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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1988

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen): Orders of the day for Thursday, October 20th. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Allooloo.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 18-88(2): Television Northern Canada

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1986 the Executive Council directed Culture and Communications to take the lead role in developing a territory-wide information/education channel. It was primarily through these efforts that Television Northern Canada, TVNC, was created.

In June of 1987, the Government of the Northwest Territories combined with the Government of the Yukon, six aboriginal broadcasting societies from the Yukon, NWT, Arctic Quebec and Labrador and the Northern Service of the CBC to present the Government of Canada with a proposal for the establishment and funding of the new northern television service. I am happy to report that the Government of Canada has since agreed to contribute \$10 million over the next four years to fund Television Northern Canada.

The new public educational television network is a major step forward in northern communications. It will provide a much-needed channel for northern native broadcasters and the Governments of the Northwest Territories and Yukon to present relevant northern programming to an audience stretching across the top of North America, from Yukon through the NWT into Arctic Quebec and Labrador.

The federal funding will cover equipment installation costs, network operational costs and the lease costs for a satellite transponder or channel dedicated to serve northern Canadians. The contributing members of the TVNC consortium are responsible for producing their own programming.

We are especially interested in providing people in the Northwest Territories with public and educational television oriented to our northern audience. An important feature of programming that we will contribute to the new network will be the use of native language as well as English versions. This network could permit the broadcasting of question period in the Legislative Assembly, and possibly special debates of major significance.

Between now and the fall of 1990, the on air start-up date of TVNC, my department will be developing the structure and determining the programming requirements for our government's participation in this exciting new service for northerners.

Mr. Speaker, I believe northern native broadcasters are producing many fine programs and that they will play a valuable role in fostering our culture and languages. The arrival of TVNC will encourage the development of native broadcasting, something I believe to be important not only to the North but to Canada as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ministers' Statement 19-88(2): Education Statistics Show Improvements

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to tell Members about some encouraging improvements in school attendance and enrolment. Year-end statistics submitted by all schools in the Territories show continued improvement in attendance and the number of young people graduating from high school.

Mr. Speaker, for the school year ending in June 1988, the average attendance for the entire Territories was more than 85 per cent. Some regions and specific communities attendance figures are even much higher than this average. In Grise Fiord, for example, the annual attendance was 90.3 per cent, compared with a low of 63 per cent just four years ago. In my home community of Fort Good Hope, attendance for 1987-88 averaged 79.6 per cent, an improvement of almost 10 per cent during the past five years and the list goes on, Mr. Speaker.

The first step toward success in school is regular attendance. There are a few communities where attendance is currently lower than the territorial average. Many of these local education authorities have chosen to have school/community counsellors on staff to work with the school, parents, students and the community to improve attendance.

Another example of improving results is increasing enrolments. Five years ago there were only 160 students in high school in the Baffin Region. Today, there are approximately 235 enrolled in that region.

The number of students continuing their education and taking post-secondary studies is also growing. Projected enrolments for this school year show 950 students in post-secondary studies. Of this total, 370 are native students. This is quite an improvement over five years ago, Mr. Speaker, when there were only 505 students in post-secondary studies and only 99 were native students.

More and more northerners are recognizing the lifelong benefits available through and with an education. I am confident that the results will continue to improve and that with every success the future will be even brighter for our young people. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Ministers' Statement 20-88(2): Foster Parent Week In Canada

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The week of October 17th to the 24th is set aside as Foster Parent Week in Canada. It is an opportunity to recognize the valuable contribution foster parents make to the child welfare system in Canada.

During this week we will be having appreciation nights to honour our foster parents for their dedication and commitment to the NWT children in many communities. Throughout the Northwest Territories we are very fortunate to have many caring families who give so freely of their time and talents to help children in unfortunate circumstances. My department could not fulfil its

mandate for the protection of children without the help of citizens willing to become foster parents. During Foster Parent Week we will also be promoting awareness of foster parenting and recruiting new foster parents. My department always needs foster homes, particularly for children with special needs.

The role of foster parents has changed over the years. They must be a part of a service team with the community social service worker and not simply a provider of care. These are not easy roles to fill. In the Northwest Territories we have been very fortunate to recruit talented and dedicated people to work with us in the role of foster parents under what are very trying circumstances at times. We have approximately 90 active homes caring for children of all ages.

I was pleased to be able to attend the foster parent recognition night in Yellowknife in order to show my personal appreciation to all those individuals who give of their time to children in need. As Minister of Social Services, I am very pleased to be able to recognize the contribution of foster parents during Foster Parent Week and throughout the year.

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

Ministers' Statement 21-88(2): NWT Participation In The Atlantic Council Of Fisheries

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report on the Northwest Territories continuing role as a member of the Atlantic Council of Fisheries Ministers.

The Atlantic Council of Fisheries consists of Ministers of Fisheries from the Atlantic provinces and Quebec. Our government first attended an Atlantic Council of Fisheries meeting at Meech Lake in December 1987. Our involvement with this council stemmed from discussions between the Government Leader and the Minister of Fisheries from Nova Scotia, the Hon. John Leefe. Subsequent discussions were held between the Government Leader and the federal Minister of Fisheries, the Hon. Tom Siddon, and today we are a full member of this council.

In Cornerbrook, Newfoundland in March of this year, I tabled a request to the council, that shrimp licence allocations for the Qiqitaaluk Corporation of Baffin be increased from 1000 metric tonnes to 1200. The high operating costs of our shrimp trawlers operating in the Davis and Hudson Straits require larger allocations to ensure viability. In addition to higher shrimp allocations, I also requested a mixed groundfish quota in order that Qiqitaaluk's operation could be extended year round. As a result of this meeting, the federal Minister of Fisheries announced in May, 1988 that Qiqitaaluk and Makivik Corporations operating under a joint shrimp licence would be awarded a 2500 metric tonne groundfish licence in Davis Strait. This, Mr. Speaker, is the first time northerners have participated in the lucrative commercial groundfish fishery off Baffin Island.

I was very pleased to host the July meeting of the Atlantic Council in Iqaluit and Pangnirtung. For many Fisheries Ministers this was their first visit to the Northwest Territories and their first opportunity to see our young fishing industry first-hand. I might add that several Ministers have extended an invitation for the government to visit their fishing industries on the east coast to learn more about how we can continue to develop a viable fishing industry.

In the 1987-88 shrimp fishing season, over 25 Inuit from the Eastern Arctic were hired on the jointly-owned fish trawlers of the Qiqitaaluk Corporation, realizing a total income of \$350,000. Training courses have begun at Arctic College and there are continuing developments in the identification of new fishing resources in the Eastern Arctic.

In summary, Mr. Speaker we have witnessed considerable growth in our inshore and offshore fishing industry in the Eastern Arctic in just three short years. I am confident that through our continued participation in the Atlantic Council of Fisheries Ministers we can look forward to an even brighter future for that industry. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 22-88(2): North Warning Contract In Rankin Inlet

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House of the Department of Public Works and Highways efforts to ensure that northern businesses and residents receive maximum benefits from federal North American air defence modernization project contracts. Our efforts result from the recent Rankin Inlet airport upgrade contract award for the forward operating location. The Hon. Gordon Wray, as Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, is also working on this situation. Our objectives are that the federal government maximizes local and northern business opportunities and employment, and that northern contractors understand clearly, federal project tendering rules.

As background, a contractor formed a new company with local Rankin Inlet contractors to bid on the airport upgrade project and other North Warning System contracts. Although this company submitted the lowest bid to the federal government, the bid was incomplete. The missing documents were submitted after the tender opening, but the bid was still rejected. As this company proposed high local involvement, we immediately acted at the bureaucratic and political levels to have this bid reconsidered. Our efforts were unsuccessful. Even though all the documents were not received, GNWT contract regulations would have permitted cabinet flexibility in such cases to assist northern contractors who meet northern involvement and cost criteria.

Yesterday I mentioned that we are continuing our work with the federal government to ensure that they use more of our contracting procedures and northern involvement approaches. Northern contractors bidding on federal contracts such as the North American air defence modernization project must be thorough in reviewing their tender documents and completing their tenders. Public Works and Highways expertise is available to them in preparing their bids and during construction. Thank you.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Invitation To Members To Trap Exchange Program

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to share with this House and fellow Members an open invitation to the Minister of Renewable Resources to come to Lutsel K'e, Snowdrift, when our trappers come off the land in the spring of 1989, to partake in a trap exchange program. Our trappers from Lutsel K'e have decided that they would like to trade in their leghold traps for instant kill Conibear traps. We realize animal rights movements would like to see trappers do this and we are hopeful that the Department of Renewable Resources will come up with a program of trap exchange by the spring of 1989 to ensure that this historical event can take place.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Morin. Members' statements. Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Review Of Executive Council

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the Members of the Legislative Assembly were first elected last year, I raised the issue of a review of the Executive Council after two years, as we had during the 10th Assembly. The majority of the Members have decided that the Government Leader's expanded role and his ability to discipline Executive Members and request their resignation if required, is sufficient to ensure that the Executive Council carries out its duties in a responsible manner. I have been interviewed in the media with regard to this issue and many Members, both ordinary Members and Executive Members, felt that my suggestion of an automatic two year review was not appropriate. I must stress that I am satisfied with my role as a Deputy Speaker and have no intention of running for a seat on the Executive during the 11th

Assembly. I have to bow to the wishes of the majority on this matter and reluctantly agree that I not pursue the matter of an automatic review further in the House or in caucus during the 11th Assembly. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Gargan. Members' statements. Members' statements. That would appear to conclude Members' statements, having been called twice, three times. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Mr. Ng, Serial Killer

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, there is a man called Ng, spelled "Ng", who lives in Calgary and has been there three years now. He is wanted on 25 counts of murder in the state of California.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Does he have an NWT teacher's certificate?

---Laughter

MR. LEWIS: He is not a teacher, Mr. Patterson, he is what is called a serial killer which means that he likes killing people as a matter of habit. I am concerned that he now lives in Canada and through an extradition treaty that we have with the United States that dates from 1971, we cannot send him back there because it is likely that if he is found guilty he would be hanged or murdered or shot or whatever they do with people like that in California.

My concern is that we live in a remote part of the world where, since the days of Albert Johnson, people have come to these Territories thinking that they can hide. Since we should all be concerned about the safety and security of our families, we should do something to give a message to our federal government that we would not want to harbour people like that in this country. So, I am urging our government to think about this issue since, if there is anything that we should be concerned about it is the security of our people. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The Chair would like to recognize Mr. Peter Kritaqliluk, the speaker of the Keewatin Regional Council, in the audience. Welcome.

---Applause

We are on Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question O36-88(2): Regional Superintendent Of Social Services, Keewatin Region

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Asked by Mr. Ernerk on October 17, 1988 with regard to the regional superintendent in the Keewatin. The position of regional superintendent of Social Services for the Keewatin Region has been filled.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Returns to oral questions. That would appear to conclude Item 4. Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O58-88-(2): Alternative Study On Great Slave Fish

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Pollard yesterday, regarding an alternative marketing study for Great Slave fish.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism will be initiating an alternative marketing study for Great Slave fish. A steering committee which will include two representatives from the fishermen's federation will be established early in November.

The mandate of this committee is to review and approve the terms of reference prepared by the department and review the proposals from consultants and make a recommendation to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism on the preferred consultant. The steering committee will also be involved in monitoring and reviewing the consultant's work. It is anticipated that the study will commence on December 1, 1988 and be completed by March 31, 1989. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O67-88(2): Funding For Lake Harbour Airstrip During Winter

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the Lake Harbour airstrip, I have a question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Last spring we were given some funds to do improvements on the airstrip and following the improvements the airstrip in Lake Harbour was greatly improved. My question is to the Government Leader, if we can get more funds this winter so that we can do further improvements on the airstrip. We were given limited funds last summer. Will the Executive Council be able to give us more funds for the winter for the improvements?

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

Return To Question O67-88(2): Funding For Lake Harbour Airstrip During Winter

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that we were finally able to see some major improvements take place in Lake Harbour as a result of the blasting of some 7300 cubic metres of rock this summer. Perhaps I can note, Mr. Speaker, for the Members' benefit that the contract which allowed the blasting to take place cost some \$115,000 and has resulted in the removal of a hazardous outcrop of rock located at the north end of the Lake Harbour airstrip. I do think now that residents of Lake Harbour will feel safer in landing in that community.

Mr. Speaker, as far as future improvements are concerned this is a matter that I believe is not currently being planned. I will however undertake to raise this matter with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and perhaps an appropriate time for examining the matter in detail might be at the budget session when the main estimates of the government and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs are presented. I am not aware of any plans for further work at the moment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Oral questions. Supplementary? Mr. Morin first.

Question O68-88(2): Dene/Metis Involvement In GSL Fish Marketing Study

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism. As they are undertaking a study on alternative marketing for fish from Great Slave Lake, has he ensured that Dene/Metis are involved in that study, and have members on that steering committee, because Fort Resolution is very interested in the alternative marketing study.

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

Return To Question O68-88(2): Dene/Metis Involvement In GSL Fish Marketing Study

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, as I just indicated, the government intends to involve representatives of the fishermen's federation in the study. I will be pleased to give consideration to involving additional input from persons who might be interested in participating in the fishery. I will consult with the Member about who might appropriately represent the viewpoint he feels should be included. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O69-88(2): Inspection Of Oil Storage Tanks, Lake Harbour And Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Government Services, perhaps Mr. Kakfwi. The oil storage tank in Lake Harbour had lots of water in it during June and people who were trying to gas up found there was a lot of water in the tank. Following the filling of the tank by a ship there was still water in the tank. Just before I left Lake Harbour to come to this meeting the gas is still mixed with water. Because there is water in the oil storage tank, I wonder if the tanks can be inspected to find out if there is more water in Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour. This has become a major concern for the people who utilize the gasoline and they have asked me to bring this up in the House. They are concerned their equipment will break down because there is water mixed in with gasoline. I wonder if the oil storage tanks in Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour can be inspected.

