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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1988

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Alloo, Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom 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): Order please. Could the media be quiet, please? Orders of the day for Tuesday, November 1, 1988. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 37-88(2): Transfer Of The Scientific Research Centres To The Science Institute

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, the Science Institute of the NWT will take over responsibility for the three scientific research centres from the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. The transfer culminates 10 years of off and on discussions and two years of intense negotiations. Included in the agreement are research centres in Inuvik, Igloolik and Iqaluit. The program carries an annual budget of \$1,143,693 and 10 staff positions.

Facilities

The Inuvik centre, which celebrates its 25th year of service this fall, is housed in a large, two-storey building, with adjacent warehouses, accommodation, garage and storage. A cosmic ray counter, operated on behalf of the National Research Council, occupies one wing of the main building.

The Igloolik centre occupies a unique, futuristic, fibreglass building which dominates the settlement's skyline. In addition, it is equipped with storage and workshop space and temporary accommodation for visiting researchers.

The Iqaluit centre, smallest and newest of the research facilities, occupies a building that formerly housed the Eastern Arctic marine sciences project. In addition to laboratories, the centre is equipped to provide accommodation and storage for visiting researchers.

Objectives, Under The Science Institute

As in the past, the centres will continue to offer technical and logistical assistance to the hundreds of researchers who work in the Territories each year. Over the 25 years since the program began, the centres have provided support to several thousand researchers and participated in the creation of more than 1500 original reports, theses, exhibits and books about the North. These services will be fully maintained. At the same time, the institute intends to make the activities of the labs increasingly responsive and relevant to the people of the NWT.

Local and regional involvement in the centres will be encouraged to the fullest extent possible. This may include joint research projects with business and native organizations, educational programs, training opportunities and the like. The institute will also use the centres to encourage research that is of direct benefit to the people of the Territories, whether it be cultural, medical, technological or in some other field of endeavour. Research that involves a collaboration between scientific and traditional knowledge will also be a priority. Under the institute, the centres will also work to provide opportunities for the public to learn about science and to encourage young people to develop a serious interest in research.

In all these ways, the centres will be integrated into the program of the Science Institute. Over time, we can expect them to make a significant contribution to the growth of our resident scientific and technological capabilities in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Ministers' Statement 38-88(2): Health Transfer

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, honourable Members. I wish to tell you the major events that have occurred since the health transfer. As you know, the health transfer enables us to deliver a complete health system. This is the only system in Canada that fully integrates its public health, acute care, health promotion and insurance benefit programs, and does so with public participation. Community involvement, staff, programs, and physical and financial resources are the key components. We now have all health boards in place, with the exception of the Mackenzie region, and the boards are beginning to function well.

With respect to health programs, both the Commissioner's Opening Address and my previous statements made mention of a seniors program and a tuberculosis control program. In addition, work is under way on a HIB, haemophilus influenzae type B meningitis immunization program, a community health representative training program and a medical interpreter's program.

We have prepared agreements reflecting the services provided by service departments to regional health boards and these are presently being reviewed and finalized by the various health boards. In any case, the service departments have been carrying out services and have established good lines of communication.

The recent completion of additional health facilities is indicative of the broad range of health care services we provide. The Kitikmeot boarding home will provide a home-like environment for Kitikmeot residents who are receiving medical treatment in Yellowknife. The new Stanton Yellowknife Health Centre is a superior medical facility which will ensure first-class health care for NWT residents, while providing greater support for health professionals at all levels. Work is under way on other elements of our capital plan to form a fully comprehensive system.

With respect to our nursing, technical and specialist staff, we have recently signed an agreement with the Union of Northern Workers which will enhance our ability to recruit quality health professionals.

Nurses represent about one quarter of our personnel. We are currently focussing on attracting nurses to come and work in the Northwest Territories. We have introduced national advertisement, are preparing for national nurse job fairs, and are seeking authority from Employment and Immigration Canada for overseas recruitment, should we not be successful in Canada. We are confident that we have budgeted for sufficient positions and that we have an attractive package which offers both professional development and excellent reimbursement. We expect to attract appropriate health professionals with these added incentives.

At the present time all the health boards have in place, or have made offers to: senior executive directors, regional nursing officers and personnel for other senior staff positions that may have been vacant on transfer, or have become vacant since then.

There is no doubt that much work is required to have the system function as we envisage it. Your support has been appreciated and is continuously required. I thank you for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Election Of Member For Yellowknife South

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, Mr. Whitford is not in the House but as a Yellowknife Member, I would like to offer my congratulations to Tony Whitford for a very impressive victory in last night's election. I can tell you as a Yellowknife Member that I am looking forward to working very closely with Mr. Whitford during the next three years. I think that Mr. Whitford's campaign ad that said, "People say Tony is a nice guy, but Tony is also a fighter," tells the story. We are looking forward for Mr. Whitford to add a new element of friendliness and humour into this House, but also I think we can expect some pretty tough fights by Mr. Whitford for the issues in which he believes.

I think people know that Tony was the Commissioner's EA since September 1987. He worked for Energy, Mines and Resources, and the Department of Social Services. He has been a JP in the Territories since 1973. He has been a coroner since 1985. He was a member of the task force on JPs and coroners. I think he is really known as the resident adviser to the JPs and coroners of the Territories. They rely very heavily on his wisdom and on his experience.

Those of us who know Tony know that as a JP he had some very novel marriage ceremonies over the years. He has married people in the air in a DC-3, on the Bush Pilots' Monument, on a boat on Great Slave Lake, and I recall, when I was mayor he married somebody at the city garage. I think he has added an element of interest and novelty to the ancient ceremony of marriage.

I was delighted to see Mr. Whitford's very impressive victory, and I know I, and I am sure all Members, look forward to working with him in this Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. I think it would be appropriate at this time for the Chair to recognize Mr. Tony Whitford, the Member-elect for Yellowknife South in the gallery.

---Applause

Soon to be a colleague of ours. Welcome, Mr. Whitford. At this time the Chair would also like to recognize in the gallery, his worship Mayor Andy Theriault from Iqaluit. Welcome also.

---Applause

Members' statements. Mr. Crow.

Member's Statement On Fire In Co-op Store, Sanikiluaq

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform this House that during lunch time I was informed from my community of Sanikiluaq, and I also heard it on CBC news and those who listened to the news on CBC must be aware of this already, that the co-op store in Sanikiluaq burned down last night. The building still remains but all the goods inside are completely

destroyed. This co-op has been operating for the last 20 years and that store, over the last 10 years. I do not think there has been anybody injured but I wanted to share this with you. The community has been working hard on this. It burned down during the night and I think there is going to be an investigation as to how the fire started. Thank you.

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question O160-88(2): Museum Exhibition Of Volume On Arctic Life

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question, asked by Mr. Pudluk on October 27, on the exhibition "Arctic Life". The exhibition to which Mr. Pudluk refers is named "Polar World: Wyckoff Hall of Arctic Life", and is a permanent exhibition at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. It is accompanied by a publication entitled "Arctic Life: Challenge to Survive". Since "Polar World" is a permanent exhibition, it does not leave the Carnegie Museum to travel to other cities and communities.

The Northern Heritage Centre does, however, facilitate the movement of exhibitions travelling to communities in the Northwest Territories. For example, just this year a geology exhibit called "The North Before People" was in two communities within Mr. Pudluk's constituency, Arctic Bay and Nanisivik. The development of the travelling exhibitions is an ongoing program of the Northern Heritage Centre, whose staff is committed to making our northern heritage available to all citizens of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. McLaughlin.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O184-88(2): Recognition By Federal Government Of Name Changes

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Culture and Communications. I believe, in his department, they have a topographical position which deals with changing the names of places in the Northwest Territories. I know it has been a very emotional and important decision on the part of some communities to do things like that and I think it is appropriate that the mayor of Iqaluit is here because I just wanted to ask the Minister what effect these name changes have, once they are made by communities and recognized by our government, as far as the federal government goes. I have a letter with Frobisher Bay stamped on it by the post office, rather than Iqaluit, and I wonder why the other jurisdiction does not recognize our authority in this area.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O184-88(2): Recognition By Federal Government Of Name Changes

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It takes time for other agencies to change, probably, their stamp but I will look into the problem. Thank you.

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

Question O185-88(2): Location And Content Of Exhibit "Polar World"

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite satisfied with the reply from the Minister of Culture and Communications but I would like to know now, did they find that exhibit? Did you find that exhibit and what it is?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O185-88(2): Location And Content Of Exhibit "Polar World"

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the exhibit, the one in USA, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which is called "Polar World". I am really not too sure as to the content of the exhibit. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O185-88(2): Location And Content Of Exhibit "Polar World"

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My concern is in regard to the exhibit because the contents belong to my great-uncle. I am wondering whether the Minister can look into this to bring them back to the North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can check on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. That part of the question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question O186-88(2): Response To NWT Association Of Municipalities Resolution

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Government Leader acting for Mr. Wray. Mr. Speaker, in mid-April, 1988, the NWT Association of Municipalities held their annual general meeting. At that particular meeting 32 resolutions were passed. Of the 32, 13 motions or resolutions pertain directly or indirectly to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. To date, Mr. Speaker, the association has not had any response at all, not even a letter of acknowledgment, to the resolution that they submitted to Municipal and Community Affairs. My question to the acting Minister is, why is it taking Municipal and Community Affairs so long to respond back to the NWTAM? Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to provide an answer tomorrow, on that question. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Question taken as notice. Mr. Pudluk.

Question O187-88(2): Report Of Housing Corporation District Staff

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I received a document on July 6, 1988, about the rent scale review. It says district staff held public meetings in the communities and they were supposed to be making a report to the Housing Corporation. Before we deal with Tabled Documents 10-88(2) and 11-88(2), I wonder if there is a report available for us. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I will look into the question so I will take it as notice and see what we could do. I was hoping the rental scale review might go forward today, but I would expect the Member wishes that discussion deferred until he can get those materials.

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

Question O188-88(2): Hamlets' Loss Of Surplus At End Of Year

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Government Leader, who is sitting in for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. The hamlets that I represent are not very happy about the policy of taking back the surplus at the end of the year. Yes, they are given a budget to finish but then again, since they are local governments, they try to save money for other uses. For what good reason is that surplus taken away at the end of the year when they do not use it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O188-88(2): Hamlets' Loss Of Surplus At End Of Year

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I believe the policy permits hamlets to retain a portion of their surplus, only. It is not all taken away. So, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe it is extreme as the Member suggests.

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

Question O189-88(2): Possible Amendments To Cities, Towns And Villages Act

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Acting Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Last year I raised, on February 24, to Mr. Wray, about possible amendments to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, if the Minister would be considering bringing forward legislation. He indicated to me that he would take it under advisement and report to the House this fall. Could I ask the Minister where he stands? Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I will make sure that the Member's concerns, expressed last February, are brought back to this House before the end of this session.

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

Question O190-88(2): Funding For Inuit Women's Group, Pangnirtung

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is in regard to the Pangnirtung women's group. I know you have answered this, but I want to know if this group could be given funding. I would like to know if you have done anything on this. This is to the Minister of Social Services.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I did not quite understand the question fully. If I could ask the Member to please repeat his question, I would appreciate it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Mr. Kilabuk, could you clarify, please?

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I am trying to say is that last year the Inuit women's association in Pangnirtung gave notice for additional funding. Right now I am not too sure exactly what initiatives have been taken. Do you know what is happening to this? Their title is Kittaqt, the Inuit women's association in Pangnirtung. You probably have the letter that was sent to you. I would like to know what steps you have taken on this matter. Thank you.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that question is under the responsibility of the Status of Women. I would like to take the question under notice and respond to the Member as quickly as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Crow.

Question O191-88(2): Results Of Investigation Into Sanikiluaq Fire

MR. CROW: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not too sure who I should direct this question to in regard to the fire in Sanikiluaq that I referred to earlier, in my statement. I am sure that the fire marshal will be doing the investigation. I would like to know if I will be informed as soon as the investigation is complete so that I will be aware of exactly what caused the fire. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Crow. Mr. Ballantyne.

Return To Question O191-88(2): Results Of Investigation Into Sanikiluaq Fire

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the investigation is under way. I can give assurances to the Member that I will give him the results of that investigation as soon as I receive them.

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

Question O192-88(2): Government's Response, Regional And Tribal Councils Report

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Government Leader. Is the Minister aware that today is Tuesday, the second day of the week in which he promised that he would be tabling the regional and tribal councils report and the government response? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O192-88(2): Government's Response, Regional And Tribal Councils Report

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, yes, I am aware that it is Tuesday of the week in which I promised to table the government's response to the regional and tribal councils report.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. I am sure the House appreciates the awareness of the Executive Council.

---Laughter

Oral questions. Mr. Ernerk.

Question O193-88(2): Cuts In Air Fares Across NWT

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I asked a question, I believe to the Minister of Government Services, or to the Government Leader, some days ago regarding further reductions in air fares in the NWT. I indicated at that time that I was very pleased about First Air having a 35 per cent cut. I also wanted to know if we could have some further cuts in terms of air fares across the NWT. I still do not have that answer from the government.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I do not remember taking that question as notice. It could have occurred prior to my time, but I will have a look into it and respond. I expect the Member will be making a motion today and I may have some information relative to his question at that time, as well.

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

Question O194-88(2): NWT Hotels Subsidized By Government

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Government Leader. There are a lot of transition houses in the NWT. How many hotels are subsidized by the government? I would like to find out how many hotels in the NWT are being subsidized by the government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. The Government Leader, Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O194-88(2): NWT Hotels Subsidized By Government

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge there is only one hotel in the NWT that is subsidized directly by the Government of the NWT. That hotel is the Frobisher Inn in Iqaluit. We as a government inherited a commitment made by the federal government which obliges us to provide guaranteed occupancy to the Frobisher Inn for a period of time. Mr. Speaker, that guarantee runs out, I believe, in 1990 or 1991. It is not a commitment that the government is particularly happy that it has inherited from the federal government. There have been efforts made to see whether we can get out of that subsidy, because of course it is very unfair to the other hotel operators in that community; but legal advice has been that we inherited a binding commitment which we are going to have to live with. That is the only direct subsidy that I am aware of, Mr. Speaker, although the Department of Economic Development has, of course, provided some assistance on occasion in the development of hotels but not in ongoing operating subsidies. Thank you.

