



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

2nd Session

11th Assembly

HANSARD  
Official Report  
Day 11

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1988

Pages 348 - 393

Speaker: The Hon. Red Pedersen, M.L.A.

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## Speaker

The Hon. Red Pedersen, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Coppermine, N.W.T.  
XOE OEO  
(403) 873-7629 (Office)  
(403) 873-5788 (Home) (Yellowknife)  
(403) 982-5788 (Coppermine)  
(Kitikmeot West)

Allooloo, The Hon. Titus, M.L.A.  
5024 - 57th Street  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 1Y6  
(403) 873-7113 (Office)  
(403) 873-4813 (Home)  
(Amittuq)  
Minister of Culture & Communications  
and Renewable Resources

Angottitauruq, Mr. Michael, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Gjoa Haven, N.W.T.  
XOE 1J0  
(403) 360-6600 (Office)  
(403) 360-6704 (Home)  
(Natilikmiot)  
Deputy Chairman  
Committee of the Whole

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.  
XOA ONO  
(819) 939-2363 (Home)  
(Baffin South)

Ballantyne, The Hon. Michael, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1091  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2N8  
(403) 873-7658 (Office)  
(403) 920-2963 (Home)  
(Yellowknife North)  
Minister of Finance and Justice

Butters, Mr. Tom, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1069  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
XOE OTO  
(403) 979-2373 (Office)  
(403) 979-2373 (Home)  
(Inuvik)

Cournoyea, The Hon. Nellie, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1184  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
XOE OTO  
(403) 873-7128 (Office)  
(403) 977-2405 (Tuktoyaktuk)  
(403) 979-2737 (Inuvik)  
(Nunakput)  
Minister of Health

Crow, Mr. Charlie, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.  
XOA OWO  
(819) 266-8940 (Home)  
(Hudson Bay)

Ernerk, Mr. Peter, M.L.A.  
Box 182  
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.  
XOC OGO  
(819) 645-2800  
(819) 645-2500  
(Arviliik)

Gargan, Mr. Samuel, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Fort Providence, N.W.T.  
XOE OLO  
(403) 873-7999 (Office)  
(403) 699-3171 (Home)  
(Deh Cho)  
Deputy Speaker and Chairman,  
Committee of the Whole

Kakfwi, The Hon. Stephen, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9  
(403) 873-7139 (Office)  
(403) 873-8215 (Home)  
(Sahtu)  
Minister of Government Services  
and Housing

Kilabuk, Mr. Ipeelee, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Pangnirtung, N.W.T.  
XOA ORO  
(819) 437-8827 (Home)  
(Baffin Central)

Lewis, Mr. Brian, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9  
(403) 873-7999 (Office)  
(403) 873-5549 (Home)  
(Yellowknife Centre)

Marie-Jewell, The Hon. Jeannie, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1051  
Fort Smith, N.W.T.  
XOE OPO  
(403) 873-7959 (Office)  
(403) 872-2940 (Home)  
(Slave River)  
Minister of Social Services

McLaughlin, Mr. Bruce, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 2637  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2P9  
(403) 393-2939 (Office)  
(403) 393-2226 (Home)  
(403) 920-3166 (Office)  
(403) 873-6220 (Home)  
(Pine Point)

Morin, Mr. Don, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Fort Resolution, N.W.T.  
XOE OMO  
(403) 394-3471  
(Tu Nede)

Nerysoo, Mr. Richard, M.L.A.  
Fort McPherson, N.W.T.  
XOE OJO  
(403) 979-2668 (Home) (Inuvik)  
(Mackenzie Delta)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis  
P.O. Box 310  
Iqaluit, N.W.T.  
XOA OHO  
(403) 873-7112 (Office)  
(819) 979-5993 (Office)  
(403) 873-2802 (Home)  
(Iqaluit)  
Government Leader,  
Chairman of Executive Council,  
Minister of Executive and Education

Pollard, Mr. John D., M.L.A.  
Box 1095  
Hay River, N.W.T.  
XOE ORO  
(403) 874-2345 (Office)  
(403) 874-2600 (Home)  
(Hay River)

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 240  
Resolute Bay, N.W.T.  
XOA OVO  
(819) 252-3719 (Home)  
(High Arctic)

Richard, Mr. Ted, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9  
(403) 873-7920 (Office)  
(403) 873-3667 (Home)  
(Yellowknife South)

Sibbeston, The Hon. Nick, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 560  
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.  
XOE ONO  
(403) 873-7123 (Office)  
(403) 873-6215 (Home)  
(Nahendeh)  
Minister of Economic Development  
& Tourism

Wray, The Hon. Gordon, M.L.A.  
Baker Lake, N.W.T.  
XOC OAO  
(403) 873-7962 (Office)  
(819) 793-2700 (Home)  
(Kivallivik)  
Minister of Municipal & Community  
Affairs, Personnel and  
Public Works & Highways

Zoe, Mr. Henry, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9  
(403) 873-7999 (Office)  
(403) 873-4136 (Home)  
(Rae - Lac la Martre)  
Deputy Chairman,  
Committee of the Whole

## Officers

Clerk  
Mr. David Hamilton  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Clerk Assistant  
Mrs. Rhoda Perkison  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Law Clerk  
Mr. Joel Fournier  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Editor of Hansard  
Ms Marie J. Coe  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Sergeant-at-Arms  
Mr. Raymond Mercer  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

TABLE OF CONTENTS  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1988

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	348
Members' Statements	
- Mr. Lewis on Five Year Action Plan for Status of Women	348
- Mr. Richard on Five Year Action Plan for Status of Women	348
Returns to Oral Questions	349
Oral Questions	350
Written Questions	360
Returns to Written Questions	360
Tabling of Documents	361
Notices of Motion	361
Motions	362
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 1-88(1) Appropriation Act, 1988-89	
- Department of Justice	362
Report of Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 1-88(1) Appropriation Act, 1988-89	392
Orders of the Day	392

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1988

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen): Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 24th.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Five Year Action Plan For Status Of Women

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I was very disappointed with the answers I got yesterday about my concerns for the lack of progress on the five year action plan for the status of women. On the 17th of February the Minister for this function gave us a letter which says this: "It is with disappointment and a sense of frustration that I table the first report on the 1985 five year action plan. Responsibility for the implementation of the action plan rests with appropriate departments." The emphasis is mine, Mr. Speaker. Because the government undertook an action plan that it worked on with the advisory council, it now rests with this government to do something about it and I am very disappointed that on two separate occasions on CBC radio, this government has decided to create a red herring. You know, you paint a little fish red and everybody follows it. That is what is happening here. The government is blaming an innocent body, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, for the lack of progress, in this report. And this is to give notice that there will be many questions that will be asked on this subject, now that my two minutes are up. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Richard.

Member's Statement On Five Year Action Plan For Status Of Women

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is extremely disappointing and disheartening for members of the public who volunteer to serve on public boards and agencies, such as the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, to hear in the media and in the debates of this Assembly, statements by Ministers of the government attributing blame to an advisory group for the inaction of government on the government's own published plans of action. The Minister responsible for the Status of Women tabled a comprehensive letter addressed to Members of this Assembly on February 17th in which that Minister confirmed that the responsibility for implementing the five year action plan lies with the appropriate departments of government. Is the government or the Executive Council now rejecting Tabled Document 61-88(1), its own document? If not, Ministers Patterson and Marie-Jewell should, instead of attempting to shift the blame to an advisory group, be adhering to the principle of ministerial responsibility and accepting responsibility for government inaction. Thank you.

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I have three returns.

Further Return To Question 0102-88(1): Tourist Lodge Operators' Right To Licenses

I will start with the return to oral Question 0102-88(1), asked by Mr. Morin on February 19th, 1988, concerning the economic impact of fishing lodges. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism does not have the authority to collect confidential income or operational information from established private businesses, such as fishing lodges. Therefore, the department does not utilize the types of forms used by the Department of Public Works and Highways in their proposal and tendering processes.

However, much of this type of information is informally collected by regional tourism officers during lodge inspections and their interaction with operators on various matters. In addition, many lodges have provided information when surveyed, and for Mr. Morin's information, I have available a 1982 report produced by Fisheries and Oceans, entitled "Regional Income Analysis of Northwest Territories' Fishing Lodges", and I provide that to the Member and the Assembly.

Return To Question 096-88(1): Date For Plan For Fishing Lodges, East Arm, Great Slave Lake

With respect to oral Question 096-88(1), again asked by Mr. Morin on February 19th, 1988 on the management planning for the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, the terms of reference for a management planning process for the East Arm of Great Slave Lake are currently being prepared by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans in co-operation with the Department of Renewable Resources and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

The area manager for Fisheries and Oceans anticipates that a contractor who will do the work will be working on the project by April of this year. I expect that preliminary recommendations will be available within six months.

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

Lastly, I have a response to oral Question 0120-88(1), asked by Mr. Kilabuk on February 23rd, 1988, with respect to an economic development officer at Clyde River and Broughton Island.

Clyde River is currently visited once every eight weeks by an area economic development officer based in Pond Inlet, and Broughton Island is visited once every six to eight weeks by an area economic development officer based in Pangnirtung. In addition, there is ongoing liaison with the businesses in these communities through the government liaison officers.

There are a total of five businesses in operation in Clyde River and Broughton Island. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is currently involved with all of these businesses. At this point in time, the level of activity does not warrant the placement of an economic development officer to service these two communities.

As there is potential to more fully develop the economy of these communities, the community councils, either separately or jointly, should apply through the Economic Development Agreement for an economic planner. The planner could assist the communities to identify and prioritize business opportunities.

I have asked my department to assist the community councils in the event that they would like to pursue this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Chair would like to recognize at this time in the gallery a town councillor from Hay River, Georgina Rolt. Welcome.

---Applause

Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 0121-88(1): Response To Question 093-88(1)

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Government Leader, and it is with respect, sir, to a question I asked of the Government Leader last week that I have not yet had a reply to. I had hoped that either yesterday or today, under returns to oral questions, the Government Leader would respond to my, I believe, important question. Mr. Speaker, six days ago Minister Sibbeston acknowledged that he was using an extraneous factor in implementing government policy on write-offs of debts owing to the government. I asked the Government Leader if he would confirm that cultural identity is not a factor in determining whether to write off or forgive a debt owing to the government and whether he would direct the Minister to adhere to government policy. The Government Leader, Mr. Speaker, some five days ago took my question as notice, indicating that he was seeking a legal review of government policy.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I raise it today again is that I understand the Government Leader is going to be travelling in the next two sitting days, which takes us into next week. I cannot quite understand, Mr. Speaker, since it appeared last week from the Minister of Economic Development that the government policy was fairly clear in this respect. What is taking so long to review what the government policy is in this regard? I am asking, Mr. Speaker, if the Government Leader would see his way to respond to the question today. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 0121-88(1): Response To Question 093-88(1)

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect to the profession of the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, I have been patiently waiting for the results of the legal review on this matter and only received it this morning. I can tell the honourable Member that the legal review, which I have not had a proper opportunity to study, does disclose that the Business Loans and Guarantees Act does not deal directly with the responsibility of the Minister, or of the FMB, or of the Legislative Assembly.

The legal review has disclosed no legal provisions stating the criteria which are to be considered by the Minister when he is deciding whether to seek approval of the Legislative Assembly for the write-off of a loan.

I have also sought information from the Department of Economic Development as to what policies are applied with respect to how these matters are handled by the civil service and I have obtained information from an operations manual for the Business Loans and Guarantees Fund. Although this manual obviously does not carry the weight of law, it does set out procedures for civil servants carrying out duties related to the Business Loans and Guarantees Act. The criteria for write-offs identified in the manual refer to the amount of the outstanding debt, the cost of further collection activity, the best interests of the GNWT, the exhaustion of all appropriate avenues for collection, the potential to recover more by reducing the level of indebtedness and the long-term social-economic benefits, whatever that means.

Mr. Speaker, I am still assessing this information which I just received this morning. I hope the information that I have just given the Member will provide him some satisfaction that I am, in fact, gathering together all the relevant information I can put my hands on. I would like, however, one more day -- and I will be in the House for question period tomorrow -- I would like one more day to provide a thoughtful response to this question based on the information I have just received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 0122-88(1): Attributing Blame For Lack Of Progress

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. My question is this: In her letter, Tabled Document 61-88(1), she states, "It has been two and a half years since the plan was approved and I must say that I am dissatisfied with the lack of progress.

The plan should have been tabled earlier. It appears that due to lack of significant progress made by departments there was little to report." And then some time later, on the 23rd, in a radio broadcast the Minister does not blame departments for the lack of progress, and I quote from this broadcast, "I believe that at some point in time the advisory council was not aggressive enough. I think it is the set-up of the whole secretariat and I am currently reviewing it. I do not feel it is effective and I would like to look at ways of improving it."

So my question to the Minister is this: What happened between February 17th when she was so frustrated with her own government about the lack of progress and the 23rd of February when suddenly she finds somebody else to blame for the lack of progress? How was she convinced that it was no longer the government's fault but it was the fault of a small group of innocent women who advised this government on what it does and, in fact, helped to create the plan that this government adopted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question 0122-88(1): Attributing Blame For Lack Of Progress

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What happened between the time the letter was tabled and the time my comments were made on CBC -- first of all, I do not apologize for the comments that I made publicly and I do not apologize for the letter that was sent out. I sincerely believe, in reviewing the whole Women's Secretariat, it is not being effective for women and it is not the answer for this government. I was frustrated because this five year plan should have been tabled earlier. The report of the five year plan is dated to March, 1987. I took on the responsibility for the Status of Women in November, 1987. I believe there was a sitting of this House in the time frame from March, 1987 to November, 1987. It was frustrating for me to look at the plan and know that it had to be tabled just about a year later.

In reviewing why it was not tabled earlier, I cannot answer for someone else's actions. Regarding the Status of Women, I sincerely support the Status of Women and I feel that maybe they should be an independent body or maybe they should still stay in the existing structure -- I am now reviewing it to make it more effective. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 0122-88(1): Attributing Blame For Lack Of Progress

MR. LEWIS: I am impressed by the straightforward, honest words of a Minister who, on the 17th of February, said that she had been disappointed by the progress of departments. She has not answered my question as to why she has changed her mind and decided, about a week later, that it is no longer the government that has done wrong and has been inactive, but it is the secretariat and the advisory council that is to blame. She has not answered the question as to what made her change her mind.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister, would you like to try again?

