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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1988

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooioo, 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 Thursday, March 31. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 54-88(1): Options To Increased Pupil/Teacher Ratios

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week, the standing committee on finance recommended that the 19 to one pupil/teacher ratio be retained and that the required funds to balance our budget be found from within government. As well, I have received numerous petitions and letters from education boards, committees and parents appealing the proposed increase.

Cabinet has carefully considered the standing committee's recommendation and has reviewed all government priorities. Further, cabinet has decided that it will find an alternative to increasing the pupil/teacher ratio...

---Applause

...but the funds to balance the government's budget will have to come from the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, forced growth in post-secondary student assistance, increased employee benefits and decreased CEIC funding support have severely impacted on the Education budget. The advanced education division of the department and the Arctic College have already been cut back by over 10 per cent. Administration has not grown in this year in spite of increased responsibilities. In order to find the required \$1.2 million it is necessary to look carefully at any discrepancies that exist in the department.

Teacher salaries make up 54 per cent of the schools budget. The schools budget makes up more than 65 per cent of the entire Education budget. Mr. Speaker, it is therefore hard to imagine making cuts to the remaining part of the budget. Our teachers are the highest paid in Canada. Excluding all allowances and northern benefits, in 1986-87 a teacher with 10 years' experience and a bachelor's degree earned 46 per cent more than his maritime colleague and 36 per cent more than the western average. Teachers with 10 years' experience earn over \$51,000 per year. A teacher with a master's degree earns over \$59,000 basic salary plus benefits. Approximately 400 out of 692 GNWT classroom teachers earn at least \$50,000 per year. Mr. Speaker, teacher salaries have become so excessive that it now is impossible to hire a principal as a superintendent, or a teacher to work on curriculum development without a loss of between \$5000 and \$10,000.

Mr. Speaker, we can no longer afford to have the highest paid teachers in the country and the best overall pupil/teacher ratio, considering additional instructional support provided to schools. Something has to give.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, cabinet has decided to reinstate the 19 to one pupil/teacher ratio and has directed the Department of Education to thoroughly review its entire budget. Teacher salary levels, in particular, are to be analysed and options developed to bring our teacher salary costs in line with other salaries in the North and with other teachers in the South. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

##### Member's Statement On Eighth Annual Labatt's Hockey Tournament

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members of this Legislative Assembly of a major sporting and recreational event taking place in the capital city this weekend. I am speaking, Mr. Speaker, of the Eighth Annual Labatt's Hockey Tournament with 32 teams participating from throughout the Northwest Territories and the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. This tournament is the largest annual sport and recreation event of any kind to take place in the Northwest Territories and, Mr. Speaker, I am told that it is the largest tournament of recreational hockey anywhere in western Canada.

The teams participating from throughout the Northwest Territories include teams from Cambridge Bay, Coppermine, the Lupin Mines, three teams from Fort Rae, and teams from Norman Wells, Detah, Fort Smith, Fort Providence, Inuvik and Hay River. This tournament, Mr. Speaker, which has been very successful in previous years, is organized by a large number of volunteers in the city and all the teams from outside of Yellowknife travel at their own expense to the city to participate in the tournament.

The tournament is divided into two divisions and we will see some very competitive hockey and an excellent calibre of recreational hockey in the next three or four days. Members of the Assembly who may be in the city over the Easter weekend may wish to attend the tournament and observe some of their constituents at play. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Wray.

#### ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Return To Question 0327-88(1): Inconsistencies In Employment Offers To Nurses

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question 0327-88(1), asked by Mr. Richard with regard to job offers to public health clinic nurses. There are no inconsistencies in the job offers issued to public health clinic nurses in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Fort Simpson and Fort Smith. Nurses in these communities are in identical positions which were classified at the CN II classification level. Job offers were based on this identical classification level.

However, for identical positions in Hay River, incorrect job descriptions were provided to my department for classification. As a result, the wrong job descriptions were classified. Proper job descriptions are being provided to my department and corrected job offers reflecting the CN II classification level will be issued to the two public health clinic nurses in Hay River. So all public health clinic nurses in those five communities will get the exact same job offers, the same job descriptions, the same salaries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 0316-88(1): Concerns In Letter From Chief Regional Councillor For Inuvialuit

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a further return to a question asked by Mr. Nerysoo on March 29th regarding Inuvialuit concerns about the GNWT transfer policy. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, Mr. Nerysoo asked that I review a recent letter to the Minister of Health from Mr. Roger Gruben, the chief regional councillor for the Inuvialuit, expressing concerns about the application of the GNWT transfer policy to the newly forming regional health board. Apparently the Dene/Metis share similar concerns.

Mr. Nerysoo suggested that regional steering committees preparing for the health transfer were under the impression that an agreement similar to that in the Baffin would be put in place. Mr. Speaker, all those concerned should be aware that fundamentally nothing has changed in the areas that matter most to boards, that is, control over programs and over money. Simply put, board authority is not being eroded. Savings will be generated in the support service operations and these resources will become available to boards for health program needs.

In excess of \$50 million will be transferred to the control of regional health boards. That is power. I find it incredible that our government is being accused of eroding their authority when we are handing over such huge sums to the control of independent boards.

With respect to the service contracts health boards will enter into with GNWT service departments, these boards will have the power to control the appropriate funds and negotiate contracts specifying the level and quality of service to be provided. If a problem arises, a series of steps to ensure that the Minister responsible becomes involved in resolving the problem is prescribed in the contract. This ensures appropriate ministerial accountability for service quality. In the event that the board remains dissatisfied, there is provision for the Minister of Health to seek a cabinet-approved exemption which would allow the board to purchase the service elsewhere. The policy in its statement of principles clearly indicates such exemptions are cabinet's prerogative.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gruben suggests that all staffing functions are to be assumed by the GNWT Department of Personnel. Not so. The department will assist, but the board will call the shots. That is, control over hiring, firing, disciplining, not to mention the entire salary budget, rests with the board subject, of course, to the limitations of the Public Service Act. This is always the case where boards employ GNWT public servants. And as Members know, health board employees will be GNWT public servants.

Contrary to Mr. Gruben's claim, person year savings have already been identified in the area of personnel administration. This is being accomplished through regional centres and not by relocation to Yellowknife, as Mr. Gruben fears.