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

Question O195-88(2): Setting Of Rates At Frobisher Inn

MR. POLLARD: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Government Leader on the same subject. Does the government have any input as to the rates that the Frobisher Inn charges? Is it negotiated or is it set by the owners of the hotel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O195-88(2): Setting Of Rates At Frobisher Inn

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is a preferred rate which is negotiated with the Frobisher Inn. The rate has been negotiated with reference to the quality of service and the condition of the facility, so there has been some considerable negotiation about rates over the years and it is a favourable rate. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O195-88(2): Setting Of Rates At Frobisher Inn

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is that rate the same as the Government of Canada pays, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O195-88(2): Setting Of Rates At Frobisher Inn

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, no. This is a preferred rate for the Government of the NWT, negotiated in consideration with the guaranteed occupancy agreement that we have with the Frobisher Inn. I might note, Mr. Speaker, that although it was the federal government that gave this commitment to the Frobisher Inn, the federal government is not willing to direct its employees to stay in the Frobisher Inn. So they set up this problem and left it with us and have done nothing to contribute to this guaranteed occupancy commitment. The federal government, as far as I know, does not have any special rate negotiated with that particular establishment. Thank you.

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

Question O196-88(2): Complaints About Economic Development Agreement Secretariat

MR. POLLARD: New question, Mr. Speaker, to the Government Leader in his capacity acting for Mr. Wray in Economic Development and Tourism. It concerns the Economic Development Agreement. Mr. Speaker, I have had some complaints about the speed with which the EDA Secretariat answers requests or, in fact, provides the funding to requests that they approve. I have also had complaints, Mr. Speaker, that they are restrictive. In one case, there was an application for some \$18,000 and the applicant was told to get some information together. The cost of getting the information together was some \$6000. It hardly seems practical, Mr. Speaker. So my question to the Government Leader is, is the Department of Economic Development and Tourism aware of these problems and are they doing anything to address these problems? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Patterson, as Acting Minister for Economic Development and Tourism.

Return To Question O196-88(2): Complaints About Economic Development Agreement Secretariat

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, to date, since the Economic Development Agreement was signed in October of last year, there have been 200 projects approved, of a value of \$10.2 million. I am informed by the department that there is presently an independent assessment of the EDA delivery mechanisms under way. So I would expect that the department is reviewing the efficiency of processing applications along the lines of the concern expressed by the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O196-88(2): Complaints About Economic Development Agreement Secretariat

MR. POLLARD: I wonder if the Government Leader could tell us, Mr. Speaker, when that assessment is going to be completed and when it is going to be available to the Members of the House? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I will have to take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. That part of the question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Pollard.

Question O197-88(2): Functioning Of Health Boards

MR. POLLARD: To the Minister of Health this time, Mr. Speaker, and it concerns her statement today, Ministers' Statement 38-88(2). She says, "...and the boards are beginning to function well".

I wonder if she could tell the House, Mr. Speaker, are they functioning well using the service departments of this government or are they functioning well in an independent fashion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O197-88(2): Functioning Of Health Boards

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot Regional Health Board is using service functions. The Inuvik Regional Health Board is using department service functions. The Mackenzie board does not have representatives and I suppose you can say that maybe we do not make a judgment on that one, but the two regional health boards, the new ones, are functioning using the Department of Public Works personnel and other areas. We continue to deal with these boards on a day-to-day basis, trying to adapt the principle of using government services. This takes a great deal of initiative and a great deal of daily work. These are the two boards I refer to. The boards that are presently or were already in operation -- as I have stated earlier -- are further down the line in terms of how we are going to deal with encouraging the economy of scale that is anticipated with using the government services. However, in relation to the new health boards, they use services of the Government of the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Mr. Pollard, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O197-88(2): Functioning Of Health Boards

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if the boards are functioning in the manner that the Minister indicates because they wish to or because the Government of the NWT insists that they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O197-88(2): Functioning Of Health Boards

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the arrangement that has been made is with the health board and with the Department of Health and the Government of the NWT. We do this together. Thank you.

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

Question O198-88(2): Baffin Patients Coming To Yellowknife

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Health. In the Baffin Region, the health board there had a meeting. I think you attended that meeting, the last meeting they had in Baffin, and you indicated that the Baffin people, when they go to the hospitals, might be able to come to Yellowknife instead of going to Montreal. I would like to know when this process will be made in regard to patients going to Yellowknife instead of Montreal. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question O198-88(2): Baffin Patients Coming To Yellowknife

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the discussion we had with the Baffin Health Board was for them to take into consideration the whole range and level of treatment that they were interested in. One of the options on certain care is that maybe they would like to come to Yellowknife for treatment, but the whole decision and the whole discussion in that area is left up to the board to contemplate how the best service can be delivered to their community of interest.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question O199-88(2): Reviewing Municipal Funding

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Government Leader acting for Mr. Wray. Last year, I believe, Mr. Speaker, I raised a question of profitability of the department reviewing the municipal funding. Mr. Wray indicated to me that the department would be considering this type of initiative. Could I ask the Minister if they are undertaking this type of initiative right now? Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take that question as notice and give the Member a reply tomorrow.

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

Question O200-88(2): Qualified Mechanic For Pelly Bay

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Hon. Gordon Wray's department, that is, to the Government Leader. The hamlet of Pelly Bay has no qualified mechanic. He is south-trained and he has worked with qualified mechanics before, but he does not have any certificate. While I was there they had a concern because they are trying to watch their budget. This person works well but tends to change more parts than a qualified mechanic and that community, that hamlet, has no housing, no budget for housing and no budget for a salary. Would the Government Leader look into this matter to see if there could be some money for that purpose so that hamlet can start saving money by getting a qualified mechanic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O200-88(2): Qualified Mechanic For Pelly Bay

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the hamlet of Pelly Bay had a sizeable operating surplus in its 1987-88 fiscal year. So, Mr. Speaker, one of the solutions that might be applied to this problem is that the hamlet itself might consider allocating some funds to remedy the problem. I will also ask the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to look into the matter and I will provide the Member with a response. Thank you.

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

Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, return to Question W14-88(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

Return To Question W14-88(2): Federal Native Urban Housing Program

Hon. Tom Butters' return to Question W14-88(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on October 24, 1988, regarding federal native urban housing program:

The urban native program is a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, CMHC, program designed to develop subsidized rental housing in urban centres, over 2500 population, for native families which is planned, developed and managed by non-profit native organizations. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation provides the total share of subsidy funding for the program in the NWT, including funding provisions for project proposal development.

In 1987, the first joint planning year under the global agreement, 10 units of urban native housing were planned for delivery in the NWT. The Yellowknife "B" Band did some preliminary investigation into forming a non-profit group but in late 1987, when it was obvious that no group would be able to develop a proposal for a 1987 commitment, CMHC reallocated the funding. The 1988 plan was expanded to include 20 units in the NWT.

In October, 1987, the Yellowknife local of the Metis Association became interested in the program and formed a non-profit group with representation from the band and started to develop a proposal. The name of the group is the North Slave Housing Corporation.

The North Slave Housing Corporation has received \$10,000 of project development funding from CMHC and is now in the final stages of project development. The existing budget is sufficient to develop a 20-unit project. The actual budget amount cannot be released to the public until any tendering has been completed. The North Slave Housing Corporation is a very competent group and it is expected that they will gain a CMHC commitment for the project in 1988.

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation has offered the North Slave Housing Corporation assistance with needs information and recommended the approval of project development funding to CMHC. The NWT Housing Corporation also provided a contribution to the group to enable them to send delegates to a housing conference where they were able to meet other groups who have been active in the delivery of the urban native program in southern Canada.

The NWT Housing Corporation will continue to advise the public of the existence of the program and assist community groups to utilize the program.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Item 9, petitions. Mr. Ernerk.

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a Petition 8-88(2), from the people of Coppermine. The petition expresses dissatisfaction with the level of air service to Coppermine and the Kitikmeot. The petition is signed by 212 residents of Coppermine.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUQU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to present three petitions today. The first is from the hamlet of Pelly Bay, Petition 9-88(2), and like all the communities in the region, is complaining about the terrible air service being provided. It is signed, Mr. Speaker, by 57 residents. The second, Petition 10-88(2), is also a petition concerning air service. It is from the hamlet of Gjoa Haven, my home community. It is signed by 149 residents. The third, Petition 11-88(2), which is also complaining bitterly about service, is from the hamlet of Spence Bay, signed by 176 residents. Mr. Speaker, I think these show the Legislative Assembly how people are being treated by NWT Air.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Item 9, petitions. Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to present Petition 12-88(2), from the residents of Holman Island, expressing their dissatisfaction with the present deplorable air service being provided to that community in the region. The petition is signed by 85 residents.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Item 9, petitions. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to present a Petition 13-88(2), on behalf of the people of Cambridge Bay. The petition is signed by 38 residents expressing their dissatisfaction with the present deplorable level of service being provided to the Kitikmeot Region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Angottitauruq.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 45-88(2). I wish to table a letter from the mayor of Gjoa Haven to me as an MLA from Natilikmiot, supporting the Kitikmeot Board of Education in its endeavour to improve air transportation in the region.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table two documents. I would like to table Tabled Document 46-88(2), from the Kitikmeot Board of Education expressing dissatisfaction with the lack of appropriate air service between Coppermine and the eastern communities in the Kitikmeot Region.

Mr. Speaker, the second document I would like to table is Tabled Document 47-88(2), a letter from the hamlet of Cambridge Bay to the Kitikmeot Board of Education supporting the efforts of that board concerning poor air service. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table two documents. I would like to table Tabled Document 48-88(2), a letter from the Kitikmeot Board of Education to the mayors of the Kitikmeot Region, requesting support from the hamlet councils on air transportation services. Mr. Speaker, the second document I would like to table is Tabled Document 49-88(2), a letter from the hamlet of Coppermine to the MLA for Kitikmeot West providing examples of deplorable service. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Item 11, tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 27-88(2): Appointment To The Management And Services Board

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 3rd, 1988, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Ernerk, that in accordance with section 35(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, that the following Members be appointed to the Management and Services Board: Mr. Pedersens, Mr. Kilabuk, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Nerysoo, and Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Morin. Notices of motion. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion 28-88(2): Appointments To The Board Of Directors Of The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 3, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that the Legislative Assembly recommends that Mr. Charles Haogak be reappointed to the board of directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation; and further, that Mr. Knute Hansen and Mr. Charlie Lyall be recommended for appointment to the board of directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation; and further, that the appointments be for a term of three years.

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

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 20-88(2). Mr. Ernerk.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 20-88(2): Air Transportation Services For The NWT

MR. ERNERK: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move the following motion:

WHEREAS the majority of communities in the Northwest Territories are served by air transportation only;

AND WHEREAS these communities have no other options for transportation other than air transportation;

AND WHEREAS scheduled air services to some communities have been drastically reduced both in frequency and in type of aircraft;

AND WHEREAS this service reduction has made it impossible to effectively deliver government services to communities and to obtain intercommunity, private and personal transportation and to distribute freight within regions;

AND WHEREAS a reliable air transportation system is imperative if the Northwest Territories is ever to achieve meaningful social and economic development for its citizens;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that this Legislative Assembly supports the need for the Northwest Territories to receive air transportation services which are reliable and efficient and which reflect price structures, service frequency and aircraft type that are acceptable to the public;

AND FURTHER, that this Assembly recommends that the Executive Council meet with the owners of airlines serving the Northwest Territories to ensure such services are being provided to the people of the Northwest Territories.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Ernerk, would you lead off?

Poor Air Service In Kitikmeot Region

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, a number of us tabled some petitions and documents this afternoon, in which we heard from the people of the Kitikmeot Region, two things; deplorable service, and poor air service.

Mr. Speaker, a number of years ago a committee of the House of Commons travelled to the Northwest Territories to major centres, one of them being Iqaluit, another being the community of Rankin, and to other parts of the Northwest Territories, including places like Yellowknife, to hear the concerns of the people of the Northwest Territories who wanted to see improved, acceptable air services to all the communities in the Northwest Territories, especially if we are to see improved social and economic development in the Northwest Territories.

One of the recommendations that I, myself, put together at that time was that an improvement in a situation of languages used in aircraft was needed, and the use of the Inuktitut language, in terms of announcements, would be acceptable service to the people where airlines fly in the NWT. This is very important to us in parts of the Eastern and Central Arctic because many of the customers of different airlines above the treeline are Inuit and they only speak one language. I recognize and I am very pleased to see that First Air does this in the East. They are not required

to, under the law, they are really not, because the two official languages in Canada are French and English. But, out of the kindness of their heart they make these announcements in both languages, Inuktitut and English. Not only that, Mr. Speaker, they also employ native people as flight attendants and perhaps at the counter in some places in the Eastern Arctic.

The Government of the Northwest Territories supports a lot of these airlines in the Northwest Territories. I think the government, on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories, should begin to demand better services, improved services for the people of the Northwest Territories, especially in terms of airlines such as Northwest Territorial Airways, including Calm Air, in the Keewatin Region, and others that might come in to operate in the NWT.