Further Return To Question 0122-88(1): Attributing Blame For Lack Of Progress

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I do not blame the Advisory Council on the Status of Women as a whole. Nor do I put the full blame on the government. I was always under the impression that an advisory council is a body that advises the appropriate government or organization or whatever it is set up and intended for. I would almost think, if I were a person on the advisory council, "I do not think the progress in the plan in front of me is as effective as I anticipated it would be." No doubt we know that people who are on advisory councils are politically minded. I would not sit back and allow the government to look at the five year action plan that is placed in front of us. I would look at other ways, politically. This is what I meant by "aggressive". To be able to deal with their goals that they had before them.

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

Supplementary To Question 0122-88(1): Attributing Blame For Lack Of Progress

MR. LEWIS: My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, since Mr. Patterson hinted at this yesterday, if before she made the broadcast on February 23rd she had cabinet agreement that she could go ahead and make this statement that the advisory council had not been effective, and so on, and whether this had been a discussion leading up to her authorization to make this public announcement through CBC radio.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question 0122-88(1): Attributing Blame For Lack Of Progress

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel that I am an individual with, to quite a degree, my own mind. I did not go to my cabinet colleagues and ask if I could make such a statement. I did advise my cabinet colleagues that I was contacted by CBC and that they would like to interview me, and I did advise them as to the subject on which I would be interviewed, but at no point in time did my cabinet colleagues tell me what to say. Thank you.

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

Question 0123-88(1): Lack Of Action On Five Year Plan

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following the questioning by my colleague, Mr. Lewis, on this latter point I, too, noted in the Government Leader's response yesterday to one of Mr. Lewis' questions, that not only had he heard his Minister on CBC but that he agreed with her remarks and he said that the statement on CBC followed on a cabinet discussion on the subject of the role and effectiveness of the advisory council.

Now I glean from that, Mr. Speaker, that there was indeed some cabinet discussion between February 17th, when the very factual report of government inaction was tabled in this Assembly, and the interview on CBC of February 23rd. I take it that that cabinet discussion took place. What is more important to me, Mr. Speaker, is what cabinet discussion took place prior to February 17th? Does this government stand behind Tabled Document 61-88(1)? Is that a government document or not? It was tabled by a Minister of the government. It clearly implies that the blame is with departments of the government and not with the advisory group. Now, which is it? Who is to blame for the inaction on the five year plan? Is it the words we read in Tabled Document 61-88(1) or is it in the waffling statements that have come out as a result of the cabinet discussion since February 17th?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Richard, to whom is this question directed?

MR. RICHARD: The Government Leader, sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question 0123-88(1): Lack Of Action On Five Year Plan

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, cabinet knew that the Minister responsible for the Status of Women intended to table a progress report on equality for women, the five year plan of action. As to the Member's question about who bears responsibility for what he called "government inaction", I have to stress again, as the Minister responsible for the Status of Women said, that this report only covers government department responses to this five year plan as of March 1987. The Minister intends to table a report in due course which will bring this matter current and I suggest, from my reading of the report, that there has been an awful lot of progress made since March of 1987 and in fact there has continued to be work done toward this plan and that this is basically an out-of-date report which does not reflect the current situation.

Mr. Speaker, the Member asks who bears responsibility for the implementation of the five year plan of action. Clearly, the prime responsibility rests with the government and the various departments of the government. But as the Minister has pointed out and as I have tried to point out, the watchdog on the performance of the government with relation to all matters concerning women is the Advisory Council for the Status of Women. Cabinet has discussed the effectiveness of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, not with a view to blaming them for anything but with a view to



strengthening the effectiveness of that council. We do not apologize for having that kind of discussion. We support women's rights. We are anxious to see the advisory council made more effective, even more effective than it has already been. I think that the advisory council and the government can work together toward improving the status and equality of women in the NWT. We will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 0123-88(1): Lack Of Action On Five Year Plan

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were discussing this this morning, Mr. Speaker, and one of my colleagues indicated to me that this whole notion of the responsibility for these things is very confusing to him. I am getting more confused. Last week the departments got a bad report card from the government. The government gave itself a bad report card. During the last two days they have been trying to blame an advisory group for the inaction and now the Government Leader says this afternoon that the departments have not done that badly after all because they have picked up since March 1987. So I am confused now as to exactly whether anybody should be blamed if things have improved since March 1987. My supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is addressed to the Government Leader and to him, sir, although it involves the Status of Women, because of his remarks to this Assembly yesterday about the advisory council, indicating that the advisory council is not sure of their role. Also there was a reference to them being ineffective. Now on those two points, Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the Government Leader. Did the advisory council not make recommendations to the government over the last year or so on administrative changes that would see the advisory council becoming more independent of government?

A related question, Mr. Speaker. Did the advisory council in the past year or two, not again and again ask the Minister and the previous Minister to fill vacancies on the advisory council, resulting in no action by the Minister or the previous Minister in filling those vacancies? How can they become effective, Mr. Speaker, if the government will not fill the vacancies on the advisory council?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would refer those matters to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women who has direct knowledge of the day-to-day concerns of the advisory council. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Further Return To Question 0123-88(1): Lack Of Action On Five Year Plan

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I admit I have been deliberately holding back on appointments to the Status of Women board for the main reason that once you make an appointment, to undo an appointment is at times difficult. I have not made the appointments because looking at the Advisory Council for the Status of Women since I have come on I do not feel the set-up currently is effective. I am therefore wanting to review the Status of Women in conjunction with the Women's Secretariat and find a set-up that would not only make the government more accountable but also have the advisory board more independent. I support the Status of Women but I do not feel the current structure is now as effective as this government intended it to be. Thank you.

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

Question 0124-88(1): Role Of Advisory Council In Five Year Plan

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to the questions that have been asked, how can the Minister indicate to the Members of this House that the Advisory Council on the Status of Women has been ineffective when there have been no updated appointments to the Status of Women board, in fact, to consider reviewing their role and their relationship to the government and advise the government how they might consider implementing that relationship?

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

Return To Question 0124-88(1): Role Of Advisory Council In Five Year Plan

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my interview, I did not specifically say that the Advisory Council on the Status of Women is not effective. I did state that the women were not aggressive. And as I stated earlier, I do not apologize for the comments I made. I have spoken a number of times to the president of the Status of Women and I have expressed my concern in regard to the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and in discussions tried to look at setting it up to be more independent and with a more effective role. I must add to the honourable Member, that the Status of Women meet three or four times a year, at the very most...

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, at this time I resent, when I am trying to speak, that comments are made by honourable Members when they do not have the floor.

I will, in due time, look to determine whether or not other appointments will be made. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 0124-88(1): Role Of Advisory Council In Five Year Plan

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, in terms of the quote from the CBC news, Mrs. Marie-Jewell does indicate these particular words, "I do not feel it is effective and I would like to look at the ways of improving it." Those are the exact quotes from the CBC interview. Mr. Speaker, can I ask the Government Leader whether the report that has been tabled in this House, in his own words, that out-of-date report which is to be updated, is going to allow for the involvement of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and how will it be involved in the updating of the plan, knowing that there is no quorum at this particular time?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Further Return To Question 0124-88(1): Role Of Advisory Council In Five Year Plan

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am advised by the Minister responsible for the Status of Women that, in fact, there is a quorum available on the Advisory Council for the Status of Women, notwithstanding several vacancies. Mr. Speaker, the role of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women is to advise, prod, lobby, embarrass the government into doing its job with respect to improving equality and the status of women in the NWT. Their job is to monitor the implementation of the five year plan of action and to indeed monitor the actions of the government in all areas as they reflect on the status of women. It is not my place to tell the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, nor is it the place of the Minister to tell the Advisory Council on the Status of Women how they should do their job, but I think a proper role for this advisory council would be to develop a working relationship with the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, who is their window on the cabinet -- as I said yesterday -- and encourage that Minister to use her good offices to ensure that departments of this government carry out the commitments that have been undertaken in the five year plan. That is the role as I see it.

There are all kinds of mechanisms for involvement and we are working toward making the advisory council more effective so that they can have involvement in monitoring the activities of this government as they reflect on and affect the status of women in the NWT. We are open to receiving their advice and we are open to receiving public comments. If we had not been open to receiving advice and even criticism, we would not have tabled this progress report in the first place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question 0124-88(1): Role Of Advisory Council In Five Year Plan

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a supplementary question to the Government Leader. Is the advisory council going to be involved in review of the plan and is the advisory council going to be suggesting any changes or updating of the plan?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, directed to you.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I will refer that question to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, sir. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Further Return To Question 0124-88(1): Role Of Advisory Council In Five Year Plan

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise the honourable Member that these discussions have been taking place with the president of the Status of Women. I have also received a letter at some point in time requesting that and indicating their support in reviewing the Status of Women. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo?

Question 0125-88(1): Review Of Advisory Council On The Status Of Women

MR. NERYSOO: No, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. How can she justify a review and a meeting with the advisory council when positions for all appointees are not filled, so that all regions in the Northwest Territories can have a say in changing the structure and the working relationship with government?

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

Return To Question 0125-88(1): Review Of Advisory Council On The Status Of Women

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, the previous council membership and the current council membership have not reflected all regions of the NWT. And this is not the only concern that I have had. I also had indication that some of the members on the advisory council did not appear to show continuing interest in the advisory council. I have concerns that the advisory council, set up at the same time as the Women's Secretariat, in conjunction with the Women's Secretariat, is not as effective as it was intended to be and this is the reason for reviewing it. I have had discussions with the Status of Women president and indeed I have not had discussions with the whole advisory council. There are currently enough members for a quorum of the council and it is my belief that I am reviewing it to meet the best interests of the women. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 0125-88(1): Review Of Advisory Council On The Status Of Women

MR. NERYSOO: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Is the Advisory Council on the Status of Women going to be involved in the review?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question 0125-88(1): Review Of Advisory Council On The Status Of Women

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I will not say the whole advisory council is going to be involved with the review. I believe some key people on the advisory council should be involved with the review. I believe the Women's Secretariat should be involved with the review and I believe the Legislative Assembly, if they would answer some of the comments in my letters. I have not heard a comment from any of the Members in response to my tabled document, on their ideas of the review. Therefore, I have no problem with who is involved with the review but I am basically saying that the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, in conjunction with the Women's Secretariat, should be reviewed to make it more effective for women. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 0125-88(1): Review Of Advisory Council On The Status Of Women

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, it is only within the last couple of days that we even heard there was a review with regard to the plan and the direction the government was taking. Could the Minister indicate to Members in this House whether or not she has a plan of review and a strategy by which that review will take place? And is she prepared to make that presentation to the Assembly?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question 0125-88(1): Review Of Advisory Council On The Status Of Women

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I do not have a plan. I guess I can indicate to you it is in preliminary stages for a review.

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

Question 0126-88(1): Proposal For Pay Equity

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Personnel. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the PSA, or rather the Union of Northern Workers, at the time of the last round of negotiations with the employer put forward a proposal for pay equity and my information, sir, is that the government, the employer, would not even deal with this proposal. In the context of the discussions this afternoon about inactivity or blame, can the Minister of Personnel indicate whether that information I have is correct or not?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0126-88(1): Proposal For Pay Equity

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, indeed, the Member's information is correct. However, I will explain why. The subject of pay equity is much larger than simply a difference between the wages that women earn and the wages that men earn. The subject of pay equity, which is under review in southern Canada, particularly in Ontario and Manitoba, deals with the equity between positions regardless of who occupies those positions; it is equity between positions.

What has to be done is a review not only of every position within this government but our entire classification system will have to be looked at and probably remodeled, revamped or even scrapped and replaced with a new one in order to try to achieve pay equity because pay equity is involved very much with the classification of a particular job. This is a major undertaking, involving probably having to go south and hire southern consultants to do it for us, maybe even the Hay Plan people, I do not know yet.

Certainly the subject of pay equity has not been shunted off into the sidelines; it is being looked at. We are now in receipt of documentation and information from jurisdictions such as Ontario and Manitoba as to how they are addressing the issue, because they are probably the leaders in the country, and we are awaiting developments in those jurisdictions and some legal developments, among other things, as well as waiting for more information before deciding on how we are going to approach it. Certainly this government believes in the principle of pay equity, but as I said, the technicality of getting there is very complicated. We are moving there. Will it happen next week? No. Sometime over the next 18 months to four years, it will happen, but it will be in conjunction with a whole host of other things that have to be done. Thank you.

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

Question 0127-88(1): Time Frame For Review Of Role Of Advisory Council

MR. RICHARD: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, on the same topic but I wish to address my final supplementary to the Minister responsible for the Women's Secretariat. The government reached a high point, one of the few high points in my own estimation, one week ago today, on February 17th. Before the controversy of the last two days, I read Tabled Document 61-88(1), tabled by the Minister and it is a remarkable document and unique in that I had never, before that date, seen a document emanating from the government that was so self-critical. If the Executive Council made a conscious decision to table that document in this House, I compliment them for that.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, and leading to my supplementary question, what has happened in the last two days is, in my humble view, deplorable and shameful. Shameful for Ministers of the government...

MR. SPEAKER: Your question, Mr. Richard, please.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, trying to look at the bright side, I want to ask the Minister responsible for the Status of Women about this review. All of a sudden we are now going to do a review of the role of the advisory council. Minister Patterson spoke to the press about that and there has been talk this afternoon about reviewing the role of the advisory council. Can the Minister indicate, what is the time frame for that review? What concrete action is the government going to take with respect to the review of the role of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women?

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

Return To Question 0127-88(1): Time Frame For Review Of Role Of Advisory Council

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The review has been in some preliminary stages, if I can assure the honourable Member, I will come up with a plan for effectiveness in making women's concerns more noticeable to government. There is a time frame that I am deliberating. I would hope that I would be able, the next time this House sits, to not only bring up a progress report that is more up-to-date instead of 11 months later, but a more up-to-date report and at the same time a more up-to-date report indicating to the Members how these areas of concern can be expressed more effectively in the future. So I would indicate to the honourable Member that by the time we sit again in the House, after the closing of this session, I am sure we will have some further planning in regard to the status of women and the secretariat. Thank you.

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

Question 0128-88(1): Hours Of Operation Of Weigh Scale, Enterprise

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Public Works and Highways and it deals with the weigh scale in Enterprise. I would like the Minister to state whether the Department of Highways intends to reduce the number of hours in a day or the number of days in the week that the weigh scale operates.