Mr. Speaker, control over purchasing remains solidly with the boards. Their officials will decide what they need to buy and prepare the requisition. Processing only will be handled through the Department of Government Services by purchasing specialists relying on large scale efficiencies to yield savings and, in the process, ensuring GNWT policies which provide for northern preference are consistently applied.

Boards Subject To Section 9 Of Financial Administration Act

I must stress that all boards or public agencies in the NWT, including the Baffin Health Board, are subject to Part IX of the Financial Administration Act. The act is very specific in the handling of public agencies. Part IX is set up to clarify the fiscal administration of public agencies. It sets forth all the requirements for the financial administration and financial management deemed necessary by the GNWT for public agencies. Part IX requires that public agencies provide accounting systems, procedures, records and reports in accordance with accepted accounting principles and practices. No additional requirements result from contracting for services. Nothing is changed from what has been the GNWT's expectation of existing public boards with respect to their financial management. Existing and new boards will be subject to the same accountability requirements.

With respect to Mr. Gruben's concerns about not being able to choose their own auditor, Mr. Speaker, I wish to emphasize that there is no intention to force boards to use GNWT auditors. This service is not listed in the final draft of Appendix A to the GNWT transfer policy, which specifically identifies services to be contracted. However, as always, we reserve the right to direct our own auditors to examine any board's books at the Minister's discretion.

Mr. Gruben is also worried about boards not being free to hire their own independent lawyers to negotiate service contracts. No such hard and fast policy is contemplated. Rather, we start from the belief that in most cases, arrangements between service departments and boards which will be using their services can be worked out amicably, without the need for adversarial negotiation by lawyers. This will not stop boards from retaining independent counsel where issues of particular difficulty arise. Each situation will need to be viewed on its own facts. The intention is that unnecessary duplication of legal services and the promotion of an adversarial climate in the negotiations at public expense should be avoided.

Finally, the Inuvialuit claim that we have "altered completely all structures negotiated through the transfer process", and in doing so are negating statements of intent agreed to by all parties and removing management responsibilities. The only structures altered have been those minor ones related to support service functions. The effective control over them still rests, however, with the boards. Boards will have dollars and contracts, and they will initiate actions. GNWT service departments provide just that -- service.

It should be borne in mind that existing regional boards, such as the Baffin Regional Health Board referred to by Mr. Nerysoo, will also be examined on a case by case basis and if savings can be identified by applying the policy, we intend to negotiate service contracts to realize them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 0332-88(1): PIPSC Negotiating For Nurses After Transfer

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Personnel. Mr. Wray has indicated that there is an impediment that prevents PIPSC from negotiating for nurses after the transfer. Although this issue, I realize, is before the courts, my question is a technical question. What is this impediment that he has already referred to, even though this is sub judice, he has already referred to the fact that it is impossible to do it because there is a technical impediment in the law. My question is what is this...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, your question is out of order. The other question was ruled out of order and therefore what the Minister uttered was not to be paid attention to. Oral questions. Mr. Butters.

Question 0333-88(1): Tabling Of Draft Bill 24-88(1), Public Utilities Act

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, while attending the meeting of the standing committee on legislation this morning, I was disappointed to learn that the government will not be proceeding with Bill 24-88(1), Public Utilities Act. What is the government's intention with regard to putting this improved piece of legislation into effect and into force but, first, when will the draft that the government has developed be placed in the public domain?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters, who did you address the question to, please?

MR. BUTTERS: The House Leader.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne.

Return To Question 0333-88(1): Tabling Of Draft Bill 24-88(1), Public Utilities Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's intention is to table the draft bill during this session and introduce the bill in the fall session. Thank you.

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

Question 0334-88(1): Federal Bill On Sale And Transfer Of NCPC

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister for Energy. Two days ago the federal government gave first reading to companion legislation for the sale and transfer of NCPC. I believe there was some expectation that unanimous consent would be given yesterday to have that bill go through the House. What happened? I do not usually ask a question for which I do not know the answer but I do not know the answer to this question. What happened yesterday?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question 0334-88(1): Federal Bill On Sale And Transfer Of NCPC

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I also do not know the answer.

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

Question 0335-88(1): Signing Of Transfer Of Health Agreement With Federal Minister

MR. BUTTERS: A question, again, to the Minister responsible for Health. Is there a requirement that the Minister of Health sign the transfer of health agreement with the federal Minister, the Hon. Jake Epp, today or is she contemplating doing that sometime in the future?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 0335-88(1): Signing Of Transfer Of Health Agreement With Federal Minister

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated before, the agreement with the federal government is that this document be signed March 31st.

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

Question 0336-88(1): Expressions Of Opposition To Document By Aboriginal People

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Health. Will the Minister be signing the document, in light of concerns and expressions of opposition by the aboriginal people, who were part of the devolution agreement, and since health was part of the devolution process?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question 0336-88(1): Expressions Of Opposition To Document By Aboriginal People

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated, the requirement is that the document be signed tonight, March 31st, 1988. In terms of the document itself, to my understanding we do not have, an opposition to what is in the document.

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

Supplementary To Question 0336-88(1): Expressions Of Opposition To Document By Aboriginal People

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister then indicate, in terms of the transfer, whether or not it is total responsibility for all health, including the responsibility of delivering services on behalf of the status people, and on behalf of the Department of Indian Affairs?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question 0336-88(1): Expressions Of Opposition To Document By Aboriginal People

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would be prepared at the appropriate time to table the document that requires a signature.

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



Question 0337-88(1): Reduction In Responsibility Of Hospital Management Boards

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question for the Government Leader. The Government Leader said there was no reduction in any responsibility of the management boards. Does that also include the area of services which other hospital boards now have in their jurisdiction?