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

Return To Question O69-88(2): Inspection Of Oil Storage Tanks, Lake Harbour And Cape Dorset

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, we can have officials from the government check into this problem right away and see if it does exist and can be corrected as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo, supplementary.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, a supplementary to my question. If you are going to do the inspections of the tanks I think that the residents of these two communities should be consulted. I think they are the most knowledgeable people because they are the users of the gasoline and oil. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Arlooktoo, was that a question?

---Laughter

Oral questions. Mr. Ernerk.

Question O70-88(2): Study On Birthing Centre In Keewatin

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, mine is a question. My question is to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, I introduced a motion on March 8, 1988 in this House which recommended that the Department of Health carry out a feasibility study in the Keewatin to determine the need for a regional hospital or a birthing centre. My question Mr. Speaker, has the Minister of Health started this study?

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

Return to Question O70-88(2): Study On Birthing Centre In Keewatin

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, among all the other priorities that we were given to take care of under the new jurisdiction and turnover of health to the Government of the NWT there have been discussions with the newly formed Keewatin Health Board. However, we have not

designed and we have not undertaken or begun the study at this point. The reason why the study and the process has not been in place is just a matter of the time available between this session and the last session. So, Mr. Speaker, it is not off the drawing board. Our intention is to work with the Keewatin Health Board to establish such a study. If we have been somewhat delayed in it, it is just a matter of the need for a little more time to do that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O70-88(2): Study On Birthing Centre In Keewatin

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. There is a planned meeting of health officials by both the Government of Canada and various members of the Keewatin Region. I believe members of the Keewatin Inuit Association will be attending a meeting in Churchill sometime around the 14th of this month. One of the topics will be the issue of birthing centres. I am wondering if the Minister is planning to send a delegate to that meeting from the department.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question O70-88(2): Study On Birthing Centre In Keewatin

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health was involved with the planning of that conference and in getting together the Keewatin Health Board who presently have the responsibility for the health delivery system in the Keewatin as well as having to deal with the contracts and working arrangements with Churchill and the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada. So Mr. Speaker, yes, we intend to have our officials there and we intend to pursue the reconciliation of the health delivery system with the Keewatin Health Board over the next few months.

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

Question O71-88(2): Social Worker For Pangnirtung

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am appreciative of the reply from the Minister of Social Services with regard to the regional superintendent of Social Services. What about the position of a social worker in Pangnirtung which was asked by Ipeelee Kilabuk the same day, the filling of that position?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O71-88(2): Social Worker For Pangnirtung

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The position in Pangnirtung, the department has not been as successful to fill that particular position. The competition has been advertised twice, I believe, and no successful candidate has been identified. The position has currently been advertised again. However, as I indicated to the House the services are being provided with backup services from the regional staff in Iqaluit. Thank you.

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

Question O72-88(2): Housing Allocation, Kakisa Lake

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader. In June, I wrote the Government Leader requesting that he might be able to assist the community of Kakisa relating to job creation. Unfortunately I guess the Government Leader did meet with the Executive and they could not single out -- it would be unfair to single out Kakisa to create jobs. So I would like to ask the Government Leader then, why is it that the community of Kakisa has been singled out with regard to housing allocations?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I understood the question to be, why has the community of Kakisa been singled out with regard to housing allocations? I would suggest that the Minister of Housing might appropriately answer that question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O72-88(2): Housing Allocation, Kakisa Lake

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the question I think was intended to ask about the housing allocation by the Housing Corporation to Kakisa Lake and probably why there is not adequate housing to that community. Apparently, the allocation is done on a basis of need, that is, based on need study which is conducted in every community throughout the NWT.

The need studies are, in some people's opinions, relatively new exercises. Some are well conducted, thoroughly done with good credible people behind it. Other times the entire need study is completely disowned, even by the people that conducted it in the first place. It comes to the point that I am saying, that based on need studies is what we allocate housing on, and the needs in other communities. For instance, in places like Fort Good Hope, Fort Providence, the needs are much more severe in those communities than they are in Kakisa and so the allocations have been made to those communities on those bases. If the Member is suggesting that the need study is wrong then we could look at it. If there is an argument that in fact there is a critical or severe need for housing units in Kakisa then we should look at reallocating units from other communities to Kakisa. We would be prepared to look at that as well.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the last two years there has been housing allotted to Kakisa but it is all for new families. The houses that were built, on the average, have a life span of 25 years. The houses that were built in Kakisa were there in 1958 and those have never been replaced to date; none of them, except new houses going to new families. So I would like to say that to the Minister; also, yes, the need study needs to be improved.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to remind the House that the purpose of question period is to obtain information, not to provide it to the House. Oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question O73-88(2): Timing Of Response To Question O67-88(2)

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask another question to the Government Leader. I believe that he was going to provide me with an answer in the February budget session. With regard to my first question, Question O67-88(2), I would like to get an answer this time during our meeting because I believe the February session will be much too late if we wait until the February session. I wanted to find out if he can do this any sooner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated, I am not aware of any plans to do further work on the Lake Harbour airstrip in light of, what I consider the significant work that was done this summer. However, since I am acting for Mr. Wray and I am not fully familiar with this matter, I will undertake to see whether the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has any further plans for work on the airstrip in Lake Harbour and I will undertake to get an answer to the Member before the end of this session.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Your question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question O74-88(2): Tabling Of Report On Regional And Tribal Councils

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Government Leader is in the House today, I wanted to raise the issue of the report on the regional and tribal councils. I asked the same question on Monday to the Acting Government Leader but I have not had a response. Could I ask the Government Leader, when is he going to be tabling this particular report and the government's response to that particular report? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O74-88(2): Tabling Of Report On Regional And Tribal Councils

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that there has been an interest in receiving the report on the regional and tribal councils for some time and I have had the report since January of last year.

Mr. Speaker, Members of this Legislature know that the government is preparing, for tabling in this session, a comprehensive review of the very complicated matter of political and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories. Cabinet considered the matter carefully at its strategy session in June and decided that the role of regional and tribal councils, government organization, prime public authorities, and the issue of land claims institutions integrating with public government had to be considered in the broader context of political evolution in the Northwest Territories, rather than dealing with the specifics of one particular report on one issue.

Mr. Speaker, therefore I propose that the regional and tribal councils report should be discussed in the context of the political and constitutional development paper which will be tabled during this session and it would be an appropriate place and occasion in which to discuss the results of the cabinet's consideration of that regional and tribal councils review. So, Mr. Speaker, it will be tabled during this session and I would suggest it would be appropriately discussed along with the political and constitutional development paper. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O74-88(2): Tabling Of Report On Regional And Tribal Councils

MR. ZOE: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it appears that the government wants to delay this until the comprehensive report is done. I am wondering if I, through you, could ask the Minister if it would be possible to table the report itself now so that we have the opportunity to review it prior to the government responding to that particular report. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Further Return To Question O74-88(2): Tabling Of Report On Regional And Tribal Councils

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated, I do not think it would be helpful for us to consider that report in isolation. I think it should be considered in the context of the broader paper and so my inclination would be to ask the Member to have just a little bit more patience and examine the report in the light of our recommendations on the broader evolution of public government in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Question O75-88(2): Tabling Of Paper On Political And Constitutional Development In NWT

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, to the Government Leader. I would expect that the paper identified by the Government Leader, political and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories, will require some extended discussion and debate during this session. Has the government

now identified the date at which that paper will be placed before the House and the regional and tribal councils report tabled?

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

Return To Question O75-88(2): Tabling Of Paper On Political And Constitutional Development In NWT

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the honourable Member will agree that this subject of all the aspects of the political and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories, including the development of public government, the development of land claims institutions and their integration within public government, issues like division, the First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Rights and the whole question of aboriginal self-government is a complicated and interrelated series of subjects.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps we were overly ambitious in setting ourselves a deadline for tabling this report. In a few short months following our June strategy session I am pleased to report that work is well under way on the paper, Mr. Speaker, and we are certainly going to be able to table it this session.

To answer the Member's question specifically, I do not expect that we can table the report before the middle to latter part of next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O76-88(2): Criteria For Accessing Child Care Emergency Fund

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister responsible for Social Services. Since I expect that we will be discussing her statement on child care in the NWT, Ministers' Statement 7-88(2), as the first item of business in committee of the whole, might she provide this House, either at this moment or in committee of the whole, with the criteria for accessing the recently announced child care emergency fund?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O76-88(2): Criteria For Accessing Child Care Emergency Fund

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I am trying to recollect when I did announce the funding. I recall sending a letter to all the Members of the House indicating such a fund was going to be established. If I did not set in the criteria at that time, to the Members, I will be able to get Members a copy and provide the information to them.

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

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W10-88(2): Review Of Student Financial Assistance

MR. NERYSOO: Will the Minister responsible for Education provide this House with an update on the issue of the review of student financial assistance? Has the Minister conducted a review and what are the results of the review?

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question W11-88(2): Commercial Fisheries Development In The NWT

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Acting Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism inform this House, are there additional studies being conducted on commercial fisheries development in the NWT? Is the Great Slave fisheries study on alternative markets going to consider the possibilities of other regions throughout the NWT taking part in any new identified markets which may be identified by the report?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Written questions. Are there any further 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. Ms Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 29-88(2), NWT Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Annual Report for 1987-88, in English and Inuktitut. Thank you.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 30-88(2), a document from the Cape Dorset housing association. There has been an announcement in Cape Dorset that there will be a rental increase by the housing association in Cape Dorset. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 3-88(2), Establishment of a Public Service Commission, with Mr. Lewis. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 3-88(2): Establishment Of A Public Service Commission

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, my motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories is the only jurisdiction in Canada which exercises provincial or provincial-type authority over a public service but does not have a public service commission;

AND WHEREAS the current direct ministerial responsibility for the public service can lead to political interference in hiring, disciplinary and other practices;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Ernerk, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that a public service commission be established by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Your motion is in order. To your motion.

MR. LEWIS: Regarding the selection, development and fair treatment of our public service, I would table in this House a document outlining what is wrong with the current operation of the public service. After tabling this document I would then move it into committee of the whole for discussion by my colleagues. I promised that if the constant stream of personnel related issues that are brought to me are not reduced somewhat, by the winter session, and if current highly questionable practices are not stopped, I would begin tabling examples of how poorly we handle personnel matters in this government, and I will do it in that winter session. This is not a threat, Mr. Speaker, it is a promise which I intend to keep.

I have not developed a paper on the poor handling of personnel, Mr. Speaker, but the facts are contained in a large, in fact a very large, file in my office and they are very secure. I also have inherited some cases which Mr. Richard was working on before he became a Supreme Court judge. It would not take me long, Mr. Speaker, to put together such a paper outlining what the government is doing wrong in this very important area.

Continuing Concerns Regarding Personnel Procedures

You may ask, why is it that I am bringing this up today? I do it because I began my life in these Territories as a federal public servant and watched the transfer from one government to another government. For many, many years, about seven and a half, when I lived on Baffin Island, I was just as eloquent as my colleagues from Nunavut about the creation of what we called Nunatsiaq, when eventually they would get their own government and it would do all kinds of things that the federal government was doing wrong. But eventually, as a result of the Carrothers Commission it was decided that a government, a proper government, would be set up and the capital would be in Yellowknife. So for the past 14 years I have lived in this city and have enjoyed, for the most part, being a member of our public service.

So the reason I bring this up today is because I have grave concerns about the way we deal with the guts of government, the people that you depend on to do your work, to get the job done. And I am bringing it up, especially at this time in our session, because I continue to get these concerns brought to my office. I would like to find some way of getting them resolved in a better fashion than they are being resolved right now.

I believe it is for this reason that Mr. Ernerk also is interested in hearing the debate, the arguments if you like, as to why we should or should not develop such a public service commission because there are many people here who are interested in the development of government. I wonder why in 1967-68 we did not develop this part of government which everybody else has. We did not do that.

The problem, as I see, Mr. Speaker, in the whole personnel area is that we continue to treat the Department of Personnel as if it were any other government department. In no other jurisdiction in Canada is it treated as a department which can have its mandate and its direction changed just like that, overnight.

This government has failed to see that the quality of everything that it does will be determined by the quality of its public service. I know that some of you who have only seen political life and have not worked in the trenches so to speak, getting the work done on time by deadlines, with expectations that people work long hours and so on, have perhaps not much sympathy for the people that do this kind of work. But I would like to urge you to think about that because the direction that we are taking right now could very easily end up in us having the kind of public service that you find in other parts of the world. I am sure that some people who travel extensively would know exactly what I am talking about and that is exactly what we are going to get. We are going to get a public service which is not the quality public service that I am sure the people in Nunavut or Denendeh or whatever places are going to happen in the future, expect to have. They are going to want to have good service. They are going to want to have their work done in the way they say it should be done.