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

Return To Question 0128-88(1): Hours Of Operation Of Weigh Scale, Enterprise

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for giving me notice. No, there is no intention whatsoever to reduce any of the hours or service levels at Enterprise.

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

Question 0129-88(1): Comparison Of Tabled Document 61-88(1) And CBC Interview

MR. POLLARD: New question, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. I am still a little confused. I would like to ask the Minister which better reflects the view of this government, is it Tabled Document 61-88(1) or the CBC interview with Mrs. Jeannie Marie-Jewell? Which better reflects the government stance here?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question 0129-88(1): Comparison Of Tabled Document 61-88(1) And CBC Interview

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out and as, I believe, the Minister responsible for the Status of Women pointed out, Tabled Document 61-88(1) presents a picture of the progress to date in implementing the five year plan of action up to March 1987. That progress as of that date is, as the Minister has indicated, in need of attention. I would suggest that the next report will be much more positive and will show much more success in implementing what are some very ambitious targets and plans for all departments toward equality for women. I have not got a transcript of the Minister's comments on CBC and I therefore am unable to compare Tabled Document 61-88(1) with the Minister's comments on CBC. But I did hear the CBC interview and my recollection of the CBC interview is that it dealt in part with the future role of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, which I do not believe is even covered in Tabled Document 61-88(1). The Minister's comment recently on CBC would be a more current assessment of the situation, though, than Tabled Document 61-88(1), which is almost a year old. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 0129-88(1): Comparison Of Tabled Document 61-88(1) And CBC Interview

MR. POLLARD: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I guess I did not ask a simple enough question. I will ask it very simply this time, Mr. Speaker. Does the government blame itself for the lack of progress or does it blame the advisory council?

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

Further Return To Question 0129-88(1): Comparison Of Tabled Document 61-88(1) And CBC Interview

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the government is not trying to evade responsibility for the failure to completely implement all the ambitious targets and goals that were set out in the five year plan of action. That is why we tabled the report, to show that there is more work to be done, and there was more work to be done as of last March. As I have said in reply to an earlier question, prime responsibility for the implementation of the plan of action rests with the government. However, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, which has a mandate to monitor the progress of the government in matters relating to the status of women, should also take some responsibility for the government's performance with relation to matters respecting the status of women. Their job is to monitor and lobby. Mr. Speaker, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women has a responsibility to monitor the effectiveness of the government in matters relating to the status of women.

I think the only point that the Minister was trying to make was, in order to do any better job than we have done in relation to matters affecting women, we should look for ways to make the advisory council even more effective, stronger and have more ability to monitor the government's performance on its obligations to women. So in that respect, Mr. Speaker, I would say that it is a shared responsibility. It is something that we are going to try to do something about. Thank you.

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

Question 0130-88(1): Paper Entitled "Design For Devolution"

MR. BUTTERS: Well, I have an easy one for the Government Leader. Is the GNWT, Mr. Speaker, developing a paper entitled, "Design for Devolution", and if so, will that paper be tabled during this current session?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question 0130-88(1): Paper Entitled "Design For Devolution"

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have never heard of a paper called "Design for Devolution". Thank you.

---Laughter

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

Question 0131-88(1): Proposal For Child Care Facilities

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, another question for the Minister of Personnel, again in an area involving the five year action plan. I understand that also, during the last round of negotiations the Union of Northern Workers made a proposal on the issue of child care facilities for employees and again, the employer, the GNWT, refused to deal with this proposal. Would the Minister confirm that that information is correct?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0131-88(1): Proposal For Child Care Facilities

HON. GORDON WRAY: The Member is indeed correct. Once again some explanation is necessary though. New negotiations were taking place during election time. The negotiators were in receipt of a bare-bones mandate from the Executive Council. The whole issue of child care involved major

changes to government policy and major financial implications and it was just not felt at the time that there was sufficient time to negotiate something like that and conclude an early agreement. So that is the answer to that question, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 0132-88(1): Number Of Seats On Advisory Council

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. I wonder if the Minister could tell the House how many seats are on the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and how many of those seats are presently filled, please? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 0132-88(1): Number Of Seats On Advisory Council

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are currently nine available seats I would say to the honourable Member, in regard to the council's membership, or up to nine available seats. I believe that most of the time there have been anywhere from seven to eight on the advisory council. I have been made aware that there are currently five people who have membership on the council. Thank you.

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

Question 0133-88(1): Rationale For Review Of Custom Adoption

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services. It is with regard again to custom adoption. In 1974, and 1971 I believe, there was a judgment passed down on custom adoption in which the judgment was that adoptions in accordance with Indian or Eskimo custom were as good before the law of the Territories as though under the new act. I would like to ask the Minister what the rationale is with regard to why custom adoption is now being reviewed? Is it to change it somehow? Why does the law reform committee need to take a look at custom adoption at this time? I still have not figured out why the government should be looking at custom adoption at this time.

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

Return To Question 0133-88(1): Rationale For Review Of Custom Adoption

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently my department, as I have indicated earlier to the Member, provides administrative assistance with custom adoption. As I stated, the laws of society have changed to quite a degree and I want to ensure that custom adoption is still a custom respected and fulfilled as requested by the native people. I want to ensure that the process can, once reviewed, speed up custom adoptions when individuals are trying to custom adopt. It has been noted that the process does take time and we are looking at ways to improve it, keeping in mind the full consideration of the native custom. Thank you.

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

Question 0134-88(1): Basis Of Appointments To Advisory Council

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is supplementary to Mr. Pollard's question to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women on the appointments that she mentioned. Are these appointments based on a regional basis across the Territories or are they done on a Member's request, or on the request of certain groups? Could the Minister elaborate on that, please?

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

Return To Question 0134-88(1): Basis Of Appointments To Advisory Council

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know exactly on what basis previous appointments were made. I cannot speak for the past Ministers. I do know that I am somewhat sure that they did take regions into consideration. In my future appointments, I will be taking regions into consideration, if this would answer the honourable Member's question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Oral questions. It would appear to conclude. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W15-88(1): Dental Services In Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The written question I have is concerning the dentist or therapist in Cape Dorset. It is directed to the Minister of Health. The only dental services available at Cape Dorset are rudimentary services. Would the Minister responsible for Health look into the matter of making available professional services geared to fitting and producing dentures? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Written questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question W16-88(1): Day Care Centre In Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services. It has been requested that it be brought up by the residents of Cape Dorset. There is a day care centre at Cape Dorset. However, there are no funds available to operate it. Would the Minister responsible for Social Services look into the matter of making funds available to make this day care centre operational? Thank you.

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Returns to written Question W5-88(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo of the Minister of Finance, and written Question W7-88(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo of the Minister of Social Services.

Return To Question W5-88(1): Gasoline Tax Exemption

Hon. Michael Ballantyne's return to Question W5-88(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on February 15th, 1988, regarding gasoline tax exemption:

Hunters and trappers will be exempt from the April 1st, 1988 increase of one cent per litre in federal excise tax on gasoline. This will be accomplished through an increase of the same amount to the rebate now available through the federal tax rebate program. This rebate is currently four cents per litre and will be increasing to five cents per litre. Hunters and trappers are also entitled to a 1.5 cents per litre rebate under the excise gasoline tax rebate program. The total refund will therefore increase from 5.5 cents per litre to 6.5 cents per litre.

In the Northwest Territories the two rebate programs are currently administered in two different ways. The Department of Government Services is seeking a ruling from Revenue Canada which will allow both programs to be administered in the same way.

Federal Tax Rebate Program

To obtain the rebate under the federal tax rebate program, it is currently necessary for all hunters and trappers to first pay the tax and then apply for a refund from Revenue Canada. The Department of Government Services is in the process of obtaining a ruling from Revenue Canada which would allow it to deduct the rebate directly from the price of gasoline products sold through the petroleum products division of Government Services. A ruling may be received before April 1st, 1988, when the tax increase comes into effect. Otherwise, hunters and trappers will have to continue to submit rebate forms to benefit from the tax rebate.

Excise Gasoline Tax Rebate Program

For the 1.5 cents per litre rebate available under the excise gasoline tax rebate program, the petroleum products division of Government Services has received a ruling from Revenue Canada which allows it not to charge hunters and trappers this portion of the tax. This tax refund is administered by charging 1.5 cents less on cash sales than on credit sales.



Hunters and trappers who purchase on credit or purchase gasoline products in communities not served by the Department of Government Services have to submit rebate forms to benefit from both rebate programs. Claimants can obtain rebate forms from their nearest post office or by writing to a federal excise office in southern Canada. Hunters and trappers may file claims retroactively for fuel purchased since December 1984. However, for retroactive claims, the rebate will be paid at the rate enforced at the time the fuel was purchased.

Return To Question W7-88(1): Position On National Child Care Policy

Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell's return to Question W7-88(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on February 17th, 1988, regarding the position on national child care policy:

At the recent federal/territorial/provincial Ministers' meeting on December 3rd, 1987, regarding the development of a national child care policy, the Government of the NWT was represented by the deputy minister and assistant deputy minister of the Department of Social Services.

This meeting was called by the Hon. Jake Epp, Minister of National Health and Welfare, to announce the federal strategy, rather than as a forum for provincial/territorial input. Nevertheless, some of the concerns specific to our jurisdiction were presented. This included a presentation of the unique geographic, cultural and climatic conditions in our jurisdiction, the extremely high cost of living, the difficulties of serving such a dispersed population, and the need for a base-funding adjustment in addition to the cost-sharing arrangements, if we are to be able to develop an adequate child care program. For the honourable Member's information, I have also attached a copy of the presentation made by our government to the special committee on child care, which outlines the government's stance.

A draft strategy is currently being prepared by my departmental officials and I plan to present it to cabinet before the end of the fiscal year. Subsequent to receiving cabinet approval, we will then be in a position to undertake intensive negotiations with the federal government for the funding necessary to operate an effective child day care program in the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 74-88(1), a letter to me from the hamlet of Coral Harbour, dated November 24, 1987, with a resolution regarding constitutional issues.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Tabling of documents. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 75-88(1), Press Release issued by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, dated February 24th, 1988.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 8-88(1): Appointment To NWT Housing Corporation

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to serve notice that on February 26th, Friday, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that the Legislative Assembly recommend that the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation appoint Peter Kritaqliluk to the board of directors of the NWT Housing Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 7-88(1): Tabled Document 71-88(1) to Committee of the Whole. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 7-88(1): Tabled Document 71-88(1) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Richard, that Tabled Document 71-88(1), entitled "Direction for the 1990s", be moved into committee of the whole for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters, your motion is in order.

MR. RICHARD: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. I hear question being called. All those in favour of the motion, please signify by raising your hands. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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.

Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I would like to have the Speaker determine whether or not the research people, both the Members' and the Executive Council's, have the right to lean over during formal session to pass information and to speak to Ministers or to speak to Members of the Assembly. I believe that under Rule 16, subsection 2(b) that is not allowed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo, you are absolutely correct. The rules are quite clear that any notes or information shall be passed using a Page. I would direct the House to observe the rule, please. Mr. Zoe.

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 1988-89 MAIN ESTIMATES; BILL 1-88(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1988-89

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I would like to call the committee to order.

Department Of Justice

We are dealing with the Department of Justice. Mr. Minister, do you have any opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my pleasure to present to you the budget of the Department of Justice for your consideration.

In consideration of the current economic environment, the department has attempted to hold the line to the 1987-88 funding levels as much as possible within the operations and maintenance estimates. Consequently, in recognition of restraint and the limited revenue sources available, little has been added in the way of new initiatives or increased services. We have, however, attempted to add

resources where a significant shortage has been identified over the last year or where Members of the previous Legislative Assembly raised a particular concern. Specifically, there are certain issues within our department which I would like to bring to your attention.

#### Rental Officer

As I am sure you are aware, the Residential Tenancies Act was proclaimed on February 6th, 1988. A rental officer is now appointed and work has begun to ensure that both landlords and tenants are aware of the details of the legislation and that requirements pursuant to the legislation are being met. Mrs. Shirley Johnson has been appointed the rental officer. Her experience as a lawyer in the North should greatly assist in implementing the requirements of the new act.

#### Legal Registries Office

Work should be completed in the new fiscal year to have the legal registries office fully automated. It is also proposed that one additional person year be assigned to this division. The combination of these two improvements should allow very quick turnaround times in filing documents and providing information to the public.

Although the funding is not specifically addressed in this budget, it is hoped that discussions with the federal government will be completed early in the new fiscal year with respect to the transfer of responsibility for land titles administration. This will pave the way for the Government of the Northwest Territories to establish its own legislation in this area and to control the resources collected from registration.

#### Public Trustee Office

The volume and value of estates being handled by the public trustee office has grown from 397 active files to 542 in the past five years. In the same period, the value of these estates has increased from \$2,650,000 to \$3,740,000. This situation has resulted in additional resources being required in the public trustee office to maintain a high level of service to the public. It is intended that over the next year new publications and information will be available on the process of administering public estates as well as information on how to prepare a will.

#### Revision Of NWT Statutes

During the previous Legislative Assembly, a commitment was made to revise all of the NWT statutes. This is a significant task requiring updating the statutory language, consolidating all amendments and sometimes restructuring the acts to provide a consistent, readable text. The last revision was published in 1974. It is planned that this revision will be completed by the end of the 1988-89 fiscal year. Mr. Chairman, in this budget additional resources have been set aside to complete this exercise.

#### Meech Lake Accord

My department since May has co-ordinated the opposition to the negative aspects of the Meech Lake Accord.

#### Legal Aid

Negotiations are being finalized with the federal government for a new three year legal aid agreement. The new agreement will allow this government to improve legal aid services throughout the NWT. This includes funding for one additional support staff position. By increasing the support staff, the processing of applications will be speeded up, the office will be able to maintain more complete statistics and, where contributions are in order, clients will be invoiced on a timely basis.

A comprehensive evaluation of the legal aid program is planned for 1988-89. This is in response to some of the concerns made by the standing committee on finance and especially Mr. Nerysoo, who had asked questions about this particular area. The recommendations from this evaluation should improve the efficiency of the delivery of legal aid to the residents of the NWT.

