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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1988

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen):** Orders of the day for Thursday, November 3, 1988. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ms Cournoyea.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 43-88(2): AIDS In The NWT

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I have previously undertaken to provide an annual report to the Assembly on the AIDS control program for the NWT. Today, I wish to present the first of a series of brief updates on the number of reported cases of AIDS and the number of persons who have been found to have antibodies to the AIDS virus, said to be "HIV positive". Many HIV positive persons will ultimately develop AIDS. However, the distinction between AIDS and HIV positive is an important one.

Diagnosis of a case of AIDS is made only when criteria established by Canadian and international health agencies are met. A person can be infected with the virus which causes AIDS but will only be said to have AIDS if these criteria are met. The purpose of this strict case definition is to track disease trends more effectively by providing consistency in reporting.

Under the NWT Public Health Act and regulations, it is the responsibility of the attending physician or nurse to report all HIV antibody positive test results to the chief medical officer of health by telephone within 24 hours of receiving a positive test result. This activity sets in motion a routine of patient and contact follow-up conducted by the attending physician or nurse and/or by the Department of Health. Follow-up is conducted to ensure that those who may be at serious risk of infection are informed of their risk and counselled. Every effort is made to ensure confidentiality during this process.

To date, there has been one case of AIDS and four HIV antibody positive persons reported to the Department of Health. The person reported to have AIDS was diagnosed in early 1987. By the end of 1987, there were two reports of people who were HIV antibody positive; the third and fourth HIV antibody positive persons were reported in the past two months. It should be noted that both males and females have been infected. These reports reinforce the warning against high risk sexual activity. No part of the Northwest Territories should be considered to be free of the virus.

The department continues to urge those individuals who are concerned that their behaviour may have placed them at risk of infection to seek advice through the local nursing station, their family physician or by calling the AIDS hotline to determine if testing should take place.

Information regarding the number of cases and the number of those who are HIV positive is reported monthly by the department, and, as additional reports are received, I shall advise the Assembly.

We know how AIDS is transmitted and how people may protect themselves from infection. The key to controlling AIDS is public awareness and action by individuals. Our efforts are devoted, and must continue indefinitely, to ensure that people have the information they need, by whatever means possible. Toward this end, the Northwest Territories government continues to provide information to the public through radio advertisements, posters, pamphlets, a toll-free "800" telephone number, regional workshops and the NWT Health school health curriculum.

I am disappointed that our carefully designed AIDS television spots have not yet been seen across the NWT as we had intended. Production of the television spots was contracted out and unfortunately the producer experienced technical difficulties in meeting the established deadlines for production and airing. Final translations of the AIDS messages into native languages is under way but is behind schedule. As a result, we shall air the English and French versions within the next two to three weeks, followed thereafter by the native language versions as they become available. Mr. Speaker, we want everyone to see these films and to heed their messages. Mr. Speaker, stopping AIDS is up to all of us. Thank you.

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

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On News Reporting Re Airline Services

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not usually reply to a statement made by some people in the news, but Mr. Engle said I was wrong in my words. All I can say is that he owns the company, he runs it from Yellowknife, and I use it over in the Kitikmeot. I should know.

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

### ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

#### Return To Question O199-88(2): Reviewing Municipal Funding

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return on behalf of the Hon. Gordon Wray, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, to an oral question asked by Mr. Zoe on Tuesday, November 1, with respect to a municipal funding review.

Mr. Speaker, under my direction over the past three years, the department has been developing new and more comprehensive policies on financial assistance, both capital and O and M, to make the distribution of funding to communities more equitable -- in short, to take more account of individual community infrastructure and municipal service needs and the capability of each community government to manage capital projects and to contribute to the costs of community infrastructure and services.

In support of these priorities, the former Executive Council in February, 1987 gave approval in principle to the municipal capital assistance policy. The provisions for full and partial capital authority for capable community governments have been put into place and are working effectively in several communities. Remaining tasks to complete this policy include testing -- including costing out -- the criteria in the policy for assessing a community's ability to pay part of the costs for capital projects.