Political Control Of Department Of Personnel

Mr. Speaker, putting the operation of a public service under the direct supervision of a politically appointed person goes against every convention about the separation of the political and administrative activity of government. When my friend and colleague, Mr. Sibbeston, assumed direct responsibility for Personnel on January 1st, 1985, he took political control from a neutral, objective, independent Commissioner with no political favours to give to anyone and the Government of the NWT became the only jurisdiction in Canada to come under the unfettered control of a political person. It is clear to me, Mr. Speaker, from our questioning of the Minister of Personnel, for example in the standing committee on finance, that there is no clear understanding of what the mandate of Personnel is. It seems to me to boil down to the simple phrase, that it is whatever the Minister responsible for Personnel says it is. That is the kind of response that we got when we were beginning to ask various departments, what is your mandate, where do you get it from, what is your authority?

The Department of Personnel may have dozens of administrative guidelines but the Government of the NWT has provided it with a completely inadequate policy base. For example, again this happened in the standing committee on finance, the Minister was asked why he was seeking funds to implement an affirmative action policy, when no such policy existed. Government in almost every department, in writing, continues to refer to the affirmative action of this government as a policy thing. And yet as far as I can see, we are still awaiting the birth of that policy even though we have been funding it for some time. There is, Mr. Speaker, a native employment policy. There is not an affirmative action policy which deals with women, with the disabled and with other people who need affirmative action just as much as anybody else. At this stage, I do not want to go into rebuttal with the Government Leader, Mr. Speaker, but from time to time it may spice up the proceedings. I even enjoyed Mr. Sibbeston's interjection from this side.

Merit Principle Not Used In Hiring

The public service traditionally operates under the merit principle. People are hired primarily on their proven ability and capacity to do the job that you want to have done. This takes precedence over every other consideration in hiring. There is widespread evidence, Mr. Speaker, that this is not the basic principle that drives our public service as we see it today and that in my opinion is a very grave weakness of it.

There is a strong feeling that every type of abuse that can occur in a system where checks and balances are not in place, take place in this system and that the abuses, in fact, are excessive. In our public service at the moment there is no appearance of neutrality although Ministers enjoy the advantage of sticking their fingers into personnel matters. They have not yet understood, in my humble opinion, that the advantages of being unable to stick your fingers into a process far outweigh the disadvantages. This view is shared by many people in the union movement who, despite the grief that you cause some of their members, enjoy watching Ministers sink themselves deeper and deeper and deeper into the hole as they continue to do things that they are going to be criticized for, not by the few who will take advantage of what they have to offer, but by the thousands of others that do not like what they are doing. That is the basic principle. People on a widespread basis, people who are not that interested in the public service see people doing things that are wrong. Though you may be doing something to meet your own particular requirement at that time, you are damaging yourselves and you are damaging the process simply because by doing so you annoy far more people than you make happy. The public knows exactly who the culprit is. The union knows exactly who the culprit is. They will continue to point the finger and they will continue to allow you to dig your hole.

Mr. Speaker, there are dozens of charges of contract violations, unfair hiring, and I will explain what I mean by some of these words for the benefit of the interpreter. Patronage, by that I mean giving jobs to people because they are well connected, because they belong to this or they belong to that. Nepotism, by that I mean giving jobs to people because they may be friends or quite closely related. Scapegoatism, by that I mean getting rid of somebody simply because that is the easiest solution to your problem even though you have not proven that is your problem.

I did not get to pork barrelling yet. But I did not want to have the word "scapegoat" misinterpreted. It has nothing to do with goats. It has to do with a fact that you have a problem in your department and you say, "God, this is a big problem. Now who the hell can I nail for this one?" Bang, his head on the plate. That may not be the problem but that is the one that people see. "Wow, I have done something." That in my opinion, does that person an awful lot of harm. If you are just going to use scapegoatism as a tactic of government, people are not fooled by that. They look at it and say, "Wow, what a government!" What has that got to do with him. Sounds good, looks good. Bang!

--Laughter

Let me continue, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we have some order in the House? Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Cleverly disguised dismissals. One day there is a job there but there is no job any more. So because the job is not there, the guy has to go somewhere else. I know what it is called. You say, that person was doing the job but the job was no longer required so therefore we do not need the person. That is called a cleverly disguised dismissal. Unfair promotions, inadequate staff development programs, in many cases the Minister, and this is the real cruncher, the Minister who encourages the poor practices is the person who must judge whether the practice was poor or not. That is great. You tell somebody to do something that you know damn well is wrong, it is challenged and you look at it and say "Oh no, that is not wrong, that is right." That is a wonderful way of judging an action. What matters in this system at the moment is not whether something is right or wrong, but whether it fulfils the wishes of a politically appointed Minister. That is the criterion. It has nothing to do with fairness, objectivity, the concepts of right and wrong. Those a completely irrelevant.

Mr. Speaker, I have not completed my work on this problem. Perhaps not every Minister is guilty of all the charges that I have listed above but enough of you are, I believe, potentially guilty and I urge you to think about what you are doing.

Requirement To Study Mandates Of Public Service Commissions From Other Jurisdictions

To solve your problem, Mr. Speaker -- I should say, to solve the problem of this government, I believe that you should examine all of the acts which create public service commissions and decide exactly what mandate you would like it to have. For example, you may want to look at the federal government public service commission and say, "What have they got in there that we would like to have in ours?" They have, for example, the responsibility for bilingualism. It is a big thing in the public service commission to get people to learn French and English. There may be other provincial public service commissions that have the same responsibilities. Give your Department of Personnel a legal base, create an act, recognize that it is different from other departments that you have just decided that you want to have. By creating this public service commission you will allow the rest of us to decide the way it should be. Mr. Ernerk's committee on legislation will have a chance to look at this public service commission act, what is being created by it and what you would like this public service commission to do. At the moment, you are doing what you want to do, not what all of us would like to see happen for the benefit of the the Territories.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that you do not need massive changes. You have got all kinds of people doing work but you have to give them a legal base under which they can operate. Hire a chairman. You do not have to have a whole bunch as big as the Workers' Compensation Board. I would suggest that you give this person a job for five years, not someone you can fire just because he does not answer your call when you want to hire somebody. You should hire somebody like a judge, somebody who would, in fact, operate on the same principles that a judge does. Get two other commissioners, maybe one for the East and one for the West. Older, wiser people, maybe, who could look at someone and be objective.

That, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, should be the next step that we take in the development of our government. There has been a great reluctance and I must repeat, Mr. Speaker, that this is not something that I am introducing into this House for any personal motivation. I am not in the public service but there are many people in the public service and many people outside it who are concerned about the things that they see going on and they are the majority. The majority of the cases that are brought to me as an MLA, relate to the operation of our public service. People are not happy. It may be that it happens in other places. I will soon find out if there are any other comments that have to be made.

Mr. Speaker, I really believe that the time is right. That we have to do something to give this department a different kind of framework to operate from than other departments in government. It has to be like a commission where there is some degree of objectivity. It would be more neutral and Ministers, I am sure, in the long run, would be glad that that happened because you are not going to feel pushed, threatened and bullied into trying to do things for political reasons. You can say, "No, I am sorry"...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, your 20 minutes are up. I am sorry, Mr. Lewis, your time is up. The seconder to the motion, Mr. Ernerk. Would you like to speak to the motion?

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Lewis, you speak too much. My remarks will be very short, Mr. Speaker, as the seconder of the motion. I believe that one day we will have Nunavut in place in the Eastern Arctic. One of the things that I often talk about, I often speak about whether it is in boardrooms or whether it is in public, is the issue of training. Training management, these kinds of things.

In particular, I speak about native people in the Eastern Arctic, Inuit, taking on training positions, positions of responsibility within all areas of work, whether it be with the government. Recognizing the fact that the Government of the Northwest Territories is a major employer, I often speak about the fact that the Inuit of the Eastern Arctic should be given the positions of responsibility, should be trained to take on management positions.

In 1988 the Corpus Almanac and Canadian Source Book, Volume II, under the Civil Service Commission of Ontario, indicates that the Public Service Act and the regulations and policies established thereunder provide the framework for selection, training and development, classification and compensation, pay and benefits in the public service.

I took a particular interest in the training section of this almanac. In supporting this motion, Mr. Speaker, I think when I talk about supporting the motion, I am particularly talking about planning for the Nunavut territory. One day I believe that Nunavut will be a reality and the fact is that we must train the native people of the Eastern Arctic to take on positions of responsibility. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. To the motion. Mr. Sibbeston.

Civil Servants In Hands Of Elected People

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the issue of whether this government should develop a public service commission is one that I faced when I was briefly the Minister of Personnel and you will recall that in terms of significance of departments, in terms of significant effect that elected people can have on the government, it is that of the personnel. This is the last department that the Commissioner held although he was still in power, as it were. So, the significance and importance of having our civil servants in the hands of elected people is just fundamentally so important that I feel that things should stay the way they are and must not go down the road of establishing a public service commission.

I know that there was some talk, when I was Minister of Personnel a number of years ago, about the possibility or the desirability of establishing a public service commission and in all fairness, I guess, to that argument or to that point of view, I did have my officials look into what was a

public service commission and what was the state of public service commissions throughout Canada. I think the route or the background or history of governments in terms of hiring its civil servants is that at one time many of the provinces did establish large public service commissions but over the course of years there has been a movement away from that approach to life, to a much smaller entity that deals with hiring of civil servants. So I was persuaded at the time that it was not in the interests of the people of the North to establish a public service commission.

Just having recently received the responsibility for personnel, no elected person would now want to give it back to a non-elected person, I think. We have spent 20, 30, 40, 50 years in the North here having the matter of personnel in the hands of non-elected people. Now that we have the ability, the power, to hire people we surely should not give it back to some entity that is not elected.

So, I feel most comfortable with a Minister of Personnel that is accountable to us here in the Assembly for the matter of hiring people. The North is a unique situation in that the majority of people in the North are native people, and we have a majority of government civil servants who are not native people. We have that unique situation, and I think all fair-minded persons in the North recognize that this situation is not acceptable and there has been a gradual, slow progress toward making the civil service representative fully of the people in the North.

Process Speeded Up Recently

There have been quiet changes, and this process has been speeded up in the last four years, and this process, a matter of more native people in the civil service, has really only speeded up, I think, since an elected Minister has been responsible for the Department of Personnel. In the last four or five years, there have been special programs of affirmative action and there has been a native employment policy, which I think has been very effective. There has been emphasis on education and training.

It is generally recognized that whereas it is desirable to have native people in the public service, they must be trained and have the skills. So there has been an emphasis on making this possible, and I think everybody is pleased with the progress that is being made. Also, there had to be a change in the attitude of civil servants and I think this is slowly occurring, where there is much more openness in the public service to having more native people come in.

So, Mr. Speaker, I feel that the lot of the native people in the North is best in the hands of an elected Minister who is accountable to our Assembly, and a Minister who is personally committed to raise the number of native people in our civil service. In my view, if we were to establish a public service commission, this would set back the progress that we have been making to date.

A public service commission I see as a cumbersome kind of body. We have so many bodies in the NWT. To me a public service commission is just like you are too afraid, you are too chicken, to deal with the issues, so give it to an entity that is somehow apolitical and away from us, so that nobody can be blamed -- setting up a public service commission is doing that; it is not really dealing with the situation first-hand -- or you are afraid of the progress that has been made. Also, you now want to make it less effective and put it into a body that can take the blame. So, in my view, it is a derogation, a step down, from the political progress that we have been making in the last few years.

Public Service Commission Cumberstone

In my view, if a public service commission was established it would, of course, have to have rigid guidelines and so forth, and everything would be so time-consuming and slow, and rigid in terms of the rules that must be followed, and it would be very difficult to apply to the northern situation where sometimes you need immediate answers and you need special local considerations. So this cumbersome public service commission would simply not work. Just because it is working in the South does not mean that it will necessarily work in the North. In my view, this public service commission would find it very difficult to deal with local situations, because in the North

we often try to accommodate people, to make the best of situations, instead of always going by formal qualifications, and so forth. So, in my view, a public service commission would simply bog down and find it very difficult to operate effectively and properly in a local setting.

Mr. Speaker, I do think that the matter of the public service in the North is one that requires an elected Minister to deal with. It takes personal commitment, it takes guts sometimes, but it is one that I think this government can do. I know that when I was Minister of Personnel I certainly did my part, anyway, to be sure that native people were employed. It means sometimes challenging the unions. Of course, it is in their best interests to keep the status quo and to keep the rules in place that have been there for the last few years. It means challenging the status quo in terms of the civil servants, and I know that it takes a lot of personal commitment to make changes in the North. I do not want to talk about myself, but I know that when I was Minister of Personnel I went to all of the regions to personally deal with all of the Personnel people and tell them, encourage them, to be sure that they hired native people. And it takes that kind of personal commitment in order to make the changes that we want.

Things in the North did not really get moving in this area until we also set up the equal employment secretariat, and we had to remove it from the Personnel department. We had to make a special body in our government that dealt solely with the employment of native people. It takes that kind of special effort, special provision as it were, in order to accomplish what we want here in the North. And now to just wipe all that out, and set up this big elusive kind of nameless, faceless body, in my view, would be detrimental to the progress that we have made so far in the North.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just want to encourage Members to not support the motion. It sounds all very good in some respects, but in my view it is not in the best interests of the people of the North at this stage, particularly the native people of the North, to have a public service commission set up. So I hope Members will vote against the motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. McLaughlin, to the motion.

Matter Of Public Service Commission Raised Previously

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak in support of this motion. When I was first elected to the Assembly, this issue came up, raised by a previous Member of this Assembly on several occasions and I was against a public service commission then because of what I had heard about them and how intransigent they were. Mr. Sibbeston is correct, there have been some mistakes in the provinces where the commissions have become too big, too unwieldy and too difficult to deal with, but, while I was a Minister, I saw something developing that caused me to reconsider and now support the idea that a commission should be put in place.