Lower Fares Would Increase Intercommunity Travel

Mr. Speaker, I believe also that more people would travel within communities across the Northwest Territories if we had lower prices for passengers in the North. I welcome the announcement of First Air when they indicate that there will be a 35 per cent reduction in their air fares from, for instance, Rankin to Yellowknife. I welcome the reduction in passenger fares and I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, if we could see more cuts with other airlines across the NWT. I believe that the people of the Keewatin Region, and the people of Kitikmeot, and the people of the Baffin Region, could have more intercommunity visits to see their friends, to see their families, or for general business, if we could see lower prices from different airlines. Mr. Speaker, other problems that we see in the Keewatin Region are different airlines continuing to change their schedules. I have no understanding as to the reasons why they change their schedules, but one of the things that bothers me very much is when the services are reduced to places like Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour; a reduction to two flights per week from three. That is not an acceptable service to the people of the Keewatin Region. So, Mr. Speaker, I would like very much to seek the support of the Members of the Legislative Assembly for this important resolution. The people of the Central Arctic, and the people of the Eastern Arctic, would like to see improved and acceptable services regarding air service. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Mr. Angottitauruq, as the seconder to the motion.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The airline service is very important in the Northwest Territories because that is the only major transportation we use to get to communities. As of today, with what NWT Air is using in the Kitikmeot, those who are now travelling are finding that these aircraft that they often use in that area are from the forties. There are often delays due to mechanical problems of those aircraft. They are recorded as the safest, but a machine that old brings doubt to some passengers at times. These aircraft are uncomfortable in the middle of wintertime because they usually during the flight have no heater working in them. I guess Coppermine has complained in the petition that NWT Air in that area is going to be using a Twin Otter or a King-Air in place of an Electra. That is a great reduction of comfort to those passengers. Through decentralization, Coppermine is now where the Education Department is, and it is very important that they have a good airline service servicing that. Since March 1988, scheduled Electra service between Cambridge Bay and Coppermine has been reduced from three times weekly to once a week. As I said before, the other part of that is to be serviced by Twin Otter or King-Air.

Transportation between the western part of the region and the eastern parts is very difficult and much of the Coppermine-Cambridge Bay traffic is now through Yellowknife, which not only takes a full day longer but is costly in hotel and taxis. Service is so bad and so unacceptable that it is hard to book flights between communities through travel agencies for after Christmas. Travel agencies have advised customers that they will not confirm because they just do not know what NWT Air will do, and they cannot depend on the schedules. The wrong type of aircraft and reduced frequencies have meant service and freight backlogs. Some services now have been contracted by NWT Air to a smaller carrier and service is being provided by Twin Otter. In 1988 it is unacceptable to the Natilikmiot public to fly in poorly heated aircraft; no stand-up room, no washroom facilities, no cabin service facilities.

Effect Of Air Canada Takeover

Over 10 years ago, all the Natilikmiot communities supported the application of NWT Air to provide better services because then Twin Otter services were considered unacceptable. It is now, 10 years later, unacceptable. Since the very first application for a licence to provide scheduled air service, the Kitikmeot Region has publicly, and at air transport committee hearings, supported NWT Air, always in order to provide better services. Now the region feels betrayed because since the Air Canada takeover the service has become poorer. It is much poorer, and this is not acceptable. The region can accept that Air Canada may have other priorities, north and south, but they cannot and will not accept that Kitikmeot Region should receive the poorest service in the NWT, while Air Canada holds on to licences that they really do not seem to want to serve.

Over a 20 year period the leaders in the Kitikmeot Region have supported applications for better air services with better aircraft. This support has allowed NWT Air to achieve licences to use larger types of aircraft. Now that they have farmed this service out, the Kitikmeot gets service with aircraft which were unacceptable to us years ago. The policy on scheduled air services licences should be, use it or lose it. Mr. Speaker, NWT Air has shown clearly that they are not interested in using the Kitikmeot licence. Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot Region feels that NWT Air should therefore lose these licences and let the service be provided by other airlines with a commitment to serve.

Dissatisfaction Over Poor Air Service Widespread

Mr. Speaker, the dissatisfaction over poor air service is widespread. In addition to the petition filed today, to the support documents filed today, I hold over 200 letters from individuals and organizations in the Kitikmeot expressing their anger over the poor service and demanding that the MLAs do something to ensure that publicly acceptable air services are provided.

Mr. Speaker, we give our Executive and the Legislature support in dealing with this transportation crisis. We must ask them to use all means at their disposal to achieve a publicly acceptable service, and, Mr. Speaker, this should include a withdrawal of the government's use of NWT Air and Air Canada, if necessary. I guess the majority of the travellers in the Kitikmeot are government staff and a lot of the people that travel are paid for by government, going to the hospital. The ordinary people hardly use the aircraft. Yes, they want to visit their relatives, and many times I hear that people who are ordinary people want to go and see their relatives. They say, "I would like to go and see my relative, but I cannot afford it; I can afford it but I am not going to have very much left because the airline service is so expensive." Mr. Speaker, the majority of the passengers are paid for or are government staff. I would like the other Members to support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. To the motion. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to see a motion put forward today. I will be supporting this motion. Those of us who live above the treeline, we can only travel by air transportation. Maybe 30 or 40 years ago we used to travel by dog teams but it would take about one or two years to complete the trip. Today it is different. We have to travel by air transportation every time we have to go someplace. I also would like to stress that we do not have any highways that we can use. The only means that we have for travel is air transportation.

We had a problem in my area concerning the scheduled air flights. I think this is going to have to improve sometime in the near future. We should start as of today. (Translation ends)

Mr. Speaker, I fully support this motion. My other concern is when the companies get too big, they do not see the customers any more. They are just looking after their profits. It does not matter where they are going to go.

Motion To Amend Motion 20-88(2), Carried

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make an amendment to this motion. To be added: And further, that the owners of the airline services in the Northwest Territories be invited to appear as witnesses in the committee of the whole at the next session of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Who is the seconder for your amendment?

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. The amendment is in order and has been filed with the Chair. To the amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The amendment is carried. To the motion as amended. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak to this motion and be in favour of it. Along the lines of a statement I made in the House to Mr. Kakfwi when he was acting as Minister of Government Services, I feel that a lot of northern airlines do not give the level of service that they do to people in the South. They do not give us as many blocks of excursion seats as they do in the South. I think that the government, because we are a major user through our different departments for travel, that we can put some pressure on them. Maybe if one airline starts to offer better service to the public and gives reduced air fares, we could make them the airline that we use for a year for all government purposes and that may tone some of them up. I know the Department of Health gave one airline preference for a year because the other airline was not even serious enough about answering a tender call on medical flights to Edmonton. So maybe they need some attention given to them by the government. In other words, whichever airline is giving the best service to the general public, they should get the government freight, etc.

Central Arctic Travellers Must Go Via Yellowknife

Another thing I have seen recently in the lobby of the hotel. There are all sorts of constituents of Mr. Angottitauruq's, and your own constituents, Mr. Speaker, and Ms Cournoyea's constituents in the lobby of the hotel here because they are flying from one community to another community in the Central Arctic and they are having to come by Yellowknife now. So I do not think there is very good regional service there. I think also the airlines are charging us about twice as much per air mile as they are in southern Canada but are not giving us a lot of the services and excursion fares that are offered to the general public down south. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. To the motion as amended. Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in support of this motion. However, I would like to say a few things that may not have been put forward today, in regard to the transportation system of the NWT. In airline transportation, especially where there are no roads, the communities that would appreciate to develop economically have a very difficult time because everything really relates to the transportation system; how we can transport goods and services back and forth to different communities and how to pull the further frontier communities into the whole of the NWT and into the general economic program developed for all Canada.

Areas Where A Monopoly Situation Exists

I would like to say that perhaps it is not too difficult to bash airlines and certain airlines in particular. However, one thing in defence of airlines I would like to say is, they are businesses. They have to make a decent return on their dollar. They also have to look toward replacing

equipment. What we have to really address here as the Government of the NWT, is our mind-set on what the transportation system is and what is bothering the transportation system and where the problems exist in an airline system, delivery of service to the North. I can agree that when there is a monopoly there is difficulty. The areas that we complain most about are the areas where no one else really wants to operate. Maybe one or two airlines, but we are really dealing with a monopoly situation in the end.

I want to draw to your attention that in bashing airlines we must also respect the fact they have to replace their equipment. The safety of people really motivates their ability to provide proper maintenance and replacement of up-to-date equipment. The mind-set of territorial residents is they want better service, more up-to-date service, faster planes. These are the desires of people. But given those two things, I would think that over the past, certain airlines certainly have taken advantage of their monopoly position. In our northern part of the region in Kitikmeot and the Western Arctic that is off the highway system, we have seen many airlines develop from the regional level and when they made enough profit, they always formed a broader regional airline carrier and then another airline carrier of a smaller nature developed. But all the aspirations are to get bigger and better. That is a business reality.

So I suppose the territorial government and the Government of Canada and NWT residents have one thing to contend with when we are delivering services in communities that have no other option. That is, how do we support the airline services without the cost prohibiting them from delivering a service? There is an administrative problem as well. Every time we tax more on fuel and petroleum resources that they use, every time we have another land tax, every time we build on these things to the transportation system, it gets passed on to the consumer. So all the issues are not problems caused by the airlines, although I concur in a monopoly situation that there are problems in certain areas. But we as a group of people here really have to address what the problems are relating to delivering services in areas that are rather remote, related to a business.

A Margin Of Profit In Delivery Of Service

Any one of us can have a business, but are we delivering a social service? And most of us here, if we are in business, would like to make a margin of profit. Certainly if you are proud of your airline, you would like to make it a little bit better than most other services, particularly if you are an airline that operates in the North.

Now given the fact that we have business interests in most of our areas, people would like, and regional organizations would like to provide that service. We cannot dismiss the fact that it is a business, it has to make a profit and they have to deliver a service.

So I think in our deliberations today, I support the motion, but in our deliberations we should be very conscious of the fact that we cannot drive the price down so low as to get inadequate service, unsafe service. We cannot do that. There is a margin of safety there, that we have to look at. That is where this Legislative Assembly may have to play a major role. How much does it cost to operate that service? The further north you go the more remote you are and the higher the cost. The fact is that no one wants to be in business to provide a social service, otherwise you can be a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

---Laughter

So I would suggest to all of us that in deliberating this particular question and the very important motion that is put forward, that not only is there a question of, perhaps, certain companies not attempting to provide services at a nominal rate with a nominal profit margin, but also, what we have to support is a transportation industry in the Northwest Territories to allow economic development to take place.

There are many things that could happen in the High Arctic that cannot take place because it costs too much to transport. But it may not necessarily be the problem of the airline because the

airline has to make a profit. It may be a problem of the high cost that they have to incur to make their business viable.

There is another question. You might decide that, maybe in certain areas you have to have a social airline system. I do not know. But the fact is, everybody that is in business has to make a reasonable profit and in addressing this particular motion, which I support, we should take two things in consideration. Not only the problems where people may be overcharging but, also, the problems of the airline industry with the high cost they have to incur. There are many airlines that like to have a special privilege where they operate only in the summer and the deregulation system right now allows them to do that. They can move into different areas of the Arctic and operate in the summer. Meanwhile the airlines that are there all year round have to operate in the winter period when the high costs are incurred.

Support To Economic Growth

So, we have a multitude of problems to deal with, with the issue of airline transportation. The deregulation system, the cost of operation and then the other issues are addressed, particularly in this motion.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a committee on the economy. We have a government that is dedicated to trying to resolve the economic growth in the Northwest Territories. We have a group of people who are concerned about how we can support that economic growth in communities that have no other option but using airline transportation. Those are the issues that are here today. When we are dealing with that, particularly the air transportation system where people do not have any other option but airline transportation, the fact is that there will be no economic growth. If I want to sell a pound of musk-ox in Vancouver, I have to get it from Banks Island or we have to get it from Cambridge Bay. We have to move it. If we want to support economic growth, where we have a tannery in a region that pushes the economic secondary industry, we have to have a transportation system that, at least, allows us to be competitive. Then we go into the free trade agreement; does it allow us to do that if we wish?

So, there are all kinds of questions surrounding this motion and I would like to compliment the mover of the motion for putting it before us but we have to address the issues, not in isolation of one carrier who may be doing a disservice to its customers, but in total. What are we going to do about a transportation system that can drive the energy of those communities that are isolated from the central nerve of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. To the motion as amended. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the motion, I will support the motion. Maybe we should introduce subsidies for some routes. I have been flying a lot, ever since 1975. One time we even had to have an emergency landing. My biggest concern, in regard to the air transportation, is safety. A lot of times the air schedules have to be delayed due to the weather or maintenance problems. Even if the motion is carried, I do not think it is going to do very much unless we introduce more money into it.

I will also introduce another reason why we have problems in regard to air transportation. You know that the only airline that flies around the Baffin is First Air. I would like to see it go to all airlines, not only to one airline company. We, in Baffin, would like to see the costs decrease. I know that they are being decreased in southern Canada and if we are going to be operating the same way as Canadians in the South then we have to be keeping up to the southern Canada rates.

Native Language Service On Airlines

The aboriginal people of the North are in the majority and there should be some native language service on airlines. If I went to Cape Dorset they would only be talking to me in English, although I am travelling between the two native communities. I am not too worried about coming from

Iqaluit to here. I know what problems we are going to have with regard to this motion but as aboriginal people, our requirements have to be carried out and recognized.

Mr. Angottitauruq says they have problems with NWT Air. I always hear the problem from Mr. Angottitauruq. The problem that is existing now should be rectified -- should have been rectified some time ago. Maybe we should be looking for more ideas as to how the problems can be rectified. I do not think anything will ever be rectified in regard to air transportation, unless we put more money into it. If I am going to be flying around, I would not want to be travelling from one community to another without having any passengers or freight. I know, too, that in Baffin, especially in the springtime, especially in June, July, there is a lot of air transportation to Pangnirtung, especially when the tourists go. In the winter the airlines decrease their number of flights.

Having heard what is said in the motion, I am in support, but we have to try and find ways and means to rectify the problems, and I will be checking into this matter. I know, too, that the airlines and air transportation in the Baffin Region should be rectified also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. To the motion, as amended. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, deregulation in the Northwest Territories has been a mixed blessing, I believe. On the one hand, in permitting new opportunities for carriers like First Air to compete on established runs, it has provided us dramatic examples of reductions in air fares that are possible through competition.

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Patterson, we have no translation at the moment. Mr. Patterson, I believe we have translation again. Could you start over again, please.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, since I am not reading from a prepared text, I will try to begin again. Mr. Speaker, I was saying that deregulation of the air industry in Canada, and the limited deregulation that is apparently the regime in the NWT, has been a mixed blessing. On the one hand, it has provided opportunities for carriers like First Air to compete with monopoly licensees on established routes, and offer dramatic reductions in fares and, I would suggest, improvements in service. In the Kitikmeot it is well-known that fares reduced by an average of 40 per cent, DC-3 aircraft were replaced with Hawker-Siddeley aircraft with improved capacity and services, and we have similarly seen dramatic reductions in air fares between Yellowknife and Iqaluit, a route I fly often. Mr. Speaker, when competition was provided on that route, the air fares dropped between those two points from \$850 to \$489.