### Law Reform

Family law will be the law reform priority of the Department of Justice in the coming year. This is consistent with the directions outlined in the five year plan of action of the NWT Advisory Council on the Status of Women. We have been working with representatives of the advisory council and Department of Social Services for five or six months now, putting together a plan of action to deal with that and in the detail of my budget I can go into more details of what we are intending to do in this area. On another front, I want to emphasize that the committee that will be dealing with family law is distinct and different from the law reform committee.

The law reform committee, which I set up a year and a half ago, has had a busy first year and shortly they will be issuing a working paper on mechanics' liens. I understand the committee will soon release their final report on the Jury Act amendment, which would allow unilingual aboriginal persons to serve on juries. The next project of the committee will be a review of company law in the NWT.

### Labour Services

The complexity of complaints and enquiries under the Labour Standards Act has increased substantially over the past couple of years. This may be one of the unfortunate results of last year's downturn in the economy. Additional resources are required to ensure that all matters coming before the officers or the board are dealt with promptly and satisfactorily.

### Safety Education Program

An agreement has been finalized with the WCB to expand the worker safety education program. This program will greatly enhance and promote accident prevention and safety awareness and should contribute a great deal to keeping accident statistics to a minimum. This agreement includes funding for a training program in workplaces throughout the NWT. Over the past two years the safety division has presented safety seminars on a variety of topics. These topics include trenching and excavating, working in a confined space, defensive driving and student safety awareness. To date, more than 700 workers have been trained in various courses in all the regions of the NWT.

### Safety Information Programs

Over the past year work has commenced on automating all safety industrial information available. With this system in place, virtually any worker or employer can directly access information directly and easily. It will place a vast amount of information at the fingertips of residents of the NWT. An interesting note to Members, I think, is that the safety division recently translated a graphics computer program on excavation safety into the Slavey language. In addition, the division is working with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety and IBM Canada to have soapstone carving dust hazards put on a graphics package and translated into Inuktitut as well as French and English. This will be the first time for this type of occupational health information to be disseminated through the Territories and in different aboriginal languages.

### Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System, WHMIS

The workplace hazardous materials information system is a computer system designed to provide a uniform, national means of informing workers about hazardous substances in their places of work. I am extremely pleased that this program will soon be in effect and that the GNWT played a key role in its development. It further outlines the commitment of this government to furthering the health and safety of NWT workers.

### Policing

In the area of policing, the RCMP budget is being maintained at acceptable levels through the effective use of the available resources. I should point out, as I pointed out to the standing committee on finance, that this budget does not allow for any inflationary increases to the base of the RCMP funding. Once the RCMP have received confirmation of salary cost of living increases and other inflationary increases from federal Treasury Board, we will have to consider a similar adjustment for the GNWT share of this amount. As Members will recall, there is a supplementary estimate fund that was set aside to deal with inflationary increases throughout government.

The RCMP, with my support, have developed six priorities with respect to native policing. Consultation in this matter is now under way with native organizations in the Territories and later on, if Members would like some details of those priorities, I would be pleased to provide them.

#### Other Changes

Generally, other areas of additional funding include: resources added to the sheriff's office to respond to the demands of court; staff in legal division to ensure adequate response time with respect to legal opinions and advice so that the GNWT position is adequately protected with respect to legal matters; and resources in finance and administration to ensure that appropriate procedures and controls are in place with respect to revenues. As well, additional funding is being received from the federal Department of Justice to cover the costs in court services of the implementation of the Young Offenders Act.

Mr. Chairman, in summary I would like to say that there is much more that I and I am sure others in this House would like to accomplish to enhance the administration of justice and to promote public and worker safety in the NWT.

However, this budget is an attempt to utilize the resources available in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Mr. Chairman, and fellow Members of this House, in consideration of these opening comments, I will invite you now to examine in detail the 1988-89 budget for the Department of Justice.

I would ask through you, Mr. Chairman, the permission of the committee of the whole if I could have as witnesses, Mr. Geoff Bickert, who is the deputy minister of Justice, and Mrs. Louise Matthews, who is the director of finance and administration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Does the committee agree to let the Minister bring in his witnesses and we will continue with the details of the Department of Justice?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Minister, proceed to bring in your witnesses, please. Before I call for general comments, Mr. Lewis, as deputy chairman of the standing committee on finance, do you have any comments?

#### Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I refer to page 30 of the report on the review of the 1988-89 main estimates done by the standing committee on finance. We asked several questions of all departments and these were the general questions. Number one, when we asked about the mandate of the department we got an unusual response from the Department of Justice. We were told that it is included in the policy, program and services manual of the government. Such a document, as we know, describes to the public what government does, not where it gets its authority.

For the second question, on new programs, we were told that a rental officer program would be in place and possible changes to the justice of the peace system as a result of a report of the task force on justices of the peace and coroners. The third question was about performance evaluation and we were told that the department is using the management for results system. We asked a question also about person years and were told that there was an increase of 7.6 person years. We were not given information about what vacant positions were available in the department at that time. The fifth question was about travel because the standing committee on finance saw this as a big budget item. We were told that this is being monitored very carefully so that all staff and judges would be told to control their travel as much as possible.

The highlights for this department were the creation of a rental review office and major projects which include revision of statutes, automation of legal registries, takeover of land titles, the Meech Lake court case, family law revisions, a new legal aid agreement and safety information programs, as the Minister has already indicated.

The issues and concerns that were raised during our examination of this department include the task force on justices of the peace and coroners. The Minister reassured Members that the task force had been asked to consider many areas such as tenure, for example. Members expressed concerns regarding the availability of legal aid to all NWT residents. The issue of fiscal equity was also raised in regard to the money provided to the Arctic Rim Law Society. The Minister was questioned regarding the possible development of an NWT labour code.

A number of concerns were raised regarding the Police Services Agreement, including the need for greater services in some communities and the issue of special constables. The Minister also addressed the issue of whether the current agreement ensures the best possible services for the level of funding. On the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, the Minister indicated an attempt was being made to inform people about this act. The limited amount of money in the fund was also mentioned. Members raised a concern regarding the need for increased fire safety training, particularly in communities without fire departments. In this connection, travel was seen as being an important component for this activity to proceed effectively.

That concludes the report of the standing committee on finance, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to declare that this is the department that contains the Liquor Licensing Board and responsibilities for that and I would just like the committee to know that I am a partner in a company that holds a liquor licence issued by this department. So I will be declaring an interest in that particular area of Justice that deals with liquor licences.

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

#### Public Consultation On Legislative Proposals

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, by way of general comments, I wanted to inquire into some of the upcoming legislation that will be coming through this department to the Assembly this session and in subsequent sessions in the 11th Assembly. I have had a concern for some time that there be proper consultation with members of the public. It has been my experience in the last three or four years that government is too secretive about its draft legislative proposals and there is not enough consultation or putting out of a first and second draft of various pieces of legislation. I would like the Minister to confirm publicly that he and his department are committed to that kind of consultation.

One example which comes to mind is the victims of crime legislative proposal a year or so ago. When it was tabled in the Assembly, to be enacted by the Assembly, I was one who looked at it and initially concluded and still conclude that it was very poorly thought out. It was, unfortunately, just a carbon copy of southern legislation. There was not enough consultation with people working in the justice field and related fields on that draft legislation, for example. There are other types of legislation that will come through this department. I suppose a good example of the way to do it is the Residential Tenancies Act that we enacted about a year ago. On that there was consultation three years earlier. The only criticism I would have is the time gap in getting the consultation completed and then getting the legislation before the Assembly.

Upcoming topics such as the land titles act and the real estate brokers legislation are examples where there are people out in the private sector who must, of necessity, work with this legislation on a daily basis and they should be consulted and their comments received before the government puts a draft bill before the Assembly, rather than the other way around.

Labour standards legislation, I understand, is going to be introduced, and I would ask the Minister to confirm that there has been consultation and input from employers or employers' groups or employees or employees' groups on that draft legislation. There was another large, important piece of legislation called the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act; it is being amended -- something that concerns almost all of us in our day-to-day lives.

---Laughter

Seriously, I have had, for example, in years past, correspondence on that which I have passed on to the Minister of Justice of the day and I see that as coming up for change. I do not know the changes that the government is going to bring in, but again I hope there has been consultation with those whose lives are affected by boilers and pressure vessels. So my initial comments are in that vein, on consultation with legislation. This department has more to do with new legislation than other departments and I would ask the Minister to confirm his agreement that that is the proper way to involve the public in new and amending legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I totally concur with the Member's comment. In the time that I have been Minister I have really tried to accommodate that request because I know when I first took over the portfolio, the Member made it very clear that he considered it a flaw on this government's part in the past, that there was not wide consultation for legislation. If I could perhaps refer to three of the examples that the Member brought forward. The land titles act has had fairly thorough circulation. It has been reviewed by the law reform committee of the Law Society. We have had a lot of comments from surveyors and we have sent it out to native organizations, so that particular one has had circulation and we have made some changes because of the comments. The Member mentioned the labour standards legislation. For both the labour standards legislation and the victims of crime act, I tried to use the same format as I used with the Residential Tenancies Act. What I did was table draft legislation with no desire whatsoever to try to pass it. I made Members aware of the fact that this is what we were talking about. Then the consultation took place after that. I did that with all three of those acts and it has been quite useful.

I disagree with the Member in the end result of the victims of crime act. I think it has improved significantly. I do not intend to try to pass it during this session. I think what I will do is table it again. We are expecting federal legislation to come down and I think it would make more sense in conjunction with the federal legislation which is proposed. So my intention is just to table it with the amendments we have made, because of a lot of very valid criticisms made by Mr. Richard and by others. I will not attempt to pass it until the fall when, hopefully, the federal legislation, which this act really needs to be meaningful, comes into effect.

#### Review By Law Reform Committee

I think a relatively new progressive step we have taken is to formalize now, more so than in the past, a relationship with the law reform committee of the Law Society. We are giving them draft legislation except in the case of something that is so confidential we cannot do it. But generally we are going to let them have a look at all our legislation so they can make comments before we finalize it. I think the comments of the Member are appropriate and to the best of our ability we are attempting to carry out those observations made by the Member. Thank you.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, on another matter. It is my understanding that in recent weeks the Minister and the department are in receipt of a fairly comprehensive proposal on family law reform from an ad hoc group of citizens, lawyers and social workers particularly, in which they propose that the government take on the wholesale revision and revamping of family law in its many aspects.

My question, Mr. Chairman, at this time for the Minister is: Would he confirm that he is in receipt of this comprehensive proposal, which I understand even includes estimates of expenditures which would be necessary in order to carry out this comprehensive review and reform? What has been done with this proposal or what is going to be done with the proposal that the Minister and his department received?

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

#### Proposal For Family Law Reform

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I want to clarify one thing. Not only are we in receipt of this proposal, we were part of the team that drafted it. The Department of Justice has been involved in putting this proposal together for a number of months now. In some discussions I had with the president of the advisory council we decided we would go this way. After receiving the

proposal the next step, was that I went to the Minister of Social Services. We decided that it makes sense that the two Ministers handle this together because a lot of that legislation will directly impact on her department and on her responsibilities. So we have an agreement that the two departments, along with the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the Women's Secretariat, will jointly put together an action plan. I do have a copy of the budget; that is the one area that has not been finalized yet. There is a two year plan and between the Women's Secretariat, the Department of Social Services and the Department of Justice, we will be able to come up with a good percentage of the sum that was envisioned in the first year -- perhaps not all of it but enough to make a very significant beginning in the first year, with the intention of then coming back in the second year or through a supp, perhaps, to this Assembly to complete it. The intention is to try to live within that time framework. We think it is very, very important work that has to be done and I would just like to assure the Member that we are well into our work plan so we can get on with it. Thank you.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First, I would like to ask the Minister with respect to the police force and my own constituency in Rankin Inlet. I wonder if he could explain to me what is being done with respect to this issue, especially the placement of a constable in Rankin Inlet.

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

#### Police Services In Keewatin

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The honourable Member, before he was elected this time as MLA and since then, has been very diligent in his efforts to keep me aware of some inadequacies in the level of police support in Rankin Inlet. I, of course, relayed the concern in no uncertain terms to the RCMP. After some difficulties in recruiting, we were finally able to get an additional special constable put into Rankin Inlet. Now I understand some concern has been expressed by the community that the special constable does not speak the language of the community; he does not speak Inuktitut. I have assured the Member that we would like to leave that special constable there for the time being to at least assist in the workload. But we are actively pursuing hiring another special constable who does speak Inuktitut and would be able to move into the community.

For some of the smaller communities, such as Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove, there have been complaints, and I think with a certain amount of justification, that policing has not been adequate. Because of restraints on our budget it is not possible to always put constables into these communities. I have asked the RCMP to increase their patrols. They have agreed that they would be increasing their patrols, going much more frequently into smaller communities.

We also are looking at the concept of satellite detachments. Because the cost of actually putting a full detachment into a community is very, very high due to the costs of housing and office space, etc., we are looking at the possibility of having a special constable operating out of a small community and reporting to a regional base. For instance, in Lac la Martre at some point, a special constable could be in charge of policing in Lac la Martre with a reporting relationship to Fort Rae. So it would be possible to do it at less cost and I think we could be more successful in what we are trying to do. That is one approach that we are exploring, anyhow. I hope that has answered some of the Member's questions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the people in my constituency do recognize the fact that the issue of language is a problem, especially from the communications point of view. I also understand the Minister to indicate that he is looking into this situation and it is something that I do appreciate very much for obvious reasons. This brings me to another point. There has been some talk for many years now in terms of establishing a northern police force. When I take a look at this, it turns me on, Mr. Chairman, because it would be a good idea to have a northern police force. What about taking advantage of what is there now, at the community level, giving more power to by-law officers who are employed by the municipalities now, with certain rights established as they do with the present RCMP? That would provide you with a solution where you are in fact establishing your own hamlet municipal police.



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

Renegotiating Police Services Contract

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: As the Member has pointed out, there are some questions that we are going to have to face as an Assembly and as a cabinet in the next four years. As Members are probably aware, the 10 year contract we presently enjoy with the RCMP will end in 1991 and negotiations will begin fairly soon to negotiate a new contract, if we want a very different contract or I suppose, if we want a contract at all. I think some factors should be considered, and Members will probably have different ideas from the ones I have. Right now there are certain advantages to being part of a national police force. One is that the federal government is now paying about 36 per cent of our costs, which will diminish to about 30 per cent of our costs by the end of our agreement. Another is that we are plugged into a very sophisticated backup support system across the country, where information is easily available here in the North on any number of matters that are of importance to law enforcement officers in the NWT.

