. This is not just in Cape Dorset, but in other communities as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I thank the Member for that information, that in fact there is a limitation on the authority of the housing authorities or associations. I definitely will take it under advisement with my department and with the public trustee's office and see if we can resolve the issue. I will come back to this House with an answer as soon as possible.

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

Question 0115-88(1): Guidelines On Write-Offs For Local Housing Associations

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a different question directed to the Minister of Housing. I would like to know what kind of guidelines and policies you provide for these housing authorities in the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: The question is a bit unclear to me. I am not certain what guidelines and policies the Member is inquiring about.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you have some kind of guidelines or policies concerning the money that is owed to the housing associations in the local communities, the write-offs?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I know that there was a certain way that these matters were handled back in 1981 when I was on the board of the Housing Corporation. Currently I do not know if that procedure has changed. So like the Minister of Justice, I have to take the question as notice and get back to the Member as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister, you are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question 0116-88(1): Collection Of Debts Owed To Housing Associations

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Housing. How do I put this? In the communities we have some problems. For example, where Inuit are moving to different communities; they commute back and forth. Also, there are some Inuit who are living in the South. They leave the communities while they owe a lot of money. Although they have been given notices to pay their rent, they do not pay. Because of this problem, what kind of authority does the local housing association have? I know for sure, through the regulations, that if the person does not pay he has to go to court. How would you look after the people who are living outside the Northwest Territories now, down South? Thank you.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I do not know if there is a problem with translation, Mr. Speaker, but I understand the question to be that there is a concern in some Inuit communities because some of the Inuit of those communities are mobile, that is, they move back and forth between different communities; some Inuit are moving to the South; some are moving from the South back to the communities and some of these people owe money and the question is, what authority does the local association have to take action on money owing and how can these local associations deal with this particular problem?

I do not have the information to respond to that question, if that is what the question was. I would ask that the information be made available to me by the Housing Corporation based on their information about how all the different communities and local housing associations deal with this particular problem in the North and get back to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You took that as notice. Mr. Pudluk, supplementary.

MR. PUDLUK: More explanation. I am talking about those people who leave permanently. In the communities I think the housing association already has authority. If the guy wants to come back to the settlement, automatically he is not going to get the house because he owes money. I am talking about those people who are living permanently outside of the NWT. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, with that clarification.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: The question, I suppose, is enquiring as to what legal means we have to collect moneys, either as an association or a corporation, from those people who move south and leave an account owing to us. I, again, need to take this question as notice and have an opinion prepared. Thank you.

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

Question 0117-88(1): Debts Owed By Deceased Spouse

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Justice have been asked questions, I would like to move to another Minister, the Minister of Social Services. There are widows whose husbands were working and have died and in some cases the person who died may owe some money to the housing association and this woman is not employed. What help can she get from Social Services if the Minister of Justice or the Housing Corporation does not have anything prepared for that situation? I want to know. There are some ladies whose husbands have built up something that they owe and they go on welfare after their spouses die. They do not make any effort of getting extra money. Would that be looked at in the future so that something like that does not happen too often?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question 0117-88(1): Debts Owed By Deceased Spouse

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the question, it appears that it is a combination of a few departments that have to address this but I will try to co-ordinate an answer. I would like to assure my honourable Member that in the event that any individual does go to the Department of Social Services and indicates a need to be assisted under the social assistance program, then they are recognized and assisted. In regard to the question of an outstanding debt left by a spouse, if the spouse has died or even if the spouse has left, that is a concern that I believe should be addressed by the Minister of Justice or the Minister of Housing. I would just like to assure the honourable Member that if they are in need, then the purpose of this department is to assist an individual in need under the social assistance program. Thank you.

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

Question 0118-88(1): Status Of Equality For Women Action Plan

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government Leader whether Tabled Document 2-85(2) called "Equality for Women: A Five Year Plan of Action, 1985-1989", which was signed by him in June, 1985 and contains 53 proposed goals under an overall policy, is still the policy of this government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question 0118-88(1): Status Of Equality For Women Action Plan

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question 0118-88(1): Status Of Equality For Women Action Plan

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, since we are not far away from 1989 and since of these 53 goals only eight have been achieved and since there were 22 goals which were specified to be accomplished immediately, could the Government Leader tell this House, who is responsible for the implementation of this policy within this government structure?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 0118-88(1): Status Of Equality For Women Action Plan

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I am pleased that the honourable Member has recognized that while I was the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I presented this plan to the then cabinet of the day and had it approved. To answer the Member's question, Mr. Speaker. The Minister responsible for the Status of Women in our cabinet is responsible for advising the cabinet on women's issues and seeing that the cabinet is kept informed of women's issues and is responsible for drawing these issues and concerns to the attention of cabinet and monitoring the effectiveness of government policies relating to women, in conjunction with her duties as a Member of cabinet. So I would answer the Member's question by saying that the Minister responsible for the Status of Women is the window on cabinet for women in the NWT who may have concerns about government policies and programs respecting women. As Government Leader, I would take over all responsibility for the implementation of policies and programs relating to women but on the advice of the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 0118-88(1): Status Of Equality For Women Action Plan

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, since there has been so little action on this action plan and since it has been the subject of some discussion today, I would like to ask the Government Leader whether he would agree with this statement made by one of his Ministers, publicly today: "I believe that at

some point in time the advisory council was not aggressive enough and I think it is the set-up of the whole secretariat and I am currently reviewing it. I do not feel it is effective but I would like to look at ways of improving it." Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 0118-88(1): Status Of Equality For Women Action Plan

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should be referring these questions to the honourable Minister responsible for the Status of Women. However, since the Member has, I believe, fairly paraphrased the substance of an interview that he and I presumably both heard on CBC this morning with the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, which followed on a cabinet discussion on the subject of the role and effectiveness of the advisory council, I will say that generally I do agree with the comments of the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Mr. Speaker, the advisory council on the Status of Women, we believe, can and should be made more effective. That is not to say that they have not done a good job and that there have not been dedicated people involved, but we are now reviewing, with the advice of the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, ways in which the advisory council can be more effective. One of the problems with the advisory council, Mr. Speaker, is that the way it is structured right now, the advisory council is not certain whether it is an independent body acting at arm's length from the government or whether in fact it is a part of the government within the Executive branch of government. I think that there is a need to clarify the role of the advisory council and its relationship to the Executive branch of the government. It is in that context, Mr. Speaker, that I believe the Minister is reviewing the role and ways in which the advisory council can be made more effective. And I agree with her comments on that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question 0119-88(1): Advertised Positions For Health Professionals

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Personnel and ask whether or not he is aware of the advertisements with regard to health professionals in a number of areas throughout the Mackenzie Valley, the Kitikmeot and the Keewatin, and whether or not he has had the opportunity to review the criteria for every position and whether or not approval has been given by the Minister of Health, the Executive Council and the Minister of Personnel?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice and provide a reply tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Question 0120-88(1): Economic Development Office For Clyde River And Broughton Island

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister of Economic Development, which I asked last week. I told him that in my constituency in Clyde River they are having a lot of problems with economic development. The two communities I mentioned are Clyde River and Broughton Island. As I said, they should have one economic development officer. Have you considered this? Are you going to implement the recommendation I talked about? Because I know it will be a lot better. Or is there a lack of funds for more staff? I would like to find out about this for my constituents.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I will take the question as notice and I will reply to the Member tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Question taken as notice. Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W14-88(1): Health Professionals Classification

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A written question directed to the Minister of Personnel with regard to advertisements for health professionals. Would the Minister indicate to this House whether the regional steering committees were involved in the development of classifications for the health professionals as advertised by the Government of the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, return to Question W13-88(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo of the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

Return To Question W13-88(1): Allocation Of HAP Units

Hon. Stephen Kakfwi's return to Question W13-88(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on February 19, 1988:

In response to the question raised by Mr. Nerysoo, I refer the Member to my letter to all MLAs stating my intention to review the HAP allocation process. As indicated, I wish to see the decisions regarding allocations made by the community with the MLA involved and consulted. The role of the corporation staff would be to ensure that program policy and guidelines are known and applied by the community and that the process of selection is open and fair.

Within this context, I am not sure of the necessity of an appeal process. However, as the matter has been raised by the Member, I would be pleased to consider an appeal process as part of the review. I would also encourage Members to bring to my attention any concerns they may have with respect to the HAP allocation. In addition, as soon as the summary and translation of the recent study done on the home-ownership assistance program is completed, it will be made available to Members to assist them in making their own comments.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Angottitauruq's Reply

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to attempt to make my reply today to the Opening Address. First of all, it is almost 2:00 o'clock and I will try not to take too much time. But I have the floor at this time to reply to the Opening Address and I will try to make myself clear about what my communities require. As economic development has been a great issue in the NWT and even with the formation of the special committee on the economy of the NWT and before any of the Members travel across the NWT, I would like to speak a little about the economy.