Monopolies Have Taken Advantage Of GNWT

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the NWT is one of the biggest customers for northern airlines through our medivac, outpatient services, and through simply the travelling that we do in conducting the business of the people of the NWT. We spend millions and millions of dollars on air transport every year. We have apparently been paying a premium of millions and millions and millions of dollars on some of these routes where carriers have taken, it would appear, significant advantage of their monopoly status.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that where there is a monopoly, some carriers have taken full advantage of their right to charge extreme fares, to offer scheduled aircraft times, and aircraft types, without a great deal of regard to the interests of the community. I think that we should be concerned, as a Legislature, when the actions of northern air carriers have jeopardized the operations of our government. I cite, for example, Mr. Speaker, recent reductions in service between Coppermine and Cambridge Bay, which have, I believe, made it much more difficult to operate decentralized services in that region. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Government of the NWT embarked on an experiment to decentralize jobs in the Kitikmeot Region by moving some departments and functions of government from Cambridge Bay to Coppermine, but about that time the airline services and frequency declined. The result was that employees had to fly to Yellowknife to get

to Cambridge Bay and points east, and this resulted in jeopardy to our decentralization initiatives. Mr. Speaker, I am informed that there are some changes proposed in the scheduling.

I think Mr. Angottitauruq has referred to the possibility of King-Air and Twin Otter services being applied and his concerns about the use of those types of aircraft, compared with more modern aircraft and better equipped aircraft that are available. The other concern in my understanding, is that NWT Air flights between Coppermine and Cambridge Bay have been designed so that they almost deliberately do not connect with First Air eastbound flights, which will force our government employees, and other travellers to points east, to overnight and spend time and money because there is not the sort of co-operation one might hope for between two carriers serving one region.

Deregulation Has Caused Conflict

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned some of the benefits of deregulation with respect to reduced air fares, but it has also resulted in head-to-head conflict in a number of regions in the NWT, which I do not think will be in the ultimate best interests of the people of the NWT in those regions being served. For example, on the Iqaluit-Yellowknife route, I understand that there is about to be head-to-head competition between NWT Air and First Air on those routes. After First Air demonstrated that reasonable fares could apply on those routes, NWT Air/Air Canada has now decided that it will introduce twice-weekly Boeing 737 jet service between the points Yellowknife, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit. On Fridays, I understand, there will, in fact, be two flights a day. Mr. Speaker, it should be obvious to everyone that this is too much capacity, and I am very concerned that this action will force First Air to cut back on its planned three flights per week, and it could jeopardize that new service.

Mr. Speaker, I would have thought that NWT Air's main purpose in acquiring these Boeing 737 jets would have been to compete on the north-south Yellowknife-Inuvik-Edmonton routes where there is a lot more room for competition and lots more scope for market development. First Air is a privately owned company. It is the last regional carrier in the country. All of the rest have been swallowed up by Canadian Airlines or Air Canada. That company employs 75 people in my constituency and as Mr. Ernerk has stated, they are employing Inuit who are speaking Inuktitut in flight services. It concerns me that they are now being opposed by a company backed by the limitless funds of the Government of Canada. So, Mr. Speaker, deregulation in that respect has not always been a boon to air service in the NWT.

Another example I would cite would be the Keewatin where I believe we now presently have up to five carriers licensed to provide service routes in that region. I am sure that Members would agree that this is an overcapacity and undoubtedly a situation not in the best long-term interests of the residents of the Keewatin Region.

GNWT Should Take Advantage Of Purchasing Power

Therefore, I strongly support both aspects of the motion, Mr. Speaker. I think that the Government of the NWT is the biggest customer of these airlines. We should take advantage of our purchasing power as a government. We should not be afraid to inform airlines that actions they are taking, sometimes in the heat of competition, sometimes taking advantage of a monopoly situation, are not in the best interests of our government and its efficiency in delivering services and not in the best interests of the people that we represent.

So I welcome that aspect of the motion and I am sure that the Minister of Government Services in particular, who has been recently, I am aware, dealing with airlines on some of these questions, would be pleased to respond to that recommendation from the Assembly. I am also pleased, Mr. Speaker, with the amendment introduced which would invite carriers to appear. I think, as people without good alternate means of transportation we are particularly aware of how vital air service is in the NWT. I think it is important that carriers should be held accountable to this Legislative Assembly for the actions that they take which are of concern to MLAs. I think Ms Cournoyea's

points about the reality of the need to recognize that airlines are in business to make a profit, about the need to be realistic, about the loads on routes and the sort of aircraft that can be justified, can be taken into account in these debates.

I recall that we had an excellent debate in Inuvik where I believe representatives of all carriers were invited to appear before the Legislature. As I recall there were some definite changes and commitments that came out of those debates. I recall that Members from the Eastern Arctic were able to persuade Nordair to change its policy on excess baggage, which was a major achievement at the time. I recall commitments that were made by Mr. Engle about eliminating DC-3 service in the near future. It would be good to have Mr. Engle back to report on progress in that area.

So in sum, Mr. Speaker, I endorse this motion and I think as MLAs we all have a vital interest in this vital service in the North and it will be important that we take this opportunity to begin this dialogue both in public with the air carriers, in this Assembly and also in private, through the offices of the Minister of Government Services. I whole-heartedly endorse this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. To the motion as amended. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to state that I support this motion in full. (Translation ends)

I come from a very small community and a very remote community that is not too different from other small communities that are in the NWT. I am looking forward to the day where it would take me less than seven hours to go home, as it is today. Until recently, my air fare to go from Yellowknife to Pond Inlet was more than that of going from Yellowknife to New Zealand; substantially more. We are now in that reality. It is a little cheaper now to go to Pond Inlet than to go to New Zealand from Yellowknife. Not too long ago Pond Inlet was serviced by Twin Otter only by First Air. The other airline as well, was first using a Twin Otter until the day that the business community collectively started hiring another air company from southern Canada to bring in perishable foods. That erupted changes. From that, First Air started flying 748s into my community. I believe that competition between companies has a good impact on all of us, as it was done by this company coming in from southern Canada to my community, that brought another airline and another type of service.

As much as I am in favour of First Air serving the majority of northern communities, I would like to see a check on a company which would keep their services up, as well as on the price of tickets going from other communities. Mr. Speaker, I would again like to say that I will be supportive of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. To the motion as amended. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say that I will be able to support this motion that is currently on the floor. Listening to the comments made around the table was very good for me because I recall that when Nordair had the monopoly service, we used to have problems with them, but they were always improving and they have become a big company now. But they are no longer serving us after they improved the service.

Monitoring In Terms Of Competition

I think we are going to continue to see changes such as different airlines or other services. We realize that they have to make money so that they can support their own companies. They have to make money through tickets and cargo services and they have to make that money from private business people. The Northwest Territories does not have a large population and we do not have that many different companies. I think that we should keep a very careful check on how the companies are operating in terms of competition. I do not think it will be that difficult to monitor their activities because there are only a few of them. I also know that First Air which serves our area has always provided good service wherever they serve.

As Joe Arlooktoo stated earlier, that in the Baffin Region we have never seen a reduction in air fares before, but the only way that it is cheaper for us is if they have the stand-by fares which significantly reduce the regular air fare in the Baffin Region at least. I have not seen that kind of option in other areas as it is in the Baffin Region and First Air offers that reduction in fares. We are very happy about that. But when there is too much cargo, and the people want to go home but they have no room on the planes, they get stuck in the community where they were visiting. I just wanted to state this experience that we have in the Baffin Region and how First Air is operating in that region.

As Titus Allooloo said, competition is good, and I agree with that. When Austin Airways were coming into our region they were very much cheaper, but First Air started competing with them and were successful in killing the company. I think that that airline, Austin Airways, is just waiting in the wings, and I would be in favour of their making themselves available to compete in that region, since we still have only one airline servicing our communities. I think we would see in the NWT, as there is more competition, a reduction in fares, and perhaps in the Baffin Region, too, if there was another airline competing in that area, we might see lower fares. I do not know, maybe that would cause problems. I know that airlines try to provide good service, and they keep a good profile, and they adhere to the regulations, even though some of us do not always agree or are not pleased with the service they provide, maybe because of service, or the weather, or mechanical problems. We do see those problems from time to time, but I believe that because they care about us, they say that safety comes first, especially in the airline business. But we can also tell them that if they do not adhere to regulations that we have to do something about that. I am happy to say that if we are going to be inviting the different airline companies to talk to us, then I will be happy about that. Lastly, I will be supporting this motion in full. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. To the motion, as amended. Mr. Crow.

Sanikiluaq Serviced Through Montreal

MR. CROW: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting the motion. I have been thinking for a long time now as to how my community, Sanikiluaq, can be part of the Northwest Territories without direct connections. If we could get airline service from the Baffin Region to Sanikiluaq, we want to see this happen sometime in the future because Sanikiluaq is part of the NWT. We have no direct connection with the other communities in the NWT, and whenever we want to go to another community we have to go through Montreal. That is the only route, we have no alternative. Presently, Sanikiluaq is serviced from Northern Quebec by Air Inuit. The airlines that are servicing the NWT, and there seem to be more and more companies interested in this area, how can we include Sanikiluaq to be serviced from within the NWT? This is one of my continuing concerns because our situation is that the people that have to go and attend meetings out of Sanikiluaq to Iqaluit, whenever they have to go to that centre they always have to go through Montreal in order to attend their meetings. This takes many hours and it is very expensive.

For example, if you go to Montreal first, and then fly to Iqaluit, that is a lot of hours, and also whenever we have to send out patients from Sanikiluaq they have to go from Great Whale to Winnipeg to Churchill. These are done by government charters or medivacs, and the patients who go down south for treatment have to travel that long route and it also costs a lot of money, and we are all aware of that. If an aircraft came from Iqaluit to our community, or to Churchill, if we could have one-stop service to these communities, that would be very good.

I have also heard from Sanikiluaq, those people who do not speak English or understand English, who are asked to go to a meeting somewhere; they are very capable people, but these people have refused to go because they do not want to go through Montreal.

In terms of the airlines servicing my area, if representatives were asked to attend the Legislative Assembly, I think it would be good for them to hear our comments and they will be able to hear

our concerns. We know that it is very expensive to travel by air. For example, when we started getting service from Great Whale River, and the schedule was going to be daily by Austin Airways in 1975, at that time the air fare for one person was \$25 and today it is \$80. The people do not even bother to go and visit their relatives because of the inflation of air fares. The motion that has been put forward, I will be supporting. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the Members of the Executive Council who spoke, I believe were speaking as MLAs with concerns about the air service in their constituencies. I will briefly respond as Minister of Government Services. I support, and I will pursue the initiative of Mr. Ernerk and Mr. Angottitauruq to meet with managers and representatives of the airlines which service the NWT, as the motion directs. The motion with regard to the amendment, with regard to inviting these same people or airline owners to this House, I believe would be done by you, Mr. Speaker. I would indicate that to complement that particular thrust of the mover and the seconder, I would ensure that the debate record for today and the tabled documents that have been put on the table today are also mailed to the managers and owners of the airlines that service the people of the NWT.

Communication From Air Canada And NWT Air

I did follow a lead of my predecessor, Mr. Sibbeston, who some months ago, met with members of Air Canada, Mr. Bill Rowe, Mr. John Jefferies and Mr. Bob Engle. As of Friday, following up on Mr. Sibbeston's initiative, I heard from them and of their corporate plans for the North and how they intend to pursue the issue of services to the Mackenzie, Kitikmeot, Rankin and Baffin regions. I did copies for a number of Members of tariffs and some of the changes which they expect to inaugurate in their various service patterns in the near future. I believe one of the letters went to Mr. Ernerk. In that letter I indicated the reductions which Air Canada and NWT Air are expected to effect in the Kitikmeot Region as of October 30. So that is in part an answer to the oral question asked of my predecessor a week ago, Friday.

I have also, or my staff, over my signature, have contacted representatives of Canadian Airlines International to again seek to discuss the level of service offered to northern residents and I have written to Mr. Rhys Eyton, chairman of the board of directors to make him aware of the concerns such as those expressed by Mr. McLaughlin recently in this House. So I will act on the direction given to me by the motion and I welcome the conclusion of this debate.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. To the motion as amended. Are you ready for the question? Mr. Ernerk, as the mover of the motion, you have the last response and this will close debate on this motion. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very appreciative of the very positive response this motion received from the Members of the Legislative Assembly. I am also very pleased to see within the audience, members of First Air because to be quite honest with you, the people of the Keewatin Region are sometimes very envious of the people of the Baffin Region with the services that are provided by such an airline such as First Air. So I welcome the opportunity to indicate to the House that the people of the Keewatin Region welcome such services from that particular airline.

However, Mr. Speaker, I raise this issue with regard to the airlines because on February 26, 1988, I asked a question with regard to the airline services in the NWT, in particular, complaining about NWT Air service, as to whether or not the Government Leader of the NWT government could advise the general public with regard to complaining about the services of that particular airline and if they have any regulatory power over these airlines. The reply that I got at that time from the Deputy Government Leader, who was Nick Sibbeston then, was that the government was going to write a letter to all of the MLAs and members of the public with regard to this particular issue. To date, Mr. Speaker, I am still waiting for the reply with regard to the process of complaining.

Mr. Speaker, it must be understood that on my part, I think that airline competition is very healthy. As a matter of fact, this is the kind of thing that I have supported for a long time. Along with many people from my region and I know from many other regions in the NWT, we depend very much on southern Canada. As was mentioned earlier, we do not have roads and highways in the Eastern Arctic. I depend, along with many other people in the Keewatin Region, on Winnipeg. I should not have to but I do.

In terms of goods coming into the communities, these rates are costly. The freight costs from points South of 60 to the North of 60 are very high. I do believe that lower freight costs will also be good for businesses across the NWT, which is something that we have to be able to address. I think it would also be good for tourists coming from southern Canada and generally speaking, North America as well as western Europe; that providing we have competition, providing we have lower air fares across the NWT, I think it would be good for tourist operators in the NWT and tourists coming in to the NWT.