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

Return To Question 0337-88(1): Reduction In Responsibility Of Hospital Management Boards

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stated that there will be no reduction in the authority of boards over program delivery. However, Mr. Speaker, with respect to services I do acknowledge that the policy requires boards to negotiate contracts with government service departments. However, since the boards will have the money for delivering those services and since they will have the authority to negotiate those contracts, I consider that for all practical purposes, the authority is similar to what existing hospital boards have. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 0337-88(1): Reduction In Responsibility Of Hospital Management Boards

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate, in light of no contracts existing, why the departments are requesting positions in their departments to take on the responsibility that had been originally proposed to be in the jurisdiction of the various health boards, rather than through contractual arrangements?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 0337-88(1): Reduction In Responsibility Of Hospital Management Boards

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member has identified a problem in timing, I believe. The reality is that we have not yet actually established boards in every region where this new authority is to take place. It is certainly the intention of the government to move as quickly as possible, now that the transfer is virtually complete, to set up those boards, get them constituted and get these contracts in place so that through those contracts they will have control over those services.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out also in that connection that the government and I know the Minister of Health will be, as soon as her schedule permits, wanting to meet with those new boards to assist in a smooth transition, so that they can assume those new responsibilities as soon as they are constituted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Further supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question 0337-88(1): Reduction In Responsibility Of Hospital Management Boards

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Government Leader again. Could the Minister indicate if there was a circumstance in which the regional health board did not agree with the establishment of positions in government to act on their behalf, but to assume the responsibility themselves, how is the government going to respond to the request of the regional health boards?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question 0337-88(1): Reduction In Responsibility Of Hospital Management Boards

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, what we propose to do is to set up the regional health boards and initially require them to contract with various service departments of the GNWT. However, as I have indicated, if the boards tell the Minister of Health, "We are entirely dissatisfied with the service being provided," and if it can be demonstrated that the services are not being efficiently delivered, then the board has the right to request that the Minister of Health seek an exemption to the policy from cabinet, which would permit the board to contract with another agency, or to deliver the services in house, or find another way of delivering those services.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make it clear that the cabinet has decided that initially, in order not to set up parallel service departments, which we do not feel are necessary in all cases, the cabinet has decided that the board should be required to contract with various government departments for those services. And I can assure the honourable Member that it will be our intention, and the intention of the Ministers responsible for those service departments, to make sure those services are delivered efficiently. The government departments have a stake in providing good service because they know that the boards, through the Minister of Health, can seek an exemption and take away that contract from those service departments. So we feel that the service departments are going to be on their toes and doing a good job and furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the boards have the hammer of controlling the money. So they have the additional leverage of, I would suggest, not paying bills for services that are not performed and using their financial control to demand the level of service specified in the contract, which they will be free to negotiate independently with the government. So those checks I am confident, Mr. Speaker, will result in good service being performed.

I wish the honourable Member would give us a chance to prove that service departments of this government can deliver good services. We are up to the challenge and we are going to make it work. If we do not, there is an opting-out possibility. The transfer policy clearly permits, albeit with the approval of the cabinet, boards to be exempted from the policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 0337-88(1): Reduction In Responsibility Of Hospital Management Boards

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I would have asked if the cabinet could have given the people of the Mackenzie Delta and the Mackenzie Valley and Inuvik Region, in particular, the opportunity to take on the responsibility of managing the hospital the same way in which they have given other regions the opportunity to assume that responsibility. I would wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Government Leader and cabinet would be prepared to consider even an exemption at this particular time, with a view to trying to work out appropriate arrangements wherever necessary so that they may assume total responsibility and develop the contractual arrangements that are necessary to take advantage of the expertise in government. I think all we have to do is look at the experiences we have encountered with regard to Personnel and one has to wonder whether or not people are competent enough to do the job.

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

Further Return To Question 0337-88(1): Reduction In Responsibility Of Hospital Management Boards

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize again that as soon as these boards are constituted, and it is our intention that they be established and constituted and that the appointments remaining to be made be filled as soon as the health transfer is finalized, we intend and indeed welcome the opportunity to sit down with these boards in each region and discuss their particular concerns and look at their particular circumstances and ensure that the boards are satisfied with the arrangements proposed. And in particular, through the vehicle of service contracts, we intend to ensure that the boards are satisfied with the guarantees of levels and quality of services which government departments will commit themselves to deliver. Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize that the boards will have full authority to specify the quality and the level of service that will be delivered.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to indicate that it is somewhat difficult to answer such general questions because each region and each regional health board has different circumstances. One may have an existing hospital. One may have an existing maintenance capability. In another region, there may be no hospital, no existing maintenance staff. So I would like to confirm that we are willing to sit down with these new boards and discuss any specific concerns that they might have. I have tried to address the general concerns of Mr. Gruben in my return to oral Question 0316-88(1) today. I trust that through that response and through the letter that is on its way to Mr. Gruben, he will be satisfied that this policy and this government's intentions are not as sinister as it might seem.

Mr. Speaker, I am also a little bit confused about the suggestion of the honourable Member that boards are delivering services in other regions themselves. I would like to point out that in all existing boards we are dealing with employees of the GNWT. Even the Baffin Regional Health Board does not have its own employees. Those employees in the Baffin Regional Health Board, although they report and take their direction from the board, are employees of this government, just as all the new employees that will be employed in the Inuvik Regional Health Board will be employees of this government. So, Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat baffled about the honourable Member's concerns but I can assure him that we will meet with the duly appointed representatives of his constituency on the Inuvik Regional Health Board at the earliest possible opportunity to directly discuss their concerns and to work out any problems or apprehensions that they might have. I am confident that when we sit down with them and discuss their specific requirements in personnel and in maintenance, things can be worked out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, 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. Angottitauruq.

#### ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Apparently these documents were supposed to be tabled at the first session of the 11th Assembly. Actually, I left them at my office and they have finally come in at this time. They are from the same person but they all have different concerns and I would like to table them while I am standing, with your permission, Mr. Speaker. They came from the Diocese of the Arctic, Anglican Church of Canada, Executive Archdeacon Peter C. Bishop, whom many of us know. The first one I am tabling is Tabled Document 121-88(1), regarding abortions. That is one. Tabled Document 122-88(1), regarding housing. Tabled Document 123-88(1), regarding the abuse of alcohol. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 124-88(1), a letter dated March 9, 1988, which I received March 21, 1988, from Charles Choque, OMI, Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Ottawa, with regard to the issue of AIDS, as well as the question of abortion.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 125-88(1), Northwest Territories Health Transfer Agreement, which is an agreement between the federal government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Item 11, tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Zoe.

#### ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

##### Notice Of Motion 20-88(1): Tabled Document 125-88(1) To Committee Of The Whole

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, April 5th, 1988, I will move the following motion: I move that Tabled Document 125-88(1), the agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories on the health transfer, be moved into the committee of the whole for discussion. Thank you.

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

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

Item 14, motions. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can ask for unanimous consent to deal with the notice of my motion which I gave today?

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being sought. Do I hear any nays? Mr. Zoe, I hear a nay. You do not have unanimous consent to proceed today. Item 15, first reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 31-88(1): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1988-89

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 31-88(1), An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1989, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. The motion is in order. To the motion. Do I hear question being called? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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; Ministers' Statement 13-88(1); Tabled Document 71-88(1); Tabled Document 80-88(1); Ministers' Statement 43-88(1); Tabled Document 101-88(1); Bill 25-88(1); Bill 7-88(1); Bill 21-88(1), with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 7-88(1), STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT; BILL 25-88(1), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 4, 1987-88; REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order. We are dealing with the main estimates of the 1988-89 fiscal year. What is the committee's wish at this time? Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, with the permission of the House, if we could deal with the last two money bills we have to deal with. If we could do Bill 7-88(1), Student Financial Assistance Act, first, and then Bill 25-88(1), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1987-88, second.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay. Mr. Patterson, your Bill 7-88(1).

Bill 7-88(1), Student Financial Assistance Act

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this bill had been amended last year to increase the maximum aggregate of principal amounts outstanding in respect of all loans to raise the ceiling to \$8.5 million. This was due to increasing numbers of students applying for and obtaining financial assistance under the Student Financial Assistance Act. It was approved by the 10th Legislative Assembly, Mr. Chairman, but unfortunately the 10th Legislative Assembly made no provision for 1988-89 or subsequent years. That was simply an amendment that applied to the fiscal year of 1987-88. So, Mr. Chairman, this bill simply seeks to continue that ceiling which was

increased last year, for the years 1988-89 and subsequently. I consider the amendment, therefore, to be a housekeeping kind of amendment. It will not change any of the current obligations of the department with respect to student financial assistance. It simply maintains the current ceiling for 1988-89 and beyond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Pollard, would you like to add to the Minister's remarks?

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no problem here and we recommend that we go ahead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): What is the committee's wish? Do you wish to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 1. Schedule, \$8.5 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 7-88(1) is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mahsi cho. We will now go to Bill 25-88(1), with Mr. Ballantyne. An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1988. Mr. Ballantyne.

Bill 25-88(1), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1987-88

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This supplementary appropriation, when combined with the three earlier 1987-88 supplementary appropriation bills, results in a net cost to the government of just over one million dollars. This is well within the six million dollar reserve for the net cost of supplementary appropriations established for the 1987-88 fiscal year. The main items within the supplementary appropriation are a \$6,981,000 reduction to the capital budget of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs related to the 1987-88 capital projects that will not be completed until 1988-89; a \$1,612,000 increase to the Department of Education's capital budget for schools where construction is proceeding ahead of schedule; a \$459,500 reduction to the appropriations required for the implementation of water/sewer subsidy program.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring to Members' attention the new format of the summary page for the supplementary appropriations document. The summary page reflects the format of the main estimates summary, which is in accordance with the motion passed by this committee during the first session of the 11th Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, as I have already advised the chairman of the standing committee on finance, the chairman of the standing committee on public accounts, and the chairman of the committee of ordinary Members, and I would like to advise the other Members of the Legislative Assembly that due to the late processing of the supplementary appropriation No. 4 bill, the expenditures related to the appropriation increases sought may already have occurred. This has been an annual problem and I have requested meetings with the chairmen of the standing committees on finance and public accounts and the chairman of the committee of ordinary Members to discuss means by which this supplementary appropriation bill could be dealt with earlier in the budget session for future years. With that, Mr. Chairman, I am open to general questions or comments on the supp but Ministers are prepared to answer any questions about their departments. Thank you.

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

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to working with the Minister of Finance in order to prevent any further problems in this area. We recognize the money has been spent. I think if we could go department by department, Mr. Chairman, I would make a comment before each department. I would also suggest that if the House Leader is agreeable, that Mr. Wray handle all those items in here to do with water and sewer subsidy, even though they may pertain to another department, because the thing is all tied together.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Before we go into details, are there any general comments? Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I am not on the finance committee and I would like an explanation, either generally or as we go through the departments, of how the money was spent without the Legislative Assembly approving it. Unless I get an explanation of how it was done within the government's proper authority, I will be voting against the items as they arise. On the summary page, can I ask the Minister to quickly take us through the information there? The column entitled, "1987-88 current forecast", do I take it that it includes the figures in this supp No. 4? For instance, the one entitled "estimated additional supplementary requirements at net cost" shows \$4,600,000. Do those figures on page one, the third column, include the supp No. 4 figures?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes.

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

Moneys Spent Without Authorization

MR. RICHARD: I wonder if the Minister of Finance can answer this general question when we wade through each item. There are some items that are special warrants. I have no questions on those. But on the ones that purport to be before-the-fact requests for approval, I understand these moneys have already been spent, so I do not understand why are you asking us to spend the money. Where did you get the money? I will just pick any item -- on the Executive, \$320,000. It has not been authorized, but it has been spent. I think we need an explanation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The explanation has been given to the standing committee on finance and Mr. Richard is well aware of the horns of the dilemma in which we find ourselves. On one hand we have the direction, not only of this particular Assembly, but of the Auditor General, that we should not issue special warrants when the Assembly is sitting. The Assembly, as you know, has been sitting for some six weeks now. On the other hand, because we are dealing with the main estimates, we were not able to get to the supps. I brought this to the attention of the standing committee on finance some five weeks ago and acknowledged that there was a problem. There was no solution forthcoming, but I committed ourselves to changing the procedures that we have had in every year up until now, in which we do not do the supps until after the main estimates are completed.