First of all, when trying to do something in the Assembly, we look back at the history and that is where some people get most of their support from. I would like to speak to the NWT and to this Assembly about a few things that I think might open some ears of the Members of the Executive and other colleagues. I remember when I first went to school, in 1960, I did not speak any English. From then on a lot of the communities were beginning to be formed. The people used to live out on the land without really knowing what a dollar bill was, but knowing how to provide for their families. They hunted and trapped. But today it is a different situation. Who brought them to the communities? It was the government system and now the government is saying "Let the people be more independent." But I say, without the government's help, a lot of the communities will be very, very slow in developing.

Assistance Needed From Economic Development Officers

At the same time I believe that they should be independent and they should try to create businesses at the community level. And since jobs are scarce and since business people from the South do not like to move to those small communities, they will continue to talk about economic development at

the community level but without the government's support, it will take a long time before any jobs are created. Yes, the government can say, "We created the Eskimo Loan Fund and we have given support to small businesses" but those funds and services are never available to communities and I know for a fact there are many applicants at the community level who apply to the Eskimo Loan Fund and Special ARDA but many of them have never received an answer from the Department of Economic Development offices.

I have heard that applications approximately three feet long from one area have been sitting in the offices of Economic Development regional headquarters. The question still remains which I have asked before, and I remember when I made my reply maybe three to four years back: Who are the economic development officers? Who are they really working for? The government says, "Talk with the economic development officers if you want to create your own business." Well, I say something has to start moving ahead on the part of the Department of Economic Development.

I think we have quite a lot of things at the community level that could create jobs but, as I say, many of the people were moved into the communities and many of them are on welfare. A few are working but we cannot depend on them to start their businesses, because whenever they try they cannot get any support and the worst of all, I guess, and what makes it so hard, is that there are no banks in the communities. I understand that Economic Development used to act as a bank and as a go-between between the bank and the person who wanted to start up a business. With the situation of not having banks in the small communities, of banks being a distance away, we really cannot depend on our local people to create jobs. That is why I say we still need the government's help.

#### Land Claims And Division

I would like to speed up a bit because I have a number of items that I would like to speak about. First of all, in trying to talk about economic development in the North, there are times the government also says, "Let the local people start up a business to create jobs; let them be the first ones to take the resources in the communities." I agree with the idea. I guess the whole idea of economic development and the hope of bringing it a little closer to the people is to settle the land claims. I fully support the idea of settling land claims, so that the native people could have more say in how the land is developed because they depend on it so much. But I think the people in wanting more control are threatening their own future by talking about land claims and division of the Northwest Territories. As I said, I support totally the land claims but then again whenever we talk about language and Meech Lake and what they can do, I think we have to say, let us stick together and try to really make something out of the Northwest Territories, not by fearing that Manitoba or the other provinces would cut their boundary line straight through the Northwest Territories and divide the people worse than they want to do.

I have heard that to start economic development, they wanted to create east and west and now with this Assembly of 24 MLAs we have gone a long way. I think we can develop the Northwest Territories better without dividing it, as long as we have the land claims. People can say that the land claims cannot go without division but I believe that if there were proper negotiations the two permanent native peoples, the aboriginal people, the Inuit and the Dene, can have a say on how their land is being set out and how they want it set out.

As a Member and representing a few communities in the Northwest Territories we, the Natilikmiot, as we are called, are in the middle of where the division of the Northwest Territories is proposed to be. A lot of the people that I represent would like the land claims to go through and they will not back down on it in their minds. The supporters of the division of the Northwest Territories will not back down on what they believe. But I think that in talking about dividing the North and trying to plan for the economic development of the North, many of the politicians and many of the organizations, east or west, have to be together, have to work together. So in the hope of trying to talk about economic development in the Northwest Territories, I would like to also try and work out some of the main concerns of the communities I represent.

#### Good System Of Communication Needed

Getting back down to the CBC Kitikmeot -- and I will put news clippings and newspapers together -- I firmly believe that to create something, the news media is one great tool. It could put down a man who is truly politically strong and it could put a weak one up. The reason why I say that is because the communities that I represent have said to me a number of times, "We, the people of

Natilikmiot" -- they are usually called Kitikmeot -- "we are not getting things like the people on the east side and the west side, even though we are in the Centre." I firmly believe that. Many of them can blame their MLA. How many MLAs have they had in the past? Is it not time that they should be up on their two feet? Partly why I said that is because I believe that to politically raise a community or a region, you require a good form of communication and a good system of bringing the news to the people.

I think what has been lacking in the Kitikmeot, or I could say Central Arctic, is radio communication. When I was in Pelly Bay, just before I got here, I was talking to one person there. Once in a long while when we see our people named in the news, we are proud of them and it gives us more energy and hope of trying to get there, in the news. That was mentioned, about the Northern Games.

Part of what I am trying to really say is that this Legislative Assembly gives out newspaper clippings that might be interesting to the MLAs and they are never translated. You can say there is a newspaper produced in Iqaluit that is written syllabics, but in Kitikmeot it may really have no value. If we are trying to educate our people to be self-sufficient, I think it is time that this government makes more translations of some documents. That is getting back partly to yesterday. When this government that sits on my right, but I am not with them, said a little document like that with only 200 pages would cost too much -- that is keeping some information closed to the people of the NWT, especially the majority of those who should really get to know what is going on. I believe that the NWT has come a long way but there is still a lot to be done.

I will get down to what I am going to say about the communities. I will not mention each community that I represent, but I will try and say some of the things that they require, that need improving, to give them better living conditions.

#### Housing Needs In Pelly Bay

First of all I would like to speak of one small community, the farthest to the east in Natilikmiot, and that is Pelly Bay. That community is serviced only by air. Like other communities it is growing. I once heard a government decision maker, when I asked for something for that community, say that the population fluctuates and a lot of people are moving away from there and it is very hard to give them what they require. Right now that community, even though it is reported that it is getting six houses this fiscal year, is still going to be short of houses. When I was there they were giving an introduction of how many houses they were getting and they were told by the regional Housing Corporation office that if they do not write off four houses, they will not get the six houses. That made me feel sorry because I see that the people are short of houses there and here is one of the reasons they are short of houses. Right now they are short of houses; even with the good work of the special committee on housing, they are still short of houses. This is because they have some old houses that were built by the mission and turned over to them and they are in poor repair.

There is a family right now that is dwelling in the old housing association workshop and that is a family of approximately seven or eight and they have two students attending school in Yellowknife here, so that must be a large family. They are living in a little shack of approximately 20 feet wide by 30 feet long -- that is a little more, I should say. It is approximately 15 feet wide by 25 feet long, with one little room. Six houses were a welcome sight to the community, until they found out if you do not write off four of your old houses that you have people still living in, you cannot get these six houses. That is just two additional houses for the community.

The people that I represent are lacking in recreation facilities in all the communities that I represent. In fact, two communities do not have any community hall. One community does. The young people there try to use the school gym to have recreation. The only thing they can do all through the winter and all through the summer is basketball, and you can say volleyball, but other than that they really have no other means of having recreation. The lack of recreation facilities is understood to exist in the Northwest Territories but in a remote community it is much-needed and the hockey arena and curling rink projects in the communities should be speeded up by the government. One time I was told by a government official, "Does the community show any effort in wanting a hockey arena?" How can they show it at 60 below when you have to move around and you do not have a windshield on your face? Because you could go pretty fast when you are skating. Yes, you can only show it in the fall, in September and November and when December comes, you cannot really show over again that you really need a good closed rink to play hockey or skate around.



### Subsidy On Soapstone

The communities I represent are at this time, and have been, lacking carving material. Yes, there is some soapstone available but they have to travel at least a day or two days to get carving material, that is soapstone, and you cannot bring back very much because the stone is heavy. There is no way in our communities to get ivory, because we do not have narwhals and we do not have walrus and any little material like that which comes into the community from the eastern part of the Northwest Territories would be set at a high price for a carver to buy because one walrus tusk can go up to \$190 to \$200. You have to be a very good carver to be able to afford that price and to go over beyond that to make a profit. When you are thinking of supporting your family, to get material like that and to produce it and to get enough to feed the family, then you will not have very much left.