I would like to say that obviously there are some exceptions, as there are with any group of people, but I think, generally, we have been very well served in the NWT by the quality of our RCMP officers and the training of our RCMP officers. I think without question it is one of the best-trained police forces in the world. Before we make any decisions we have to consider that. I think, though, that Mr. Ernerk's points are valid and I understand we will have some flexibility in pursuing a new approach. It may be possible to use the RCMP but in a situation where they are much more decentralized and there is more flexibility to deal with local situations and local problems.

Areas that we are pursuing now trying to attract aboriginal policemen, whether as special constables or regulars, are areas that we definitely can improve in. One of the stumbling-blocks, historically, has been the federal national standards demanded for police officers. It has been a problem. One way to go, as Mr. Ernerk has said, is to develop our own police force, or in a new agreement with RCMP we would have standards that we could agree on for the North, keeping in mind, of course, that we still want the policemen to be able to carry out their function. To use by-law officers would mean reprofiling their function and retraining, because they would be dealing with criminal code offences that they had not been before.

So I think Mr. Ernerk's comments are timely but we have some time and I think it is something that Members should reflect on over the next few weeks and months. I would be very interested in the comments of Members and at some point before we make a decision, obviously, I hope to see some debate in this House and I would like to see some direction from this House over the next few years as to the way people think we should go. I thank the Member for his comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I really do appreciate the Minister's statements as well. I recognize and appreciate the work that the RCMP has carried out in the NWT. From our experience, we have always had a great contract and relationship with the RCMP in the East. My point is this, Mr. Chairman, if you do decide to provide similar kinds of powers and authority to local by-law officers who are in place now, and I do not quite know how you would do it, but if that is the idea, you could find some loopholes here and there to find the kind of solution you want in the long run. I think it would be really good to have that kind of service provided by the people at the community level complementing or supplementing the services of the RCMP.

Training In The North

Now in terms of training. In our region I have found that the native people who leave their communities to be trained in Regina often find it difficult to be trained in southern Canada. Again, for obvious reasons. What about the establishment of a training centre right here? What about training them here? What about studying the possibility of training the forces up here? I am really talking about two things, but just as long as I am clear in the kinds of things I would like to see. I have some other statements to make later, Mr. Chairman. I will just quit there for now. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the suggestion is a good one, especially with the RCMP northern tradition. I think there is a point to be made and I think it has a lot of potential. I suppose you could take it one step further and not only train people in the NWT but provide some training for people in other provinces because of the unique situation up here. So I can assure the Member that I think the idea has merit and I will pursue it. Thank you.

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

#### Interpreter Services In Courts

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move on to the interpreter services within the courts. Did I understand you to say, Mr. Chairman through you to the Minister, that you are looking into this interpreter service within the court system of the NWT? Because I see that there is a great need for improvement in terms of court interpreting services in the NWT. I have observed where an accused had to interpret for another accused in Rankin Inlet about a year and a half ago. I do not like to use myself as an example in this House, but as a member of the audience observing the court proceedings I was asked to interpret. That is the kind of situation that goes on. I recognize the fact that the Minister and his department are trying to make some improvements to the interpreting services, but can I have a commitment from the Minister that in fact interpreting services are going to be improved, that there are going to be improvements in interpreting services within the court system of the NWT? Because as I know it and as I see it, it is a big responsibility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Just to say, Mr. Minister, he is making known other qualities that might be useful to the Department of Justice as well. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you for the advice, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it has been a priority of this department for a couple of years to try to provide some major improvements to the whole area of interpreting in the courts. If I could just, very briefly, take you through some of the things we have done and are doing, so you can see there is some concrete evidence of the sort of thing we are trying to achieve.

As Members will recall, Mr. Nerysoo, when he was Government Leader, set up the task force on aboriginal languages. They worked for a couple of years and made a number of recommendations, one of which was improved interpretation in the courts. We already had started some work on that in the beginning of 1986. I brought forward an amendment to the Jury Act to allow for unilingual persons, who do not speak or understand English or speak or understand French, but who speak and understand an aboriginal language, to sit on a jury. I have purposely not had that act proclaimed because there is a lot of other work we had to do and the law reform committee is going to give us their final report. But I think a major problem we had to overcome was that of interpreting in the courts.

#### Progress In Area Of Interpretation

We commissioned a study that was made public in April 1987. It was called "Breaking the Silence", a report by Louise Nicklen, who worked for a number of years in the language area with our department. That gave us the beginning of the approach we wanted to take. There are a number of meetings that have happened since then. Starting in January of this year we put together some module development. This was in consultation with our language bureau, Ontario Interpreters Association, Langara College, University of Ottawa, and experts in interpreting from New Jersey. These modules are being prepared, and actually this week, February 23 to 25, Dr. Rhoda Roberts of the School of Interpreting in Ottawa will conduct workshops for those people who will be acting as instructors. She will be meeting with members of the judiciary to discuss the appropriate role of the interpreter in the courtroom.

There is another meeting with representatives of the justice community, including the judiciary, court staff, the defence bar, Crown counsel and the particular focus will be directed on the role of the interpreter as a bridge between cultures. This cross-cultural workshop will be happening March 9 to 11; development of testing and professional recognition criteria in March, 1988; and recruitment of participants, in March and April. So we are getting right into it. Applications will be taken in the communities. Taped tests will be administered by local employment officers and forwarded to the language bureau here in Yellowknife. Development of a client user package in March of this year. Development of a package including the role of the court interpreter code of

ethics, etc. An instructor's workshop in May and then we are actually starting a six week training program for aboriginal language court interpreters. It is scheduled to commence in mid-May and it might not be until mid-July. A program evaluation report in October. A report on the project, generally, in December and then between January and March 1989, we want to adapt the program to Arctic College and then we are into it. So I just wanted to demonstrate to the Member a lot of work has been put into this project and we are making very good progress. We hope very soon we are going to have better trained interpreters in the courts. Thank you.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Will you hire me, Mr. Minister? Okay, I am satisfied with that lengthy explanation. A lot of meat in it. I would like to go on to the issue on which we have been questioning the Minister of Social Services, as well as the Minister of Justice. It is in regard to custom adoptions. I have some lengthy remarks to make on this. May I plead with you to have coffee, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): No, Mr. Ernerk. I have no problems with taking a break at this particular time.

MR. ERNERK: Can we break now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Yes.

MR. ERNERK: Am I on the list?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Yes, Mr. Ernerk, you are at the bottom of the list.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee of the whole will come to order and we will proceed with Mr. Ernerk in questioning.

#### Custom Adoptions

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If my statements are not necessarily in categorical order, please excuse me. I have a number of concerns that have come to light in the past few months, especially from my constituency. They are with regard to the issue of custom adoption. As Mr. Gargan indicated the other day in the House, it is not a simple process any more. It has become a legal hassle, heavy stuff, for the adopting parents, in terms of consent by the parents who are giving permission to adopting parents. I have heard from my constituents in Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet, there was a question on signatures because they were written in Inuktitut syllabics.

(Translation) If the signature is in Inuktitut, why is it questioned whether it is legal or not, by the territorial government? I do not know how many native people have gone through the same situation with the territorial government. There have been many people in the Keewatin who have gone through this, probably in the Baffin Region as well, and probably in the rest of the Territories as well. (Translation ends)

What used to be a simple procedure has become a very complex situation with regard to custom adoptions. Custom adoptions are recognized through the courts as a gentleman's agreement between the southern society and the native people of the NWT. Yesterday and today I have looked and looked for pieces of legislation governing custom adoption. There is nothing. It is an agreement, it is a recognition of an aboriginal right for all native people of the NWT.

I have been able to come up with some judgments of Mr. Justice Morrow with regard to firstly, "Re Wah-Shee et al". He states here that in an Indian custom adoption, the fact that the adopting mother is not an Indian by birth is no bar to a custom adoption, where she was registered as a band Indian and accepted as an Indian by the band.

We have come up with similar situations in the Keewatin. In my previous occupation as the president of the Keewatin Inuit Association, on a number of occasions I was asked to identify a non-Inuk spouse, to indicate that that person was, in fact, married to an Inuk person, accepted by the community and accepted by the region as a whole. That is why I had to write on two occasions, then, as the regional president of the Keewatin Inuit Association.

The reason I am bringing this issue up, "Re Wah-Shee et al", is because the same situation has occurred very recently. Because of this complicated process, the parents, the mother and her husband, are being required to ask permission of their young daughter, an underaged child, if they can adopt her child. Since it is a traditional custom, it is the parents who give the permission to the young people to see if adoptions can be arranged, not the young person, as it is in this particular case.

The situation, according to the judgments of Judge Morrow, is a very simple one, but it has become bureaucratic heavy stuff on the part of the GNWT. Accordingly on February 3, 1969, "Re Indian Act Custom Adoptions Re Beaulieu's Petition", again Mr. Justice Morrow indicated the following: "It should be observed that from 1961 on, this court has consistently recognized Eskimo custom adoptions and has never refused to grant formal orders confirming them." What we are getting into, Mr. Chairman, is the southern Canadian style of adopting.

#### Custom Placed In Conflict With Southern Culture

Again, I would like to refer to another judgment of Mr. Justice Morrow, 23rd February 1972, in which he indicated: "As a result of the submissions put forward by counsel, I am forced to observe that one of the most important and, I believe, most cherished customs, namely, that of custom adoption has been placed in direct conflict with the 'white' or 'southern' culture." I guess what I am really trying to say, Mr. Chairman, is here. "What started out, therefore, as a relatively simple case has now reached a point in time where perhaps the last vestige of native culture heretofore recognized by our court, is in danger of being lost to these people, of going down the same path as their hunting and other rights."

So when one thinks about these issues, especially coming from the native people's point of view, the aboriginal people's point of view, the immediate thought that comes to mind is, "Leave it alone, government. Leave it alone. It is a custom of the native people of the NWT, the aboriginal people of the NWT. Leave it alone!" And yet the people in my constituency are getting all kinds of hassle from the Department of Justice and the Department of Social Services. We heard the Minister of Social Services indicate the other day that the law reform committee of the NWT is somehow looking into this, is somehow involved in this.

Those are not the proper words and I have since sent the transcripts downstairs. However, that was part of the intention. I push to have the Inuit or aboriginal elders have more input into this, which is the way it used to be done. There are annual elders' conferences which will confirm that the custom adoptions in the NWT are still in place, so that our people do not have to be hassled with these things.

So, Mr. Chairman, I am going to stop there for now. If the Members wish I would make copies of these judgments and pass them around because they are very, very important for discussion purposes or references with regard to custom adoption. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Mr. Minister, do you want to make comments with regard to the issue of custom adoption? Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that many of the points that Mr. Ernerk has brought out really highlight what a sensitive issue this is. Anything we do in this area has to be done with full co-operation, consultation, and sensitivity for the rights of the people involved.

#### Family Law Committee Participating

I have a couple of comments to make in this area but before I do I would like to clarify Mrs. Marie-Jewell's statement yesterday in which she referred to the law reform committee. She meant the family law committee. The law reform committee, which is chaired by Mr. Justice Marshall, is not dealing with this. They will be dealing with company law and mechanics' lien legislation. The committee that Mrs. Marie-Jewell has referred to and that I have referred to, was the same group that Mr. Richard mentioned in his opening comments, which will include representatives from the Women's Secretariat and the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the Department of Justice, the Department of Social Services and aboriginal groups. Once the committee is together they will work out the full degree of participation.

But I want to assure the Member that Mrs. Marie-Jewell and I are very sensitive about this issue and no decision will be taken without the full input of everybody involved. There is definitely no intention whatsoever by my department or Mrs. Marie-Jewell's department to do away with this particular aboriginal custom. I think some of the frustrations the Member has talked about, the administrative frustrations, are ones that I want to look into. I am not quite sure of Social Services' administrative procedures or the involvement of our department, but generally our department acts to assist people in having the courts deal with custom adoptions. As a service to the parents, we are acting, not in a client relationship but as a friend of the court. That has been essentially, the role of the Department of Justice.

I would definitely, at an appropriate time, like more details from the Member as to what his experiences or the experiences of the people of his communities are with any sort of bureaucratic obstacles to the process. If they are caused by my department, I will have a look at those. I am sure that Mrs. Marie-Jewell will review them if they are caused by her department. So I would just like to conclude, Mr. Chairman, we are aware that the whole area of custom adoption is a very sensitive one and we intend to treat it with the utmost respect and sensitivity. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Zoe is absent. Are there any other Members that wanted to make general comments? Mr. McLaughlin.

#### Previous Minister's Comments

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister, again on custom adoption. When I was Minister, I ran across this on a few occasions, the first time being at a conference of social workers in the Inuvik Region. It was actually brought to my attention by native employees of my department who were concerned that sometimes when something went wrong with the placements that actually occurred, they would get the blame. In other words, because the Department of Social Services employee had to do the necessary paperwork to document the birth date, the identity of the mother and the identity of the new family in order to put this forward to the court, they took all the blame on occasion for things that went wrong if the child was actually placed in a bad situation.

They also took the blame for all the delays that happened. I found that at one time there were in the order of -- I can remember being surprised at the number -- somewhere between 75 and 125 custom adoptions which had not been processed yet and were actually being held up by the court. Some people in my department then thought it was because of the action that was being taken in Justice, that possibly the judges thought that this review that was taking place might change the rules so they were holding everything back. Finally they rushed through a whole bunch of these custom adoptions.

There is definitely something wrong because I heard complaints. I wanted the people that have to live with this special situation to deal with it. The Department of Social Services at that time appointed a committee of native organizations in the West to look into custom adoption. I just hope that the people that you have working on this are going to have a good relationship with that group, to iron out some of these difficulties that Mr. Ernerk has been pointing out. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason we decided that the two departments, Justice and Social Services should work together is because it is important that the experience of both departments in this area be brought together to bear on the problem. I had a real concern that if the Department of Justice did it in isolation, a lot of these sorts of factors perhaps would not be considered. I think that our intention is to make this committee as broad based as possible and try to deal with all those issues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any other general comments? Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a comment also. There was a concern about custom adoption during the Baffin leadership summit conference. You may have seen the document I tabled. There is a number of people who do not want to change their way of life. It was mentioned earlier that there are difficult situations sometimes in custom adoption. I am not aware of any problem in this area, except the process the government department has to go through just so they can fill out the forms properly. In the old days, even though they were not written

in proper forms, the custom adoption was carried out and the adopting parents used to agree and come to a consensus, even before the child was born. This is still practised today and sometimes they are not given that much notice, the real parent and the parents of the child.