So I recognize, and I have been totally up front about this one, that we do have a problem. We have two irreconcilable points of view that have to be resolved. This year it is impossible to resolve it, except with the support of this Assembly and I am a little bit disappointed that the

Member did not let me know his concerns a while ago. We have talked about this many times and the only way I see it, and working with you, as the chairman of the public accounts committee and with the chairman of the standing committee on finance, is that we change the format in the future, whereby we come in and do supps at the beginning of the session instead of at the end of the session. There is no other way I know of doing it. Or the alternative is to get an understanding from the Legislative Assembly, that if we come this late, we will issue special warrants when we are in session. It is an impossible dilemma and it is one that I am not comfortable being in and it is one that I will make sure we will not be in again. But again it is one that I brought to the attention of the standing committee on finance and my understanding with the chairman was that it was something that we would work out for future sessions.

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

Same Problem Occurred One Year Ago

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, this is not a problem that the current Minister of Finance brought to the attention of the standing committee on finance, this is a problem that the Legislative Assembly brought to the attention of the then government, exactly 12 months ago. It was an identical issue, either 12 months ago to the day or within a day, when Mr. Wray's department had spent funds without authorization from the Assembly and they came here on March 29th or 30th and asked us to approve an expenditure that had already been made. We said, no. They are doing it again in several departments. The Executive has a problem. It is a sin that is being committed for at least the second year in a row, but what I want to know is simply this. Let us take the Executive moneys -- there are two items there totalling \$320,000. Now as I understand the explanation a year ago, you took \$320,000 in another...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I recall the situation was somewhat different last year...

MR. RICHARD: Are you going to listen to me?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I apologize. I was trying to get some information so I could respond to your question. I apologize for moving away from the table for one minute. I am not sure what I did to you today but...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, it is a serious matter. If I could try and explain what we were told a year ago by the Executive, and afterwards by the Auditor General of Canada, let me use the Executive items totalling \$320,000 as an example. We were told that this money has been spent somewhere prior to February 10th, which is the day the session opened or perhaps during the time we were in session. The Executive or the financial officials have found \$320,000 in another fund somewhere and they have spent the money. So maybe it is an authorized expenditure. These particular funds here that you want increased have been depleted. You want us now on March 31st to throw another \$320,000 into these funds. I say, why do you need us to add money to these funds, because you have already found the money somewhere else? You have either found it somewhere else and spent it or you have spent it without authorization and contrary to law or contrary to the Financial Administration Act, one or the other. In either case, why should I vote yes, to give you the funds?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Funds From Supplementary Reserve

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The Member has very correctly pointed out the dilemma. The answer is, there was a supp reserve from which the funds came. The second part of the answer, except for the special warrants, what I am asking for here is after-the-fact approval. That is what I said to the standing committee on finance, that unless the main estimates were completed much earlier, that is what would happen. There was a discussion about it and there was an understanding in the committee that we would ensure that it would not happen next year.

As I recall, last year the situation was somewhat different because there was not quite the time problem. The problem was that the department had expended the funds without authority -- but not because of this problem -- and without any advance warning given or no notice to the standing committee on finance, and no explanation was given.

My problem, and I will take full responsibility for this, absolute responsibility for this. I saw the problem coming, I thought I did what I could do to let Members know that the problem was coming, even the letter I wrote at the beginning of the week, again to let Members know that the problem was coming. You are right, unless we get this authorization, this was not authorized spending. I said that would happen. If you want to hang me out to dry on it, you are legally within your rights. I explained this one week ago, that this is the situation we were running into. We carried on with the main estimates. In retrospect, on that discussion, perhaps we should have decided not to, but I thought there was agreement to do that. But I assured the chairman of the standing committee on finance that I will change the format in the future. We will deal with the supps first or come up with some sort of agreement where, if necessary, special warrants will be issued. I do not know the answer. I want to work on that with the chairman. My problem is I have only been the Minister of Finance since November, there has not been time to work this out. So it is my fault. I take total responsibility for it. I am now sort of asking for your support in giving after-the-fact approval for expenditures, as I quite up front said I would do, five weeks ago.

#### Understanding Of Dilemma

But you are totally right. Everything you say is legally right and it is not a comfortable situation for me, whatsoever, and it is one that I can assure the Member we will never be in again. But I want to be able to work that out. I want to be able to work that out with the chairman of the standing committee on finance and yourself, sir; a process so we can deal with this. The issue of special warrants is one that we have had a lot of problems with and the latest thing is now we are having some criticism because we are not issuing them when we should be. Before we were issuing too many. Once and for all, after going through my first budget, I want to make sure this never happens again. So we will stand or fall on your understanding of the dilemma. Thank you.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not think that the Minister of Finance should take total responsibility for the manner in which expenditures are made. I think that all Ministers have to take that responsibility and recognize that there is a problem that has resulted in terms of expending finances of government without legal authorization. I think our chairman of the standing committee is going to point out some elements in this particular budget where we did have notice early. I think it is not a responsibility that lies totally on your shoulders. I mean, you are the individual responsible for monitoring financial expenditure in government but each Minister has to have the responsibility as well. You are basically our agent, our eyes on the Executive Council, representing the Assembly in terms of those expenditures that are made by the Executive Council on behalf of this group. I accept your commitment to developing a process but I think that once that process is developed, all Ministers have to be accountable under that particular process as well.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I agree that in the future that is true but for this case I am going to take responsibility because I thought I had an understanding in the standing committee on finance and I brought back advice to the cabinet on the way to proceed. So this was my decision and on my advice. In the future, once we have a format set up, then of course it is a collective responsibility but this one was done on my advice.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you. I am almost ready to say to the Minister of Finance, "You are forgiven."

---Laughter



Reduction In Federal Funding For Training Programs

Mr. Chairman, I also am not a Member of the finance committee but there is one important item I would like to get some explanation on as we discuss the supplementary appropriations for 1987-88 and that is the issue of training. It has been communicated to me that a budget of \$600,000 or somewhere in that neighbourhood, has been cut in half by the Government of Canada, by Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. Does the GNWT have an agreement with CEIC to provide training for certain aspects of education? I guess one of the concerns that I have is that priority should be placed on keeping budgets and keeping moneys of this nature in place rather than taking them out or cutting them off. So, Mr. Chairman, if this concern could be addressed, either while discussing the supplementary estimates or once we get into some other discussion of Education again. I would very much like to have some further discussion on this particular issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member is entirely correct that in the coming year we have forecast, due to different policies of the federal government, in particular implications of the Canadian job strategy, that there will be a reduction of \$859,000 in the level of support the college has received up until now for the purchase of training seats by CEIC. So, Mr. Chairman, this is of considerable concern to me. I have made efforts to recover from this impact through appeals to the Minister of Employment and Immigration for Canada. It has meant that it has been very difficult to make some of the reductions that have been expected of my department in the coming year in order to meet a balanced budget because, in addition to reductions of GNWT funds required in order to balance the budget, we have had to take into account federal reductions. So it is indeed a serious problem but I am satisfied that the college programs are not suffering too seriously and that where we have eliminated or cut back programs, the consequences are not going to be too serious. Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure the Member that the only supplementary estimate for Education before the House in this bill has to do with capital expenditures and increases mainly due to cash flow requirements between the fiscal years. So there have been no impacts on the area of training by the supplementary estimates now before this committee. Thank you.