What the communities are really asking for, if possible, and they really do need it, is a carving material subsidy. That is one way of making the community more self-sufficient. If they can compete with other communities in the Northwest Territories -- and competing is not the idea and it has never been my idea of really getting something done, but what I am saying is that those communities can only get their carving material at a very high price. That is why I think they should get a subsidy so that they could be almost at the same price level as some of the communities that do have their material.

### Education

Going to education, education is still a priority in the communities. There is some improvement in the attendance in the communities and there is some improvement in the way of materials they are given to work with but we believe that we are still a long way from getting a good education in my communities.

We still need better materials because we see kids who are 14 who are only in grades three, four and five. The government can say that they are not attending enough. They are not listening enough. But I could say it is partly the education system. There are good attenders who are behind. It is because, I believe, the teachers are not as hard as they used to be. You do not need to push a kid around to teach him but a better thing to do is to make them listen to what you are saying. When I have asked some of the students, from six to 16, they have told me that it gets really boring when you do something over and over again that you know, that you have been doing. That is lacking. They have told me that it gets very boring and you do not seem to be learning anything when your teacher just places some material on your desk and says, "Do it." I think what the students are saying is that it is partly their fault that the education system is slow in the NWT: it is partly the effort of the teachers.

I had a good number of students from my communities who were attending the high school here in Yellowknife and some of them are dropping out. I guess if some of the communities were given a grade 10, they would spend less time in the high school areas like in Yellowknife and Iqaluit and I think there would be fewer drop-outs. My three communities have been talking about getting a high school and the parents want a high school. The communities in the Kitikmeot, I believe, are going through a divisional board in the future and in talking to one of my communities I just happened to be with one of the members of the KREC, the Kitikmeot Region Education Council. I was told by one of the members that go to the meeting and I was surprised that he said he wished that politicians do not talk about the regional high school. He would rather have only the six members of the Kitikmeot Regional Education Council dealing with the regional high school. And my answer was that I would rather not have only the six members talk about it. I would rather have the public at large from the Kitikmeot talking about how they feel about the regional high school.

So I think this government is not going to hear the last mention of a regional high school as long as I am the representative of Kitikmeot. We should either get the regional high school or put the grades higher so that the students could stay home longer and maybe, hopefully, if they had a few years less to do, they would complete their grade 12.

I was saying that I would not mention each community but I have also Spence Bay, which has been fighting to get an extension on their airstrip, even though we are getting services from both west and east. I support the wish of the community for an extension to their airstrip. Pelly Bay also requires some work on their airstrip because they are only serviced by air. The airstrip in Pelly Bay needs to be coated and topped so that the aircraft can have a smoother landing. It is wearing out.

### Extra Channels For VHF Radios Used In Search And Rescue

Further, I should mention while I am getting close to the end of my reply, I think a lot of people and hunters would benefit from the idea that local hunters and trappers, or local search and rescue, with radios given by the Department of Renewable Resources or whoever the department may be, be given extra channels on their VHF radios, which many of the hunters and trappers have. Once you open up a VHF channel that local communities really do communicate with when they are out hunting, it is sometimes impossible, when you are trying to search for someone, and you have all the people almost from east to west communicating, to tell them all that we are on a search and rescue now, please try not to talk too much. It really hampers the searchers. So all they are asking is those radios should have extra channels just mainly for the purpose of search and rescue. Many of the communities would fall into the idea of having extra channels but I guess it will be up to the government, which really gives a lot of support and funding to the local hunters and trappers, to give them extra funding for at least a few extra channels and extra funding for the channels for the purpose of search and rescue.

I should move on to the user-pay program, NCPC. I remember when this motion was introduced in this House and I supported the idea, but at this time I support it no longer. I would like to speak on it in my Member's reply, and while I have the floor without anyone interrupting me. I have heard, while travelling to the communities, of one incident where a person renting public housing was threatened that his power was going to be cut off for 98 cents. Those houses are very hard to keep warm in the wintertime -- and it was in the wintertime -- with a Coleman stove or a small heater. And there was an incident where someone for just a little over four dollars was threatened that his power was going to be cut off. The family went around looking for a vehicle to move to another family and they succeeded in finding a vehicle. At the same time the housing association was preparing to take all the water out from the house. By chance that family was given a few dollars to pay that four dollars and something cents and it did not happen, but the housing association spent over \$100 on preparation.

Since I am not making any motion on this, I would not speak any further about the user-pay program on the NCPC power bills but I would like to make it clear that if this Assembly is trying to encourage the people to spend less on what is available from the government, I think it would be a good idea if the user-pay program was put on to something else. Maybe on something that really has to do with the structure of the house rather than the power which we require in the middle of wintertime. Maybe it would be a good idea if there was a thought of broken windows being paid for by the tenants and that does not happen very, very often; maybe some broken doors in the interior of the building which rarely happens too. Maybe that would show the tenants that they are renting it and using it from the government and should take good care of it, rather than the power bill.

### Gjoa Haven Water Supply

Since I have talked about Spence and Pelly, I might as well go to Gjoa Haven and the need that community has been asking about for a long time. The community is still complaining about water, a water link. All through the winter and summer many of the people have to go and get their water. In the winter many of them do get ice. Their complaint is that the water there is very tasteless and if you try to make water from the lake into tea, it is more like coffee and it tastes rather like sewage. In talking about water, maybe I should invite the Members of the cabinet to the community for a tea party and then they would know what it is like and convince them of what my communities need further east because we do not often see them coming to those communities. Maybe that way, when I try once in a long while to talk about the needs of my constituents, they would really understand what the constituents in the communities I represent want.

I have a few more requests in my book here. I can try and get them on behalf of my communities through oral questions or letters but in closing I would like to say a few things about one of the complaints that my communities have been talking about. I really do not wish to be the one to bring it up but since we represent areas in the NWT, it has to do with something I really should not be talking about but I would like to bring it up to this Assembly. It is about the community of Holman Island and its constituents. They are with the Kitikmeot but in some form they have three MLAs. Therefore, on the Nunakput side some communities believe that they should go to a regional meeting on their own side leaving Coppermine, Cambridge, Gjoa, Spence and Pelly to have their own meetings at the regional level. The problem that seems to exist and why I say they seem to have three MLAs is because we know we have to support each other, but then again the communities

know that they should go to their respective regional districts to have meetings. And that came about because of a budget that the hamlets deal with, and it is believed that they were once truly with the Kitikmeot. It is just looking at the electoral district boundary that is drawn up between that seems to be the problem for some of the communities that I represent.

I was told either to put them directly with the MLA of Kitikmeot West or take them right out and let them go toward the Nunakput side where there is a regional office and let them deal with that regional budget on that side. That is just the main problem and the reason why I brought this up. I believe it will be brought to the regional council of that area but ahead of time on behalf of the people I represent, I would just like to say what they believe about the whole idea of Holman Island and where they think they should be. It is not dividing them. It is just regional budget preparation that they seem to have a problem with.

With that, I should close my comments. It is not exactly a reply to the Opening Address but I just wanted to make a few comments about what my communities really need. And I guess before closing I will go back to housing. We still continue to be short of houses in all of the three communities which I represent. But I guess the worst of all is the largest community which really lacks government staff houses. We are, at this time, getting to the point of requiring good government staff which we have been lacking, because now we are growing and we require much better government services than we have today. We are now going to need more social workers and we do not have an economic development officer at this time. That is because we are short of government staff houses. We believe we need a lot more government staff, like any other communities that have good government staff to guide them along to prepare for the future. We require family counselling, marriage problem counselling which we really lack in the large community. I guess part of that not being available is because of staff housing. Even though the government says the community should be self-sufficient, without the proper education, without the proper government guidance we cannot really proceed in keeping a community well in hand and in control.

I firmly believe that the communities should be self-sufficient but we still require a lot of government services. So I would like to at this time, thank you, Mr. Speaker, for patiently waiting and the rest of my colleagues for listening to my views and my communities' concerns. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. We are on Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 72-88(1), Public Accounts of the Northwest Territories for the Year Ended March 31, 1987.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Tabling of documents. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 73-88(1), 33rd Annual Report, Northwest Territories Liquor Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 14, motions.

Item 15, first reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, 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 and Ministers' Statement 13-88(1), with Mr. Zoe in the chair.

ITEM 17: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I would like to call the committee to order. We are dealing with the Department of Government Services. We are on page 10.15 and I would like to ask the Minister to bring in his witnesses right after we have a short break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

Mr. Minister. Could you kindly introduce your witnesses for the record please?

Department Of Government Services

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, (Translation) the lady who is sitting beside me is Jane Schofield and the other person who is here is the deputy minister for Government Services, John Quirke. Thank you.