What I saw was a policy that this Assembly wanted, and that the cabinet wanted, which was an affirmative action policy then specifically for native people, a native hiring policy. We wanted it done. There were civil servants who were in charge of doing the hiring who did not agree with it and did not want to do it. The Ministers then had to step in and make sure that what we wanted done, and what the cabinet wanted done, was done. If you would have had a commission in place -- and I say a politically appointed commission because that is what it is, because the cabinet will appoint these people -- and if this motion does pass I strongly urge the cabinet to put very few civil servants on the civil service commission, maybe none, except to act as officials for it.

We have a Workers' Compensation Board appointed by this Assembly and if it does not do what we want we can change those members and then they will do what we want. We have a Northwest Territories Power Corporation that has members on it that the cabinet appoints, and if those people are not doing what the cabinet wants they will get rid of them, they will appoint new ones, because that is what politics is about. If you do not have people on your boards and commissions doing what you want, following your policies, you get rid of them.

Tribunal In Each Region

So I think what we should do is consider having a commission in place -- and I would not want a big unwieldy commission -- maybe we should just have a small tribunal of three people in each region to serve an initial appeal process and then an appeal for the whole Northwest Territories, maybe made up of the chairman of each of those regional tribunals, to strictly deal with appeals. I do not think that every single appointment that is made has to go through the process, but I would like to see some sort of an appeal process.

What the problem is right now, and Mr. Sibbeston had to do it, and Mr. Wray had to do it, Mr. Pedersen had to do it, is get in there once in a while and make sure that what we as an Assembly supported, what the cabinet supported, which was a native hiring policy, was done. I have heard civil servants and other people who have applied for jobs tell me that when they went to apply for this new, better position or for the first one with our government, "Oh, forget it, you are not the right colour; you will never get it." Now that is not something that anybody in this Assembly is saying should be done or anybody in the cabinet is saying be done but there are people in our civil service who do not want to do what we are doing and once they were made to do it they are painting the worst picture of it.

Every single native student who graduates from our high school system can get a job with our government and we would not take any jobs away from anyone else in the Territories because we have a bigger vacancy rate than our present education produces in the way of native people. So we do not have to worry about that. I think that when people put up those types of arguments they are wrong.

Commission To Respond To Political Policy Directions

What I am saying is that we need a commission that responds to the political policy directions made by this House and the cabinet, that will consistently and fairly and continually follow the same rules under the policies that they are given, and if you do not think they are following the policies then you get new people who will. So I have turned completely around on this. I do not think the present Minister of Personnel or anyone else should have to wade in there and deal with all the cases that come up. I think she should be able to set a policy and if she does not think the policy is being carried out, she should be able to recommend to the cabinet to pick a new chairman for the commission and some new commissioners and then our policies will be followed. So I make the opposite argument from Mr. Sibbeston. I think the public service commission will make things like affirmative action work better and more consistently.

I would like to urge Members to vote in favour of this motion which is only to get the Executive to strongly consider doing this. It is not making them do it. I would like them to really consider doing this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to participate in this debate and I will not vote on this motion. However, Mr. Speaker, I do wish to make a few comments. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, who moved this motion, say that he is not in any way biased by his own experience in the public service; that he is trying to look at this in an objective manner.

Serious Charges By Honourable Member

But, Mr. Speaker, I was quite frankly astonished by the extreme language and the serious charges the honourable Member has made against Ministers that, Members will note, he did not choose to name. Now, Mr. Speaker, this may be great for press coverage and I am sure the honourable Member, by use of words like scapegoatism and nepotism and patronage has undoubtedly earned a good 10 second clip, maybe 15, on the 5:30 p.m. news. Probably the first item. But Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable Members in this Legislature really believe the extreme views

presented by the honourable Member, that our civil service is not hired on the basis of merit. And that was the statement that the honourable Member made, I noted: that merit is not the basic principle driving our public service.

Now Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious charge and Members of this Legislature have a lot to do with public servants, probably a lot more to do with public servants than the average person. Members of the Legislature are asking them for information and dealing with them all the time. Mr. Speaker, I really wonder whether Members of this Legislative Assembly, if they think about the public servants that they deal with, believe that they were all hired for some other reason than their competence; that they were hired because they were a buddy of a Minister or because they had connections. The honourable Member did not mention bribery but I was surprised that he did not mention bribery today.

I am very concerned, Mr. Speaker, about the smear of dirt the honourable Member has thrown on the entire public service with his comments today. I am frankly surprised, Mr. Speaker, that a Member with so many public servants in his own constituency, probably a higher proportion of public servants than most other Members have in their constituencies, would suggest as he has done today that they were not hired on merit, that they were hired for some other foul reason.

Mr. Speaker, there are undoubtedly arguments in favour of the creation of a public service commission and undoubtedly there are some arguments against but I am quite frankly surprised that the honourable Member has chosen such extreme language and such, I think, exaggerated language to make his case. I am amazed that the honourable Member, who has himself been a long-standing member of the public service of the Government of the NWT, should compare our public service with that of a Third World "banana republic", which he did in his speech, suggesting that this is a nest of corruption, patronage, nepotism. I think this is an insult to our public servants and I do not think most Members of this Legislature believe that this is the basis on which our public servants are hired.

Not All Hiring And Firing Decisions Perfect

Now, Mr. Speaker, not all public servants perform adequately. I am sure that not all hiring and firing decisions are perfect. These are subjective matters. It is a very difficult job. The Minister of Personnel and the Department of Personnel have a very difficult job. But these alarmist, hysterical views, in my opinion and with my experience with public servants, are not at all fair to the large number of capable and devoted public servants -- an increasingly large number of whom are native people -- who live in the Member's constituency and who live elsewhere in the NWT. They certainly were not represented by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre in his speech today.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that by and large we have a public service of the highest calibre and while it is not appropriate for me to vote on this motion and I do not intend to vote on it, I do thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak up for our public service and the method of their hiring and management by the Department of Personnel and their Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Personnel, I certainly would like to comment on the motion placed forth by the Member for Yellowknife Centre. I certainly do not intend to be defensive or whatnot, of his motion. However, I do want to make a few comments on it.

Process For Amending Legislation May Be Lengthy

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the process to implement a public service commission would basically entail changes to our Public Service Act. And as you are aware, the process for amending the legislation in the Public Service Act could be a lengthy process because we are all

aware as Members that change to any legislation has to be approved by this House. Should it be the direction of the Executive Council to consider options for the establishment of a public service commission, a review of the Public Service Act has to be done. Basically this is what I was trying to indicate to the Member when he recently asked me questions in regard to the establishment of a public service commission.

I indicated to him that it was under review, looking at the act to see what would have to be changed, what would have to be proposed for changes. And then it would have to be considered for cabinet's approval or disapproval. I guess I would like to indicate to the Member that, assuming the Executive Council approved the legislative changes, the drafting would have to be done and the process of consulting would have to take place to ensure that the various interests in such amending legislation are taken into consideration. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, changes to the legislation could take anywhere up to 18 months with the process which we have in place in this House. It could be presented to this House to give priority consideration for legislative changes earlier than that.

I basically want to clarify for the Members what the current Public Service Act provides clarification in regard to the management of the public service, free from political interference as the Member had charged. Any direct appointments to positions in the public service require the recommendation of the Executive Council and require the approval of the Executive Council. The bargaining unit employees, have the right to appeal such appointments to bargaining unit positions. Also employees who are unsuccessful on the competition process have a right to appeal, ensuring that their opportunity for promotion and advancement are not affected.

Rights And Processes Would Not Necessarily Change

These rights and processes would not necessarily change under a public service commission. The only change would have to be the right to be an appointed official as opposed to a Minister, as the Member had indicated. I would like to point out that in the short time that I have been the Minister responsible for Personnel, no doubt I believe all Ministers have on occasion received complaints from non-government employees who have been unsuccessful in their efforts to seek government jobs. We all recognize and realize these territorial citizens do not have any formal rights in our existing process. And while they have no formal rights under our Public Service Act or our process, I want to assure that all complaints are investigated, that in the recruitment process, all applicants are treated fairly and equitably in accordance to the government's policies and procedures, and that they are free from discrimination as the Member had so charged.

I want to assure the House that I certainly intend to maintain with the Department of Personnel, the highest level possible in the management of public service, and to continue the consideration of whether or not to recommend to the Executive colleagues regarding the proposal for the establishment of a public service commission regardless of the outcome of this motion. However, I want to reiterate current legislation policy and procedures provide for the rights and protection of employees and others who are seeking jobs.

I further want to comment on some of the unnecessary comments that the supposedly honourable Member had expressed. I had expressed those concerns earlier this year prior to myself becoming Minister of Personnel. It was this House that encouraged the government to adopt an affirmative action policy and it was my concern at that time that it was the implementation of the policy that often causes a lot of the concerns that I am sure the Member is expressing today. I said then and I say today again, we can have a policy in place but it is the attitude of management with this government, unless it changes, on the way they implement the policy and the way they explain the policy. It will always cause problems and probably always cause concerns to be expressed to any Member of this House.

Native Employment Policy

The native employment policy is part of the affirmative action that was intended by this House, that the Member referred to. It does give certain preference of the government to try to hire native people, recognizing that when this policy was proposed and adopted by this House, 25 per cent of our civil servants were native. Today, 31 per cent of our civil servants are native and the policy was adopted with the goal to try to achieve 51 per cent. We are still quite a way away from that goal and we still have a long way to go. However, I still do not believe the comments that a person being native is the reasoning for hiring individuals in the Territories.

As I indicated, I believe it is just the attitude and maybe its resentment for some having to implement the policy. And I believe we as a government are going to have to try to implement that policy in a more positive approach. I know that in the short time that I have been the Minister of Personnel I have expressed that concern to my department and I really do not know what changes a public service commission is going to make. I have not been able to thoroughly review the pros and cons of a public service commission.

Change Cannot Be Made Quickly

However, I did want to indicate to the Member that for the public service commission to be established, legislation has to be changed and we cannot change legislation in the matter of one session or as quickly as he had initially anticipated. It is very hopeful that legislation could be changed in a year but generally the way the government works -- I have come to quickly recognize at times the wheels of government move very slowly -- it could take up to 18 months to change legislation in order to accommodate the Member's wishes. I just wanted to make sure that Members were clarified on the process of establishing a commission and that a commission cannot be set up by the next session, as I am sure the Member would want to be implemented. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. To the motion. Are there any Members who would like to speak to the motion? Mr. Lewis, you have the last say.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just to make this a little personal, which I promised not to do, but it is on another issue, not related. In the Minister of Personnel's town in 1972, May 10th, I met Mr. Stephen Kakfwi. In fact, he was playing hooky from one of his classes. I took over the teacher education program in Fort Smith at that time. That was one of the very early attempts to get people from the Territories into a profession, into a teaching profession. It was tough. What I found, at that time, was this -- maybe the Minister, in his thinking, the current Minister of Education, in his thinking, may remember that.

One of the things that the northern native people wanted was an assurance that when they took teacher training they were going to be able to be regarded as teachers just like everybody else. No difference. That was an ongoing concern that in everything you do, you really have to have the feeling that what you are doing is of a good standard and a good quality. It was with some reluctance, years later, that we broke away from the University of Alberta because there was some fear that the perception would be that it was not a real program, that the teachers produced would not be real teachers.

A second example, from my own experience. I visited the Kativik school board in Quebec when they took over responsibility as an independent board and when I talked to Mark Gordon asking him if I could talk to one of the young people who had been hired to do a certain job, Mark said, "Well, he has quit." So, I went looking for this young man and I spent about an hour talking to him and in the end he said, "The reason why I quit was because I did not know what my job was. I have been there for a week and I still do not know what it is. So I have had it, I am finished." The point I am trying to make, Mr. Speaker, is that I really believe that the government program on affirmative action, the native employment policy, would be better handled and more successful if you had it, not under individual Ministers but under a legal body, under an act, which has a legal responsibility to do things.

Ministers on the other side, the other part, probably do not do this but just imagine in a group Mr. So and So wants to have, person X wants to have a road built and you say, "Well, all I have got is the Department of Personnel. What can I do for you?" "Well, you can fire person X because he has been getting under my skin for a number of years." That, I am sure, is not an example of the kind of thing that happens right now because it is not on my list. I did not talk about free trade but that is potentially possible under the current system. A Minister could say, "Look, I will do this for you if you do this for me." That is the way life is and I would like to avoid that.

Legal Body With Clear Mandate

I would like to have something where what we want to do in this House would be achieved legally, under a legal body which has a clear mandate to do what we want to have done. I honestly believe that all of the things for future Nunavut, for Denendeh would be better achieved if you do things in the way that does not have all this political interference.

My final comment, if I may, Mr. Speaker, in response to the Government Leader through you. The kind of comment that Mr. Patterson made is exactly the kind of comment I would expect from a person to whom the chairman of a public service commission would, in fact, report. In every other jurisdiction it is to the board, the chairman of the board of management, or the cabinet, that this chairman of the public service commission reports because the Minister, the chief Minister, premier, that person if anybody, wants to have the very best public service possible. That is the person who has to be neutral and make sure that things are going right.

Mr. Sibbeston was right that he should have taken over that responsibility, but it is wrong to put that responsibility, with due respect, Mr. Speaker, into the hands of an activist. It has to be in the hands of a person who will exercise responsibility for a good, solid, sound public service.