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

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister tell us a little bit about these warrants. I know that some years there is a whole pile of them and other years there are not so many. These item numbers on this schedule -- are those the numbers of warrants? What is the meaning of those words on the side here and could he tell us how many warrants were issued in this past while?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: My question was a pretty simple one, Mr. Chairman. What I really wanted to know was how many warrants are we talking about?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: In this particular supp we are talking about two special warrants. One for Municipal and Community Affairs for \$672,000 and one for Education for \$1,612,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. General comments. Are there any further general comments? Does the committee agree then that we go through the details of the supplementary estimates?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Legislative Assembly, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Page one, Legislative Assembly, capital, \$42,000. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know through you at some time what is the assessed rental rate of this particular apartment that has been renovated. I ask if you could do the assessment; and the DPW assessment rate as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Perhaps with the permission of the House we could get the Clerk and the Speaker in at the witness table and the questions could best be directed to them.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I am asking if the information could be provided at some time. It does not necessarily have to be provided at this particular time. I can ask through the Minister or ask the Clerk to provide that information. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: That information can be provided.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Legislative Assembly, \$42,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, \$42,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Executive

Ministers' Offices, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Executive, O and M, Ministers' Offices, \$250,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Executive Council Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Executive Council Secretariat, \$70,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Executive, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, \$320,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

NWT Housing Corporation, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): NWT Housing Corporation, O and M. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: This is where I was suggesting perhaps Mr. Wray could shed light on this item and other related items with water and sewer as we go through the supp, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pollard, would you like to repeat what you just said for the Minister's benefit?

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are on page three I take it, dealing with the NWT Housing Corporation. The amount there concerns the water and sewer subsidy program. There are also some other items in here that concern that particular program, for instance, on page six, Municipal and Community Affairs, and they are all related, Mr. Chairman. My suggestion was that Mr. Wray explain all of those items, as they are all tied together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): All right. Mr. Wray.

Adjustments To Water/Sewer Subsidy Program

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know, last year the government introduced a water and sewer subsidy program and essentially the subsidy pays the difference between what it costs to provide water and sewer services and the standard charge which is one cent a gallon to residential users and two cents per gallon to small businesses. When we set the program up, the best that we could do at that time was guesstimates because we had no way of knowing how much usage was actually going to take place over the course of the year. So what we decided to do was to go with the program for six months on our best guesstimate and then at the end of six months we would do a variance report between all the departments to see which departments had too much money and which departments did not have enough money to pay for the water and sewer service charge. So after six months, we did a report and that was when we discovered that, for example, the Housing Corporation had appropriated too much but Municipal and Community Affairs and a couple of other departments did not have enough. So we simply reshuffled the money and we took the excess money back from the departments that had too much and we gave it to the departments that did not have enough. So that is what this entire supp is about. It is actually correct now. After six months we had a better idea of what the usage was so we were able to project more accurately the actual amounts that were needed for each individual department.

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

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I guess my question is along those lines to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I recognize that there were some water meters being installed in various homes in Rankin Inlet a couple of months back. I also understand you to say that you are charging one cent a gallon for water when it used to be a flat rate of \$30 per month. I guess I have one or two questions. Is this one cent a gallon on top of the \$30 flat rate per month? No. Okay, that is fair enough. Secondly, where is this money going to? Is it to the Government of the Northwest Territories or to the hamlet councils?

Thirdly, just by way of a comment, as you know the water quality, as healthy as it may be, is always stinky, especially in Rankin Inlet. Since we are beginning to charge for water through the installing of water meters in places like Rankin Inlet, can we at some point in the future take a look at better quality water? I know this problem is common throughout many communities in the Eastern Arctic and I can also indicate to the Minister that Yellowknife has a far better quality of water than Rankin Inlet, so while we have no shortage of water, no shortage of lakes in the East, I think, Mr. Chairman, the thing to do is to take a look at better quality, good drinking water throughout many communities in the Eastern Arctic. So I guess my question has really two or three components to it, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wray.

Revenue Accrues To Hamlet

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Generally speaking, in nearly every community the revenue accrues directly to the hamlet and in turn they use it to pay for providing the service. What we did was essentially say that private home-owners and small businesses should get a break on

the charges because, and Mr. Ernerk was not around, two or three years ago we had a major problem in that some of the hamlets discovered that water and sewer was a great way to make money. They started to charge, in many cases, excessive rates to private home-owners and to small businesses and as a government in the worst year, which was the year that prompted us to bring this program in, we ended up being faced with in some cases, 700 or 800 per cent increases in rates overnight. A hamlet would be doing its budget, it would discover they were short of money, so its answer was to jack up the water and sewer rates.

As a government, we had not budgeted for these major increases in water and sewer and as the Minister of the Housing Corporation and the Minister of Public Works, I actually had to come to this Legislature for supplementary estimates in excess of three million dollars to pay for water and sewer charges. So that is when the government said that we cannot allow these small private home-owners and businesses to pay an excessive amount of money for water and sewer, so we will bring in a flat rate and we will subsidize the hamlet for the difference between the economic cost and this one cent a gallon. So if, for example, in a community it is determined that the cost to the municipality to provide water to private home-owners is two cents a gallon, the municipality will only charge the private home-owner one cent a gallon and we will pick up the difference between the one and the two cents.