Petroleum Products

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The Department of Government Services, petroleum products. We left off yesterday with Members questioning the Minister on petroleum products and the last speaker was Mr. Pudluk, yesterday. Is there any further questioning on petroleum products? If there are not any further questions on petroleum products, and there is no O and M, then I will continue on to the following page.

Liquor Commission

Liquor Commission. Information item. This activity does not have any O and M. Are there any questions on that? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I am looking at the 33rd Annual Report of the NWT Liquor Commission and it would appear from the sales highlights that the curve in sales in the NWT is now beginning to go downward. In fact, when you examine the details of the various stores, I think only one or two are really showing an increase over past years. I wonder if this has any significance and how does the Minister project the income from this particular program in the years ahead?

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: In response to the question, Mr. Chairman, apparently the volume of sales is down due to the closure of an outlet in Tungsten, and secondly, the winding down of Pine Point. The population of Pine Point has dropped dramatically in the last year. Basically the consumption is down and the cost has gone up a little. The sales remain basically about the same.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Liquor Commission. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I wonder if the Minister might provide the committee with some indication of the progress being made in privatizing liquor operations in various communities. Is this initiative proceeding and do the results from that devolution or change in management appear to be successful and satisfactory?

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

Government-Run Outlets

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, apparently there are only two outlets that are run by government: the liquor store in Norman Wells and the liquor warehouse outlet in Iqaluit. In both of these cases I am not certain that they appear attractive to privatization. In the case of

Norman Wells there is a rationing system that is in effect, with prohibition being in effect in at least two of the surrounding communities. In Iqaluit it is an outlet that provides liquor only to service licensed outlets like the restaurants and dining rooms and bars of the community. Apparently last year, by public notice or meeting, the community of Iqaluit indicated that they wanted the outlet to basically remain under government operation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Liquor Commission. Is there any further questioning on the Liquor Commission? If not, we will proceed to the following page.

Petroleum Products Revolving Fund

Petroleum products revolving fund. Information item. Any questions on this particular item? If not, we will proceed to the following page.

Liquor Commission Revolving Fund

Liquor Commission revolving fund. Information item. It appears we do not have any questions in this area.

Public Stores Revolving Fund

Public stores revolving fund. Information item. No questions?

Systems And Computer Services

Systems and computer services. Information item. If there are no questions I would like to proceed to the following pages.

Detail Of Work Performed On Behalf Of Third Parties

Official Languages Program

Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Total official languages program, \$150,000. Agreed? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were talking about this part regarding the use of languages in the GNWT, especially about the French language being used more in the government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Ernerk, do you want to add something else to your questioning of the Minister? Proceed.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, maybe I should speak for just about 30 seconds to get my point across. I asked the Minister with regard to the introduction of the French language. Is this something that we discussed previously off and on, French language being introduced to the NWT as an official language of the NWT? Looking at the cost for 1988-89, \$150,000 does not seem to be all that much money.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Minister, if you can explain what this \$150,000 involves; it is basically for work performed on behalf of third parties. Can you elaborate on that area?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, what Government Services is doing to prepare for the day -- or at least work toward bilingualism in the North, making French an official language, in the area of forms. This money is set aside for Government Services to begin work on all the forms and public documentation, that sort of thing, this coming year; like drivers' licences, documents and forms that are going to be used publicly.

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

MR. ERNERK: Just one other question. Is there another department that deals with the official languages program? I am particularly speaking of the Culture and Communications department, in which we will see much more detailed programs being undertaken by the GNWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I am not certain what departments get this money for the official languages program, but Justice does and it is under page 9.24. I think the bulk of the money goes through Culture and Communications.

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

Physical Evidence Of Bilingualism

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand there is two million dollars throughout the entire government for the English-French bilingual services for the coming year, 1989-90, and we only see \$150,000 of it here. It appears we are spending \$138,000 in the current year now ending and the \$150,000 projected for next year is expected to be accomplished within this financial year coming up. Under the original 1984 legislation, January 1 of 1988 was the target date for official bilingualism, and by an amendment that Mr. Sibbeston brought in in 1986, that was put off by three years. But if we are spending this money in 1989-90, what is going to be accomplished with \$150,000? Will we be doing things like the drivers' licences? Will they be coming out this year in both languages or is this all planning money? Are we going to see physical evidence of the bilingualism in 1989-90? I know in the Department of Justice they have \$800,000 and that is all being spent in translating our laws. So we will not see that in 1989-90, although work is being done. I wonder if in this department, Government Services, we are going to start seeing some government forms, physically, within the next 12 months. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, apparently part of the difficulty in moving according to old schedules is the difficulty in recruiting qualified people who can provide the service to us. We have difficulty in other areas in ensuring, for instance, that we have qualified, certified, French translation in this House. The \$150,000 is intended, not so much for planning, but to actually hire qualified people to do forms that are going to be used by the public, such as drivers' licences, permits, forms that are used by the Department of Justice, the courts, Social Services, Health. These are actually going to be done. The public should be seeing them in the coming year. That is the plan right now. That is how the money will be used.

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

Identifying Person Years For Certified Translators

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I take it from that response that there will be, in this department, a person year funded by the federal government or a person year shared by this department and other departments, for a certified translator, if that is the terminology. The reason I ask -- and it may be slightly off the topic because I was not here when we did the Legislative Assembly budget -- one of the problems we have identified in this Assembly is that although the Speaker has always tried to accommodate people who want to speak French, the Speaker indicates that it is difficult to get a certified translator. If government generally is going to be hiring one or more of these people, for instance Government Services would need, at least, a part-time person, could that person not be shared with another department like the Legislative Assembly? I am wondering if the Minister could confirm that we are now going to be identifying person years or bodies within this funding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, I believe this money is looked at as two person years and it is for the purpose of hiring two people who can provide good quality work in the preparation and translation of public forms. There is no intent at all at this time to see if we can also lump in with this service, the service of a simultaneous translator or interpreter in French.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Details of work performed on behalf of third parties. Total official languages program, \$150,000. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, there seems to be some overlap of responsibilities between this department and Culture and Communications. When I take a look at the last paragraph, it indicates that the funding estimate for Government Services covers all costs associated with the translation of GNWT forms, for \$150,000. When we take a look at Culture and Communications, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, this basically states the same thing, does it not? They indicate the funding covers seven positions, as well as extensive contracted services for interpreting and translating. Is that not something very similar for a total of \$983,000? I recognize that we are not into Culture and Communications yet but are not these two departments doing very similar work?

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I think you are questioning the wrong Minister. As I understand it, it is Culture and Communications that is taking on this overall task that was agreed to by this government and the federal government some time ago. That department, as I understand it, is responsible for the overall implementation of that agreement. Government Services has a very small part in this, which is taking care of the government forms. That is the task that we have. Overall, other services, such as interpreting and translating provided to the government in general, are taken care of by Culture and Communications.

Official Languages Program, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Official languages program. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The following pages are information items. Total O and M, Department of Government Services. Mr. Richard.

Terminology "Liquor Profits" Within Public Documents

MR. RICHARD: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, are you on information item, page 10.24? I have a comment on that page, Mr. Chairman. It is one that I have made before, both at this stage of considering the main estimates and also at the other end of the exercise, in public accounts. I refer again, Mr. Chairman, to the use of the terminology "liquor profits". I have not checked the public accounts the Minister of Finance tabled today. I am hoping the terminology has changed because the public accounts committee of past has recommended that. Mr. Chairman, I say this in a serious vein because quite often our government is criticized when somebody says inaccurately at some time, that we subsidize the cost of liquor in the NWT, which we do not do. And we should not be stating in public documents like these that we are making profit from the sale of liquor. It is a form of taxation and that is all it is.

Governments in this country for generations, through their paternalism, have regulated the sale of liquor by retailing it. But our government does not set out to make a profit. This \$10.7 million here, we spend that much and more; probably double that in treating or addressing the problems caused by liquor. So we are certainly not making any money from the sale and consumption of liquor in this jurisdiction. I am not an accountant. Maybe the accountants say you have to say "profits" but these are not the accountants' documents; they are our documents. I think it should be simply revenues over expenditures, or revenues in excess of expenditures. I do not think we should ever in a public document be shown as making a profit of \$10 million or \$11 million on the sale of liquor. But hopefully, Mr. Chairman, having said the same comment again for the umpteenth time, someone could pick up on that and change the terminology in these documents. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Minister, any comments?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I think it is too late to change the terminology in the main estimates or in the annual report of the Liquor Commission but we will see what we can do to change the wording, or the terminology. We can do that and hopefully it will appear much more acceptable next year.