#### Input From Organizations Should Be Sought

I am not too happy about all the leaders in the NWT and the organizations. I do not think you have heard from them all when they discussed this issue. I am aware that this year the ITC will have their annual meeting. You might find out further from them that there are unwritten laws on custom adoption. Also the elders' conference will be held this year. You might get more information from them and get their opinions to find out what the problems are on custom adoptions. The women's associations will have their annual meeting this year and you can seek some more information as to how they think on this issue.

I do not think we will convince you if we just talk about this in the House. I would prefer that we drop this subject until there is further consultation with these organizations. Maybe we can deal with it sometime later, in 1989, after much consultation has taken place. I understand that you would like to get this situation cleared up.

I am talking on behalf of the aboriginal people. As an aboriginal person, I grew up knowing about custom adoption. I have adopted more than one of my grandchildren and there has never been any problem. I would like you to give consideration to what I just said and not rush into it. There are aboriginal organizations of Dene and Metis that have annual meetings. We should have consultation with them. I would be in favour of that. That is all I wanted to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Does the Minister wish to make any comments? Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Kilabuk for what I think is very wise advice. I would like to assure him that before any decision is made in this area there will be full consultation. I think the subject is far too serious and sensitive to rush into it. So we would be very, very happy to hear the views of the organizations that Mr. Kilabuk has mentioned. I can assure the Member that we will not move quickly on this and we will give every opportunity for consultation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: On the Minister's last statement that before any decision is made the people affected would be consulted, is there the intention of a decision being made? I realize that at one time hunting ducks or hunting generally used to be traditionally practised by native people, until they got into the judicial system then we were not allowed to practise those traditions. I was just wondering whether in this case, custom adoption, which is a tradition, could very well be lost. I would like to ask the Minister what he was implying about a decision being made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

#### Response To Administrative Concerns

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I am glad Mr. Gargan gave me an opportunity to clarify that. At this point there is no decision envisioned. When I was talking about a decision, I was talking about trying to respond to some of the administrative concerns brought forward by Mr. Ernerk that are causing some difficulty. But if there is no problem, we are obviously not going to do anything. So it is not as though we have an idea that we are going to make a major decision in six months or a year from now. There have been a few problems that have been identified. We just want to look at those and we just want to make the process fair and without needless bureaucratic hassle. Does that answer Mr. Gargan's question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Gargan. Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Are there any general comments? Mr. Richard.

Proclamation Of New Act

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, just a quick question. Last June the 10th Assembly passed new legislation called the Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act. I understand that that has not yet been proclaimed in force. With the background of this Minister introducing that legislation, how beneficial it was to be, I am wondering why we have not proclaimed it in force yet.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We intend to have it proclaimed in force in May.

AN HON. MEMBER: 1988?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, 1988 is correct. The reason is quite simply -- I guess there are really no excuses -- because of the big workload on the department. We have been setting up the office. We have been in consultation with other jurisdictions that are administering that particular act. As I said, I intend to have it proclaimed in May and it will be operative after that. I apologize for the delay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further questions, Mr. Richard? None? Further general comments. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just by way of another question to the Minister. Did I miss it or did you announce today that you plan to establish a legal centre in the Keewatin Region?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: If I said that in this House, I am losing my grip. I do not recall having said that. It is a point that Mr. Ernerk, as past president of KIA and as MLA, has brought to my attention a number of times. My understanding is there is a proposal -- I think it is a joint KIA and KRC proposal which will be coming to the Legal Services Board. My understanding is the Legal Services Board will be evaluating the proposal and a decision will be made in the next year.

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

MR. ERNERK: I take it then that if there is such a law centre or legal centre established then I presume the bodies would go with it, such as the services of a lawyer or lawyers. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I have not seen the proposal but our historical experience in the centres that we have set up in the Baffin and in the Delta is that there has been support staff that has gone into them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Just a quick question on the Delta. I believe it is a little beyond that. Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Yes, on one and partially no, on the other. Are there any other general comments? Mr. Zoe.

Police Services

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask a general question of the Minister in regard to police services. There has been a number of communities either requesting some police services or more police services. I wanted to ask the Minister if the department has long-range plans in terms of prioritizing which communities will receive permanent detachments. I realize that the Minister indicated earlier on, when Mr. Ernerk, I believe, was asking a question, that they are recruiting a number of special constables to fulfil all these requests. But I would just like to ask him what plans are the department undertaking at this time?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I think I partially answered the question in response to questions from Mr. Ernerk but I will attempt to elaborate on the answer.

There are a number of factors that have to go into a planning process and probably the most important of those is costs. There are a couple of components of the costs. One is capital cost. To put a new detachment into a community is very, very expensive and the federal government pays the capital part of the cost of RCMP. They are sporadic, at best, in providing this sort of capital support, so over the years we have been quite frustrated waiting -- as I think Mr. Nerysoo remembers from his time -- for capital moneys for the RCMP to put in detachments. For the first year and a half as Minister I attempted to grapple with the problem in the traditional way and set priorities and ask for funding. That did not happen to my satisfaction. Also we are in a period of restraint where new positions are difficult. What we have done over the last six months is to sit down with the RCMP and say there must be a different way to deal with the problem. In the long term, I expect -- it is hard to say if this Legislative Assembly considers policing a priority -- they might vote more money to be able to set up new detachments and have new positions. That is the traditional approach.

#### Priorizing Community Needs

But in the next four years I have no illusions about how much money is going to be available. So I am probably putting hope in a more imaginative approach. One approach that we are taking now is one, as Mr. Zoe has outlined, to prioritize the needs of the communities. That is sometimes difficult, from region to region, because the needs are quite different. It is probably not as easy to determine need throughout the NWT and to prioritize it as it is in the South. We are working to identify those communities that have the greatest need based on a number of social factors and criminal statistics. The other approach that I discussed when I answered Mr. Ernerk's question is more patrols, in the short term. I think that will alleviate the problem in the short term; and in the longer term, satellite detachments. I think it is a very interesting approach. It has taken some time, over the last two years, and a lot of discussion with the RCMP, here and in Ottawa, for them to look at that approach.

They have tried it a couple of times in the South and they had some problems with it. I will use Mr. Zoe's home community, for instance, for the way that would work. I think it was a year and a half ago, we brought a trailer into Lac la Martre, to use as an office. Under the traditional system, to move a minor detachment in there, there is standardized office space, standardized cells, standardized equipment, and it is quite expensive. Under the system that we are hopefully going to try, a special constable could live in Lac la Martre, and he reports to Fort Rae detachment. He would need accommodation, obviously; a small cabin for an office. The detachment itself would still be in Fort Rae, but the policing in the community would be the responsibility of the special constable.

After our discussions with the RCMP, they spent some time talking to the Dene Nation, and to a number of communities including Lac la Martre. They are trying to find accommodation that could be leased, so it is not necessary to wait for five years to get federal DPW to provide accommodation. Also they are trying to get some assistance at the community level to actively support local people going into policing. I said there were six principles and maybe I will read the principles. I am quite happy with them.

#### Native Policing

There has been a lot of discussion and there has been some criticism, over the years, that there has not been a full commitment to native policing in the Territories. I have been quite concerned about it and I have had some fairly intense discussions with the RCMP to try to rectify that in a meaningful way, where people can see that happening. After discussions with them, we developed six principles that the RCMP will be taking to the community and to the native organizations to see if they are acceptable before we adopt them as government principles. I just want to bring you up to date at that intermediate step.

The principles are as follows: The first one is to provide an improved policing service to native communities through the employment of native people as police officers; secondly, to encourage non-indigenous Royal Canadian Mounted Police personnel to enhance their awareness of native cultures and customs, as well as rights and concerns, thus acquiring a sensitivity for and appreciation of the value and aspirations of native people; three, to maintain a program whereby native people will be policed to considerable extent by their own people under the direction of



experienced RCMP; four, to develop and create a feeling and subsequent acceptance by native leaders and all indigenous peoples for greater responsibility for crime prevention and law enforcement in their communities; five, to establish a vehicle, which would be the native police officer, for better communication and understanding between the police and local communities, generally; and the most important thing is number six, provide an opportunity for native people interested in law enforcement to receive training experience as police officers, with the view to a career as a fully-qualified police officer.

For me, it is a big step forward to get the police to propose these principles. They have already had discussions with the Dene Nation and they will be having discussions in the Eastern Arctic. There is the beginning of acceptance of them. The intention is that this communication is going to continue. We are making a concerted effort, right now, to recruit more aboriginal policemen into the police force. I think that will do a lot to alleviate the other problem that Mr. Zoe is talking about. If we can build a system that is more flexible, then we can get more service for our existing dollars. I think that there is a lot of potential.

There is another area on which I have had discussions with the Commissioner of the RCMP, Commissioner Inkster. It is in the area of training; that possibly, perhaps, the educational requirements to become a regular constable might be relaxed in regions. Now, for the first time, because I know the former commissioner was very inflexible about that, there seems to be some flexibility. We are pursuing that.

#### Auxiliary Police Force

Another option that I am pursuing is the setting up of an auxiliary police force. Now, that would cost some money. We are beginning with the concept now, but to carry it through we would have to come to this House to get some support for it. We would set up an auxiliary police force that would assist the RCMP in their duties. From that, potentially, we could establish a pool of individuals who are interested in policing and going on to be either special constables or regular constables. Those are initiatives that we will be undertaking in the next few months. As we develop those long-term goals, I think that a lot of the concerns that Mr. Zoe was talking about -- inadequate policing in the communities -- can be addressed in the bigger picture. I hope I answered some of Mr. Zoe's questions.

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

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, if I understand the Minister correctly, are you anticipating that this agreement with the RCMP would be in place within three to six months?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. My feeling is that those principles are, in fact, in place now. If, after consultation with the RCMP, native organizations in the community have some problems with those principles, they could be modified. But I expect the RCMP to start moving in this direction now, and I think they have every intention of doing it. They have been very supportive in coming up with these principles. I see a very good evolution, right now, in the attitude and sensitivity of the RCMP to some of these specific issues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Zoe. Mr. McLaughlin, but he is absent at this particular time. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move a motion. May I proceed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Proceed, Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this Legislature requests that the Department of Justice develop plans for our own NWT police force and a training centre in the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. If I could ask the mover for a copy of the motion. Out of courtesy, I will ask the Inuit Members whether or not they want a copy in Inuktitut.

AN HON. MEMBER: I think everybody should have a copy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Okay. If I could then suggest that we take five minutes so I can have the motion typed.

---SHORT RECESS

I call the House back to order. If I could have the mover of the motion, Mr. Ernerk, read into the record again the motion.

Motion To Consider Development Of Police Force And Training Centre In NWT

MR. ERNERK: The motion reads: I move that this Legislature request the Department of Justice to consider developing plans for our own NWT police force and a training centre in the NWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Your motion is in order. Do you want to make any comments on the motion?

MR. ERNERK: Not really, Mr. Chairman. I think we have discussed this to some extent this afternoon when we were talking about the police force in the NWT. I listened carefully to the Minister's remarks with regard to this issue, so I do not think I should really speak on it at length. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Mr. Butters.

Training Centre Aspect Of Motion

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the mover might speak briefly on the training centre aspect of the motion. I understand the NWT police force but what type of training centre is he envisioning here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Ernerk, if I could ask you to give some clarification to Mr. Butters on the training centre.

MR. ERNERK: I do not really want to speak for my friend to my right but he asked how to be a policeman. Anyway, when I was speaking earlier, I indicated at one point that it is sometimes difficult for some trainees to go to a place like Regina. It seems to me, in order to be able to establish your own police force, you would like to be able to train them here in the NWT where they would be closer to home and they would be closer to their own people. They would be closer to their own culture, the kind of people they are going to be dealing with in the future. So I think it would also attract more native people from across the NWT, which is something that I really feel strongly about. I know the Minister stressed this issue when he was reacting to my earlier statements as well as Mr. Zoe's. Provided that the government could begin to develop training plans for the centre, I think we could be well on our way to establishing our own police force in the NWT. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Mr. Pudluk.

Support For Motion

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to support this motion. I have two reasons. It is important to have a training centre in the NWT to train the RCMP. As we well know, the RCMP that are trained from the NWT are not stationed down south. Also, a lot of the trainees who are interested have families and would be away from their families for quite a long time. If there were to be a training centre in the North, they would be closer to their families and it would be easier for trainees to bring their families with them. Sometimes the RCMP are not well trained and therefore they will want to quit their job. For these reasons I support the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to support this motion and I will try to explain why. Mr. Ballantyne referred earlier to the RCMP and the fact that it is a great police force and that they are very well trained and that they have served the NWT for a long period of time. I think we all agree with that, that they have provided this great service. We must also remember that the RCMP operate in the provinces, too. But that has not prevented the development of a police force to deal with problems that can be handled by a provincial-type police force.

I remember, Mr. Chairman, talking to two individuals a long time ago, who were special constables. One of their names was Kayak from Pond Inlet and another man's name was Akavak from Lake Harbour. They said that every policeman who comes would be young, maybe 22 years old, just a kid. They ended up teaching these policemen so much. They felt that so many of them were like boys. This was not done out of a sense of disrespect for the police force, Mr. Chairman. It was done by all the people who always have that attitude toward very young people who are in a strange country and have so much to learn. I always remember those words because probably people felt the same way about me while I was a young schoolteacher trying to teach young kids and wondered how much I could possibly know about what this society wanted us to do.

#### Problems Might Be Handled In Better Way

The reason I support the motion, Mr. Chairman, is that I believe my colleague is bringing up an issue which has been discussed before but which we have set aside because we have felt that maybe we do not need to have a duplicate service, that it would be much cheaper to continue with a contract with the RCMP. But perhaps in this plan we could examine the kinds of problems that maybe could be handled in a better way. At the small community level there are special social problems which result in minor crimes which then tend to escalate into much bigger crimes. If they were handled properly by people who had a better understanding of our communities, then perhaps in the long run we would not have many of our major crimes being committed that would demand the attention of the RCMP.

I am not suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that we say "Good-bye" to the RCMP, "Your days are finished." What I am suggesting in support of this motion is that we begin looking at the kind of service that would take advantage of the kind of people that I have just referred to. Because these people have lived in this place all their lives; they have a great understanding of the kinds of problems; they have a sense of the history of that community and of those people and have such knowledge that you simply cannot learn in Regina.