In wrapping up, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that I am bringing this here because all the people I have known for many years in the public service, have brought it to me. They see the kinds of things which establish a good beginning of a public service potentially being diminished because of this principle of this merit not being observed in the way that they think it should be. There is an erosion, if you like, of the public service because we are not doing things right. So, I have got no fear about the public service of Yellowknife getting on my back because it was they that brought it to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion 3-88(2): Establishment Of A Public Service Commission, Carried

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The establishment of a public service commission. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you. This motion is carried.

---Carried

Motion 4-88(2), Tabled Document 10-88(2), with Mr. Arlooktoo.

Motion 4-88(2): Tabled Document 10-88(2) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this motion I am going to put Tabled Document 10-88(2) into committee of the whole:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that Tabled Document 10-88(2), titled "Public Housing Rent Scale Discussion Paper" be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For the benefit of the public and the Members I will read this in English: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that Tabled Document 10-88(2),

titled "Public Housing Rent Scale Discussion Paper" be moved into committee of the whole for discussion. Mr. Arlooktoo, your motion is in order. Mr. Arlooktoo, do you wish to speak to your motion?

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have a comment to make at this time, but when we move into committee of the whole I will have comments to make. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed? This motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. Motion 5-88(2), Tabled Document 11-88(2), to the committee of the whole. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Motion 5-88(2): Tabled Document 11-88(2) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that Tabled Document 11-88(2) titled "NWT Housing Corporation Rent Scale" be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed? This motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. Motion 6-88(2), Tabled Document 16-88(2) to committee of the whole. Mr. Lewis.

Motion 6-88(2): Tabled Document 16-88(2) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Tabled Document 16-88(2) titled "CP Press Release on Free Trade Agreement" be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Your seconder is not in the House. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed? This motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. 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: Committee Report 1-88(2), Standing Committee on Legislation; Tabled Document 2-88(2), An Enabling Agreement Between the Government of Canada and the Government of the NWT Respecting Oil and Gas Resource Management and Revenues; Ministers' Statement 7-88(2), Child Care; Bill 2-88(2), Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act and Bill 6-88(2), Education Act; Tabled Document 15-88(2), The Canada - US Free Trade Agreement: Review of Implications for the NWT; Tabled Document 21-88(2), A New Economic Development Policy for the North? Impact of the Canada - US Agreement; and Tabled Documents 16-88(2), 10-88(2) and 11-88(2), with Mr. Zoe in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER MINISTERS' STATEMENT 7-88(2), CHILD CARE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I would like to call the committee to order. When the committee comes back from a short recess, after I call for a short break, which items would the committee like to consider first? Mr. Government House Leader.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, in discussions with Mr. Butters, we will do child care first.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree that the first item of business in committee of the whole will be child care? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. With that we will take a few minutes recess.

---SHORT RECESS

Ministers' Statement 7-88(2): Child Care

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We are dealing with the Minister of Social Services, Ministers' Statement 7-88(2) on Child Care. Do Members require any extra copies of the Ministers' statement? Would the Minister like to make her opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have, briefly, a few opening remarks to make indicating to the Members, as I had stated in my Ministers' statement, how we as a government had anticipated the federal bill to be passed. If the bill had been passed as we had anticipated our child care program would have been delivered on a cost sharing basis and I am sure every other jurisdiction in Canada had felt this in this manner. However, once the election was called, the bill did not pass through the House, therefore there is no commitment that the federal government has in place to cost share any child care programs.

As I had indicated in my statement, the government recognizes the need to support a child care program. However, any implementation of this type of program would be as an interim measure and I would like to clarify the interim measure. It is until the federal government comes up with another bill and passes it through their legislation. I would anticipate, if we do decide to implement a program, it may jeopardize our negotiations if we have a program in place and this is why I would like to clarify that the proposed program that we are looking at implementing is an interim child care program.

At the same time, I would like to clarify to the Members that I have requested that the Department of Social Services, with the participation of the Women's Secretariat, look at developing a comprehensive child care program for the NWT. I would like to explain a comprehensive child care program.

Initially the federal bill referred to cost sharing on the formal system and the formal system is basically cost sharing any child care programs, generally the day-care system. As a Minister I recognize the majority of child care that is delivered in the NWT is done through the informal system and I expressed that concern when I attended one of the conferences of Ministers responsible for Social Services this past summer. Recognizing that, in the event the bill was passed we wanted to determine how much of the informal system we as a government would have to absorb. This is why I indicated in my statement that my department was placed in an awkward position when the bill did not pass.

However, with the program that we are anticipating to be developed, I want to ensure that it takes into account a somewhat comprehensive program. I believe the government fully supports, and I recognize the interest from the honourable Members on this issue and have indication that they also support, a program for child care. This afternoon, I basically want to listen to the comments from the Members expressing their concerns on child care and I am open to suggestions that may be useful to my department. I have tried to keep the Members up-to-date on our developments on delivering such a program.

Child Care Emergency Fund

This past fall when we implemented and announced a child care emergency fund, that particular emergency fund was to address the needs of existing day-cares because this government passed a set of regulations to come into effect as of July 1, 1988. Funding was developed by contacting the different day-care centres and trying to determine how much money they needed. The payment directive was looked at as a grant contribution, and since the funding was introduced, the department has received nine applications from day-care operators for funding. They have issued funds to four programs and they are dealing with the others as quickly as they can.

The emergency grant program is to assist, as I had indicated, the current day-care operators and it is a step in trying to help with the child care problem although I recognize it is not as giant a step as we had all probably hoped for. I indicated, I believe, this spring when I presented the budget, that there was no funding for day-care and that the only funding we had available in the program was under the Canada Assistance Program which is under the auspices of social assistance.

I believe the interim program that we anticipate to implement in the spring or bring forth in the budget session will certainly try to address the day-care issue. I would basically like to clarify our position as to why we are addressing this as an interim measure for the delivery of a child care program in the North and also trying to stress the need for a comprehensive child care program in the North. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Butters.

Day-Care Promises

MR. BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the news this morning we heard the first salvo in day-care promises to Canada as Mr. Broadbent announced the day-care policy of his party, in Yellowknife yesterday evening. As I recollect, he identified requirement for 2000 spaces in the Territories. I think he said that there was a severe and critical situation regarding the lack of such spaces in the NWT and indicated there were in existence only some 300 spaces. He also suggested, I believe, that the cost sharing arrangement that his party would put forward, would be a 20/80 split and that people would pay for that service in accordance with their incomes. Obviously there will be other parties in with their particular policies and enticements to voters.

It would seem to me that there should be a very fertile field following this election for negotiations and for obtaining a very good arrangement with the federal government. In the budget session the Minister did respond to questions from the ordinary Members and we gave her every support in her initiatives in the negotiating situation we had hoped she would find herself.

Members, I think, as I did, received a copy of her statement and press release mid-summer when she announced the emergency funding program. Part of that statement was her indication that she expected to be with her officials in September negotiating the arrangements with the federal government. Regrettably, as she mentioned, that situation did not occur and has thrown the persons in the Territories who are presently availing themselves of the limited existing service and those who would avail themselves of such service if it did exist, in a high degree of anxiety and a desire for some positive resolution of this particular problem. We welcome the Minister's steps to establish the emergency program. I know that she has responded with that program to day-care organizations in my constituency. We look with interest to seeing and learning the specifics of the program in which she announced, a few days ago, the interim day-care program.

Needs Profile Of Day-Care Requirements

Might the Minister be able to answer questions I put to people in my constituency relative to their day-care needs? Is there in existence a needs profile of day-care requirements in all of our communities? Has such a needs study ever been done? I ask this because when I put the question to people in Inuvik seeking day-care support, they did not have that information. Politicians, as we are, have to deal with the reality. We have to deal with facts. Mr. Broadbent said 2000 but I do not know where he gets that figure. Is that a figure which the Minister has collected from a summation of all the needs studies of all our communities? Does such a needs study exist?

Obviously, there will be the need of single parents, female and male, who have children they wish to place in child care situations. There is also a need that should be identified, Mr. Chairman, for those others who wish to stay home with their children and whose choice in so doing robs them of the opportunity of participating in the labour force. I would like to know just how many women

are in that latter category. I would also like to know how many women have -- while they may be able to manage families of a certain size, they may have one or two children which, for their own mental health, should be placed in a day-care situation so the mother could look after the remainder of the family without undue stress.

So, basically, my question relates to what do we know about the actual needs for day-care in the Northwest Territories and in the communities of the Northwest Territories. Can you give me a profile of the need in my community?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

No Recent Study

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A needs study, as the Member is referring to, particularly only for day-care, there has not been one done just recently. However, I recall the NWT Child Care Association did some study some time ago to determine the need for or to indicate how many people needed child care. In regard to the actual study for how many existing day-care spaces we need in the North, for a recent study to be completed is not available. I guess I can indicate to the Member that the department has been working quite closely with the Women's Secretariat in determining the different needs and anticipating child care centres that there are in the North.

I also want to indicate to the Members of this House that there are child care spaces available, 300 child care spaces available, and the majority of these available child care spaces are through charity leases and what not, provided by our government. So, there are different ways that we as a government support child care, there is just no particular program for the delivery of child care.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Inuvik.

Hard Data Needed For Negotiation

MR. BUTTERS: I understand the Minister to be indicating that hard data on the current need does not exist either within government research files or studies nor from studies that other agencies may have carried out. Would the Minister agree that a hard negotiating position by this government on behalf of the parents of the Northwest Territories who require day-care would be best put to the federal government if we had information that would permit her to sit down with the federal Minister and indicate that globally we need so many day-care places? There are the wages that people are receiving, the costs associated with their living and paying for day-care services. In short, a full and total understanding of the current situation as it impinges upon those who require day-care services. If she would agree to that, I wonder if she might indicate how she expects that information would be obtained and how quickly it might be obtained.

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

Various Attempts To Determine Need

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you. I was just thinking, I should not have indicated that there was no needs study. There have been various attempts to try to determine how many child care spaces we may anticipate but the difficulty in being able to come to a specific number is also in trying to retrieve the number of people that utilize the informal system. In the event there is a day-care program, how many will decide to utilize the day-care program that are now utilizing the informal system?

However, there have been different attempts to achieve the information that the Member is discussing. I know with the GNWT, I believe in September there was some type of questionnaire

in regards to child care and utilization or the need for child care, in the pay envelopes, and there have been various studies. However, it is difficult to keep an updated study on specifically what type of program is in place to be able to address what we need in the Territories. It is generally a "guesstimate" approach on the need. Thank you.

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

MR. BUTTERS: I have other questions, but I would like to put just one more to the Minister before I relinquish the microphone to other Members. The figure of 300 spaces currently available has been raised, both yesterday and today. Is the Minister aware how many children are actually cared for in individuals' homes, by babysitters? We talk about 300 spaces, but how many children would also be receiving care in other ways?

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

Number Of Children Cared For In Homes

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you. The 300 child care spaces basically came about in attempting to retrieve that material from existing day-care centres. How many children are currently being looked after on the informal system has been a difficult number to obtain, unless the person is willing to give us those figures. And this is why I had indicated that the NWT association had conducted a survey. I recall getting a letter myself a couple of years ago although at that time, as a parent I had always felt child care was my responsibility and I did not reply to that particular study. So therefore it makes me wonder how many other parents did not, because we did not have any program in place. I do not think we are going to be able to get an accurate count until we probably have a program in place and then probably anticipate people to utilize the program. We are basically taking what we have from statistics that are given to us by this government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I just have one concern. In the communities where the population is less than 1000 there is that concern over jobs. Most of the people that do have jobs do have spinoff of other jobs such as babysitting, and that is a source of income for some of the women in the smaller communities. I would assume that the direction that is taken by this government would also take those into consideration so that perhaps single working parents would be given some sort of a subsidy for child care to pay their babysitter, rather than establishing a great big facility for caring for children.

I thought I would bring that to the attention of the Minister because it is a concern to me. Certainly it might also mean that the negative opposite is that, if there are more jobs in Yellowknife, and the facility is here, that means we might lose more people in the smaller communities to major centres. That is another concern I also have. Perhaps, what is in existence now in the communities is not bad, but I believe the urgency is in the major communities where there is that need. But, Mr. Chairman, you must also realize that this government has also gotten out of the business of job creation programs, so the big issue out there in the small communities -- perhaps it is not child care, but jobs. Thank you.

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

Comprehensive Child Care Policy To Look At All Aspects

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: No, Mr. Chairman, I believe that is why I want to stress to Members that it is taking some time to develop a comprehensive child care policy to make sure that we look at all these different aspects. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take particular interest in this issue of day-care facilities and day-care programs in the NWT, because it has to be one of the most important aspects of life as we try to provide better programs for the children, for the working people. I guess for openers I should say that I continue to hear the press releases of government that their major responsibility is to provide the highest level of quality of service to the people of the NWT. Every press release says that, on various issues, whether it is on training, whether it is on women's issues, whether it is on day-care. But the programs that the government provides for the people of the NWT, especially in this very important one, say otherwise.

In Rankin Inlet, for example, ever since I have been in Rankin since 1979, the Rankin Inlet day-care facility centre moved five times, once to a building that was condemned by the fire marshal of the NWT. Presently we have 18 children in Rankin Inlet and they are now situated in the main floor of a suspended basement house and upstairs is a safe house. So I guess when we are talking about space, we are basically talking about spaces that are not at all acceptable to the number of children that we have in the communities. We have to start talking about adequate space in every community.