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

Confirmation That Distribution Costs Are Equalized

MR. BUTTERS: Just to add that I do not think that action will change the perception that the GNWT subsidizes liquor. I believe that the Member touched on a very important point and a very widespread misconception with regard to the manner in which alcohol products are distributed throughout the Territories. I would just ask the Minister to confirm that what the Member said a few moments ago is correct, that this government does not subsidize alcohol products but it equalizes the distribution costs.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes, I agree that that is in fact the case. If you want, I guess we can prepare a very clear precise and concise statement perhaps from myself later in this session that tells it exactly as it is, for public information awareness.

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

MR. BUTTERS: Just to welcome the Minister's concise and precise statement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Are there any further comments or questions on the information items? Revenues, recoveries and transfer payments? Or on the distribution of budget? If not, I would like the Members to refer to page 10.07, program summary. Department of Government Services, total O and M, \$15,709,000.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Agreed.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Agreed?

AN HON. MEMBER: Well said, Michael.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Agreed? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, what have I just agreed to? I wanted to go back briefly to 10.25, distribution of budget. I am looking at the capital, buildings and works, \$1.1 million. I am wondering if I could have a very brief concise explanation of this \$1.1 million for the Keewatin.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister, would you like to comment now or wait until we get into the capital section of the department?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: We will talk to it when we get into the capital.

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Government Services, total O and M, \$15,709,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Office Services And Communications

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): That concludes the O and M section of Government Services. We will turn to our capital estimates on page 7.07, detail of capital. Office services and communications, equipment acquisition, headquarters, total headquarters, \$12,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed



Equipment Acquisition, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Keewatin, total Keewatin, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Total equipment acquisition, \$62,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Systems And Computer Services

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Systems and computer services, equipment acquisition, total headquarters, \$1,271,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Fort Smith, total Fort Smith, \$33,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Inuvik, total Inuvik, \$33,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Baffin, total Baffin, \$33,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Keewatin, total Keewatin, \$33,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Kitikmeot, total Kitikmeot, \$33,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, before you call the full total, I wonder if the Minister could indicate where the government's disaster recovery plan is at the present time. The text which accompanies this section indicates the division plans to implement it. Where is the recovery plan at this juncture?

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, there is \$150,000 that is allocated for this use. In the event of a disaster, whatever form that may take, it is our view that certain equipment is going to be essential to prepare a site. It is undecided at this time where this site would be or what would be required to provide shelter to the equipment, but we do need things like air conditioning, environmental control system, an uninterruptable power supply unit, an upgraded power supply of 220 volts, and an additional telecommunications access. Apparently one of the sites we are looking at is a warehouse location here in Yellowknife.

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Total equipment acquisition, total systems and computer services, \$1,436,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Supply Services

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Supply services, equipment acquisition, headquarters, total headquarters, \$15,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Baffin, total Baffin, \$60,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Total equipment acquisition, \$75,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Petroleum Products

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Petroleum products, buildings and works, Fort Smith, total Fort Smith, \$569,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Inuvik, total Inuvik, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Baffin, total Baffin, \$2,581,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Keewatin, total Keewatin, \$1,168,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Kitikmeot, total Kitikmeot, \$405,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Total buildings and works, \$4,923,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total headquarters, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Inuvik, total Inuvik, \$176,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Baffin, total Baffin, \$62,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Keewatin, total Keewatin, \$292,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Total equipment acquisition, \$580,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Petroleum Products, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Total petroleum products, \$5,503,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The following pages are information items. That concludes the capital section for the Department of Government Services. I would like to thank the Minister and his two witnesses for appearing before our committee of the whole. Thank you very much.

Mr. Government House Leader, which department would you like the committee to review at this time?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Apparently Mr. Kakfwi does not have Aboriginal Rights people here. I could go ahead with Justice if you want and then we do Aboriginal Rights tomorrow. Or we can take a five minute break and get his people over here. Take a five minute break and get his people here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): It appears the committee is requesting a short recess until the Minister brings his officials to the House. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. We will take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

Department Of Executive

Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development Secretariat

We are now dealing with Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat. We are in our main estimate books page 2.13 with Mr. Kakfwi. Would you kindly introduce your witness? You can also proceed with your opening remarks. Thank you.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, with me is the executive director of the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat, Charles Overvold.

Minister's Opening Remarks

In the initial discussions we had as Ministers shortly after our appointment, it was understood that this government was facing a very high, if not first, priority on the settlement of the outstanding land claims in the NWT -- the settlement of the Dene/Metis claim and the claim of the Inuit. At the same time, it was understood that claims negotiations are linked closely to

political development, including division and ongoing devolution discussions. It is and should be viewed by all that as an Executive we feel it is within the definition of aboriginal rights. There is an understanding which we have been taking to the First Ministers' Conferences since 1983, that when we talk about aboriginal rights and the settlement of claims, they are all related to the system of government that we have in the North, and that division is tied to the negotiation of changes to such a government and so is devolution, and that it is our view that we should try to keep all these different issues and processes as close together as possible.

#### Claims Updates

An update on the Dene/Metis claim. The federal government, the federal cabinet, has asked for an agreement in principle by the end of March, which is just in a matter of less than a month and a half. One more negotiation session of a 10 day duration is scheduled to begin in Yellowknife on March 3rd, where it is hoped that an agreement in principle can be reached.

Major issues still being negotiated include resource revenue sharing, participation in public land and water management agencies, access to Dene/Metis land, taxation and the status of treaties. Failure to reach an agreement in principle could result in federal withdrawal of funding for the Dene/Metis claim, which would serve to place the claim on hold indefinitely.

An update on the TFN claim. The federal cabinet just completed a review of this claim in December and has approved a negotiating mandate that requires an agreement in principle by February, 1989. Should this be reached, there will be a four month period to approve this agreement in principle and following that, a final agreement must be completed in two years.

This is an update on the Inuvialuit settlement. This settlement is in its third year of implementation. Over the past year we have participated in the federal review of implementation and also participated in developing a Treasury Board submission for implementation funds until March, 1994. We have also been involved in extensive ongoing discussions about amending a final agreement in a number of areas.

#### Political Development And Claims Interface

Some comments on the political development and claims interface, because the aboriginal rights group negotiating claims is linking progress on claims with the Constitutional Alliance process, as well as the various devolution negotiations. We view it as important that the Ministers work closely together on interrelating these initiatives. In order to achieve this integration, the political development committee, which is chaired by the Government Leader and is attended by the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, the associate Minister and the Minister of Justice -- on occasion it requires also attendance by those Ministers whose portfolios are involved -- this committee is intended to meet and has been meeting more often to make recommendations to cabinet in the area of aboriginal rights and constitutional development.

As the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, I have undertaken to prepare a draft claims policy, which I will be recommending to cabinet, which would outline broad objectives and principles and clarify our internal claims process. Cabinet will also be reviewing its whole committee system, which I mentioned earlier, to see where improvements can be made. We are also, as directed by the caucus earlier in the year, reviewing the Constitutional Alliance process to determine what appropriate recommendations we can make to the Legislature to ensure that the political views and aspirations, particularly of the aboriginal people as they relate to claims negotiations, are not unduly compromised, because there is an absence of an active political and constitutional process in place at this time. Thank you.

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

#### Comments From Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on finance met with the Minister and his staff in regard to Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development on January 12th of this year. The secretariat derives its mandate from the Executive Council and we understand that this

mandate is currently under review. There are no new programs in the secretariat and there is no specific measurement system. In fact, the performance is measured according to the public perception of the claims negotiations. There was no change in person years and at that time there was one vacant position.

Issues and concerns, Mr. Chairman. Fulfilling the mandate -- as I said earlier, the mandate is under review and when it is completed the Minister will be examining the ability of the available resources to meet the mandate. He informed us that he might then be applying for supplementary funding, particularly to cover additional travel costs. With regard to co-ordination of policy development, Members received clarification on the role of the secretariat on the political and constitutional development committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

#### Constitutional Alliance Mechanism

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated in the latter part of his opening comments that there is a void at the moment with the inactivity of the Constitutional Alliance in the field of political development for residents of the NWT. It was my understanding that we are currently at a time when the Executive Council is looking at that void and is going to be making recommendations to the Assembly or to caucus and the time frame for that is within the next few weeks or months. I would ask, initially, for the Minister to confirm that he and his colleagues are currently discussing this process and that they will, in that short time frame, be recommending something to the rest of us in this Assembly.