So, I guess what I am simply indicating, Mr. Speaker, is that I do not want to have confrontation with airlines but at the same time I do want to see more improved services to all people across the NWT. Thank you.

Motion 20-88(2), Carried As Amended

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. To the motion as amended. Are you ready for the question? A recorded vote has been requested. Mr. Clerk.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Crow, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Gargan.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed to the motion, please stand. All those abstaining from the motion, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Allooooloo, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Butters, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MR. SPEAKER: This motion is carried.

---Carried

Ten votes for, zero votes against, and six abstentions. The motion is carried. The House will now recess for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: We are on Item 14, motions. Motion 22-88(2). Would the media please clear the floor and the House come back to order? We are on Item 14, motions. Motion 22-88(2). Mr. Butters.

Motion 22-88(2): Motion Of Appreciation For Mary Hunter

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS Mrs. Mary Hunter, Hansard proofreader, has been employed with the Legislative Assembly since 1974;

AND WHEREAS this is Mrs. Hunter's last session working as a proofreader;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that we express to Mrs. Hunter our appreciation for her 14 years of valuable service with the Hansard offices of the Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, it is with conscious intent that this motion of appreciation for our long-serving staff member, Mary Hunter, is placed before this House by the dean of the East, Ludy Pudluk, and by the dean of the West. Before I get this House whirled off into the land of Oz, Mr. Wizard -- I mean, Mr. Speaker -- might we waive our rules briefly to recognize Mary Hunter, before I conclude my words of support for this motion. Mrs. Hunter is in the gallery, sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair would like to recognize in the gallery, Mrs. Hunter.

---Applause

Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mary Hunter has served this Assembly faithfully and effectively over the past 14 years. Now, Mary and her husband, Ben, are looking forward to retirement after a lifetime of work and service in northern communities.

I think you have heard of the definition of retirement, Mary. It is when you have time to sit around and watch the sun set, if you can stay up that late.

Ben and Mary Hunter came into the Northwest Territories in 1953, to Fort Franklin, where Ben operated the Bay post. In those days the Bay boys used a standard advertisement to entice a female to share their lives in northern Canada, which reads as follows: "Advertisement: Woman wanted to help in house and store; 18 hour day, seven day week; sleep in; must have knowledge of cooking, sewing, medicine, law, child psychology, elementary electricity and carpentry, bookkeeping and sex..."

---Laughter

"...must be strong and willing; no wages, room and board only."

In the early days before the greenhouse effect, winters in the Territories were really cold, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: How cold were they?

---Laughter

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I am going to tell you. Many occasions on winter mornings Mary found her son's diapers frozen to the sheets of his crib. Word of Mary's competence and many abilities spread far and wide, for one terribly cold February night in Aklavik, she opened the door to a timid knock and saw in the blowing dark and the biting cold, a shaking, shivering figure of a monkey who looked up at her pitifully and asked, "Pardon me, do you do welding?"

---Laughter

But those were the good old days, Mr. Speaker. On the good old days, Mary cautions, do not yearn for the good old days; enjoy yourself, for these are the good old days.

Mary has a bit of advantage on the rest of us and husband Ben, for I was speaking with Ben Saturday afternoon while he waited for Mary to conclude her proofreading duties. Talking of the future, Ben noted that it was no fun growing old alone since Mary hasn't had a birthday in six years.

---Laughter

But Mary is now reaching the critical watershed that faces all employees at the twilight of their careers. She has finally acquired sufficient experience to lose her job.

Fortunately, Mary has always been a happy person. She has just been too doggoned busy to be miserable, and how could one be miserable working for politicians? We are always good for a laugh. Over the years, as a proofreader, Mary has noted that politicians tend to approach every subject with an open mouth. She has concluded, also, that politicians must be very good at geometry since we appear to know all the angles yet somehow manage to talk in circles.

---Laughter

In closing, a few well used words to Ben and Mary on their retirement, words which should have been written, if they were not, by the immortal bard of the Scots, Robbie Burns, since the words sing with the sound of the highland wind through the gorse and the heather. To Ben and Mary: May your road ever rise to meet you and the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your faces and the snow fall soft upon your roof. Until we meet again, dear friends, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. To the motion. As seconder, Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I do not really have much to say. My colleague there has said it all. I would like to disagree about the temperature, I think my air was a little colder than that.

In appreciation for Mary Hunter. She was there at the time that I came, in 1975; she was always there and smiling at me; I did not know her that well but she was always smiling at me. That is all I have to say, Mr. Speaker. Take care, and one of these days I will see you in heaven. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to add my gratitude and best wishes to Mary Hunter as she embarks on new adventures in life. I have known Mary for many years and she has been a tremendous asset to Yellowknife and to the Territories. We will miss her and her husband very deeply.

One thing that I will specifically miss is that at the end of every session when we have our little get-together, Mary would sit down with me and tell me how I should have really expressed myself. The proofreaders of Hansard have that very difficult task of making us, us politicians, seem intelligent. Our statements that we think are so brilliant oftentimes are not. History will record us as much more intelligent than we really are. I know we are going to really miss that skill of Mary Hunter in Hansard.

So, for me and my family, bon voyage and merci beaucoup for everything.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me say that it has always been a pleasure, in my nine years of serving in this House, to see the pleasant smile, to be faced with an individual with such a happy manner, such a charming character; because there are few situations in this world where we can meet individuals who can share happiness with you no matter what they do, and Mary Hunter, during my term here, has always shared that type of character with me.

I wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, through you to Mary, to ask Mary to wish her husband well, because in many instances he has been an individual who has provided support to me. I wish to express my best wishes to him, to Mary Hunter, on behalf of all ajauqtit, or the whip, or the pushers on this side of the House. We wish her well; we wish Ben well; and we will miss her always in the prorogation parties where she has always provided a chorus for us to follow, or at least has been a part of the singing group that we have always managed to somehow persuade to be part of the parties. My best wishes again, Mr. Speaker, to Mary Hunter and also, through you, hopefully, she will express our best wishes to her husband. Thank you, very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I would like also to add my very best wishes to Mary Hunter, not only because of her contributions to the work of this Legislative Assembly, but because she has been a very important part of the community of Yellowknife. I have known Mary for about 14 years now, and I have known her mostly in the capacity of being a fellow chorister in the chorus line, sometimes as a singer with the old Singing North.

Whenever I see Mary I think of those days when I was a very young man and spent many, many days on buses going off to play in different games in different stadiums all over Britain and in Europe, and there would always be people that would have scarves around their necks that always seemed to support your team. Those supporters that could sing and be happy in victory or in defeat were a very important part of the memories that I have of being a young man. And I saw the same thing here in Yellowknife as part of this community. She has been a supporter of so many things, and she has been a wonderful support for this Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. To the motion, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do not always see the very hard-working ladies, and I think they are almost all ladies, who toil in the bowels of the Legislature producing our excellent Hansard, working in windowless rooms, late at night in very difficult conditions. We do not often see them, and we do not often have occasion to acknowledge their important work and the cheerful way in which they toil for us.

I would like to join with other Members in wishing Mary and Ben the very best and thanking her sincerely for her loyal years of service to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you. I would like to wish Mary and her husband well, as well. I would also like to just make a very brief point that I hope in her workings and her co-operation with the

ladies working with her, that she has trained at least one of them so that whenever we make a speech which nobody supports, or we make a joke that nobody gets, there will be somebody down there who will write in, "---Applause" or "---Laughter" after what we say.

---Applause

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. To the motion. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents would like to wish Mr. and Mrs. Hunter the very best on their retirement. I have known the two individuals for a number of years. They also served in Rae-Edzo at the Hudson's Bay post. Through my working here in the Legislature for five years, as an employee and a Member, I have known the hard work that she has put in. She is always, as other Members have indicated, cheerful. No matter in what manner you are approaching her, you end up either smiling, and you never go away from her without smiling. Once again, Mary and Ben, through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish them the very best. Thank you.

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

MR. ERNERK: Briefly, Mr. Speaker. I was here in 1975 to 1979 when Mary was here, when she worked for the Hansard. I was sitting on the other side then, and I was always understood by the Members of the Legislative Assembly from this side, every time I answered a question. This time around, the only time I am able to understand some of the Ministers' statements is when I read the Hansard.

---Laughter

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: That's the only time we understand it, too!

---Laughter

MR. ERNERK: I, too, want to add my thanks to Mary and wish you the very best of luck, and your husband, Ben. It is a great pleasure to have known you. Good luck. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. Mr. Butters, as the mover of the motion, you have the right to the last go.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Applause, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

Motion 22-88(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. That last statement by Mr. Butters then concludes the debate. All those in favour of the motion? Thank you. All those opposed?

---Carried

Let the record show that the motion was unanimous.

Motion 23-88(2). Mr. Kilabuk.

Motion 23-88(2): Funding For Community Centre, Clyde River

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, the motion I am going to make, is Motion 23-88(2):

WHEREAS the community of Clyde River has no community centre;

AND WHEREAS the community has to use the school gym for all its activities;

AND WHEREAS the use of the school gym is extremely high, thus events cannot be held because the gym is overbooked;

AND WHEREAS the residents have been expressing their desire for a community centre for many years;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that this Assembly requests that the Executive Council consider placing in the 1989-90 budget, provision for a community centre in Clyde River.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. The motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, there are still communities in the NWT that have no community centre. When I was first elected in 1975, there was no community centre in Clyde River, and to date they do not have one yet. They have a small gym, but now that the population is getting bigger, they require a bigger centre or gym. The school gym in the community is very useful for all kinds of activities, and it is always open and always available for younger people in communities, as well as for the school kids. I am aware now that there is a community centre in Pangnirtung, even the older people in the community are participating in the activities within that centre. They have broomball, hockey, floor hockey, and other activities. This motion that I am putting forward -- I heard there is a budget for this for 1993, but because of the population increase in Clyde River I do not want to see them without a community centre, that will be a requirement for the community because this is very useful for the people in the communities through activities for all people, all types of people, whether they are young or old and I believe this.

As for me, I have had the opportunity to participate in some games in the communities and I enjoy it very much. I know that the people of Clyde River are getting impatient about getting a gymnasium in their community. I know that the government does not have the provision for this in their 1989-90 budget but I would like them to look into finding funding for the community centre.

I am not asking them to postpone their preparations for their budget but I would like to see that in the early 90s there is a community centre for Clyde River. I am not trying to defer any other projects for other communities and I do not want to see a cancellation of new community halls being built in other communities but we would very much appreciate it if you could look for ways in which to fund the new community centre for one of the communities in my riding. I know that my constituents would be very happy and would appreciate it if you could find funds for this. That is all I have to say, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. To the motion. As seconder of the motion, Mr. Pollard.

Advice And Direction To Government

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support Mr. Kilabuk's motion. I am well aware of the problems associated with the lack of gymnasium space. The government, Mr. Speaker, always maintains that they are open to advice and direction. This

motion does that, Mr. Speaker. It advises the government that a community centre is required in Clyde River and the direction is, how long do communities have to wait?

The standing committee on finance, earlier this year, Mr. Speaker, pointed out to the government several areas where it was felt that departments in this government were going to be unable to meet their mandates in future, unless the financial situation of those departments was addressed. I think this is an instance. It is obvious that the people there are frustrated, they do not want to wait any longer, they have outgrown the capacity of what they have and it is a sign of the times when a motion like this comes to the floor, Mr. Speaker, that there is frustration out there. So, I have no problem seconding the motion and supporting the motion. I would encourage all other Members to do the same thing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pollard. To the motion. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too will be supporting Mr. Kilabuk's motion but I would caution the Executive when they are considering placing this particular request from the honourable Member into the 1988-89 budget, that it does not reflect that they bump another project to incorporate this particular request being made by the community. This is in addition to what has already been planned and with that, Mr. Speaker, I will stop my comments here. Thank you.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to voice some similar thing like Mr. Zoe has just said. I will be supporting the motion. I have communities that have been waiting for a long time for a recreational facility and each of their arguments are different. One of the communities indicates that they have social problems with the young people and they have social problems in that community, and they have problems with alcohol because the young people do not have a recreational facility. That community is not dry. There is another...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Angottitauruq, you should speak to the motion. This motion is for a community centre for Clyde River.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to follow on Mr. Zoe's comments. Yes, if we are going as far as that, I will support the motion because a community requires a long-awaited recreational facility and it takes these kinds of motions to speed up the Executive here that approves these changes. If there are changes, we the individuals, ourselves, as MLAs, can try and do something about these changes. I am just saying that I will support the motion that Mr. Kilabuk has made.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly do not intend to vote on this motion, but acting as Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs I would just like to make a few comments.

Timing Would Be Impossible

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would have to respectfully inform Mr. Kilabuk that if his motion is requesting that we build a community centre in Clyde River next year, it would be almost impossible. I am not sure exactly what the words, "provision for a community centre in the 1989-90 budget" mean, but I would like to explain that we do normally plan for the delivery of capital projects over a three or four year period.

The first year is planning and site investigation, the second year is design and the third year would be construction. So, I just wanted to make it very clear that it is now November; even the design of a facility of this size would take approximately six months so I would like to make it very clear that I am advised that it would be unrealistic to expect that such a facility could be designed

and tendered in time for next year's sealift. So, that is a very ambitious expectation, if it is expected that the facility would be built next summer.

Another point I should make, Mr. Speaker, is that these facilities -- and I think in my reply to the honourable Member the other day, I indicated that there was both a community hall and an arena in the five year plan for Clyde River -- these facilities do require community contributions. The hamlet of Clyde River would have to make a contribution, according to our policy. So, the community might require some time to raise their required contribution.

Mr. Speaker, our capital planning process does endeavour to provide for the orderly delivery of capital construction throughout the NWT, through a process which tries to set in priority, the needs of all communities across the NWT, in full consultation, of course, with the standing committee on finance and the Legislative Assembly. So, I think that while I respect Mr. Kilabuk's efforts to advance his community's request, we do have to consider existing priorities in the five year capital plan and advancing them, as well, in an orderly manner.