#### Water Services, Rankin Inlet

Rankin Inlet is slightly different inasmuch as it is on the utilidor system. In every other community that has a utilidor system the municipality was already charging for the use of that system but in Rankin Inlet, because it was a government-owned system, not a municipal-owned system, there were no charges. There was simply a flat rate being assessed to people on the utilidor system. So what we have started doing in July is charging piped-service customers in Rankin Inlet and right now the revenue is coming to the government. However, what we are working on with the hamlet of Rankin Inlet is to turn over the entire utilidor system to the hamlet, as well as the funds to operate it and then they are going to contract the Department of Public Works to maintain it on their behalf. But once we do that, then the hamlet itself will collect the revenue and then the revenue will go toward the cost of operating the water system.

With regard to the quality of water in Rankin, this became an issue in the Legislature last year at this time. We had thought and the previous MLA, Mr. Curley, had also thought that the problems were in Williamson Lake, which as the Member knows was a very old reservoir built by the mine, which at one time was on the outskirts of the community and is now in the middle of the community. We had had money put aside to fence the reservoir off but when the complaints from Rankin came in about water we all assumed, and wrongly as it turned out, that the problem was in Williamson Lake because garbage had got in there. I personally know that there are dead dogs in that lake. I have seen them go through it when I lived beside that lake. Just because there are two major roads that run past Williamson Lake, we assumed that the problem was in Williamson Lake.

What happened was when we went in to actually investigate the complaints we were getting, we found that the problem was in Nippisar Lake. In fact the water that was coming through the system was not coming from Williamson, it was coming from Nippisar. We sent divers down and for some reason which I cannot remember now, as I have not seen the briefing notes for quite a while, the pipes going into Nippisar Lake are lower than they should be and therefore they were only about six inches off the bottom of the lake, so they were getting fairly stagnant water coming through that system. It was very fishy, there was an oily residue from the ground, I guess.

So what we are going to do in Rankin, as an interim measure, because we still have not decided in conjunction with the hamlet council what to do about Williamson Lake, but in the interim we are going to move the intake pipes in Nippisar Lake up to a more acceptable level so that the quality of water or the type of water we are getting through that system is a little fresher. But that problem is still an ongoing one which we are trying to address.

We would like to, quite frankly, dispose of Williamson Lake entirely, fill it in and not use it, but we have major problems inasmuch as we need to keep a reserve for fire purposes and in case the main line between Nippisar and the community breaks down, we have to have an emergency reservoir to keep the utilidor system running. So we have not quite figured out the final solution to that problem but we are working on it, Mr. Chairman.

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

Cost Of Hookup To Utilidor System

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank the Minister for that answer. The other question I have, Mr. Chairman, is with regard to the utilidor system, again, in Rankin Inlet. I understand that the new private home-owners who were not on the utilidor system at the time they purchased their homes -- I am talking about the more recent private home-owners who had to get the pipe installed to the present utilidor system -- had to pay for the installation of the new utilidor system from the main one to the new houses that they have. Most of us were lucky because in 1982 when a whole bunch of us purchased our own homes, we were already connected to the main line but the ones that purchased their homes, and I am talking about the private home-owners after that particular year, if they built their homes not connected to the utilidor system, had to pay for the installation of the pipe, whether it was five or 25 feet or whatever, in the excess of \$10,000. Our idea at that time was that the government should pay for the installation of the new pipe to the home from the main utilidor system. I wonder what the government has done to help the new home-owners in this particular case?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I am very well aware of that problem having had many letters and representations from people. Unfortunately, while I can appreciate the home-owners' desire to have the government pay for the hookup, the fact is that in no other community in the NWT do we do that. In fact in all communities where there is a pipe system, the home-owners are responsible for that hookup from the main line to their unit and therefore the decision was that we could not make an exception in the case of Rankin Inlet. Otherwise, we would have to make the same concessions in Iqaluit or Inuvik or Fort Simpson or any of the communities that have a piped system. So I know that is no answer to say that we are not going to do anything, but I think to be fair to the other communities and the many hundreds of home-owners in other communities, we have to be consistent in the application of the policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: So, Mr. Chairman, is the water pipe really the property of the private home-owner, that he installed from the main water line to the new home? Whose property is it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: That is a very good question. Unfortunately I do not know the answer. I do not see any of my officials around. But I will find out for the Member and report to him on the status of who actually owns that line.

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

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, maybe this is something that the Minister could consider taking a look at further, recognizing that it would be a costly project, especially when you are talking about the many, many homes in Iqaluit which are on the utilidor system, the many homes in Rankin Inlet, the private home-owners, who are on this utilidor system and the people who had to pay for their share of the utilidor system. Perhaps it is something we could compromise on, because it is costly to establish part of this utilidor system, the piping from the main utilidor system to a new house. I know that a number of home-owners have faced quite a number of difficulties with it, especially in Rankin Inlet where there is a utilidor system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wray.

Assistance To Convert To Utilidor System

HON. GORDON WRAY: Okay, I now have some answers for the Member. First of all, the home-owner owns the line from the main to the house and that actually becomes part of the value of the house. I think it is called local improvements. That actually becomes part of the value of the land and the house. But we also have a program now. If you are converting from a water delivery system to a piped system, if you have, for example, \$5000 worth of water tanks, sewer tanks and pumps in your house, if that has cost you \$5000 and the cost of hooking up is \$15,000, then we have a program to pay the difference of those two figures. Admittedly, it is not everything, but it is something.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: So if there is a freeze-up...

HON. GORDON WRAY: I got it wrong, I am sorry. If the cost of hooking up the line is \$15,000 and you have in your house \$5000 worth of equipment which you had to put in for water delivery, we will give you a credit of \$5000 toward the cost of that hookup. So you would only pay \$10,000 for hooking up the line, as opposed to \$15,000. We would credit you for the amount you already have in your unit.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, if there is a freeze-up within that line, whose responsibility is it? Is it the private home-owner's responsibility to try and thaw it out or is it the government's responsibility to thaw it out? Especially since the main utilidor system is the government's property.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I am advised it is the home-owner's responsibility if a freeze-up occurs in the line between the main line and the house. Because that line is owned by the home-owner, it is his responsibility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, this is the Minister of Finance's responsibility and he has made a major issue that this is something that he is asking us to do. I did not understand the sin we are being asked to become a part of. In the exchange between Mr. Richard and Mr. Ballantyne, there were things that maybe some Members did not understand about why we are now being asked to approve some spending of money that has already been spent, has already been approved at one time. It was spent but not approved. But there were other things that were approved by special warrant and so on. So I do not have a good understanding of what the thing is that is so bad and so wrong that I am being asked to vote on. I would like to have a better explanation than I have had so far from the Minister who has indicated to us that this is his responsibility but he is not in his chair to listen to our concerns. Could I ask my question again, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Lewis, go ahead, you have the floor.