But as a corollary to that, Mr. Chairman, I had the impression, and these are from, I suppose, private conversations, that the Executive is looking at bringing the Constitutional Alliance mechanism more within the government or the Legislative Assembly; then we would have more of a role than has been the case in the past. Yet, I see in Direction for the 1990s, and the pages are not numbered but it is under the part entitled "Shaping Public Government", a statement on division which has been, in recent years anyway, an issue that has occupied a great deal of time of the Constitutional Alliance and the Executive's direction paper -- and that is all that it is, a paper -- says that, in developing a particular plan, "Our actions will not prejudice any future division of the NWT, although this is an issue which must be resolved largely in other forums." It is that particular reference, Mr. Chairman, that, although we are going to talk about this document later in this session, I am wondering why that was inserted there. What is the reference to "other forums" in that context?

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

#### Recommendations To Be Made To Caucus

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Well, if I could defer to the Government Leader, it is the Government Leader's document, so to the last part of the question I think, if he makes himself available, he can respond himself. Earlier, there was a request wanting to know if I could confirm whether or not we are going to be making recommendations to the other Members of the Legislative Assembly, shortly, regarding what options we think are worth recommending in regard to the void that we are talking about -- the absence of an active political/constitutional process in the North. I can confirm that we are still intending to make recommendations to caucus very shortly -- maybe as early as next week.

The second part, I do not feel at liberty to say whether the process is being pulled closer to government or further away. I find, because the different parties have not talked to each other for a long period of time, which was last winter -- in fact, February is the last time most of us were together in a group trying to come up with an agreement -- I think it is much better not to say too much until we get some semblance of a position together by caucus and further discussions and communications are held with the native organizations. Because I find that some people intend to sound the alarm at just anything that is said. Since I am not speaking from a written text, I would just as soon not say too much on it at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Government Leader, would you like to add anything to that?

MR. RICHARD: You are going to allow that questioning?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I am. Just to refresh your memory, Mr. Government Leader, maybe I could ask Mr. Richard to ask the question again.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, with economy of time in mind, if we are later this session going to be addressing this document in some detail and also a position, as Mr. Kakfwi indicates, where the Executive is going to be making some recommendations to the Legislature on filling the void that we currently have on our political development process, I do not want to preclude those discussions, but I am wondering if there is any significance to this particular sentence in the directions paper that the division issue is one that must be resolved largely in other forums.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Government Leader.

#### Other Forums For Deciding Division

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that that statement primarily refers to the impasse over the boundary question with regard to land claims boundaries. While we know that land claims boundaries will not necessarily be the political boundaries, they are probably a precedent to setting political boundaries and will be an aid to the establishment of political boundaries. So that certainly was one forum that is completely out of the hands of this Legislature -- that is, it is a forum between the Dene/Metis and the Inuit. That was the prime reference in that paragraph. As well, of course, like it or not, the federal government has an important part to play in a decision of that kind, and even the federal parliament. So those are the other forums that were borne in mind with that statement. And I agree and endorse what the Minister said about the need to consider how our Legislature and how our government might better participate from here on in. Thank you.

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

MR. RICHARD: I appreciate that clarification on those two other forums. With that explanation, I see no particular significance or change in position now that that has been clarified.

On another matter, and still under general comments, back to Minister Kakfwi. I do not know that the Minister made specific reference to it in his opening remarks this afternoon, but it certainly has been reported in the media since the new Executive assumed office -- the desire of the Executive for a new role in the claims process, which I was pleased to hear of. My question is: What is the reaction of the Dene/Metis on the one hand and the TFN on the other, and perhaps the federal government, to the Executive's desire for a more active role in the land claims negotiations?

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

#### Executive's Role In Negotiations

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, when we convened as newly appointed Ministers, we talked about the area of claims and political and constitutional development of the North, and as I said earlier, all of us feel that all the different issues of devolution, division, negotiation of a northern accord, the claims, boundary, division, all these things are very closely related and we needed to find a way to make sure we can co-ordinate and keep track of each other. But, as well, there was a sense of urgency in being able to convince ourselves and groups like the Dene/Metis and the TFN that we can fast-track those items that may threaten to hold up negotiations.

On occasion there are departmental concerns that arise from the different deputy ministers and departments regarding what is actually going on in negotiations or what is perceived to be going on in negotiations. In some cases, because the departments have different priorities, there are no Executive or ministerial directives to fast-track some of these issues. We could potentially hold up the ongoing negotiations and the progress in negotiations.

So we tried to find ways to convince ourselves and the claiming groups that, as an Executive faced with potentially seeing the signing of an agreement in principle in both claims in the next two years, we felt we should revisit an old memorandum of understanding that was signed during Commissioner Hodgson's time, that defined the role of the GNWT in the claims negotiations. It was basically a two page document, as I remember it, that very, very simply said they were part of the

federal team and would be consulted when it affected territorial jurisdiction. We felt we wanted to update that to make sure that it is clearly understood and agreed in writing that, for instance, as part of the federal team, we would have two things. One is access to the briefings and strategy sessions of the federal team, particularly the committees at the deputy minister level on the federal side. Secondly, to allow us, with federal understandings, so they do not get tiffed later, to have full freedom to do political lobby and take positions politically that would differ from the federal position. That would assure everyone of exactly what the role of the GNWT would be: not to see third party status but to see greater freedom to support and exercise what influence we have in the last part of the claims negotiation process.

The initiative, which was discussed informally with the claimant groups, came away rather positively. It is my view as a Minister that the relationship with the Dene/Metis negotiations and this government has been much closer than this government's relationship has been with the TFN. A large part of it is attributed to the fact that the TFN office operates out of Ottawa and the Dene/Metis office is about a block and a half, I believe, from the Laing Building. So there is just much more access and more frequent exchange of views and information and meetings, and that sort of thing, that goes on. It is our hope that the relationship will continue to improve. I guess it is our view after one meeting with the TFN that with the help of, particularly, the Ministers from the Eastern Arctic the relationship will continue to improve with the TFN.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Richard.

Interests Of Non-Beneficiaries In Western Arctic

MR. RICHARD: Related question, Mr. Chairman. I guess we are still awaiting, then, what exactly the new enhanced role of the GNWT will be. I take it from what Mr. Kakfwi says, and with some realism, that we will not have third party status but we are seeking some sort of enhanced role. In that context, Mr. Chairman, in the last few years, non-beneficiaries resident in the Western Arctic have enquired time and time again of various officials and politicians, who is looking out for their interests at the claims table, at the claims negotiations? I recall David Osborne, the federal negotiator, saying in response loud and clear, "I am." What I am wondering, in addition to what Mr. Osborne is doing to look out for the interests of non-beneficiaries, will the GNWT, if it attains a new enhanced role, also be safeguarding or representing the interests of non-beneficiaries in the NWT, as well, in the claims areas?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I was going to say that the other week when I went down to Toronto to represent the public interest in regard to this government's position on Meech Lake, no one seemed to question my ability as a native person to represent the interests of non-native people but I forgot to point out that Mr. Richard was with me. So perhaps it was not the case. But I think it is an important question because it is something that has come to my mind on a number of occasions.

I want to say to the Members that I know during my term of office as the Dene Nation president, I do not think I could be accused at any time during my term of taking negotiations either in the political process or the claims to a point where I was depriving non-natives of any rights that they were entitled to. It is my hope that the people would have the good judgment to say that even though I am a native person, I can also represent very well and protect the interests of non-native people. It is an important point for me because it is never questioned, very often, when you have non-native people representing the interests of native people. I always feel that the reverse is not necessarily accepted so easily sometimes. But I wanted to say that. I think it is important for me. In my view, I guess if I felt I was in here simply to seek an opportunity where I can take advantage of this office for the benefit of native people only, that I would not stay in this office very long. I think I would leave. And if such an occasion arose, I would be very happy to be always questioned about something like that. Personally, I guess right now, I feel very comfortable in it. I am hopeful that I can convince the Inuit and the negotiators of the TFN that I will work equally hard for them as I would for the Dene/Metis and that the interests of the general public, or the non-native if you want, specifically will also always be taken into account.

One thing I have learned as a Minister is that there are so many checks and balances in this government that it is hard to walk 10 steps in any particular direction without stopping. Thank you.

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



Issue Of Division

MR. ERNERK: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to touch briefly on the issue of division. I think we need, sometime in the near future, to re-establish the two forums, Western Constitutional Forum as well as Nunavut Constitutional Forum. I know from talking with the decision-makers of TFN in Rankin Inlet that they are basically waiting for the Legislative Assembly to re-establish Nunavut Constitutional Forum as well as the Western Constitutional Forum, just so that we could resolve the issue of division of the NWT.