I would just like to mention that looking at the Baffin Region, the construction of Resolute Bay and Lake Harbour community gyms has been considered...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson, I am going to have to cut you off here. You are digressing from the motion. You are not speaking to that. Also, to remind you that the motion is quite clear. It is to request the Executive Council to consider placing the amount in the 1989-90 budget, not to build it next year and the motion is for that only. No need at this time to go into the reasons why or why not it can be placed. To the motion please, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you for an opportunity to make those brief comments, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the motion, I would like to comment that we have been waiting a long time in Lake Harbour for a proper community centre because of so many postponements and for that reason...(Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER: ...community hall for Clyde River, please. To the motion.

Deferral Of Other Projects

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not be able to support the motion because it says that in 1988-89 if they could defer some funds so that they can start building the community centre in Clyde River, it seems to me that the motion is asking for deferrals of other projects so I will not be supporting the motion for that reason. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government Leader has said the Executive will be abstaining on this motion. While I am sympathetic to the Member's concerns, I have some problems with the process. Members are aware that it has taken many years to develop a capital planning process and it seems to me that could be a little bit of a bad precedent that we decide...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne, the motion asks you to receive this motion only, not to defend it at this stage. To the motion.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. The Members understand everything else I was going to say on the point so I just urge caution. Thank you.

---Laughter

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I accept his cautions. However, I do rise to support the motion because I really truly feel that the Government of the NWT should place a recreation centre as a high priority so I do support Mr. Kilabuk's motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. To the motion. Are you ready for the question? Mr. Kilabuk, as the mover of the motion you have the last word and this will close debate on the motion.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I think my motion was very confused and you had to direct the Members accordingly. Thank you for that. But all I am asking of the Executive Council, in 1989-90, is to look for funds to start a project for a community centre in Clyde River. It is very clear in the motion. I hope that you will support my motion so you will look harder to find the funds.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 23-88(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour please signify? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 14, motions.

Item 15, first reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 1-88(2): All-terrain Vehicles Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 1-88(2), An Act to Amend the All-terrain Vehicles Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the All-terrain Vehicles Act to provide that no person shall operate an all-terrain vehicle that has three or four wheels on a highway within a municipality or regulated area unless there is a motor vehicle liability insurance policy and a certificate of registration for the vehicle and a licence plate is attached to the vehicle; to provide that the registrar of motor vehicles is responsible for issuing certificates of registration and licence plates for these vehicles; to provide that no person shall operate these vehicles on a highway within a municipality or regulated area unless the person is 14 years of age, there are no more than two persons on the vehicle and each person on the vehicle is wearing a helmet; and to make a consequential amendment to the Insurance Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 1-88(2) has had second reading. Mr. Clerk, Bill 1-88(2) has had second reading and is ordered into committee of the whole for today. Second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration

in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Committee Report 1-88(2), Tabled Document 2-88(2), Tabled Document 15-88(2), Tabled Document 21-88(2), Tabled Document 16-88(2), Tabled Document 10-88(2), Tabled Document 11-88(2), Tabled Document 28-88(2), Bill 26-88(2), Bill 1-88(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 TABLED DOCUMENT 2-88(2), AN ENABLING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND THE GNWT RESPECTING OIL AND GAS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND REVENUES

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I call the committee to order. Yesterday when we concluded we were dealing with 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. What is the committee's wish? To deal with this particular document? Mr. Alloo.oo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Chairman, the government is willing to go with this Tabled Document 2-88(2). If we conclude that, we would like to deal with Tabled Document 10-88(2), as well as the All-terrain Vehicles Act, and tomorrow the government is willing to deal with the amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I understand from the government that they would like to deal with Tabled Document 2-88(2), then following that we will be dealing with Tabled Documents 10-88(2) and 11-88(2), respecting the public housing rent scale, and following that we will go through Bill 1-88(2), All-terrain Vehicles Act, for today. I am not going to worry about tomorrow. We will see how far we get today. Does the committee agree that we will do business in the committee of the whole in this manner, beginning with Tabled Document 2-88(2)? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Tabled Document 2-88(2): An Enabling Agreement Between The Government Of Canada And The GNWT Respecting Oil And Gas Resource Management And Revenues

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): General comments on Tabled Document 2-88(2). Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would like to make a few comments before we begin dealing with this issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Proceed, Madam Minister.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the enabling agreement, in placing this before you, the Government of the Northwest Territories feels confident that in looking toward the fulfilment of the negotiations, that in the near future full-scale development of oil and gas resources in the Mackenzie Delta and Beaufort Sea will occur. We believe that that will occur in the 1990s; with pipelines in place we can look forward to continued long-term activity. However, we must turn our attention to being prepared for those impacts and opportunities such development will bring to the North, and the new responsibilities our government will assume.

We have already had experience with the Norman Wells pipeline, which was brought into service in 1985 and without the social, economic and environmental disruptions many people had feared would come about. It is now carrying 30,000 barrels of oil a day.

The land claims situation has also changed considerably. As we all know, the Inuvialuit have settled their claim and the Dene/Metis signed an agreement in principle for their claim, with a final

agreement about two years away. If all goes well, the agreement in principle for the TFN claim in the Eastern Arctic could be signed this spring.

The Government of the NWT has entered into this enabling agreement with the Government of Canada for the negotiation of a northern energy accord. It is fairly safe to say that the attitudes of northern residents about development have become much more positive. All wish to see development, provided that it occurs with our participation. It is expected that development can occur without threatening the environment, and that it can complement traditional lifestyles. To a degree, these fundamental conditions are being met, and through continued attention can be maintained as development proceeds. Since we are in a period of low industrial activity, and at the beginning of transition from exploration to development, there could not be a better time to address the issues relating to oil and gas management in the North. These issues have to be resolved in order that full-scale development can occur.

I would like to bring to your attention some of the implications the accord enabling agreement has for northern residents, for industry and for the future development of the hydrocarbon resources of the North. The enabling agreement for the accord is of tremendous significance for the political and constitutional development of the NWT. Management of resources is one major area of provincial-type responsibility which the Government of the NWT does not yet have, and the Northern Accord agreement marks the initial phase of transferring federal jurisdiction over non-renewable resources to the Northwest Territories. This we feel is a major step on the road toward provincial status. Also the accord will provide for a stable and fair management and regulatory system. Industry has faced more than the vagaries of markets, prices and the high costs of operating in the North. It has faced an uncertain management and regulatory regime that has inhibited activity. The regime has also operated with very little northern support and involvement. Our government recognizes the need to build upon the oil and gas management regimes found in southern Canada, and this principle is affirmed in that accord agreement.

System Will Reflect Northern Concerns And Issues

However, it must be stressed that the system that will operate in the North will not be a transplanted type of system from southern Canada. To those residents of the NWT who are concerned about the merits of our Northern Accord enabling agreement, I can assure you that the Government of the Northwest Territories will negotiate for, and implement an oil and gas management system that is reflective of northern concerns and issues, as well as our responsibilities toward the needs of Canada and the industry. It will recognize the interests of the residents of the North in the management of non-renewable resources. It will also be compatible with the unique management and regulatory structures that will exist in the NWT because of aboriginal claims settlements. As you know, one of the purposes of the accord agreement is to protect the oil and gas related rights and interests flowing from land claims settlements. Linkages will, therefore, have to be developed between the regulatory structures created through the accord, and the new agencies that will be established under claims.

The financial implications of the accord are obviously of great importance. Oil and gas revenues will alter the fiscal relationships we have with the Government of Canada. We welcome the opportunity to participate in the development of oil and gas in the North, with the expectation that the royalty system will provide the NWT with a degree of self-sufficiency and will decrease our dependency on the federal government. Realistically, the Government of the NWT will face tremendous demands as a result of development activity. The issue of providing sufficient resources to communities to deal with the impact of oil and gas development is still outstanding. We must also address the existing deficiencies in our infrastructure and the measures we will need to put in place to encourage the establishment of northern-based petroleum services industries.

The final accord will be negotiated bilaterally between the Government of the NWT and the Government of Canada. However, there is a clear need for extensive consultation and involvement with other groups and interests before and during the negotiations. Arrangements must be developed for an appropriate management of the Beaufort Sea. These arrangements

must recognize involvement by the Yukon commensurate with their interest in the region. Close communications and consultation will be required with industry throughout the negotiations and implementation process. Most important, our government is committed to meaningful participation by the northern aboriginal organizations in developing the positions that we take to the negotiating table. The input will be of critical importance to the Government of the NWT negotiator.

Mr. Chairman, it will not be clear sailing over the next year or two. I can assure you of that. We are facing a very complex task with many interests at stake: northern aboriginal groups, the Yukon, federal agencies such as the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada, Finance Canada, the Canada Oil and Gas Lands Administration, of course. The industry will have an interest. The long-term importance of the issues to be dealt with through the accord cannot be underestimated.

I would like to stress that the enabling agreement provides a framework for future negotiations. The substance of the final accord will be developed and modified through negotiations whereby we can achieve several of the goals and issues that I have outlined.

Phased Implementation

I should note that the transfer of administrative and legislative powers for onshore oil and gas management and arrangement for offshore management responsibility will occur in stages. Joint arrangements will be put in place to share decisions regarding onshore management where transfers have not yet been made. Phased implementation is one of the important principles established through the enabling agreement. The transfer of powers and responsibilities will be staged over a number of years.

In order to proceed effectively and expeditiously with the negotiations of a final accord and to undertake other related initiatives in the non-renewable resource sector, the Government of the Northwest Territories must strengthen its capabilities and resources. A new Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources will be established by the Government of the Northwest Territories in the near future and it will provide the organizational structure and add to the expertise required by this government to deliver the responsibilities that will be given, through the accord.

Accord negotiations will be guided by a subcommittee of the cabinet, including myself, as chairman, and as Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources; the Government Leader, the Hon. Dennis Patterson; the Minister of Finance and of Justice, the Hon. Michael Ballantyne; and by the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi.

As I am sure that you realize, some share the view that the northern resources should be managed by the federal government for all of Canada. If I have not done so already, I should make one point very clear; northerners must have responsibility for the management of oil and gas resources if development of these resources is to take place. If all goes well, the final accord will provide for the responsibilities that we require. Northerners want to see Canada's resources developed and because we want development, we will see those negotiations through.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the ongoing year or two where we will be working very closely with the aboriginal organizations and, particularly, with this Legislative Assembly. With their support, hopefully, with these challenges that we face, we will see these negotiations through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what we learned yesterday, what was achieved through this enabling legislation was really simply the transfer of the responsibility for managing a resource; and what we have is no real legislative power but the responsibility for enforcing

whatever legislation already exists on the book, including the Canada Petroleum Resources Act. As I understand it, the royalties set out in that act are quite specific and we are bound by that act and what we do is to administer this on behalf of the federal government, really.

Also, Mr. Chairman, it is pretty clear that the five per cent royalty which could accrue could end up being five per cent of nothing because it is clear from the discussion that took place yesterday that by the time everybody has got their share of everything, including the investors and the payment of interest, royalties and so on, the cost of drilling individual wells, then the actual moneys that would accrue to government could be nothing.

However, the major point that was made is that even if there is some kind of windfall, that would simply be used to reduce the deficit grant that we get from the federal government. The point that was made time and again by Mr. Gruben was that really this is a piece of enabling provision that does not give the territorial government very good, solid ground rules to operate from. What we heard yesterday was that the leaders themselves, when they become part of this committee, would be seeking to try to change that document and to change some of the things that have already been agreed to.

NWT A Developing Jurisdiction

Having said all those things, Mr. Chairman, including the fact that there may not be that many northern benefits to this particular agreement, I think we have to look at ourselves as a developing jurisdiction where, although this has been high on our list of priorities, we could not expect to get everything that we asked for. The nature of negotiating something is that you do not get the whole power that you are trying to seek.

So, I see this as something that is a half-way house. It is something that gets us started and it gives us a chance to learn about a very complex industry. It gives us the opportunity to understand the nature of the legislation that is in place, although I was concerned when I heard that many of the agreements that had been made with the various native organizations had been broken; that we had gone ahead and done this on our own without all the promised co-operation and consultation.

As I said yesterday, I believe that it is in the best nature of leadership and what we expect Mr. Patterson to do, and his colleagues, to do the best they can; to take the offer when it was being offered because there may never be another chance. Although it may be less than what many people would like to have, it is a good beginning.

We have seen a lot of activity in the past year, including the health transfer and NCPC. Although I share some of the concerns that I heard yesterday about the exact nature of this document, I am pleased that, in fact, the beginnings of assuming this control and responsibility for northern oil and gas management has taken place.

So, although I was a sceptic when I first heard what had happened and looked carefully at the document and listened carefully to Mr. Gruben, I would caution our government about some of the things that Mr. Gruben said. I was impressed by his presentation and I was pleased that the government is prepared to accommodate the concerns of the native organizations, through their leadership, but I would be very concerned if, in fact, this piece of paper is now going to be pushed all over the map so that whatever rules have been agreed to, you find yourself unable to fulfil as a commitment simply because it has become such a complex business of trying to negotiate something. I think you made some accommodations yesterday and I felt that there was a good understanding between the government and the leaders that we listened to.

I really believe that the concerns that were expressed are real concerns but if we are going to change that document and just cut it to ribbons, we could end up losing everything that you may have gained. So, that is the only caution that I have to my colleagues across the hall there, is that maybe it was not the greatest but if we have to carve it into pieces and end up losing the whole thing, it may be a long time before we get an offer again. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MR. NERYSOO: I had better get concurrence so that I can go beyond the 10 minutes because I probably will, Mr. Chairman.

Issues Raised Yesterday Not Dealt With

Mr. Chairman, let me say that I think that the issues that were raised yesterday, in my own opinion, have not been dealt with yet. I am hoping that despite the fact that our government and our Ministers have responded to some of the issues, there is still an outstanding decision to be made as to the role of the aboriginal people. I would hope, Mr. Chairman, that we do not repeat history in this process because historically, in this country of ours the elected people have suggested that those who have not been so-called elected to a legislature of our kind, did not and should not have the responsibility of participating in negotiations of such magnitude and importance.

I think the history of Alberta, the creation of Alberta, the history of Saskatchewan and even the history of Manitoba are good examples that we should not follow, where those people that were of significant population at the time were not involved in the discussions, nor were they even included in the negotiations for either the creation of provinces or, for that matter, assuming the responsibility for their resources and the manner in which they manage those resources.