With regard to a municipal O and M assistance policy, the issues are less clear-cut. One major task is to strike a proper balance between unconditional and conditional funding to local

governments, so that municipal autonomy is promoted while government priorities, for example cost-effective municipal service delivery, improved recreational opportunities for community residents, and business incentive and affirmative action policies, are respected and promoted at the community level. In addition, more incentives must be found for communities to raise more of their own revenues and to apply to become municipal taxing authorities.

In June, 1987 I directed the department to prepare a comprehensive paper on proposed directions in municipal financing for distribution and discussion with municipal governments. The draft has been completed and awaits my final approval and cabinet review before public release.

The NWT Association of Municipalities has written to me to request that I allow a joint Association of Municipalities and Municipal and Community Affairs working committee to finalize the municipal financing discussion paper and to revise municipal funding formulas. I have yet to make a decision on their proposal and to consider the terms of reference under which such a committee would operate.

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

And, if I may, Mr. Speaker, I have another return to an oral question asked by Mr. Zoe on November 1, on behalf of the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, concerning amendments to Cities, Towns and Villages Act. I would refer the Member to my return to Question O186-88(2), in which I indicated that I intended to bring forward appropriate legislation to amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act and other local government legislation in 1989. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Returns to oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Further Return To Question O171-88(2): Vacant Positions In Regions

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A return to oral question asked by Mr. Nerysoo, on October 28. There are presently 132 positions being staffed in all regions. I have provided the honourable Member with this information by region, by department, by community, along with a status report on each competition. For the benefit of other Members, the regional figures include: Inuvik Region, 36; Fort Simpson, eight; Fort Smith, 22; Kitikmeot, 16; Keewatin, 31; Baffin, 19; total 111. Thirty-eight of these positions have not closed as of this date.

Further Return To Question O170-88(2): Vacant Positions In Departments

Another return to oral question asked by Mr. Pollard on October 28, with regard to vacancies in the departments. There are presently 104 positions currently in the staffing process from all departments in headquarters. The departments and the numbers of competitions are as follows: one from the Executive; six from Economic Development; four from Finance; Culture and Communications has 10; Personnel has five; Justice has 25; Government Services, three; Public Works, 11; MACA has one; Health, 21; Social Services, five; Education, 10; Arctic College, one; and Financial Management Services, one; for a total of 104. The reasons for delay in staffing is sometimes due to a lack of response to ads causing the need to readvertise, awaiting response to offers, reference checks. Thirty-five of those positions have not closed as of this date. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Replies to oral questions. Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O202-88(2): Gun Safety Program For Schools

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Morin on November 2. The renewable resource officers instruct firearms safety courses. Courses are usually held during the school year, at the discretion of the renewable resource officer. They will also hold courses upon request. Thank you.

Return To Question O212-88(2): Assistance For Caribou Hunts

I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Kilabuk on November 2, regarding funding for organized caribou hunts. The Baffin Region 1988-89 budget for the organized caribou hunts contribution was \$7000. The Baffin regional hunters and trappers organization requested that this budget be increased. In response, the regional superintendent added \$7000 from his existing O and M budget to the program. The total of \$14,000 was allocated to: Clyde River, \$5000; Broughton Island, \$5000; Grise Fiord, \$4000. Clyde River and Grise Fiord have completed their hunts. Broughton Island is working with hunters from Pangnirtung to obtain caribou meat. No additional funds are available at this time. Thank you.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O219-88(2): Tabling Of Paper On Political And Constitutional Development Of The NWT

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing that the government is going to table a major and important paper on the political and constitutional development of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, it is a fundamental right of all Members to discuss this paper so that we can give direction to the government and to the people of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, could the Government Leader advise me when he will table this important paper so that it can be debated at this session, no matter how long we have to sit to do it?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O219-88(2): Tabling Of Paper On Political And Constitutional Development Of The NWT

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Tomorrow morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question O220-88(2): Vacant Positions Contributing To Budget Surplus

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of Personnel for this information. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if these positions are vacant, and assuming they have been vacant for awhile, Mr. Speaker, is the funding in the departments for these positions? Is the lack of paying these people because they are not in place what is contributing to our surplus, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne.