I also heard the remarks of Mr. Broadbent this morning in which he indicated that we need 2000 spaces across the NWT, and we have about 300 spaces. To me this issue of day-care space is one of urgent items on the table. It is urgent in the sense that we have to be able to provide those people, especially those people who want to take a certain career in life, people who want to work, people who want to be trained to some things -- and we are not providing that kind of opportunity to them basically because we do not have proper programs for our children across the NWT.

Poor Quality Of Service In Rankin Inlet

Rankin Inlet has to be one of the examples of the poor quality of service that the Government of the NWT is providing, contrary to their stated philosophy that they will provide the highest level of quality of service. Day-care has to be one of the most important issues to deal with right across the NWT. It is something that we should take a look at as quickly as we can.

Before I get into the other issue I wonder if I could just read one or two paragraphs in some of the letters that I have received in the past.

This one from Rankin Inlet indicates that, "As a resident of the NWT and a concerned citizen, I wish to express my concern that child care programs across the North are facing serious financial difficulties and impending closures. The possibility that quality care will soon not be available has become a reality and demands government action in the form of immediate financial assistance. The Government of the NWT has taken an important first step in developing child care standards but now it must ensure that funding is also provided to enable child care operations to continue offering quality programs and care. Territorial funds must be allocated in the budget regardless of the status of cost sharing negotiations with the federal government." That same letter was signed by a number of other people from Rankin Inlet.

Day-Care Need In Gjoa Haven

This other one, Mr. Chairman, is something that concerns Mr. Michael Angottitauruq's constituency, which is something that I am trying to explain in some ways. This person indicates that in Gjoa Haven, a day-care centre is urgently required for the following reasons: "employment opportunities, pre-schoolers can learn to adjust to being away from their home in preparation for kindergarten, pre-schoolers can prepare for their first year of school, single mothers could upgrade their education and/or training, day-care required when both parents are working, a limited number of responsible babysitters in the community".

This is from the hamlet council of Gjoa Haven. The mayor signed this. So I guess, Mr. Chairman, what I am truly trying to indicate to the House is two things at this point in time.

Funding As Well As Space Needed

The other issue that is being felt by the people in the communities such as Rankin Inlet, of course, is that of funding. I think there has got to be a proper establishment of funding whether it is a cost-shared program, or whether it is a contribution to societies such as the one in Rankin Inlet and to all of the communities in the NWT. It is an important one. I have seen that day-care facilities have fought for funding and space over and over again. On many occasions it has been because of the efforts of various senior government officials at the community level and that depends, at times, on whether or not a senior government officer is really interested in taking on this responsibility of providing a day-care facility at the community level.

In the last three or four years, it has been because of the efforts of a regional director that a better, a slightly better facility has been provided to a day-care organization in Rankin Inlet. It should not have to be. The government officials at the community level should be able to take a look at day-care policy and say, "Yes, we can provide you with a good service here." That is an important one and I think what we should be able to do is to be able to establish proper policy governing day-care facilities right across the NWT.

So I guess, Mr. Chairman, I have really touched upon two issues that I think are important to the people. Basically, lack of space and funding. I am going to have some more comments a little bit later on but I am going to quit there for now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Any comments, Madam Minister?

Responsibility Shared Between Government And Parent

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments that the Member has expressed. I basically want to indicate that because of the need not only for more spaces, day-care spaces, in the Territories but at the same time recognizing the need to address the low income families, the single parents who may work shift work or whatever, that this is part of our reason for trying to develop a comprehensive policy recognizing at the same time that the child has a right to quality care and that the responsibility is a shared responsibility between the government and the parent. Thank you.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of day-care has been worked on very hard for the past two years. We did not have any day-care facilities prior to that time. What we have done in my community is that our government officials have been asked if they could assist in developing a day-care centre and since they were requested to do that they said they would be able to assist us in getting a facility. Since it was approved last winter we are now establishing a day-care facility and this is in a building of government offices. I think it will be downstairs. This will greatly help the community. There are local governments in all the communities and most of the communities have obtained hamlet status and they can give you a lot of assistance and we can go to them for help when we need it for something in the communities.

Hamlet Council Made Day-Care Facility Possible

If our hamlet did not assist us we would still not have a day-care facility in my community but since they were able to help us, they now have a building under construction. Perhaps if we had gone to the territorial government it would probably cost over \$200,000. I am very proud to say that we were able to work through the hamlet council to get the facility. What we will need, though, is equipment for inside the building and we will be requesting assistance for that. If you are looking at it, I do not think it would cost that much to furnish the building. Maybe probably less than \$30,000 for complete facilities if the government is going to give us assistance. The reason that we wanted to have a day-care facility was for those of us who wanted to be parents or who have grandchildren; when they are looking after the children, it is very hard work. Even

more so for the elders when they are trying to take care of children whose parents are working. I think that it is also dangerous that when a child becomes ill; as you know, some houses are not always clean and this is a major concern. A child may get sick because the home may not be too clean or they are not being fed properly.

Day-Care Facility For Each Community

So, a day-care centre that is established in the NWT -- I know that we have to do further development of that and I have seen the need first-hand myself. If we put our heads together and concern ourselves with health and safety I think that we can work further in getting day-care facilities for each community.

Those parents who have children and who do work need to work without having to worry about their children and I am sure that a person who does work or has a good job may have had to quit because they have no day-care available to them. There is always advertising for babysitters and a lot of times they are unable to find babysitters for their children but if there was a day-care centre there would be no need to advertise and the parents themselves would pay whatever they have to pay to put their children in the facility. I stress again that day-care is very important.

You probably have read, Madam Minister, the letter I have received from Pangnirtung. Will you be giving a quick consideration about the request for special funds? That building is now being built and I have a picture of the building that is being built. If you want to inspect it you may do so. That is all I have to say for now, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Hay River. Before I call on the Member for Hay River, Madam Minister, do you have any comments?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I just basically wanted to indicate that our emergency assistance in regard to the child care facilities was for existing facilities. In anticipation of the interim program we intend to implement once the budget session is in place, we will also address the need to assist new day-care centres. I just wanted to indicate that to the honourable Member, Mr. Kilabuk, to advise him that our future program will certainly be able to assist his constituent.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, what does the Minister hope to achieve as a cost-sharing agreement with the federal government should they pass their legislation at some future time, say in the next three or four months?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I guess the figure would be very difficult to estimate. However, we certainly will try to achieve as much cost sharing as we can, as a government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Hay River.

MR. POLLARD: Perhaps I phrased it wrong, Mr. Chairman. I am talking percentage, not dollars. Let us talk the percentage split.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: It is our anticipation, and it probably would be unlikely, but our initial negotiating would be trying to achieve 100 per cent on the cost-sharing element, although, like any other province or jurisdiction certainly no less than 50 per cent.

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

MR. POLLARD: Does this government have a child care policy in place at the present time, Mr. Chairman?

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

Child Care Policy Being Reviewed

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: The child care policy was being reviewed by cabinet. With anticipation of the federal bill to be passed, the policy was being developed.

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

MR. POLLARD: Is it possible to get a copy of the policy, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I would be very reluctant to issue the copies of the policy to all the Members, mainly for the fact that it may not be the actual policy that is going to be adhered to because of it not being a complete and comprehensive policy. So it is not a completed policy that I would be able to give to the Members for their review.

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

MR. POLLARD: I think the answer was "No", Mr. Chairman, so I will ask the Minister with regard to the policy that she has together at the present time, albeit incomplete and nebulous, have the day-care centres in the Northwest Territories and other interest groups and parents who may wish to use the facilities been consulted with regard to the policy?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: There have been a few minor steps to allow participation in part of the development of the particular policy but as I had indicated, the policy is not as comprehensive as we had hoped it to be and it is still basically under further development. The policy, as I had indicated initially, is also compiled with the assistance of the Women's Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Hay River.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The document that we are discussing, Mr. Chairman, indicates to me that there is emergency funding and then there will be an interim program and the interim program will include support to social assistance recipients under the Canada Assistance Plan, support to low income earners, support to existing child care centres and support to new child care centres. If that is a fact, Mr. Chairman, would the Minister be prepared to expand upon this program and let people in the Legislature and across the NWT know what to expect in the new year?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Inasmuch as I would like to, Mr. Chairman, as I had indicated to the House, the program is anticipated to be an interim measure until the federal bill is going to be passed. Recognizing the interim program, these are the areas that we wanted to look at, as the honourable Member has mentioned. In regard to making a detailed announcement, I do not want to elaborate on these programs due to the fact that then the cost factor will be another issue that will arise from it. I certainly would not like to indicate or anticipate the anticipation of the cost of this particular child care program that we would like to take on as an interim measure. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Merci beaucoup. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Is that because of the budget secrecy, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): It could be. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: That is one of the reasons, yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Pollard.

Precedent Set For Early Announcement Of Interim Program

MR. POLLARD: I would like to point out to the Minister that earlier this session the fifth ministerial statement, October 13th, said: "Subject to the approval of supplementary funding by this Assembly, I would like to announce that the government will be increasing the senior citizens supplementary benefit." So the budget secrecy argument does not wash with me, Mr. Chairman, because the program could be announced. It could be done in detail. No figures would have to be attached to it because of budget secrecy, and I agree with that. The precedent was set whereby a program to increase funds to senior citizens was announced before the moneys had been approved by this Legislature and the Minister encouraged us all to support it. So I see no reason, Mr. Chairman, why details of these four parts to a program should not be announced.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: As I had indicated on my other Ministers' statement, it was subject to the approval of supplementary funding. However, it is not only because of the budget secrecy. It is also to be determined; the cost of each program, once the comprehensive policy is developed, is going to determine the content of this interim program. So that is the other reason.

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

MR. POLLARD: So these four lines on page two at the top all beginning with "support" are just lines on a page, Mr. Chairman, and there is really nothing behind those lines at the present time. Is that correct?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: The Member may want to understand it as that, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I hardly think the Minister or this government is being fair to the people in the NWT when there are words being mentioned by people that the state is appalling, they do not have enough money, it is an emergency. The government admits to that because it gives interim help, \$200,000, recognizing an emergency, and now it cannot be bothered to come forward and say, "But, pending budgetary approval in 1989-90, this is what we intend to do." If that was the case, then groups who are interested in this would be able to say, "Okay, it is a detailed program." They could point out where they think it may be in error and they would be able to lobby people such as myself and other Members in this House to support that budgetary initiative when it comes into the House.

I am going to stop right there, Mr. Chairman, but I really do not think the Minister or this government is doing the people who are crying out for help any justice with this document we are discussing in the committee of the whole.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Any comments Madam Minister?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: No, I have no comments, Mr. Chairman. I basically want to reiterate that I as the Minister had indicated to this House when the budget did come up that there was no funding in this year's budget for day-care. At the time I do not recall an outcry from the ordinary Members to direct me to place money in this year's budget for day-care.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Inuvik.

Consultation In Communities

MR. BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To follow up with the questions I had asked originally and reflect on one of the questions put by Mr. Pollard relating to the degree of consultation that the government has done with regard to the current interim policy framework. I believe the Minister in her statement indicated that it has been examined at the Executive level but how much consultation has occurred in the communities with the people that will be using the programs, the actual users?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Initially, to be able to deliver the emergency assistance program, the department did take a consulting role in the different day-care centres in the Territories and tried to find out exactly how many spaces they had or what type of program they wanted to deliver and we were able to then come up with the funding that was in place.

As for the role, as I had indicated to the Members, initially there was a workshop in August of this year and at that workshop there were quite a few participants. There were people from basically every association across the NWT. They had the Department of Social Services, the Department of Education, the Women's Secretariat all there. There were people that could not make it. I believe there were two people that could not make it because of the weather and there were other different excuses. There were five people that could not attend. However, in reviewing the participants, there were somewhere over 20 different participants from various parts of the North, be it the NWT Council for Disabled Persons, the NWT Child Care Association, the Advisory Council of the Status of Women, the different day-cares, whether they were in Cambridge Bay, Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith, Aklavik, Inuvik. There has been that type of consultation taking place.

As I have indicated, that is in regard to day-care. We still are uneasy as to the individuals that may want to utilize the informal system and that is what we are trying to determine. Thank you.

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

MR. BUTTERS: Yes, thank you. The Minister's response is helpful. I put the question because an informant with whom I spoke, and I indicate her quotation when we discussed the interim program currently under examination at the cabinet level. Her response was, "While we welcome the policy being developed, it is a policy and program being developed in isolation." That was the information I had received and I am happy to hear that some consultation has occurred. It may not be to the depth and extent that one would wish, but apparently some consultation has occurred.

Profile Of Community Needs Useful In Determining Policy

I expect the Minister is much more familiar than I with the Yukon study, "We Care". I see she has it in her folder. I understand this consultation, although the Yukon is a much smaller jurisdiction than ours, took place in a few months carried out by a committee of three people: Joyce Hayden, Mary Kane and Mike Nelson. In their report they noted, "We discovered that many of the ideas we had before visiting the rural communities were misconceptions. We were struck by the uniqueness of each community, its needs and concerns." In this report, presented to the Hon. Margaret Joe, there exists for each community visited, and I believe the committee visited all the communities, a community-needs profile. That type of profile is exactly what the Minister is going

to require in negotiating our needs with the federal government. For instance, it examines the population, the age distribution of that population, the native/non-native ratio, and then it compares the costs between Whitehorse and the community that is under examination, and also the wage comparison between Whitehorse and the community. This would be a valuable document. Does the Minister feel that such a consultative process would be valuable to our jurisdiction prior to the time we set up the full and firm day-care policy of this government?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I would like to advise the Member that when I received the material from the Hon. Margaret Joe, and in speaking with her this past summer, she did indicate that the process was very helpful to her. At the same time I had asked her the question if she would take the same approach if she were in the NWT. I think her viewpoint at that time would have been different because of the number of communities we have in the NWT. However, there is still nothing stopping the government in trying to get this detailed type of information through hamlet councils, through letters of concern, as we have as a department. I think possibly that may have to be the approach to determine who utilizes the informal system and who may switch to the formal day-care system. We may want to take that type of approach as a government. So your point is certainly valid and is certainly something to be explored further and considered. Thank you.