However, if we were to establish a police force and a training facility for the small number of people that we would have to train, maybe it would be the kind of facility that would be used by people in southern jurisdictions, too, who want to learn about the kinds of problems that we have in the NWT; to bring in other people to have the kind of training that you cannot duplicate in Regina.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to continue at great length. I do not want to be misunderstood. I believe that the RCMP have done a great job, but maybe we should look at something else that would be a permanent northern type of force and that would handle northern problems in a better way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister, do you wish to make comments with regard to the motion?

#### Must Look At All Options

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I see the motion as the beginning of the debate that will be taking place over the next few years as to what direction we see our police force heading. I think, logically, as we get into negotiations on a new contract, we will have to look at all options and this is one option that definitely we are going to have to do work on. It might not be that it is an either/or situation. There are any number of options that we, as an Assembly, and the people in the Territories might find acceptable. Depending on how successful we are in recruitment over the next two or three years, the RCMP as we know it today could have changed considerably. I think we would all agree, as a starting basis, that there is a need for more decentralization of the RCMP decision making in the Territories.

I have no problem with this motion because it will force us, as a government, and us, as a Legislature, to start to look seriously at the options. I think the intent of the mover, the seconder, and Mr. Lewis, who has spoken to the motion, is that we want, whatever form it takes in 1991 and beyond, a good police force; one that is responsive to the needs of the Territories. So definitely, as a government we will consider this option, among others. I hope that this discussion and dialogue continues over the next few months and years before we make a final decision as to what form our police force should take. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further comments?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Consider Development Of Police Force And Training Centre In NWT, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I hear question. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed, if any? Abstentions? The motion is carried unanimously by the committee. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: I can see why you are not the regular chairman. You cannot count. I abstained on the motion, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): You were a little late, that is all. Thank you. Two abstentions. It is a committee recommendation. We have five abstentions. The motion is still carried.

---Carried

Any further general comments or do you wish to proceed to detail? Mr. McLaughlin.

Legislation In Parliament Affecting NWT

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a general comment and a question for the Minister and his deputy minister as well as to what the process is. Right now we know there is an act before Parliament to amend the Official Languages Act, but there are several other acts before Parliament that might, in some way, affect our government. I was wondering what the process is when a bill is tabled in Parliament, whether it is in the House of Commons or the Senate or a government bill or a Private Member's Bill. I believe they are sent here to the Justice library and go through some process. Does the Minister of Justice's department take the lead role in taking a look and perusing all the legislation before the House of Commons to make sure there is nothing in any bill that might affect us, that we might not even know about?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. The department attempts to stay on top of all the bills that come before the Parliament of Canada. I think we may miss one or two along the line, but our Ottawa office is supposed to keep us in touch. If anything of a major nature happens, our lawyers are always in contact with Department of Justice lawyers in Ottawa. So generally we are able to keep pretty good track of what goes through Parliament. I think we have a fairly good record of staying on top of it. Thank you.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, right now before the House of Commons is Bill C-30, An Act to Amend the National Parks Act. Although that has nothing to do with the Constitution, an area of your responsibility, it possibly involves Renewable Resources because of wildlife in a national park. It might involve Aboriginal Rights because of aboriginal rights claims in a national park. It might involve Economic Development because of tourism development in or around the park. So in that example, has somebody in his department taken a look at that act to alert any other departments that it might affect?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, on this particular act we have not, and the Member has brought up a good point. I think generally the experience has been that departments, because of their contacts in Ottawa, have monitored bills that have to do with their department and we monitor ones that have to do with larger constitutional issues. But I think the Member's point is whether we can look at streamlining the process and make sure that nothing slips through the net. If that is what the suggestion is, it is a good one.

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

Permanent RCMP Constable Requested For Pelly Bay

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is probably already aware of the question I am going to ask; it has to do with the community of Pelly Bay. They are requesting that a permanent RCMP constable be posted in Pelly Bay. Do you consider population and crime rate of the community when you are preparing to put a permanent policeman into the community?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I think there are 12 communities presently that have requested police officers and the community of Pelly Bay is one of those. As I explained earlier to Mr. Zoe and to Mr. Ernerk, the problem right now is not whether there is need, the problem is limited resources. The RCMP have started in the West but within a very short time they will be heading into the Eastern Arctic and looking at the possibilities, as I said, of putting in special constables and satellite detachments. So I am aware of the problem and we are trying to address it. Our biggest problem right now is that we do not have the resources because we are in a period of restraint. I can assure the Member that I am very aware of his concern and hopefully we will be able to address it fairly quickly. Thank you.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was simple. Do you consider the population of the community and the crime rate? That was the question I asked. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: If I could, I would be pleased to have a system of rating it. Right off the top of my head I am not quite sure what the situation is as far as the crime rate in Pelly Bay but I will get the information to the Member as soon as I have it. Thank you.

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

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, following up on the question placed by the Member for Pine Point. Bill C-89, amending the Criminal Code, victims of crime, is currently in the federal House. I am wondering whether that legislation will affect our criminal injuries compensation for victims of crime program.

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

#### Surcharge On Fines To Aid Victims Of Crime

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: That particular bill we are very aware of, as I said earlier to Mr. Richard. One reason why I am not tabling our victims of crime legislation until the fall is that we want to have a good look at what is in the federal government bill. What the federal government bill is intending to do is to allow provinces and territories to impose a surcharge on fines and use it to set up a committee which will aid victims of crime. The bill that I tabled in the House in the fall would allow us to have a surcharge on fines but only territorial fines. This federal legislation will allow us to receive the revenues from federal offences. So it has the potential to have a significant and a very positive impact on what we can do for victims of crime. I hope after the federal bill is passed and Mr. Richard has looked at our revised bill, he will be happier with our victims of crime legislation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Cannot say that. He was not happy with the last vote. Thank you. Any further questions, Mr. Butters? Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, does your department take care of legal aid as well? If so, do they have different policies or do they treat people differently? For example, the person that is up to go to court and needs legal aid and a person in the community who would like to sue a doctor. Let us say this person thought the doctor did not do a good job on her and she wanted to sue the doctor. Is there a difference in how you treat those two cases?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: In the last case you gave there is some provision within legal aid to do that. I think maybe the easiest way is that I could make available to the Member the schedule of services provided by legal aid and which particular areas of law are covered and which areas are not covered. I am prepared to do that for the Member.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, so you would not know if legal aid would help a person who was injured, had a broken leg and went back to the doctor for two years in a row and kept getting it rebroken; who has been unemployed and is on welfare. Would your department be able to help her to take legal action against that doctor?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Not knowing every detail, I say there is provision for that type of assistance if there is clear financial need by some person to get that sort of assistance. Unless there is something else in this particular incident that you are talking about that I am not aware of, yes, there is provision for that sort of assistance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further questions, Mr. Morin? Thank you. Mr. Ernerk.

RCMP Doing Court Paperwork

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few more questions. First of all, in Rankin Inlet we really do see a need for an assistant clerk of the court position, basically because there is a lot of paperwork. That slows down the RCMP personnel there because they are doing all these things and have less time for their regular duties. Can the Minister answer with regard to the establishment of a position for assistant clerk in Rankin Inlet?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure I fully understand the question. My understanding is that the clerk of the court travels with the court party and presently there is no provision for an assistant clerk of the court in areas without court facilities. Perhaps the Member could clarify to me what he saw as the role of a permanent assistant clerk in Rankin Inlet where there are not all the other court facilities.

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

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I understand the police in Rankin Inlet are busy doing a lot of the work that the court should be doing, both before and after. We see a need for the position in Rankin Inlet, basically because a lot of things that the RCMP are doing now are related to the kind of work an assistant clerk of the court would do. I am trying to help them out, in terms of identifying a need for a position of this nature. I am not sure whether I make myself any clearer than I did before.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think Mr. Ernerk has clarified it for me. The way I understand it is that the RCMP have a fair amount of administrative work and if they are spending a lot of time doing that, then they do not have as much time to do their own jobs. I think this is the point made by Mr. Ernerk. What we can do is just look into in that particular detachment. If there is a problem, I can get back to Mr. Ernerk and talk about it. Thank you.

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

MR. ERNERK: Just going back to the police in Rankin, when one of the positions was transferred to Coral Harbour from Rankin Inlet, I understand that the housing also went with it. There is now a shortage of housing for the police force that we have in Rankin. Is the Minister planning to take a look at placing some members of the force into the Housing Corporation houses, or something?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: It is interesting that Mr. Ernerk suggests that. I remember when I was Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, one of the major criticisms that we had was that federal and territorial government employees were in public housing and people who needed it were not. The idea, though it is appealing at times, is not always the best one because, if an RCMP family take the house, then there is some family who needs public housing who will not have the opportunity.

RCMP Housing A Federal Responsibility

The problem, as I explained a little bit earlier, is that the provision of RCMP housing is a federal responsibility. We have had some problems with it. What we are looking at, in areas where there is a real need and we cannot wait the five years that it takes for the federal government to provide housing, is the possibility of leasing, so we will definitely look at alternatives and see if we can handle the problem. Thank you.

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

MR. ERNERK: One other question, Mr. Chairman, is that I understand there have been some recommendations drawn up by the justices of the peace task force. I wonder if the Minister could provide me and the House with these recommendations and when they are going to be dealt with.

(Translation) Is there more support for local justices of the peace since the task force? It is obvious, at this time, the justices of the peace in the Northwest Territories have applied for more training within their jobs. Is that understandable?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I understood that question from Mr. Ernerk. I expect that the report of the task force should be in my hands fairly shortly. I understand that they are just finalizing it. I hope, within the next month, we will have it, but my understanding is that of the major areas that are being considered in the report, one is training, as Mr. Ernerk has pointed out. It has been one that I think has been a major problem over the years, and they will, I am sure, be recommending some improved ways of providing training. Another area that has been talked about is that of tenure.

Preservation Of Independence

I do not know if all of you are aware of some of the recent problems with the JPs in Alberta where they, much the same as here, are under the administration of the Department of Justice. There was some question in the courts as to their independence and one of the things that the task force will be looking at is how to preserve the independence of justices of the peace. That could be done by putting them under the auspices of the territorial court, rather than under the Department of Justice. I think those are a few of the areas that they will be making recommendations to me about. I expect to get that report sometime in the next month and we will start moving on it right away, as soon as we get it. Thank you.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Are there any further general comments? Does the committee agree that we go into details of the Department of Justice?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): We can turn to page 9.10. Directorate, total O and M, \$1,607,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Police Services Agreement, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Police services agreement, total O and M, \$18,038,000. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise the committee when the police services agreement will be renegotiated?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The first meeting is scheduled for March of this year.

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

MR. BUTTERS: Is it the intention of the Minister to inform the House of the current agreement and obtain from Members recommendations or suggestions for amendments in the new agreement?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Just to emphasize that the first few meetings are going to be very preliminary in nature. We will get an idea of the scope of what is to be discussed. But I fully intend, as we get into the discussions, to keep the House informed, and I am sure the House will be giving me their ideas as to how we should go. I think it is going to be a very important issue so I am very open to suggestions from the House.

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

MR. BUTTERS: In view of the fact that this is a new legislative body, I wonder if the Minister could provide copies of the current agreement to all Members.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Certainly, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Any further comments with regard to the police services agreement? Total O and M, \$18,038,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Legal Aid, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Legal aid, total O and M, \$2,854,000. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under legal aid I was wondering what the situation is for any person who is a resident of a community and charged. Are they given an opportunity at that time at the local RCMP station to phone a lawyer? I was wondering, depending upon the community they are arrested in, do they have to phone lawyers in a particular area? For example, if they do not have their own source of income and require legal aid, then would a person arrested in Pond Inlet be forced to phone the lawyer in Iqaluit who has a legal aid contract there or could that person phone a lawyer in Yellowknife?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: My understanding is that they can phone collect to the regional centre. For instance in Baffin they can phone to Iqaluit or they could phone the legal aid centre here in Yellowknife.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: What I would like to get on to is the situation where, when people are held in remand, they are often transported from one area to another. Say they are held in Yellowknife on remand instead of Hay River, for example, but they have already acquired a lawyer in Hay River, are they allowed to continue that relationship that they might have started in Hay River, where they were first charged, and then does the lawyer fly back and forth to Yellowknife to interview the client, or does the prisoner fly back and forth to Hay River at government expense in order to see the lawyer?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.



HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: My understanding is that generally they keep the same lawyer and I think in many cases they go back to that community for trial. I think normally they work that out. Does the Member have a specific problem that he knows about because it has not been brought to my attention that that is a problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: An example that has been brought to my attention is, say a young offender in Pelly Bay is arrested and attains a lawyer in Yellowknife and is sent to remand, he can see the lawyer here, but what if he is sent on remand to Hay River, does the system then force him to change to the lawyer with the legal aid contract in Hay River instead of Yellowknife?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: It would depend on the circumstances, but most remands would come to Yellowknife. I understand that Hay River has some capacity for remands south of the lake, but generally most would come to Yellowknife. If there are individual cases where there is a problem, I would be more than happy to deal with the problem, but I think generally it works out pretty well. Some particular case may fall through the cracks in the system.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: What I am concerned about is if the way incarceration is set up, either in the adult or young offenders secure custody system, means that the original lawyer that was on top of the case to start with, lived in the person's home community, then because the offender is put in remand and he has moved to another community, does the legal aid system cause him to have to switch lawyers in order to take a lawyer in the place where he has been incarcerated at, in order to save the government money?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I am sure there are cases when somebody would switch lawyers, but it is not necessarily just to save the government money or to save legal aid money. Sometimes it may just be because of the logistics; you cannot be in two places at the same time and there is a problem because of that. But, as I said, I will look into it and perhaps because of new facilities that are going in, there might be some problems now in the system that were not there before. I will be happy to look into it and inform the Member what is going on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the same time I would like you to look into the other hypothetical situation where an offender or young offender has the wherewithal to attain his own lawyer and there happens to be a lawyer in the community where he lives, say Inuvik, and then he is sent on remand to another community, would the government then pay the expense for that prisoner to go and see his lawyer in the lawyer's home community or will the government pay the cost for that lawyer to come and see the prisoner in the community that the system has sent him to?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Normally the case would come back to his or her community. You are posing an interesting question, especially your second question, where somebody who has money to pay for their own lawyer but because the system moves the case from one place to another, whether or not we will pick up the air fare. I do not think it happens very often. I can get back to the Member as to exactly how we handle those few cases. Thank you.