Return To Question O220-88(2): Vacant Positions Contributing To Budget Surplus

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, the funding is committed in each department for these positions and yes, that does contribute to a surplus position.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Pollard. New question, Mr. Pollard?

Question O221-88(2): Vacant Positions Personnel Not Yet Requested To Fill

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I take it that these positions are the ones that the department has asked the Department of Personnel to fill. So I would like to ask the Government Leader, how many positions are there in the different departments in headquarters that those departments have not yet requested Personnel to fill? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O221-88(2): Vacant Positions Personnel Not Yet Requested To Fill

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have no idea. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard.

Supplementary To Question O221-88(2): Vacant Positions Personnel Not Yet Requested To Fill

MR. POLLARD: Then I wonder if the Government Leader would endeavour to find out and make it known to the House, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O221-88(2): Vacant Positions Personnel Not Yet Requested To Fill

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. The Chair just wishes to remind the House that oral questions should be on matters that the Minister would normally be expected to have the information in his head. That was probably a written question. Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question O222-88(2): Tabling Regional And Tribal Councils Report

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague touched on the major paper that the Government Leader is going to be tabling tomorrow. Is he also considering the regional and tribal councils report to be tabled tomorrow also? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O222-88(2): Tabling Regional And Tribal Councils Report

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about Members expectations about a major paper. I have said all along it is going to be a discussion paper which will guide the government in developing approaches to the complicated questions that face us with respect to the evolution of public government in the NWT and political and constitutional development. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the paper is to try and look at the bigger picture of political and constitutional development in the NWT. The regional and tribal councils...

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Point of order, Mr. Speaker. My question was specific. I requested if the Government Leader was going to be tabling, along with the major paper that my colleague has requested and the Minister indicated "yes". My question was, is he also going to be tabling the regional and tribal councils report tomorrow also? He is elaborating on that particular major paper that he is planning to table tomorrow. That was not the question. Could I ask the Minister to be specific in his answering my question? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Zoe, you do not have a point of order. As I have stated before from the chair, a Member is entitled to an answer but not necessarily the answer he wishes. Mr. Patterson, you had the floor.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, the Member's use of the term "major paper" provoked some comment from me. The specific answer to the question, as I have said many times, is yes, rather than presenting the regional and tribal councils report and the government's response in isolation, because it is part of a larger picture and has to relate to other major

questions that we are dealing with, I do indeed propose to table the regional and tribal councils review report and the government's response, along with the political and constitutional development paper, tomorrow morning, Friday, November 4, 1988. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Question O223-88(2): Funding For School Busing Services In Pangnirtung

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to the Minister of Education. In my community the hamlet is responsible for busing services and there is funding that they need for this program. The hamlet had requested additional funding. To date they have had no reply for their request for funding that would be utilized to March, 1989. They do not know, as of today, what the intentions of the Executive Council are. Have you been informed about their request for busing services because we have an airstrip right in the middle of the community so we need busing services for the children? So I would like to get an answer to this request from the community before I leave, whether they are going to be given additional funding for this purpose. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acting Minister of Education.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take that question as notice and I will try and give the Member an answer before the end of the session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Question O224-88(2): Rumour Regarding Overseas Marketing Of Sealskins

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Renewable Resources. I have heard some good news over the radio just recently. I wonder if it is true about sealskins that will be marketed overseas. The Hudson's Bay Company is working very hard toward marketing sealskins. Have you heard about this, Mr. Minister, if it is going to be put into effect, or if they are going to be marketing sealskins? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O224-88(2): Rumour Regarding Overseas Marketing Of Sealskins

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fur industry has been working hard to find markets for sealskins in the Orient. I do not know whether they will be selling sealskins overseas at this time. The businesses that deal with furs have been dealing mostly with other types of furs. They have not really dealt with any sealskins. Thank you.