I want to refer back to the fall elections. I received a mandate from the people of Aivilik riding to speak on the issue of division but when we spoke on the issue of division we tied into it what we called comprehensive economic planning initiatives. That is what we spoke about during the fall elections of 1987. The other thing that I wanted to indicate to the House is the issue of a plebiscite. Again, I refer to the people within TFN, that we have got to establish another plebiscite, sometime down the road, acceptable to TFN as well as to the Dene and the Metis Association. I think if we could do that before the next four years are up, we would be well on our way to establishing another mandate. The issue of Nunavut, the issue of division in the East, is very much alive and, to me, Nunavut is everybody's business. Division is everybody's business. Members of this House, for my part, know where I stand on the issue of Nunavut. I have always supported it; I cannot hide it. I cannot just sit back and observe things go by.

(Translation) I left TFN not too long ago. When I left them, I did not leave them with Nunavut no longer in the minds of the people and I did not leave them with the issue of division behind us; they are still talking about it in any conferences or any meetings that occur in the Keewatin. Also, the staff are still discussing those questions -- I mean the division question. I want you to understand that I still support, in this House, the issues that I stated earlier and the position paper. This will be included in land claims -- that the economic issue will still be part of the land claims process. We know that these two can go hand in hand to make more progress but, personally, I would like to push for reinstating the WCF and NCF, because I think we are keeping people waiting as long as we hold off on that and the people of the NWT are waiting for us to come forth with something. Thank you, for now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Mr. Minister, would you answer the question?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I do not know if you want me to answer as if it was a question, but I would say yes, I think he convinced me that he still supports Nunavut and seeks division.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I will ask a question this time. My question to the Minister is this: With regard to aboriginal rights, has there been any push on the part of the Government of the Northwest Territories to see if there is a possibility, sometime down the road, to have another First Ministers' Conference regarding aboriginal rights?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Because, as you say, this issue is a national constitutional issue, if such an initiative came, it would not come from the South but would come through the political-constitutional committee -- that is, with the agreement and consent of the Minister of Justice and the Government Leader. The Government Leader may be able to respond to that more fully. He has been around a little longer than I have and knows the Prime Minister and the other major players so, if I could defer to the Government Leader...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): I take my direction from the committee. You want the Government Leader to respond to that?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible comments)

Reviving The First Ministers' Conference On Aboriginal Rights

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there have been a number of efforts on the part of leaders of national native organizations, including Georges Erasmus and Smokey Bruyere and others, to revive the First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Rights in the

wake of the failure in March, 1987. I recently raised the question with the Hon. Bill McKnight, who had been a participant in these conferences with the Minister of Justice, and Mr. McKnight informed me that, while the subject is being discussed and while representations are being made to the federal government, there appear to be no immediate prospects that that process can revive. The matter is further complicated by the fact that the Meech Lake process also would permit, if ratified, the subject of aboriginal rights and, indeed, the subject of the future of the Northwest Territories to be also considered, so there is an alternative now that is muddying the waters, I believe, whereas some federal Ministers are saying, "Well, the matter can be dealt with post-Meech Lake, at one of the annual constitutional conferences," so that further complicates the issue and, I think, has lessened the possibilities of federal support for a First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Rights being revived again. In sum, Mr. Chairman, the prospects do not look good, although we are concerned about it and we have asked about it when opportunities presented themselves. The prospects do not look good. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: I tell you, Mr. Chairman, I went for a swim, this summer, at Meech Lake and it is polluted, but I would like to indicate that I know while I was still with the native organizations at the Inuit committee on national issues level, we tried very hard to initiate another First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Rights. I wonder if I am right in asking the Government Leader to pursue the matter further, especially on behalf of organizations such as the Inuit committee on national issues and TFN, who work very closely with us on issues of a political nature, to encourage, to try to persuade the Government of Canada to take a look at this issue much further. Because we are not going to be satisfied until we get a piece of the action. Meech Lake Accord and the failure of the First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Rights, 1987. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister. General comments. Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat. Mr. Kilabuk.

#### Support For Nunavut

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I have a comment to make on this briefly. As you may be aware, individually, when I was campaigning I was in support of the Nunavut issue. I was very disappointed when the divisional question became a dead issue when there had been a very good agreement prior to that -- and then it was a dead issue when the leaders met to agree on this. I was very disappointed. Now, I am getting more informed on this and we will make advancement if it is properly understood what the purpose is behind it all. I used to think that the Government of Canada would not consent to getting Nunavut when east and west cannot agree. This is what I had thought the federal government officials would think. If we cannot agree among ourselves, even when we want to have a Nunavut, I do not think we will get any approval especially if we are just fighting over who should have a bigger piece of land. I think the federal government will not consent to that. I think we should first of all agree amongst ourselves and decide and support each other. Then at a later date the division can be agreed upon. The Dene and Inuit and Metis are the aboriginals and we cannot defeat the federal government but if we can all agree on or make an agreement among ourselves, maybe then we can do something about it with the federal government. This was my personal opinion and when I was campaigning I included this in my campaign, that I would support the Nunavut issue. I would like to see this reinstated and if it is going to be supported financially I would be very happy. I am in full support of this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Well, if anything, I guess I would say that the comments and the views that he expressed are about the way that I felt last spring. It has been a long time since I have heard anyone say it so well. It is my hope that we can have some agreements reached between the Dene/Metis in the next while, and that we can see agreements reached between the Inuit and the Inuvialuit and the Metis, Dene and the non-native people of the NWT, on what it is that we want for ourselves in the future, with regard to the kind of government and systems of decision making that we want to keep and develop for ourselves. So I thank the Member for his good comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I appreciate that the Minister and the staff of his secretariat are involved in a number of negotiations that are ongoing: the TFN and the Dene/Metis claims, and some months ago the secretariat was involved very deeply and actively with the negotiations associated with the Inuvialuit claim. I just wonder if there is any activity still occurring with regard to the Inuvialuit claim and the subsequent legislation that implemented that claim.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, I will have Mr. Charles Overvold answer that question.

Current Activity On Inuvialuit Settlement

MR. OVERVOLD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of matters that are ongoing in nature with regard to the Inuvialuit settlement. One of the things that is being clarified is the manner in which the agreement can be amended. The agreement was quite specific as to how the Inuvialuit will approve amendments but did not outline a method with regard to how the federal government will approve amendments, so a number of discussions took place over the last while to try to clarify how the federal government will approve amendments. What is being proposed now is, rather than the federal government approving amendments by tabling legislation in Parliament, they will be allowed to approve amendments through the cabinet process, by order-in-council. There is federal legislation being tabled now, in the House, I think it is Bill C-102, which will allow this new amending formula to be put into place.

There are some other amendments that are being looked at now, that the parties are discussing, amendments related to cleaning up the wording of the agreement and a number of typos, etc. There are also amendments that are being discussed that could improve some of the management processes that were negotiated in the agreement -- the impact assessment review process, other joint management boards -- to try to make them more efficient. I think those are the main amendments that are being discussed at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I put the question because I am looking at the Parliamentary Alert for February 1st to 5th, and it indicates that, under status of bills as of January 28, Bill C-102, An Act to Amend the Western Arctic Inuvialuit Claims Settlement Act, is in the process. Now, my understanding, and I think it was summarized quite well by Mr. Overvold, is that it does cover an agreement between the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Canada with regard to permitting petroleum incentive programs to apply on Inuvialuit lands, some housekeeping amendments and the third amendment is an amending agreement between the Inuvialuit Regional Council, representing the Inuvialuit, and the Government of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to provide a single efficient process whereby Canada consents to amendments to the Inuvialuit final agreement. Now, what this seems to be saying, to me, is that the Territories, which were a party to the process during the negotiations -- and even while the Territories may not have been full partners, we were party to the process -- have now been excluded from the amending process. Amendments to that act will be made without the Government of the Northwest Territories, the people of the Northwest Territories, participating. I would like the witness, or the Minister, if he could, to comment on that observation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

MR. OVERVOLD: Mr. Chairman, there is a section in the agreement -- one paragraph -- that instructs the federal government to involve either of the two territorial governments in amendments, if these amendments affect our jurisdictions. I think it is section 317.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

Guarantees Of Government Involvement In Amendments

MR. BUTTERS: Sadly, Mr. Chairman, we have learned not to trust the federal government, for all its fulsome recommendations and promises, so what I am wondering is, what guarantees does this government have that it will be involved in the amending process?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

MR. OVERVOLD: Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct and I think we are especially more nervous since our Meech Lake experience. The Government of the Yukon also had a problem with this, in that it was the federal government who would determine what affects us. We did not like that either and we suggested amending the final agreement to better involve us in the process. We were not able to get the final agreement amended. However, we have developed a memorandum of understanding that will be signed by the three governments. It has already been negotiated and it outlines a more formal process whereby the federal government will involve the two territorial governments. We will be involved from the ground level, basically. We will see all amendments proposed by the Inuvialuit or the federal government and we will determine if we want to be involved in it from there on. If we propose amendments, they will be forwarded to the other parties by the federal government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: That makes me feel a little better. I would like to commend the Minister, and especially Mr. Overvold, for his knowledge and the study and expertise which he brings to his responsibility. I know that he does investigate these things very thoroughly and ensures that the Executive Council is aware of the problem areas as they may arise. I am pleased to hear that the Government of the Northwest Territories has been informed and alerted to this matter and, it would appear, are collectively taking action to see that the people of the North are not cut out from such amendments between the Government of Canada and one particular claimant group.