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

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to this part of the Department of Justice, legal aid, on page 9.12, I wish to declare a conflict of interest as my law firm does perform legal services under the legal aid program. I will not be participating in the debate and I have not participated in the debate today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Ernerk.

Legal Aid In The Keewatin

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My constituents sent me to do one of two things, vote yes or no, so I am going to do the same thing in here. But I do want to make a comment with regard to the legal aid services. I am going to vote in favour of this two million dollars, but I do want to observe that I want to continue to encourage the department to take a look at the Keewatin legal aid service at a much broader level than one court worker in the Keewatin because this kind of service is in great demand by all of the communities in the Keewatin Region. Taking a look at the detail, with \$54,000 this year, there has not been much increase over 1986-87. So perhaps with that idea of establishing a legal centre or law centre, we could take a look at all the services of the legal aid program in the future. I did not want to make a mention of that because \$54,000 for 1988-89 is not all that much money when one court worker must travel to the seven communities in the region.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. I believe that that is a matter of comment. Does the Minister wish to make any comment?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Only to say what I repeated earlier, that the Legal Services Board will be reviewing a proposal from that region for a centre. In the broader picture we will be undertaking in co-operation with the federal government a total review of legal aid at the end of this year. I think both those actions should help the situation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. With regard to legal aid. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Office Space For Legal Aid People In The Baffin

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The legal aid in the Baffin communities is under the Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik in Iqaluit. The legal aid people in the communities do not have an office, they utilize their own residences. Sometimes they have to deal with confidential issues and this is a disadvantage. I do not know how this situation in the Baffin can be resolved. Maybe they should be provided with office space. It creates a problem in the communities that I know, especially when they have confidential documents because when they are in someone's residence they usually have visitors. This is a problem in the East. I would like your department to do something about this sometime in the near future if your department can. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Certainly, I will look into it. One thing that comes to mind right away is that I do not see why office space that is being utilized by the territorial government cannot be made available on an "as needs" basis. We will definitely see what we can do and deal with that as quickly as we can. Thank you.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The smaller communities in Baffin Island are lacking offices. That is the problem we are faced with at this moment. I would very much appreciate it if you would look into this. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I will give the Member my assurance that I certainly will. Thank you.

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

Persons Eligible For Legal Aid

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I am looking at the description of the service. In the first paragraph it says "legal aid to eligible persons". I cannot provide in my own mind the criteria for eligible persons. Who is eligible?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: You are asking for the criteria, Mr. Butters?

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

MR. BUTTERS: I do not want a volume but can they be summarized? I am especially interested in the economic criterion.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I guess the simplest one, the economic one, is whether or not you can afford a lawyer and whether or not you are likely to go to jail if you do not have one. On a more technical basis, people charged with summary conviction offences under the Criminal Code or an act of the Legislative Assembly are not eligible for legal aid unless the person may be facing a prison sentence or his livelihood may be affected by the conviction.

In civil matters and appeals, the lawyer who has been assigned to a case must provide an opinion on the merit of a claim or appeal before legal aid is approved or denied. Only individuals are eligible for legal aid; companies, societies and other incorporated bodies are not. To be eligible for legal aid a person must show that he cannot afford, as I said before, to pay for a lawyer from his own finances. The criteria established to determine eligibility include examining the assets, liabilities, income, expenses, requirements of the applicant, spouses and dependants. Does that answer your question, Mr. Butters?

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

MR. BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It suggests then that probably only 20 per cent or 25 per cent of our population really is eligible for legal aid. It would appear to me that there are many, when you are looking at a program which is offered equally to residents, people that are judged able to afford legal aid are at a disadvantage because economically paying for their own defence might be extremely damaging to them in terms of their economic situation. Is there any thought that maybe the program of legal aid could be offered on a broader basis? Has this ever been discussed philosophically? Is there any way that you could determine that a person is in such and such an economic category and rather than having all of his or her legal aid paid, that 20 per cent, 30 per cent or 40 per cent might be paid in accordance with their economic situation?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think there has been ongoing dialogue on this issue ever since legal aid first originated. I guess there are two major factors that we have to consider. The first one is whether or not the federal government will agree to cost share a program that expands the service. Secondly, keeping in mind if we do it, it is going to be more expensive for us. It is a matter of where the Assembly think that their dollars should be spent. It is going to cost more dollars. So there is an ongoing discussion. When we do the review of legal aid that we are talking about, I am sure that we will be looking at some of these circumstances. It might be possible to expand this service without a tremendously onerous burden on our finances. Basically it comes down to dollars and cents.

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

MR. BUTTERS: I was thinking philosophically. I was not expecting that this jurisdiction would assume those costs or even develop a program but we do have medical coverage which is very broad based. I was wondering whether philosophically there would be any expectations in the years ahead that some day government, the federal government, may adopt a program of that nature.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Well, everything I have heard in discussions with federal and provincial attorneys general and Ministers of Justice has been quite the opposite. In fact, in our jurisdiction I think we have by far, one of the most generous applications of legal aid in the country. Everywhere else the trend is definitely not toward expanding the services. Realistically, philosophically or otherwise, I do not see that trend developing on a national level.

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

Law Centre In The Delta

MR. BUTTERS: The Minister, on page 415 of the unedited Debates and on page 429 of the unedited Debates referred to setting up law centres in Baffin and in the Delta and subsequently legal aid clinics at the regional level. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that you corrected him and pointed out that a law centre has not been set up in the Delta. Is the Minister looking at setting up a law centre in the Delta? Is he giving that matter consideration, anticipating that he may be acting on that initiative?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The law centre is in Tuk right now. At this point we are not considering a law centre in Inuvik. If we go the way of law centres there are other regions of the Territories that would be before Inuvik. A decision was made in the late 70s to put that law centre in Tuk and I carried it out as a Minister because it had been an ongoing commitment of cabinet for many, many years. Two years ago I carried out that commitment of cabinet and, at least for the foreseeable future, that will be the only law centre in that area until we have serviced other areas of the Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: What communities in the Delta does that law centre serve?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Tuk, Holman, Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour. My understanding, Mr. Chairman, is that there is a full-time private lawyer in Inuvik now who is handling legal aid work in the Inuvik area. Thank you.

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

MR. BUTTERS: I would suggest that if one compared the funds that this government pays to that legal aid lawyer in Inuvik, with the amount of money that this government is providing to the Arctic Rim, there would be quite a discrepancy especially in view of the case load that is carried by the Inuvik lawyer. I guess I am very dissatisfied with the answer from the Minister and what it suggests is that there is not equal opportunity for people to get justice in the Western Arctic. I would hope the Minister would have an opportunity to look at this matter to a greater extent than he apparently wishes to do at the present time.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: As I said, this particular initiative was originated by a government of which I was not a Member and I carried out the commitment made by that government. I think though that the honourable Member has a point and obviously over the next year and a half, we will be reviewing the efficiency of that particular law centre. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: What is the case load of that particular centre since it opened its office some months ago? Is the Minister aware of the case load?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, the office was recently established and we have not established a statistical data base as to the case load but we will be monitoring that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further questions on legal aid? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You finally looked on this side of the House.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I was under the impression that I would look to government if I looked in that direction.

---Laughter

Court Workers In The Rae Area

MR. ZOE: Mr. Minister, I am also a little dissatisfied with the legal aid program that has been offered in my area. The case load, I believe, is quite high and it appears that we do not have enough court workers to handle all these cases. It appears to me that when the individual who is accused is looking for information as to where to go he always gets the runaround. It seems like they really do not know where to go when the court circuit is going around my area. Mahsi cho.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Obviously, no system is perfect. I think in Fort Rae because of the proximity to Yellowknife it is probably easier to get service than some of the further outlying communities. My understanding is that there has been a fairly good continuity of the lawyers who have served the people of Fort Rae over the years. I think Dick Spaulding and Ann Crawford were fairly consistently representing people from the Rae area. There are always problems. With this review we are going to be analysing the problems with legal aid and native court workers and I am sure during the course of the review communities will have an opportunity to outline their concerns. Hopefully, out of the review, we can improve upon the system. Thank you.

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

Arctic Public Legal Education And Information Society

MR. ZOE: Thank you. I would like to get more information on the Arctic Public Legal Education and Information Society. Could the Minister indicate the purpose of this particular body that we fund and the number of workshops or whatever they are involved in? Could you provide this information?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The Arctic Public Legal Education and Information Society was formed December, 1985. It is funded through the Legal Services Board under a joint funding arrangement between the territorial government and the federal government. I think it is \$55,000 for us and \$70,000 for the federal government. Since its formation they have done a number of things: I think everybody has seen some of the television ads; they put on a video tape puppet show; there has been a couple of mock trials; they have had community workshops; there is a brown bag series here in Yellowknife. I know the intention of the public legal education society is to get more and more out to the communities and make community people more aware of the law. Thank you.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can ask the Minister to provide me with information as to where this particular body is located and also on the number of times they have been to other communities where they put on this workshop or whatever they are involved in. How many regions or communities have this particular group visited? I have not heard of this particular group and I do not believe they have come into my area since they have been established. I do not even know where they are located. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Sure, I will provide the Member with that information and I want to emphasize, though, that they have a pretty limited budget and they spend a lot of emphasis on literature and video tapes. That sort of thing is widely distributed in the North but they have not done a lot of travel. Their concentration has been on distributing materials to the communities. I will get the Member that information as to what they have done and what they intend to do. Thank you.

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

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, am I understanding the Minister correctly that this particular society is not working in conjunction with the Department of Culture and Communications that we have with the territorial government? Are they initiating and putting out their own information? Are they developing their own information and distributing it all across the Territories?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The Arctic Public Legal Education and Information Society is an independent group and they work through the Legal Services Board. They do their own thing, but also the Department of Culture and Communications has, a couple of times, contracted out to them, distribution of certain information. Thank you.

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

MR. ZOE: Well, just a comment, Mr. Chairman. This particular group I am sure would be of great benefit to the Department of Culture and Communications where they could develop all the information related to the legal aspects of it. I still say that these two groups should be co-ordinating with each other.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Up until the last year the federal government was very firm that the Arctic Public Legal Education and Information Society had to be absolutely independent. Now they have modified that and we expect to see a closer relationship between the society and government departments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further questions, Mr. Zoe?

MR. ZOE: I will have a couple more on the following page but I am done with legal aid, Mr. Chairman.

Legal Aid, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Legal aid, total O and M, \$2,854,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Lawyer Support Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Lawyer support services, total O and M, \$2,094,000. Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: What is this constitutional "Daw" division? The constitutional "Daw" division. That is a new one.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think there is a slight typo. It was very observant of Mr. Butters to pick that out and I can assure him that in next year's budget book it will be corrected.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. For a more serious question, Mr. Butters?

MR. BUTTERS: Yes, sir. I have a serious question relative to the public trustee office. It administers estates or trusts. Where a person dies intestate, does it look after that particular situation?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: How long, usually, does it take to clear up an estate? I see Mr. Zoe putting up 10 fingers. I assume that that is 10 days. Ten years! I wonder if the Minister could correct Mr. Zoe on that suggestion that it takes 10 years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Butters. If the Minister could correct Mr. Zoe and answer Mr. Butters' question. Proceed.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I am not sure how correct Mr. Zoe is but perhaps some of them may have taken that long. Seriously, it depends on the complexity of the case and the volume of cases that we have. One reason we are asking for a new PY is because the volume has increased and that should help speed up the time to process the responsibilities. I cannot give you the exact amount of time it takes. I guess if Bunker Hunt died without a will it would probably take six years but if I died it would probably take three or four days.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): That is not long enough.

---Laughter

Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I think that in truth it takes a very long time to clear up the estates of people who die without making a will. It seems to me that this is one area in which a program such as this should be strengthened, in view of the fact that wills are not common legal documents in the NWT. I do not know how many people in this room have a will. I think that there would be very few that would put up their hands to indicate they have a will.

MR. RICHARD: Maybe I should pass some cards around.

---Laughter

MR. BUTTERS: When people require funds or when they require to draw on the estate of a deceased person, it is soon after the death occurs not 10 years later. They need help immediately. I just wonder if the Minister has some suggestion of how to deal with this problem more effectively than it has been dealt with in the past.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: As you know, over the last two years I made it a major priority to computerize various activities in the Department of Justice. This is one area that computers are helping. With the extra PY and the computerization we think there should be a much faster turnaround time.

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

MR. BUTTERS: I realize the computer speeds these things up but I guess it is people dealing with people, and the concern on the part of the civil servant who is dealing with people who have recently lost a loved one or father or mother. I just wonder whether we are making -- not with computers -- enough progress in this particular area. I do not think we are. I would like to see it addressed with a lot more alacrity than it has been.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think we have made some major improvements. Previously, the director of legal services was the public trustee and now the public trustee is a full-time responsibility. I agree that computers do not help person to person contact but it frees up the person from a lot of mundane work in order to be able to have more person to person contact. With the extra PY and with the computerization, I think you will see an improvement in this area. Thank you.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a comment on the public trustee. I too, as Mr. Butters indicated, would encourage the Minister to seriously look at this particular task under lawyer support services. It is my understanding that in the number of years that they had this particular

office there, the workload has always been increasing and the turnaround time has always been getting longer. Now the department is finally putting in an extra PY, but I can assure the Minister that the workload is going to continue to grow. Even if it is automated with computers I do not think that would make the turnaround period quicker. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think it will at least help. I agree that as the volume grows we have to come back for more resources to this Assembly. Thank you.

Lawyer Support Services, Total 0 And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Any further comments? Lawyer support services, total 0 and M, \$2,094,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Thank you. Mr. McLaughlin.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion to recognize the clock? Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses for appearing before the committee of the whole. I will rise now and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Mr. Nerysoo.

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. NERYSOO: Thank you, 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. Nerysoo. Is there a seconder for the motion? Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. To the motion. All those in favour? Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

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

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, February 25 at 1:00 p.m.

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); Tabled Document 71-88(1)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, February 25, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

Available from the  
Publications Clerk, Department of Culture and Communications  
Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
\$1.00 per day; \$30.00 for 1st session, \$20.00 for 2nd and 3rd session; or \$50.00 per year  
Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
of the Northwest Territories