MR. LEWIS: If this money was already approved at one time, it was in the budget somewhere, so this House approved it -- not this one but the previous one -- and that money was spent. What is the sin, exactly, that we are being asked to commit today by approving this money? It was already there, because they spent it. So what is it that is bad that we are being asked to do today? Easter is coming up and I have to live with my Maker, so if I am going to commit a sin, I have to have a better understanding of what bad thing I am being asked to do by the Minister of Finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne or Mr. Swaggart.

#### Supplementary Expenditures Made Without Authority

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think if there was a sin that it is me, for the next 40 days, who has to atone for it. Mr. Richard is absolutely correct in his analysis. Under the Financial Administration Act, before money is expended as a result of a supplementary estimate, that approval should have been given by the Legislative Assembly. In order to expend funds we have two mechanisms. One is a special warrant, which is supposedly of an emergency nature, when the Legislature is not in session. We have a couple of them here. The other one is a supplementary estimate when either the Legislative Assembly is in session or when it will be in a reasonable time after a decision is made.

In this particular case, I was very aware of the problem and Mr. Richard is right, we have talked about this and have not resolved it. I brought it to the standing committee on finance some five weeks ago and said that the way we normally do things is that we do the main estimates and then we do the supps. What we also have to talk about is how we do special warrants. What happened here is because the session went on longer, we got caught in this dilemma. In fact, there was a supp reserve set up of six million dollars. So there is approval of six million dollars, but there is no approval for individual...

MR. RICHARD: There was no approval.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Okay, but there was an understanding of a six million dollar reserve that was there, that expenditures made from within that six million dollars would not change the bottom line that was agreed to. What happened was, as I knew and explained to the standing committee on finance, we are in a situation now where, because this period of time of six weeks has taken place, we have expended most of these dollars. The bottom line that was approved last year will not change. We still have \$4.6 million net left in the supp reserve. There will be another supp coming which will finalize the expenditures for this year.

So I guess the sin, if you will, and Mr. Richard is correct, is that we have made expenditures without the authority of the Assembly. In this supp, I am asking you for after-the-fact authority for expenditures that have already been made. So Mr. Richard is right. I knew it was going to happen, and as I said, I have indicated to the chairman of the three committees that as soon as this session is over I will sit down with them and work out a process in the future, where we can handle supps and special warrants, so we are not caught in this situation again.

NWT Housing Corporation, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. NWT Housing Corporation, O and M. NWT Housing Corporation, \$1,147,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, \$1,147,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Justice, Legal Aid, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Justice, O and M. Legal aid, \$238,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, \$238,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Renewable Resources, Science Institute Of The NWT, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Renewable Resources, O and M. Science Institute of the NWT, \$15,500. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, \$15,500. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Municipal And Community Affairs

Community Works And Capital Planning, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Municipal and Community Affairs, O and M. Community works and capital planning, special warrant, \$672,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Municipal And Community Affairs, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, special warrants, \$672,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Community Works And Capital Planning, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Municipal and Community Affairs, capital. Community works and capital planning, \$354,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Community Planning, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Community planning, \$173,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Sport And Recreation, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Sport and recreation, \$6,454,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Municipal And Community Affairs, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, \$6,981,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Health, Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Health, O and M. Territorial Hospital Insurance Services, \$18,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, \$18,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Economic Development And Tourism, Business Development, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Economic Development and Tourism, capital. Business development, \$200,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, \$200,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Education, Schools, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Education, capital. Schools, special warrant, \$1,612,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, special warrants, \$1,612,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree to go clause by clause on Bill 25-88(1)? All right. Clause 2, application. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 3, supplementary appropriation for 1988-89. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 4, reduction of appropriation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 5, purpose of expenditures. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 6, lapse of appropriation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 7, accounting. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 8, commencement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Schedule. Operations and maintenance. Total O and M, \$116,500. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Capital. Total capital, \$5,527,000 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total reductions, \$5,410,500 surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 1, short title. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree Bill 25-88(1) is now ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you very much. What is the committee's wish? Mr. Butters.

MR. BUTTERS: I move we report progress if we can get sufficient Members in the House to vote on it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Your motion is in order. The motion is on the floor and it is not debatable. Would the Sergeant-at-Arms ring the bell for a quorum? The Chair recognizes a quorum. There is a motion on the floor by Mr. Butters to report progress. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? This motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise now and report progress.

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

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 7-88(1), STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT; BILL 25-88(1), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 4, 1987-88; REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Motions To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 1-88(1), 25-88(1), 7-88(1) and 21-88(1), and wishes to report that Bills 7-88(1) and 25-88(1) are recommended for third reading.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Butters. Thank you. To the motion. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Report of Standing Committee on Finance on the 1988-89 Main Estimates; Ministers' Statement 13-88(1); Tabled Document 71-88(1); Tabled Document 80-88(1); Ministers' Statement 43-88(1); Tabled Document 101-88(1).

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Arlooktoo. Thank you. To the motion. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 19, third reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Third Reading Of Bill 25-88(1): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1987-88

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 25-88(1), An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1988, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 25-88(1) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

Third Reading Of Bill 7-88(1): Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 7-88(1), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson, the motion is in order. To the motion. Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 7-88(1) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Item 20, assent to bills. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to assent to bills?

ITEM 20: ASSENT TO BILLS

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HANSON: (Translation) Thank you. As Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I assent to Bills 6-88(1), 7-88(1), 11-88(1), 20-88(1), 25-88(1) and 29-88(1). Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The House will come back to order. Item 21, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the ordinary Members' committee on Tuesday morning. There will also be a meeting of caucus Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, April 5 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); Tabled Document 80-88(1); Ministers' Statement 43-88(1); Tabled Document 101-88(1); Bill 21-88(1)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Assent to Bills
21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, April 5th, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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