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

MR. BUTTERS: I have further questions but Mr. Nerysoo, I believe, may wish to pursue this line of questioning.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Nerysoo.

Public Consultation Necessary

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your recognition. Just in pursuit of the comments that were made by Mr. Butters, it may be that the process that was used in the Yukon may not accommodate all the communities, but what may be important in a process of this type would be the ability to at least recognize, or address, some of the differences of approach that the communities have with regard to child care services. Or the differences of approach that might be expressed on the issue of the type of programs that could be made available to the smaller communities, the medium size communities and the larger centres. In that sense, I think that I am glad to hear that the Minister has not ruled out the possibility of an approach similar to that of the Yukon. I have to agree that we may not be able to conduct a process as extensive in terms of the Yukon approach, but I do think that it is necessary to have some kind of a public process available for the communities at least to address their concerns with regard to the quality of service that they are to receive, the kind of financial assistance and different types of programs that could be made available to them. In that context, I think that it might be extremely helpful.

It would also, Mr. Chairman, at least address some of the questions of accessibility for the communities to the programs that the Minister, even within the last week or so, has announced are interim programs that are going to be developed. It may be that the suggestions that are made may alleviate some of the problems of accessibility by the smaller communities to the programs, particularly when people are not in close range to, for instance, the location that is delivering the program.

I can give you an example, the programs that are now available for child care, and the subsidies that are available to those people who are not capable of accessing them, such as CAP. People in communities do not know that they have the right to access those programs. They do not know who to approach; they do not know the kinds of information that is necessary for them to get access to the money. The regions, if anything, seem to play little or no role at all in providing that service, even though they may have the responsibility at this particular time. They do not make that known to the communities, and I think that one of the things that is important for the

communities is to be able to access programs equally, and to receive similar services to those services that are provided in larger centres, particularly when they do not have a group of people that are politically astute or politically aware of their abilities to access those funds. Maybe this is the only approach in the process that they could utilize.

Role Of Business Community

The other issue, Mr. Chairman, that I now note that was important in terms of the report that was submitted in the Yukon, was trying to deal with the question of what is the role of the business community. What is it? How do we encourage large corporations, small businesses to be a part of the program? It did not seem that there were any conclusive ideas about that approach in the Yukon report. I would hope that in the development of programs in the NWT that we will be able to address that particular question.

Maybe if I could make a couple of suggestions now. One was the question of tax benefits and tax incentives for small business or large corporations, both within the capital side and in the possibility of O and M. We always seem to have the suggestion that government itself should pay the total cost but maybe industry is prepared to look for options that might be available to them, even to the extent of providing the location for their employees. But that hopefully will be addressed in the next few months or at least in the near future, by our government.

Let me commend the Minister for the announcement, or the government for the announcement, that they made but I would ask, has the government and the Minister considered an approach where the public might be able to work with our government in developing the interim programs with a view of extending that process into longer term programs?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: As I had indicated, Mr. Chairman, to the previous Member, that type of approach is under consideration. I was thinking basically, once the policy is in place and the program is in place, that the idea of ongoing consulting with different participants will no doubt be important to this government. I appreciate the comments that the Member has put forth. Thank you.

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

Request For Day-Care Centre In Cape Dorset

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief comment in regard to the day-care and its importance. I have a few comments on it. In particular, Cape Dorset requested a day-care centre and they requested funding a year and a half ago, I think it was, from the government. The letters that I received were forwarded to the government. They were requesting a day-care centre in Cape Dorset but up to today there is no day-care centre yet in Cape Dorset. The population in Cape Dorset is pretty high. It is almost as high as the Pangnirtung population and they really need the day-care centre in Cape Dorset but they have not received information yet from the government. In considering the request from Cape Dorset it has to be reviewed again and I want the Minister to look into it.

The small communities that we represent can very well request for money but they never know who to turn to when they have to make a request for money. I would request the Minister to give deeper consideration to giving funding to the smaller communities and as to how they can provide programs. Especially to the smaller communities. In particular the Baffin residents really require the day-care centres. I am not really looking at the small population communities but communities like Cape Dorset. I think they really require a day-care centre.

We have talked about this day-care issue for quite some time now and they often say that there is some funding there for emergency cases and yet they always seem to say that there is not enough funding for all day-care centres. Perhaps if they could involve the communities in

planning for funding perhaps it would be helpful. If we could probably look into their requests again or look into that matter, perhaps it would be helpful. There is a small building in Cape Dorset but it needs a lot of renovations. I think they are trying to look into that in Cape Dorset now, but up to today I am not sure what they are going to be doing right now with that building. But I was told by the residents of Cape Dorset, when the funding is approved by the government, they will re-request for the funding again. I am particularly interested as to what is going to happen to Cape Dorset because the population is pretty high there and I want to get a reply from the Minister regarding the funding and whether or not we will have to renovate an old building in order to get a day-care centre there. I would like the Minister to look into this so I can inform my constituents about this. Thank you.

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

Communities Responsible For Operation

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the thing that I would like to emphasize to the Member is I have no problem as a Minister trying to assist their community in being able to create a day-care centre because we have done that with a lot of small communities in the NWT. But at the same time, I would like to emphasize to him that it is also up to the community to ensure that they have or they want to be able to put a day-care in place and it would be their responsibility to ensure that it is running and operating. We certainly can assist, but providing the communities are willing to operate and run them. Thank you.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I have a short comment to make. You have seen in the letter in regard to a day-care centre about the plumbing and electricity for the day-care centre. They are saying that this is supposed to be a rush item. I know when I get back to my community I am going to be asked about what Mr. Arlooktoo mentioned about his concerns. Usually we raise our concerns, especially if they have been brought to us by our constituents. The funding that is available is not a large amount, and they feel that \$21,000 would be sufficient.

I will want to receive a response on this before the session is over so that I can inform my area. Also, there are some students taking child care courses through Arctic College in Iqaluit. The building is not going to sit there empty, and it is quite urgent. I just would like to remind you before the session is over that I will want to receive a response before we finish. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Madam Minister, do you have any comments?

Emergency Funding For Needs Of Existing Centres

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I will check in regard to Mr. Kilabuk's comments. I guess I just need clarification as to whether that particular day-care was in existence when I announced the emergency day-care funding, because the emergency day-care funding was to try to address the needs of the existing day-care centres that were in place.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if I could recommend or make a suggestion to the Minister, and possibly to our government, that in the development of the upcoming budgets -- and I know that a lot of money is necessary to ensure a proper program and programs are available, and services are available to the people of the NWT in the communities throughout the NWT -- but one of the things that seems to be causing a problem is not being able to access an individual who you can talk to in the department about day-care programs. The communities have no contact person and, therefore, have a difficult time in receiving direction and ability to access those types of programs.

If there is going to be the provision for interim day-care programs, you should consider the possibility of a position or positions, depending on what the situation might be, for someone in the department that the communities can access and also to deliver those programs to the communities and to the regions. At the moment there is no one that we can contact directly. It seems that we contact all the social workers, we contact everybody in the regional offices, and then we start running around the department here in Yellowknife to try to find out who actually is the person that will direct the communities and community groups to get the funds necessary to either improve their child care services, or even direct them in the direction of developing proposals. If the government could perhaps consider that in the development of their upcoming budget and in light of the interim programs that they are going to put in place.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: No, no response comments, but it is a suggestion that we will certainly be able to clarify for the Member. I guess what we have not been doing is basically addressing, or elaborating, as much as we should have as a department, to indicate to the public who they should be contacting within the department. I will assure the Member that I will request the department to take those steps to the public for them to be able to understand who they can attempt to reach in the department for any type of information pertaining to child care. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I do not have an awful lot to say, but this is something that has been a major issue, for me anyway, since last October and for many other people for a lot longer, because the problem has been around for quite some time. The problem is that there has been a lack, in my opinion, of political will to deal with this problem.

Vacancy In Women's Secretariat

Mr. Nerysoo has brought up a very important issue here. Who is handling this business? All my contacts, and all the people that I worked with until February, were in the Women's Secretariat. That position is still empty. The executive director's position, as I understand it, is still unfilled, and yet that is where I got all my phone calls from, that is where I got all my information from, and yet that position is still empty.

The other problem that I see, Mr. Chairman, is that in talking about political will, it seems to me that is perceived by the Minister responsible for this particular program, whenever it gets off the ground, as somehow being a Yellowknife problem, or a big city problem, and that perhaps in the small places it really is not an issue and that people can look after their own problems. They have an extended family, where grandmothers and aunts and uncles and so on can look after things, whereas here in Yellowknife it is a bunch of strangers, where the grandmother is off in BC or the uncle is out in Ontario or in Atlantic Canada someplace, and we are trying to solve a problem for people that really we should not have much sympathy for because they are doing all right anyway and they probably do not need that much help.

The Minister may think that I am being unfair in attributing that motive for the very slow progress that we are making to really filling out in greater detail a program on child care. Every political party in the country has at last recognized that the world has changed. I myself, to be quite frank, shared the same view as Mr. Sibbeston about child care until about six or seven years ago. I could not understand why is it that mothers did not regard that as their primary responsibility, and so on. I must admit that I was brought up in a generation where that was the value. Mothers did that and fathers did that. But, the world has changed and many of us have not been able to change, to recognize that reality.

So, the second point I am making is that I am beginning to wonder how much political will there is to recognize that the state has not got a problem on its hands that they have to deal with. It is no good putting down just one, two or three points and saying that this is more or less the kind

of thing we are thinking of. We should be at the stage right now where we can say that the number one priority is this. Right throughout the Northwest Territories we know that half of the kids that were born say, three or four years ago and last year and maybe the ones that are being born during these past few months have been born to single mothers. Those people are in desperate straits; they should be a priority and we should get on with doing something about that group because they are in a terrible, terrible condition in our system. I know it because I get phone calls from these people who are advised whether they can go to welfare and how they can get it jumped up, and so on, and whether they can get increased support for child care.

Identification Of Priorities

So, that I see as a priority, to begin to identify the things that we have to do right away. If Mr. Ballantyne's fantastic financial information system can identify some funds, we should say, "Look, we cannot wait for the federals forever; we want to do something right away." We recognize this as the first thing and then we get on with it. We could do the same thing in our total system.

I know the Minister has already given us two or three points but let us take it further. Let us make a list of things that are obvious priorities and let us get on with developing a program right away, not wait until next February or the next budget session, or the next federal election to be over and to hear what the federal government is going to give us. Why can we not solve our own problem? Again, I do not want to be accused of exaggerating and crying wolf and really shouting too loud because, again, this is one issue which continues to be a major one for many of the MLAs that I have talked to. I have not talked to all of them about it, but the ones that I have talked to have indicated, "Yes, it is a concern and it should be dealt with."

Mr. Chairman, having just listened only yesterday to just one comment from the NDP, and I am not, certainly, trying to identify myself with their platform with the statement that I am making, but there was one statement made by Mr. Broadbent that it made sense to him to say, "Look, there are some people in this world who are quite wealthy." If, for example, a working couple want to go to work, the woman wants a career, she is a very clever person and really wants to get into the work force where she can make \$50,000 or \$60,000 a year, and that person is making \$100,000 a year so all they want to do is to make more money and having this kid is a real impediment to it, then I see no trouble at all with attaching a means test. It goes against my principle, this business of means tests on so many things that socialists try to impose on people, but in this one particular case it kind of makes sense. If that is really what the guy wants to do and the woman wants to do, if they want to go into the work force and make a whole pile of money on the backs of their kids, then they should not get as much help as those people who want to go back to work because damn it, they need to have a basic standard of living. It is about the only thing that makes sense to me that I have heard talk about the means test on. I cannot think of anything else that has been brought to my attention where I could support a means test but on that one it kind of makes sense. It is logical.

So, with those few comments, Mr. Chairman, I would like to urge the Minister to get on with the outline that she started, that she gave us, fill it out a bit more, establish a whole bunch of priorities and let us spend some of that money that I guess Mr. Ballantyne is hiding somewhere in that fantastic financial information system because we have identified it as a priority and we should get on with it and not wait for Mr. Mulroney.

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

Not Solely A Yellowknife Problem

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I was going to thank the Member for his comments but some of them I took exception to. I have never ever understood, or at least tried to feel this problem of child care in the Northwest Territories is totally a Yellowknife problem. I must indicate to the Member that since I have taken the responsibility of being a Minister, I have travelled quite extensively and that is one problem that has always been echoed to me.

I must also indicate that in dealing with this problem I want to ensure that we come up with some type of program that will treat everyone fairly and this is why it is taking some time to develop a comprehensive day-care policy, to ensure that we address the needs of the single parents that work shift work. To ensure that we address the needs of people who prefer their children to stay home. The area of means test is something that we are looking at.