I have a few questions relative to the Meech Lake Accord and I do not know whether -- this is constitutional development -- I do not know whether I can direct the questions to this Minister. I think he and his colleague, his non-native colleague, were very successful in their trip to Toronto and the paper which they put before the Ontario Legislature, and hopefully Canada, was a tribute to their wisdom and good sense and the good staff work which provided that material. The press coverage received would appear to be very satisfactory and rewarding. I notice the Globe and Mail has picked it up. I congratulate them both for what was a valuable trip.

#### Taking Message To Legislators

My question to the Government Leader is, where do we go from here? We have made a bit of an imprint, probably, on the body politic of Canada, but it is no more than the red marks left by the clasp of a hand. Where do we go from here, Mr. Government Leader? What do we do in the sense of taking this message to Eastern Canada, to the West Coast, if Alberta and Saskatchewan have turned their backs on us, and to Manitoba? My recommendation would be, and I think it would be a very cheap investment in our struggle, to print that report that was orally made in Ontario and circulate it to every legislator in this country, to every newspaper, large and small, in this country, and put before them what I think is an argument which is irrefutable, except to 11 people. The question is, where do we go from here? I would like an answer from the Government Leader on this point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Government Leader, the question is directed to you.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have, personally, made it a priority to seek out meetings with Premiers Peterson and Bourassa. I felt that, since they represent the largest provinces, it would be important to personally present our case to them. I have to say that, although I was not successful in persuading Premier Bourassa to go back to the National Assembly and say he was having second thoughts about recommending ratification of the accord, I got extremely good audiences from the two Premiers. I got a full measure of time and a full opportunity to directly and privately present our concerns.

Unfortunately, there was not a willingness to undo the accord prior to ratification, although I was pleased that both Premiers realized that we have outstanding grievances that they feel should be addressed post-Meech Lake. I realize that is no comfort to any citizen of the NWT but I am satisfied that they fully understand our concerns.

#### Receptive To Enhanced Status At First Ministers' Conferences

There were some side benefits to those meetings. For example, both Premiers I am convinced will be open and receptive to an enhanced status for the NWT at future First Ministers' Conferences. They seemed to be almost as embarrassed as we are about the ignominious 10 minute appearances that we get at the end of these conferences and are committed, I believe, to having us participate in a non-voting fashion around the table at future meetings.

Now, it is clear that much more work is going to have to be done in order to achieve that goal. We are going to have to make the same contacts with every other Premier; get the same commitments from every other Premier and the Prime Minister. I would just like to assure the Members of this House, getting back to the fundamental issue of Meech Lake, that it is going to be my personal priority to make the same kinds of contacts with other Premiers in an attempt to persuade at least even one to take our case forward. We have had contacts with Premier McKenna which have been somewhat encouraging. Mr. Penikett has had extensive meetings with Mr. Pawley, which have also resulted in some considerable expression of sympathy, if not understanding, of our case. I think that once the business of the House permits me to get back on the road again, I will be in Fredericton and Winnipeg seeking the same kinds of audiences with those Premiers.

I also agree fully with the Member that we should be making direct contacts with legislators. I have had discussions with the Speaker of this Assembly about using the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as a way, as well, of dramatizing and making our plight known to other legislators. I think the Member's suggestion about sending a message to each legislator is an excellent one. I think either the presentation in Ontario or perhaps Mr. Ballantyne's extremely comprehensive presentation to the joint Senate/House of Commons committee on Meech Lake would be a very good investment.

#### Many Things Could Unhinge Accord

Mr. Chairman, I have not laid out specific plans but I can assure the Member that as soon as the House recesses I will be on the road or in the air pursuing that cause with great vigour. I think that if the audience that I got from the Premiers of Quebec and Ontario is any indication, I will at least be given the courtesy of a proper audience. If I can persuade one Premier, then this great threat to our constitutional future may go away. And I think, Mr. Chairman, just in concluding, that the sense I got -- and I do not want to reveal remarks that were passed to me in confidence -- but the sense I got from my meetings with the Premiers of Ontario and Quebec and some discussions I have had with other Premiers, is that this is not necessarily a sure thing; that we have up to a three year process and that there are many things that could unhinge this accord. So I think it is well worth pursuing. Of course, as well, Mr. Chairman, we certainly have not given up on the possibility of getting redress in the courts of this land and it was announced in Ontario that we have sought leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. That is another, I hope, potentially very potent sword that we still have in our scabbard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Supplementary question. I do not think anybody wins in the courts, except lawyers, so I do not think we are going to see much progress...

AN HON. MEMBER: The Government Leader is a lawyer.

MR. BUTTERS: ...or make much progress on that score. I feel that we have to get out there and meet Canadians, whether they be politicians or Canadians in industry, Canadians in labour, Canadians in every walk of life...

AN HON. MEMBER: Even lawyers.

MR. BUTTERS: ...even lawyers. I understand what the Government Leader proposes to do, what he will assign his Executive to do. What would he suggest we, as ordinary MLAs, as part of this Assembly -- what can we do to assist him in this very important endeavour, and one that is going to be most difficult to win? We are not going to win it if we do not get out there and try to change the minds of 11 Premiers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Government Leader.

#### Credit For Favourable Editorial In Globe And Mail

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I think we had an extremely successful visit to Ontario, a joint Executive and legislative presentation. I must say that I think the two Members who made those presentations should take some large measure of credit for the very favourable editorial that appeared in the Globe and Mail shortly following their visit, which money could not buy. So, Mr. Chairman, in answer to the Member's question about the role of Members, I

certainly envision that for every Legislature which will be conducting similar hearings, and we have made representations to all of them that still have yet to ratify the accord, particularly New Brunswick and Manitoba, we should be planning similar joint presentations. I think if we can make as effective a presentation as that made by Mr. Richard and Mr. Kakwi, we will be doing an enormous amount. I think that there is much talent within this Legislature that the cabinet is willing to take full advantage of.

I would also like to suggest that we pursue, with the Speaker, the opportunities through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, especially the opportunity to sponsor a conference on the subject of the Meech Lake Accord. I think the Speaker is pursuing that with the CPA and it could be a tremendous forum for us. As well, our cabinet has decided that, at every opportunity we have, at every federal-provincial conference we attend, we will carry that message. We will be, whether it is on the agenda or not, taking opportunities to draw to the attention of our federal-provincial colleagues this grievous concern that we have.

I would also like to point out, Mr. Chairman, that I agree with the Member about looking for opportunities to speak to ordinary Canadians through the good offices of my press secretary and Camp and Associates, who have been doing some work in tourism for us, in Toronto. I, in conjunction with another visit, was able to speak to a gathering of some 75 opinion-makers in Toronto, some weeks ago. I am avidly seeking other similar opportunities and so are my colleagues. I appreciate that advice and I like to think we are going to be trying to follow the Member's advice to pursue every opportunity that appears. I think Members of this Legislature in their travels through their contacts and their involvements with other organizations can do the same. So far we have started off working extremely well together in the kind of model that we established in Ontario, and we should continue to work together as an entire Legislature. It is not just a question of the government's responsibility. I think each MLA can contribute enormously by using their contacts and their opportunities in travel and business and otherwise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat, total 0 and M, \$630,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): That concludes the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses. What is the committee's wish at this time?

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I move that we recognize the clock.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): All those in favour? Opposed? This motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Mr. Angottitauruq.

ITEM 18: 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. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Report of 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 chairman of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Arlooktoo, thank you. To the motion. All those in favour raise your hands please. Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. A meeting of the ordinary Members' committee at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning; and a meeting of the standing committee on finance at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 24th.

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. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion
13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. 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); Ministers' Statement 13-88(1)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 24th at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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