We have an ideal opportunity, Mr. Chairman, in this government in particular, to provide a leadership role that is unlike that in the history of our country. And that is to include the aboriginal people in the process of negotiating a very important part of our political evolution. We, all of us here in this Assembly, must realize that what we are embarking upon now is a responsibility, yes, short of being a province in terms of ownership, but as close to being a province as you can be without the actual ownership of our resources. We will have the absolute, and unlike Mr. Lewis, I see us as assuming the legislative responsibility in future.

The Northern Accord as it was outlined clearly indicates, despite the fact that we are going to have to implement initially those acts and that legislation that is now in place, that after the responsibility has been transferred, we will, as a Legislature, be responsible for introducing our own legislation. The federal government will not have that responsibility any longer.

Mr. Chairman, the other element that is important, and I know that is of advantage, is the question of revenue sharing. That question that is of importance to the aboriginal organizations as well, because they do have an element of revenue sharing in their negotiations right now. In some instances it is outright ownership of land, in others it is revenue sharing in the case of the Dene/Metis. In the case of the Inuit, there is an element also of revenue sharing and also an element of land ownership to be resolved.

Different Elements Must Be Addressed Together

Mr. Chairman, despite the fact that we may suggest that the Northern Accord is going to respond to the direction that we have given, it is important that we realize that there are different elements and different issues to be addressed. And we have to address them together. We have to realize that as a Legislature we must respond to the issues that the aboriginal organizations have addressed. I have every confidence in our leadership here to address those issues, but it must be with the view of being open and allowing those aboriginal people to participate. How that is done, there have been suggestions by our aboriginal leadership as to how it should be done and it is a suggestion that I feel most comfortable with.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say that in a way, the issue that is before us and the manner in which our aboriginal leadership has raised concerns, specific in some cases, general in others, I think it is good for the discussion for the development of our government. What it shows is a willingness on the part of our Legislature here because we invited them into this House. A willingness on the part of this Legislature to listen to the concerns of the people of the NWT. But more important

than that, we have to go further than that. We have to allow the people to develop the direction of the North and that is exactly what the aboriginal people have said.

I want to say to Mr. Lewis, if all the people in Canada had the trust in the leadership of Mr. Mulroney to say, "Agree to the free trade. Trust us, take a chance", nobody is taking a chance. Everybody is raising a question. It is the same with the Northern Accord issue in the NWT. It is a fundamental and major political step in the evolution of our government. We must ask those questions. We must be able to work with the people of the NWT and work to solve, here in the NWT, the issues and concerns we have internally. And from that, go forward and tackle the federal government together; not in isolation of one another; not going forward with no knowledge of what negotiations and what issues are being raised at the claims table; not knowing what the issues are that are being raised in cabinet; not knowing what the issues are that are being raised in the Assembly, but dealing with issues so that we are stronger than our opponents. Our opponent in this process is not the Executive Council. It is not the Legislative Assembly. And it is not the aboriginal organizations in isolation. Our opponents are the federal government and we must face them together. But it needs courage and it needs the acceptance of this Assembly to recognize the responsibility of our aboriginal organizations and the responsibility and the authority that they have been given by their representative people. We must do that.

Government Has Opportunity To Work With Aboriginal Organization

Again I know, Mr. Chairman, that we can argue all we want, to say we have a majority of aboriginal people in this Assembly and we can argue that Members of the Executive Council are of aboriginal descent, or a significant portion, but the issue is that there are organizations that represent one interest. But they are prepared to work with this government. There are few occasions in the history of the NWT that the aboriginal organizations have come forward and said, "We want to work with the Executive Council. We want to work with the Legislative Assembly." They have offered us the opportunity. Let us take it, show some leadership, and more importantly, let us develop a position and a negotiating team that includes them.

Let us also recognize that we have a document. Maybe in some instances we have questions about the principles in these documents, but I can say, I have confidence in Ms Cournoyea and I have confidence in Mr. Ballantyne and Mr. Patterson, as our Government Leader, and I have confidence in every Member in this Assembly, but I also have to say that I have confidence in the individual that the Dene Nation chose publicly as their president. And he has an interest. He has an interest because they are negotiating an element in their claims. The Inuit have their people that they have chosen. We may question the manner in which they have been selected but they are still the choice of the people they represent.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that if we work together with the aboriginal people, if we lay down the rules and make sure that they are part of the process, I can tell you now that we will be more successful than the Province of Alberta. We will be more successful than Saskatchewan. We will be more successful than any other province in the history of Canada because we will have set an example; an example where the aboriginal people will have participated directly in these discussions. Everything that they do in future and everything we do, will be a testament to their involvement in the process. Because I believe, Mr. Chairman, we have an opportunity, as I said.

We can be successful because these people are prepared to work with us. I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that I can go on talking about the principles of this particular document but I also want to say one thing, one thing that is important. Mr. Patterson and the Executive Council, took a risk and I am happy they took that risk because what it has done is given us an opportunity now that has never been here, and that is, we can go forward and develop a direction together and evolve a political responsibility that is far larger than any we have devolved for many years. Program responsibility is one thing, but now what we are doing is actually assuming responsibility over the resources of the NWT. Hopefully it will be on the basis that we go through this process together.

Authority Of Government Not Challenged

I do not think anyone in our discussions yesterday with the aboriginal organizations challenged the authority of government. In fact, in the discussions so far, what I heard is that there has been sort of a compromise on their part. Now they are seeking a compromise on ours. I can tell you now, Mr. Chairman, that we should assume the leadership role here. If we feel that we are leaders and if we can set the example that is unknown in the history of this country, we will have them on our side and we will have them as part of the process and part of our team. Because we are fighting this battle together now, I believe we will be successful and we will only be successful if those people are with us.

I can raise specifics about the Dene/Metis agreement which I can point to you which may cause problems, but I should not have to do it because we have individuals who are experts in that area that can sit at your table and raise them and try to resolve them before they become a serious problem. And the same issue with the Inuit; the same issue with the Inuvialuit. But my belief, Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, is, we have an opportunity. Mr. Patterson, Executive Council, let us take it, and this Legislative Assembly, let us take it and invite those people to be a part of our team. In fact, commit in this Assembly that they are part of the team. I have heard Mr. Patterson, I have not heard Ms Cournoyea but I think that -- to those people that are here that have spoken -- we have still not received the commitment of this Legislature and I think that is all-important.

I just wanted, Mr. Chairman, to end with that. I probably could go on and on raising specifics. I think that Mr. Gruben raised many of the issues yesterday. Our government responded to some but there are still issues we have to deal with through negotiations. Unlike Mr. Lewis, I feel we can improve. I believe our government has already said they can improve. But let the negotiations process resolve these issues. We do not have to debate them here. Let the process do that work. But again, invite the aboriginal people to be a part of that team. My feeling is, let us set an example for this country. Let us set an example also for the NWT where for the first time, we are on the same side. We are not opponents but we are on the same side. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some ways, I am sort of confused as to what -- I think I understand what happened yesterday. I think I also understand what the Government Leader was saying to us last night during his closing remarks. But in light of the news reports coming from CBC this morning, we really have to have some clarification on what is coming out of the Executive Council. When the native organizations came to us yesterday and when I was talking to the native organizations prior to that, they indicated to me that they want to be part of the negotiating team with the Government of the NWT. There is really no question about that aspect. In other words, they want to be able to sit at the same table as the government and negotiate and talk about the issue of the northern energy accord. That is what I understand the native organizations to say to me.

I understand also, from the discussion last night, that the Government Leader indicated that this is a good thing. I will quote from his remarks: "There was never any question about our desire to include the aboriginal organizations in these negotiations. Indeed, we have made that commitment in black and white in the very last clause of the enabling agreement." I understand that the Government Leader of the NWT and the Executive Council of the NWT government want to, in fact, include native organizations to be part of the negotiating team.

Hudson Bay And Hudson Strait Issue

Now I also understand from the native organizations, especially the TFN, that they want to include in these negotiations, in these discussions, the issue of Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait. I also understand from the Government Leader that he has no problem with that. I have no problem with this.

When I was talking yesterday with regard to these two particular issues, a need to have the native organizations, aboriginal organizations, as well as the issue of Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait, to be a part of that negotiating team and to be part of that enabling document, I said yesterday, or at least I tried to say yesterday, that I see no problem with this. As a matter of fact, I think, as stated by Richard Nerysoo, that it would be one step further in terms of having the native organizations to be part of the negotiating team with the Government of the NWT. I think it would be so fantastic to have the native organizations go to Ottawa together, fight together, for the kind of things that we have been saying for a long time, especially in the area of the northern energy accord, because the northern energy accord is such an important agreement in principle. It concerns, it touches upon everybody's life across the NWT. I am also looking at it as the most positive step that has ever been taken within the history of the Legislative Assembly.

So my understanding is, using Mr. Patterson's words, that he sees no problem in including the aboriginal organizations in these negotiations. I also understand the Minister, just a few minutes ago, to indicate to the House that she wants these people, native organizations, to appoint their own negotiating teams. I think it would be very good if we could do that as quickly as possible.

What I need to get clarification on now, Mr. Chairman, is from the CBC report that I heard this morning. I do not have the exact wording but here is what I understood it to say: These native organizations or aboriginal organizations will be consulted from time to time if required. These are the words, something to that effect, which were used according to the CBC report this morning. I thought I understood yesterday, everybody agreed, that we will finally work together; the Legislative Assembly, the Government of the NWT and the native organizations of the NWT. I want to know if I could get that clarification, through you, Mr. Chairman, from the Government Leader.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Patterson, or Madam Minister.

Territorial Government Has Lead Role

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, since I have been working on this issue for a while -- I am not a person that responds to CBC too much, and neither am I interested in making my political career through CBC, but I would just like to address the issue that Mr. Ernerk raised. First of all, I would like to say that the issue is negotiations as government to government. That is the way the negotiations will take place, government to government. The issue of the aboriginal make-up in the team accord is very essential, and that is required so that we can get all our different issues together. The only thing, when we talk about involved parties, who is going to play the lead role, it has to be clear that it is the territorial government that is playing the lead role; it is taking the responsibility. We will have a working team here which has the Minister of Justice, Minister of Finance, Aboriginal Rights, aboriginal groups and Energy, Mines and Resources, on it, developing these positions and these needs and issues that are required. We will fix that up, it will go to the subcommittee for saying, "Well now, is there anything that we have missed out?" They rubber-stamp. The negotiator goes from there and represents the Government of the NWT, collectively, with all the issues being resolved at that level. Hopefully, before we go forward, and I think any negotiator should do that, is have their work together, before you move forward. This team that we are talking about is Justice, Finance, aboriginal groups, EMR, all working together. But the negotiator is responsible for taking that position forward.

If, for example, in providing funding to aboriginal organizations they happen to have a hotshot in there that is especially good on certain aspects, I see no reason why he cannot assist our negotiator to take an issue forward. But we are not going to have six bodies addressing the government each with different plane tickets, or executive class tickets, or first-class tickets, running to Ottawa. That is the only reason that it is a bit confusing, because we want to make sure it is government to government. The team that puts together the position is all these people, because it is a very complex issue. I do not know if that explains it.

Position Will Be Prepared Before Meeting Federal Government

What we expect is to provide funding for each organization to have a fairly good person that will keep that flow going, and not all of a sudden say, "I am too busy to go to a meeting, I am too busy to be involved, I have other things on my agenda." That team has to be a stable team, and those people that the organizations put forward, the same as the Justice department puts forward, I want to count on those guys to do their work. But that work should be done before you start running off to Ottawa and dealing with the federal government. Collectively, our team will put together those positions before we go anywhere, but there will only be one negotiating representative, and that is the Government of the Northwest Territories. I do not know if that is clear, but it is very important that everybody understand that we cannot have five different parties running to Ottawa, going in different directions. We have to get our stuff together, then we move ahead, so that is where the team comes in. Thank you.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make some general comments on the issue of the Northern Accord, and the wish of the aboriginal negotiators to join with our government here, which I believe is what we are talking about. Yes, it is very easy to know that we are on two different grounds. As the elected Members, we make the decision and, in fact, even after the negotiations are done, we have a say. When the accord was signed, it was put into the News/North that TFN was unhappy and would like the Government Leader to resign. I believe that was a misunderstanding. When we let them come in here yesterday as witnesses, everything seemed to have slackened down or something, they seemed to have agreed. If we are trying to work to the benefit of the NWT, they too have the right to negotiate with the federal government. I think ourselves as an Assembly, and them negotiating with the federal government, we did not watch them closely enough. I believe that as a Legislative Assembly, we are trying to let the federal government know that we want development at this time, and the negotiators want development in the future. That could be two different stories, but I think that if we go hand in hand, we could speed up the negotiations.

Native Organizations Working Together

I do not think they want to try and say, "Government, you do it this way. If you do not, we will go on the news again." I think that would make the people of the NWT recognize that even they have their differences. They are trying to work together, they want something done, so they do not confuse the people of the NWT through the media about their differences. I think the move of the native organizations is a good one, and I think the government should accept it, because it will show the people of the NWT that they are working together and they are seriously trying to develop the NWT, with the native organizations, toward negotiations. We as an Assembly want the development now. We are told by those, sometimes, "Do not do it now, we are trying to negotiate something for the future." I think if they work closely together, things would speed up a little faster. That is just my thought toward that, and I just want to say that I support the idea of the native organizations requesting our Assembly to work with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments on Tabled Document 2-88(2). Are there any further general comments? Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to congratulate the Government Leader, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Energy for taking the risk. If I am not mistaken, Mr. Chairman, this is the first time that a territory has got this kind of an agreement before becoming a province. I think the Minister of Finance pointed out yesterday that the Province of Alberta had to wait more than two decades before they got the same agreement to negotiate.

So, first of all my compliments to the Government Leader and his cabinet for taking the chance. I must admit that before signing the document the Government Leader called me and told me what he was going to do and I said when you became the Executive I felt that you were in an

Executive position for this Legislature. With that went certain responsibilities. He lived up to those responsibilities and made a decision without looking foolish and saying, "Hey, we have to get the Legislative Assembly together first, before we can do this thing." You were responsible, responsible with the federal government and, as I said before, you took a chance.