MR. LEWIS: Who?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: The government. I do not believe cabinet has ever looked at child care at any time to look at it and say that it is only a Yellowknife problem. I believe where any Minister travels anywhere in the Territories that concern is expressed to them and I get very resentful when Members are always insinuating, as the Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the perception of many problems that come to this House are Yellowknife problems. Inasmuch as we are in Yellowknife to do our work, I certainly recognize many problems that we face in the Territories are similar to problems they face in Yellowknife.

Minister Concerned Re Funding During Budget Session

As for political will, it does take political will and that is why I must indicate to the Members that I was disappointed that no one raised a concern last spring when I indicated in this House that there is no money in this budget for child care. I am sure if you review the Hansard I indicated the same concern two or three or four times but there was no political will, saying where is the money for child care? So it is not only political will on my part as a Minister, it is political will on every Member's part in this House but I recognize it as a serious problem and I am certainly trying to attempt to address it. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, if I may, Mr. Chairman, without taking too much of Members' time. The government is very interested in hearing the views of Members and having this opportunity to hear and get advice from Members as we work on developing a comprehensive policy.

I would just like to address, Mr. Chairman, comments from Mr. Pollard that the government is being unfair in not coming up with an announcement of a detailed program this session. Perhaps I can prevail on Mr. Pollard to understand the situation we found ourselves in. Mr. Chairman, there was quite a good prospect, I believe, that there would be comprehensive legislation passed by the federal government, until a few weeks ago. This would have provided a cost-share program that we could have benefited from in the Territories for both private and non-profit day-care centres.

Planning Based On Federal Legislation

Mr. Chairman, unfortunately the federal legislation, I think surprisingly, fell through because it was not approved in the Senate by the time the House dissolved and perhaps the honourable Member can appreciate that all our plans and all our policy development up until then was premised upon a federal legislative framework that we were obviously going to have to work with in order to access as much money as we could. Unfortunately, the federal legislation was not passed and we were told by the federal government that we could not begin detailed negotiations with the feds until the legislation was passed. So everything was riding on this legislation being passed and all our planning was directed that way. When it failed, this government, and I believe jurisdictions all over the country, some of whom had actually established day-care programs based on anticipated legislation being passed which would be retroactively funded, were all suddenly left scrambling, saying, "Okay, what do we do now?"

Mr. Lewis has urged, do not try to hide behind the federal government or do not wait for the federal government and of course, we agree. That is why, at this session, the Minister of Social Services has announced that we will be moving ahead to implement our own day-care program

with or without federal legislation. We have not said, "I am sorry we cannot do anything because the federal legislation did not pass." We have said we are going to go ahead on our own and we will obviously hope that federal legislation will be passed with the new government soon which will give financial support to what we can do as a government within our own financial resources. But we are not letting the federal government's inaction prevent us from moving ahead.

But Mr. Chairman, if the Member expects that in a matter of weeks we could have developed a detailed program to present to this House at this session, then he is asking a great deal. What we have done is, we have announced the major elements of a program and we are working very hard now to put together a policy so that we will have something in place to present to this House during the next session. All our planning was thrown off by this change, a matter of mere weeks ago. I would just like to also support the Minister and say that it is a priority of this government.

Action Taken In Past Few Weeks

I would like to note that we have taken some action. Standards have been established by legislation. We have early child care programs in place in the Arctic College. We have responded to some crises that were presented to us this summer by establishing emergency funding. But to expect us to come up with a detailed program in such a short time, with all the rules suddenly changing, is asking quite a bit.

What we have done though, is we have tried to give the public notice of what we intend to do so there will at least be some expectation that yes, we intend to help existing centres, yes, we intend to help new centres. We recognize that there is going to have to be enhanced assistance beyond the assistance provided under the social assistance Canada Assistance Plan. So we have tried to at least paint the broad brush strokes of our program. I can assure the House that the Minister and her officials are working hard on developing a program in spite of the blow that we received with the death of this federal legislation. It is a priority and we will appreciate and take into account the advice of Members presented to us during this particular debate and during this session. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Inuvik.

MR. BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister indicated that little if anything was said relative to the funding requirements for day-care during the budget debate. I have examined Hansard because I recall I raised some points at that time. I asked her about day-care and she said, "I am also just able to advise the Assembly that negotiations are under way with federal officials in trying to see what type of day-care program we are able to deliver in the North." So I guess the expectation that negotiations were under way would have led us to believe that something would be resolved as a result of those negotiations. And then at another time I asked her, "Does the Minister feel that the programs being looked at by the federal government will fit the needs of northern users or is there some way in which this Assembly might be able to assist her in her approach to the federal government to indicate where special consideration should be given northern users?" She said she would get in touch with us or advise us as the negotiations proceeded. So probably we were expecting that the negotiations being carried forward at that time by her department and herself with the federal government would result in some program money being found and developed.

Funding Through Special Warrant

But my question of her is this, and it relates to a remark she made in her opening statement today addressing what seemed to be the major reason she and her colleagues feel they could not put day-care funding into place at the present time under special warrant. We will be looking at Supp No. 2 where there is a considerable number of special warrants. I wonder why a special warrant could not be used in this regard. She said she would be afraid that if we put anything in place now it might jeopardize negotiations with the federal government in the future, and suggests that we do not need any additional funds to provide day-care programs to our people and that it would put her in a bad negotiating position. Might she be a little more explicit on her concern there and

explain why she feels an interim program of the nature that she has outlined here if put in place this fiscal year by special warrant, would jeopardize her negotiating stance?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I guess just to elaborate on that, Mr. Chairman, or for clarification. I believe in the event that we decide to put in a program, when we do want to go to negotiations with the federal government we do not want the federal government indicating to us that we already absorbed the cost of delivering this type of program. I believe if we can indicate to them that the program we are delivering is an interim measure, it will give us more of a negotiating tool to be able to get a better percentage in the cost sharing. I hope that clarifies the Member's question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you.

MR. BUTTERS: I understand that. I understand the risk, but would there be no possibility to obtain from each of the three leaders, at the present time, a public statement indicating that should they be successful that they would not consider any interim program being put into place by this government as an indication that we can afford to pay with our own resources for such programs. I wonder whether Mr. Mulroney might not make that statement if he were asked, if he comes to the Territories. If there are people in the gallery who have day-care, child care interests maybe they could ensure that such a statement were made by Mr. Mulroney so that he could remove from our Minister the concern that she has expressed.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I guess the only problem is that the majority of negotiations are done with officials and the officials will also place a concern on my officials indicating to them that they already have a program in place. Generally when the officials are having a difficult time in negotiating is when political intervention is sometimes requested and sought. But I certainly did not want my officials going into negotiations with the understanding of the federal officials that we already have a program in place, because not only did we put this program in place for the need in the Territories but recognizing and anticipating that the bill is in place that was presented by the federal government.

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

Program Required Now

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, having been in negotiating situations with the federal government, I realize the concern of the Minister is valid. I was just hoping there was some way to reduce the risk of establishing a program now during the fiscal year because all of us know that it is required and there are services that could be provided to people who are in sad straits or dire straits at the present time.

I would just like to ask a few questions relative to the program that has been developed. The Minister indicated that she had been involved in consultation process with a number of organizations and individuals and user groups some time ago, or up to the development of this policy. I am wondering now because it would appear that the policy is beginning to be fleshed in; support for social assistance recipients under CAP, support to low income earner, support to existing child care centres, support to new child care centres. It seems to be a pretty comprehensive program even though it is entitled "Interim NWT Day-Care Program".

Have the planners, the architects of this particular program gone back to the user, the user groups and laid it out before them to determine whether or not it should meet the needs, not only in the larger communities, but the middle size communities or the smaller communities? Has there been any attempt to get any feedback on this program that is currently being developed to date?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the department continually checks with the different existing day-care centres in the Territories trying to get updated information, along with the Women's Secretariat. The Women's Secretariat is invaluable in regard to the information that they have obtained. We have been working very closely with the Women's Secretariat.

In regard to specific user groups I can indicate to the Members that the last day-care workshop on participation was held back in August 1988, and also along with waiting for the recommendations and the tripartite agreement that was conducted with the native organizations, they are on a continuous basis trying to consult. I have received quite a few letters. One, in particular, from the past president of the Child Care Association, giving her ideas and comments on it. The same with many individuals in the North regarding the whole issue on child care. I must indicate to the Member that the continual consulting for participation in the development of this policy has been with the Department of Social Services along with the Women's Secretariat, taking into consideration a lot of the information that we have got from various groups and individuals in the North.

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

Statement During Budget Session

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister, in her statement, indicated or announced that she planned to make a detailed statement of the program during the budget session. Will there be money in the 1989-90 budget for this program or is she indicating that there will be an announcement made about the program during the budget session?

I ask that because Mr. Pollard's committee on finance will be meeting in November and I would expect that if it is in next year's budget that his committee will be examining this program in some detail.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you. I guess I should have been more specific when the Ministers' statement was formulated. This detailed announcement is basically on the delivery of the program but also in conjunction with the amount that will be approved by the Assembly in 1989-90 budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo. I had you on my list next and then Mr. Ernerk.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I am not a Member of the Executive Council but I really wanted to say that I appreciate the efforts of the government to outline at least some elements of policy or some elements of interim programs that they would pursue. I think the suggestion that Mr. Lewis has made is that the Executive Council is not prepared to take some initiatives and I think that what is clear, from the announcement, is that they are prepared to take some initiatives. What has been very difficult has been the uncertainty in many respects, of the kind of support that they would receive from the public and receive from Members on this side and at that corner of the House.

I think what is clear is that we all support the idea of providing more financial resources for child care services in the Northwest Territories. What is uncertain is the amount and, obviously, the other point is that what is unclear is the kind of policy that would arise out of the direction that the government is taking.

One of the things that I pointed out earlier was that I would appreciate if our government could at the policy development stage, allow the public to participate, because that has been one of the criticisms, I think, directed toward the government, even within the last couple of days, that the public, the communities and the regions were not part of the development of a policy. So, I do

not see the issue of no policy at this particular time as necessarily being a bad thing in that at least the idea of the programs has been made public. The question now that obviously the government is going to have to address is what is the approach and how does the public play a role in the development of those policies?

Immediate Need For Financial Resources

The other point, as I mentioned, with regard to financial resources, despite the fact that the government has made announcements of money, it seems that the amount that has been approved is not addressing the needs right now, the needs of the communities. I think Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, and I believe some of the other Members here have raised concerns about other centres that require financial resources, and I think that has to be addressed. What is being requested is that the government consider at least addressing that situation right now, the immediate need.

What we also have to deal with is the question of long-term program development and long-term policies in which, I have to agree in many instances, the government has stated, and Mrs. Marie-Jewell, we do not want a situation where we end up having the federal government find a way out of their responsibility for providing financial assistance and resources to our government. So I think those are some of the elements that I have been able to see from this particular discussion, but you can be assured that there is no Member right now in this House that I can see opposed to increased financial resources. The question is, what are the programs? That is the question, and how much money do we need in the upcoming budget to address that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Madam Minister, any comments.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: No, I do not have any comments. Although, Mr. Chairman, earlier I believe Mr. Butters indicated wanting to be able to obtain the payment directive that we have issued the funding out of, the emergency funding, and I just wanted to advise you that the information is available and will be available for distribution if the Members require it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand the Government Leader to indicate that the government will help existing centres. I know that it is partly answered in the four points that the Minister has placed before us; support to existing child care centres, support to new child care centres. I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, in terms of existing day-care facilities in the communities, if that means a facility which is crowded, such as the one I was talking about earlier -- being a facility in a suspended basement, on the main floor and having 18 children, plus staff members -- to me that is very crowded. I am wondering if that definition of help to existing centres means that you would be able to provide financial assistance for possible expansion plans, expanding such facilities, renovations and things of that nature.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Any comments, Madam Minister.

Emergency Funding Intended To Assist In Meeting Regulations

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I guess I should clarify. The intention of the emergency funding that was placed forth, was to enable the existing day-care centres to be able to meet the needs of the regulations that we imposed on them as a government. If it is deemed that the existing centre was inadequate, whether it be space or unable to meet the standards that we had imposed as a government, the intention of this program was to be able to assist them to try to meet the needs; that the standards that came into effect under "facilities", effective July 1 of this year.

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

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I move that you report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I have a motion on the floor. It is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

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

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF MINISTERS' STATEMENT 7-88(2), CHILD CARE

MR. ZOE: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Ministers' Statement 7-88(2) Child Care, and wishes to report progress.

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. Zoe. Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Crow, thank you. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to have unanimous consent to return to Item 11, tabled documents.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent. I do not hear any nays.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, proceed.

REVERT TO ITEM 11: TABELING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to table Tabled Document 31-88(2), Resolution 12, passed by the Deh Cho Regional Council by nine communities and it is to support Fort Providence to host the bicentennial of Alexander Mackenzie.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Gargan. I would also like to table Tabled Document 32-88(2), a letter which was written to myself on October 13, 1988, from Moses and Mary Rose Angoshadluk from Rankin Inlet. This letter is regarding hunting equipment in the communities and, also, ammunition and skidoos. Apparently these two people are concerned that this particular hunting equipment is very expensive and that was their concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 11, tabling of documents. Are there any others? Thank you.

Item 19, third reading of bills. Item 20, orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

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

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Friday, October 21st at 10:00 a.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: CR 1-88(2), Standing Committee on Legislation; Tabled Document 2-88(2); Ministers' Statement 7-88(2); Bill 2-88(2); Bill 6-88(2); Tabled Documents 15-88(2), 21-88(2), 16-88(2), 10-88(2), 11-88(2)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The House stands adjourned until Friday, October 21st at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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