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

Question O225-88(2): Conditions Of Employment For GNWT Employees

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Personnel. Could the Minister advise me of the procedure in place prohibiting employees of this government from having jobs outside working hours, that they may be working on during working hours?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O225-88(2): Conditions Of Employment For GNWT Employees

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a policy in place that does not allow our government employees to work on their businesses that they so choose to work on, during working hours. People who decide to work after hours, once they are out of government hours, it is totally on their own accord but we do have a policy that prohibits employees from working during government hours, on personal business. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O225-88(2): Conditions Of Employment For GNWT Employees

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there a similar procedure that exists with the Government of Canada employees?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister, would you have that information?

Further Return To Question O225-88(2): Conditions Of Employment For GNWT Employees

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I do not. I think it would probably be appropriate to check with the MP on that. Thank you.

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

Question O226-88(2): High School For Kitikmeot Region

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to the Minister responsible for Education. The Acting Minister. I miss Mr. Wray and I miss Mr. Kakfwi but I will ask the Government Leader a question. In the Kitikmeot Region, the students have to go to Yellowknife for high school. It is a distance away and that is the only region without a high school at this time. May I ask the Minister, when can we expect a high school built in the Kitikmeot Region? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take that question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O227-88(2): Establishment Of Public Service Commission

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I promised not to ask any questions today but it was only to two people.

---Laughter

So my question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Government Leader. He has the reputation of moving very quickly on things and has had that reputation from his youth of being very, very fast moving. So I would like to ask if there has been any Executive Council discussion on the establishment of a public service commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O227-88(2): Establishment Of Public Service Commission

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre has full respect for the well established parliamentary tradition of cabinet secrecy. Having said that I will answer his question in the affirmative. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Oral questions. Mr. Lewis, point of privilege. Try it.

AN HON. MEMBER: We have not had one yet this year.

--Laughter

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I read with great interest the paper that you circulated to all Members about rules for asking oral questions. I cannot remember the number on that document which says that Members can ask whether something has been discussed in Executive Council, but without asking for any of the details. That is on the paper that you circulated, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, that is absolutely correct. That would be a point of order, not a privilege.

---Laughter

But I think that Hansard might tell us tomorrow. I understood the Minister's reply to be in the affirmative, that yes, it had been discussed. Mr. Minister, was that not what you said? Thank you. Oral questions. Point of order.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, is the Government Leader nodding affirmative or negative?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader, could you clarify the reply you made earlier?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes. Mr. Speaker, I nodded my head affirmatively. Thank you.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Pollard.

Question O228-88(2): Timing Of Discussions On Public Service Commission

MR. POLLARD: Supplementary to Mr. Lewis, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Government Leader could indicate to the House if those discussions were recent discussions or were some months or years ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard, not years ago, when it is one year old.

---Laughter

Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O228-88(2): Timing Of Discussions On Public Service Commission

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I actually participated in discussions about a public service commission years ago, at least seven years ago as I can recall, in cabinet. But there have also been recent discussions about the concept of a public service commission, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

## ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

### Question W21-88(2): Financial Resources For Dene For Education

**MR. NERYSOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of Education. The Minister, Mr. Speaker, has apparently indicated to the Dene that he is not prepared to provide financial resources to the Dene to become involved in education matters. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated that the GNWT only has administrative responsibility and not overall program responsibility. Would the Minister indicate where funds are located in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for the Dene to pursue this issue and who does the Dene Nation contact in DIAND to assist them in their pursuit of program funds.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. McLaughlin.

## ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

### Report Of Standing Committee On Rules, Procedures And Privileges

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to present the first report of the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges of the 11th Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I am going to take some time with this report as I feel it will prevent quite a bit of debate from occurring if it is explained in the report during this presentation why we have made certain recommendations.