Confidence In Executive

I think you have the framework of an agreement whereby which you can enter into a further agreement that is going to only benefit the Northwest Territories. If you did not have this thing you would have nothing. So, anybody who says it is a bad deal at the present time, I think is talking before they should. I know that some people are concerned that it does not look better than it does. But, I think we are going to have to have even more confidence in our Executive to go out there and negotiate a good deal with the federal government. I think Mr. Gruben is proud of the agreement that the Inuvialuit have in their land claims, in their negotiations with the federal government and I would like to point out that I believe and she can correct me if I am wrong, but the present Minister of Energy had a lot to do with that negotiation and that agreement. So, who better could we have in spearheading this negotiation with the federal government at this time?

I do not want to be an alarmist, Mr. Chairman, but I want to just quote from yesterday, I think it is Mr. Gruben, "I agree about the viewpoint that we are embarked on a process that should be for the benefit of all peoples of the North." He goes on to say, later on, "Aboriginal people should be represented on that negotiating team because they have a vested interest like any other northerner on what is negotiated within a Northern Accord." Then he goes on to talk about the team, saying, "I look at the IRC, the TFN, Dene/Metis and as well, the Government of the Northwest Territories."

So, my question on that issue, Mr. Chairman, to the Government Leader is: Who does the Government Leader think represents the non-aboriginals, the non-native persons, the non-beneficiaries in this negotiation? Is it a given that it is going to be the Government of the Northwest Territories and only the aboriginal groups, or, are there other people out there, as Mr. Gruben points out, that have a vested interest like any other northerner? When the Government Leader, who is writing furiously, gets around to speaking, Mr. Chairman, I would like him to address the question of who he feels is going to represent the non-aboriginals in this negotiation.

I do not think I have a lot more to say other than I do not expect the Executive Council to be running to every individual Member of this Legislature saying, "This is the stage that we are at." I do expect them to update the Legislative Assembly as we get together in session, on the process and where they are at at a given time. I have every confidence that this Executive Council will negotiate the best deal that they can with the federal government on behalf of all the people in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. General comments. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make a short comment on this subject as I made some comments yesterday on the same subject. The aboriginal groups really want to work with us and I am very happy about that, that they want to work with the MLAs of this Legislature. I was very happy to hear that. I believe that since they are saying that they will be working together with the MLAs, that is going to produce some results, especially in the area of oil development and I understood that they are serious about working with us on this matter.

The person from the Inuvialuit corporation made it very clear that they now have an agreement in principle on land claims and he talked to us about negotiating with the federal government. He told us that we have to push the people who are going to be negotiating the matter and when I got to thinking about it I was very happy about it. I do want to be able to say who is going to be on this team and I expect that we will be getting updates in the future on what is happening with the negotiations while I am sitting at this Legislature.

I believe that aboriginal people have designated us to do the work for them and I expect that you will be consulting with the native organizations as you go through the process. I hope that I am not mistaken, and that this is the process that we have agreed on. When we first started hearing about the Northern Accord, it seemed that it was going to be a major task, especially from radio and newspaper reports. But yesterday I saw a perfect solution to part of the problems that are existing in the NWT, in terms of oil development policy for the NWT and this will begin a long process of what is to happen in the NWT. I like that idea and I am sure that the native organizations do that. I think that what they are trying to say is that they want to work with us, they want to be part of the discussions and they want to be consulted and that is the message I got from the delegates that appeared before us yesterday. They are not trying to disagree with us but they do want to be a part of the negotiating process and they do want to work as a team with the MLAs and I support that very much. That is all I have to say for now, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me say that I am very pleased to have heard Mr. Nerysoo's comments and particularly his acknowledgment that our opponents are not within the North. I was pleased to hear him say, as well, that the Executive Council is not the enemy, because for a while it seemed that some people were feeling that we were the enemy. There may have been some confusion or some misunderstanding about the agreement. I think it is probably going to take quite a good deal of time to involve some of the organizations that have been critical of this accord in the discussion so that they can fully understand the complicated issues that we are dealing with. I was concerned for a while that there were some damaging and misleading comments made which I know, for example, caused great alarm to the people of Sanikiluaq. Newspaper headlines screamed that aboriginal organizations were horrified or outraged by the agreement. That kind of talk does not really get us where we want to go. In fact, it plays into the hands of those who say we are not ready to assume these responsibilities, those who say we have not got our act together. I would like to say that I think we should and I think we can work out our concerns and differences in private in the context of these negotiations.

Concerns Of Aboriginal Organizations Will Be Respected

We have from the beginning invited aboriginal organizations to be a part of our team and to work with us in the manner which Ms Cournoyea has outlined this afternoon, I think very clearly. I do hope that they will participate. I would like to observe, Mr. Chairman, that up until yesterday and today, the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut has not indicated their willingness to even discuss with us the terms for their participation in the negotiations. I think assurances that were given yesterday in the debate have changed that attitude on their part and I am delighted to know that they are now willing to consider naming a representative who could begin to discuss the process of the negotiations and how we can work together.

I do not think it is going to be difficult to deal with Ms Cournoyea. I do not think anyone would ever characterize Ms Cournoyea as being an opponent of aboriginal rights. I think she is well known to be a champion of aboriginal rights. So I am quite sure that once the aboriginal organizations' representatives sit down with Ms Cournoyea, their concerns will be respected and accommodated. I would like to make it clear to Mr. Ernerk that there is no question about consultation from time to time. I do not know whose words those were. They certainly were not mine or do not reflect my views. The aboriginal organizations, as Ms Cournoyea has explained, will be fully involved in developing the GNWT negotiating positions. I would also like to assure Mr. Ernerk, as I have assured the TFN from the outset, that we are dedicated to advancing and protecting the interests of the Inuit and the interests of the Government of the NWT in Hudson Bay. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, it was I who, some five or six years ago, got a leaked copy in a plain brown envelope of the invidious Offshore Laws Application Act which I discovered, to my horror, was a plan on the part of the federal government to seriously undermine the jurisdiction we felt that we always had, and the interests that we have felt that we always had, in the waters of Hudson Bay. Of course, those interests of our government have been protected and advanced and declared through the use and occupancy of those waters and the ice by the Inuit

of Mr. Ernerk's constituency and Mr. Crow's constituency and Mr. Wray's constituency. Those communities have been expressions of our interest in Hudson Bay and I am certainly fully committed to advancing those interests in the strongest possible terms with the federal government in the context of these negotiations and outside the context of these negotiations. I think I mentioned before, my own constituency includes Hudson Strait down to Killinek Island, so I am vitally interested in this. I want to make it very clear that I fully support the concerns of the TFN that we should work together to enhance and protect our interests in the lands, the islands and the waters.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to also thank Mr. Pollard for his comments about the work that we have done. It has represented a great deal of hard work. It has been a first priority of our government since we were elected to cabinet positions over a year ago. I know that Mr. Ballantyne and Ms Cournoyea, in particular, have worked extremely hard on this issue, have worked with industry, have worked with government in what was sometimes a very frustrating and mysterious process. Until a couple of months ago we really thought that all our efforts had been totally lost, until, I will say, the surprising events of that first week of September when things were turned around through the direct intervention, I believe, of the Prime Minister. So I appreciate those kind words. I have learned in this job that there are not very many plaudits given and I have come to accept that but those words were appreciated. I fully appreciate that, Mr. Chairman.

Government Represents All Northerners

I would like to try to answer Mr. Pollard's question, "Who does the government represent in these negotiations?" I think the answer is very simple. Our obligation is to represent all the people of the NWT. We in this chamber have been elected to represent all the people of the NWT. Some of us, of course, come from constituencies with a majority of aboriginal people. Others have a different make-up in their constituencies. Some of us are native people. Some of us, like myself, are not native people but we represent constituencies with a majority of native people. But our obligation, as every MLA understands, is to represent all the people of the NWT and that is the responsibility of our government. I do not think we should be prepared to surrender that authority to anyone. I think that when the time comes for approval of this accord, if we are successful in negotiations, if Mr. Lewis's worst fears are not realized that there will be nothing in it for us, then I think that this Legislature should be the final body to ratify this accord. This Legislative Assembly should be fully consulted before the final deal is signed and I think that commitment has been made clear in the course of this discussion.

Now with respect to the aboriginal organizations, Mr. Chairman, the enabling agreement itself acknowledges that they have a special interest in these matters. Firstly, by virtue of their land claims agreements, which set up institutions that relate to oil and gas management. We have to make sure that the regime that we set up for oil and gas management fits in with and respects and in some cases co-operates with the institutions that are set up through the claims agreement, and I would like to make it very clear that, of course, we respect the management institutions developed through claims. We respect those institutions, first of all, because they have the protection of the highest law of the land, in that they are entrenched in the Constitution; but secondly we respect those management institutions because we have been involved in the claims negotiations and we have, in most cases, initialled those subagreements, and we have supported the Inuvialuit final agreement. We have supported the Dene/Metis agreement in principle. In fact I was privileged to sign both those documents, not as a party, but as a witness, as part of the federal team. Of course, we will similarly respect and support the agreement in principle which I hope will be developed by next March for the Inuit.

Special Interest Of Aboriginal Organizations In Oil And Gas Management

The other aspect that gives the aboriginal organizations a special interest in this matter is that they have been granted, through this accord, participation in developing the oil and gas management regimes. This is out of respect to the fact that aboriginal people have interests that are related to oil and gas management. What happened was that the federal government said, "Oil and gas management is not a subject which can be discussed at the claims table." For better or for worse,

the federal claims policy did not permit oil and gas management to be discussed, but the federal government said, and there was a letter to the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut from the Prime Minister, "Even though this cannot be discussed at the land claims table, your interests can be considered and respected through your participation, through the Government of the Northwest Territories, in the Northern Accord negotiations." That is where the aboriginal organizations have a special interest and that is why, in addition to our responsibility to represent all peoples in the NWT, we have provided accommodation for those special interests through representation on the team which will develop the GNWT negotiating positions. I hope that is a clear answer to Mr. Pollard's question.

Mr. Chairman, I think this discussion has been very useful. I am sorry, quite frankly, that it has taken so long to come to the point where we can have an understanding of where we have to go, because I would say, quite frankly, that I think we have lost some valuable negotiating time; and I would have hoped that much earlier than this, and not in public, it would have been possible for aboriginal organizations to work with Ms Cournoyea to work out these problems. However, we have had an extended public discussion and some acrimony which I hope will be forgotten -- certainly on my part I am looking forward to a co-operative working relationship -- and I hope that now we have the basis for getting on with the massive job ahead of us.

There are a lot of questions that will be answered, that people are now asking, in the course of the negotiations. I think Mr. Lewis's question about what is in this for us is a good one, and we will have it uppermost in our minds in these negotiations. We are going to seek to get the best deal within the limitations that are present in the principles that we have agreed form the basis for this accord. I can assure this Legislature that if there is a good working relationship with the aboriginal organizations in developing our positions, we have the potential, as Mr. Nerysoo said, to have a very strong voice and to put a lot of united effort into securing the very best possible deal for all our peoples. There is tremendous potential here. It is not going to be easy, but I think if we can work in the spirit of co-operation and frank discussion, and realizing that we have to be together, that our opponents are not within the North, then I think we can come up with an acceptable agreement.

If we fail, of course, that will be a decision that we will have to make, but as many Members have said, at least now we have the opportunity to try, at least we have our foot in the door, at least for the first time we have an opportunity to be involved in decisions which, up till now, have been made outside the Territories and without our involvement. So, I think we are making progress, Mr. Chairman, and, of course, we will be keeping the Legislature informed on these most important issues as progress occurs and from time to time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Tabled Document 2-88(2). General comments. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: It has been a very interesting debate. I am curious, will there be motions subsequently, formal motions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I will take that question as notice.

---Laughter

Mr. Chairman, we certainly hope that we can, somehow, introduce appropriate motions with the support of our government and which will, in fact, lay out some direction and ensure the support that the aboriginal organizations feel is necessary, committing ourselves to their role. I think it is something that I would like to continue working out with our government so that they are happy with the issue or the values to be addressed in the motion, and I am prepared to work with Mr. Ballantyne and other Members of the Executive Council, including Mr. Ernerk, who will probably be involved as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments on Tabled Document 2-88(2). Does the committee agree that Tabled Document 2-88(2) is concluded for today?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Tabled Document 2-88(2) is concluded as of today. What is the committee's wish at this time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Who made a motion for progress? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: I move you report progress; the government wants it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Order in the House! Mr. Ernerk, your motion is in order. Your motion is not debatable so I report progress. I will rise to report progress.

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

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 2-88(2), AN ENABLING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND THE GNWT RESPECTING OIL AND GAS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND REVENUES

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 2-88(2), and wishes to report that this matter is concluded.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Is there a seconder? Mr. Arlooktoo, thank you. All those in favour of the motion? Thank you. Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 19, third reading of bills.

Item 20, assent to bills.

MR. POLLARD: Point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of privilege, Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel that a privilege of one of my colleagues has been impinged upon, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps that is why he is absent from the House at the present time. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is Mr. Zoe's birthday today and perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you should summon him to be in the House at this time, that we might wish him a happy birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard, I think you said that you believe that it is Mr. Zoe's birthday. You are supposed to bring facts to the House, not -- I presume it is Mr. Zoe's birthday. If he is anywhere within earshot of our speaker system he may wish to react to it.

ALL HON. MEMBERS: Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday dear Henry, happy birthday to you.

---Applause

---Laughter

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Speech!

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pollard. You did not have a point of privilege but it is nice to see that some of our younger Members are catching up to some of those of us who are not. Back to orders of the day, Item 21. 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 and a meeting of the standing committee on finance at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, November 2, at 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion
13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: CR 1-88(2), Standing Committee on Legislation; Tabled Documents 15-88(2), 21-88(2), 16-88(2), 10-88(2), 11-88(2), 28-88(2); Bill 26-88(2); Bill 1-88(2)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole

19. Third Reading of Bills

20. Assent to Bills

21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The House stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 2nd, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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