#### Introduction

The standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges was formed on recommendation of the 10th Assembly. The special committee on rules of the 10th Assembly recommended that their mandate be made permanent because there were "sufficient areas of ongoing and one time concerns to warrant the establishment of a standing committee".

The special committee presented four reports to the House which proposed a number of recommendations for procedural reform aimed at opening up the governmental process and strengthening the role of ordinary Members. The depth of the review they undertook promises to make the workload of your committee quite a bit lighter. Your committee would like to thank our predecessors for their diligent efforts.

The committee held meetings in Pangnirtung on August 19 and 20, 1988. We examined a number of concerns which had been brought to our attention by the Speaker, individual Members, caucus and the Clerk of the Assembly. The committee was also asked to address a number of issues which had been referred to us by our predecessor committee. We would like to thank the honourable Member for Baffin Central and the residents of his beautiful community for their gracious hospitality during our visit.

The committee wishes to express its appreciation to all Members of the Legislative Assembly for their comments and input. It especially wants to recognize the invaluable contribution of the Speaker and the Clerk. The committee would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Doug Schauerte and Michele Vanthull who provided support services to the committee.

Your committee urges the House to adopt its recommendations before the end of this session in order that the new procedures will be in place at the start of the fourth session of this 11th Assembly.

### Time Limitation On Oral Question Period

The committee has considered the feasibility of placing a time limitation on oral question period. The government House Leader informed the committee of the difficulties he experiences in attempting to plan business of the House when there is a lack of certainty as to when business in committee of the whole will commence. Your committee believes that all Members would benefit if they could project when business in the House is going to occur.

The committee was made aware of the fact that every jurisdiction in Canada has a time limitation on oral question period, ranging from 15 minutes in British Columbia to 90 minutes in Nova Scotia.

Your committee is of the opinion that oral question period would become more productive if Members and Ministers would attempt to keep their questions and answers as clear and brief as possible.

Consequently, your committee recommends that: The rules be amended by adding the following new rule: "55(5) The time allowed for oral questions shall not exceed 60 minutes."

### Returns To Written Questions

The committee discussed the process by which written questions are dealt with in our House. Two issues, in particular, were closely examined. The committee examined the practicality of placing the item "returns to written questions" earlier on the orders of the day. It had been suggested to the committee that if this item was placed prior to "oral questions" on the order paper it would enable Members to ask oral questions concerning returns to written questions on the same day they had received them.

Your committee is of the opinion that this suggested change is not necessary. Returns to written questions take a number of days to be prepared as they often deal with issues of a technical or comprehensive nature. Rule 56(3) requires the Clerk to inform the Assembly of the returns received and cause copies to be transmitted to all Members. Members receive copies of the returns on the sitting day immediately following the day they are filed with the Clerk.

The committee recognizes no great need to alter the orders of the day in this case. An uncertain amount of time now exists from the time a Member files a written question to the time they receive their return. If a Member wishes to ask further questions arising from a return, the committee believes that this can be done on a later day.

Your committee also considered an amendment to the rules that would require Ministers to provide returns to written questions within a fixed period. It was felt by some Members that there were instances where returns to written questions took an inordinate amount of time or in some cases even fell between the cracks. The committee discussed this proposed requirement but decided that the responsibility for a written question must ultimately rest with the Member who had originally filed it. If a Member feels that he or she has not been provided a response within a reasonable time, the Member may broach the subject with the Minister during oral question period or contact the Minister directly, between sessions.

Your committee is of the opinion that the process for dealing with returns to written questions does not need to be altered at this time.

### Budget Address

Your committee also examined the procedures we are now practising with regard to the Budget Address and the subsequent replies. The process outlined in Rule 22 was added to our rules by motion of the 10th Assembly. Last spring's budget session was the first time our Assembly had acted according to these new provisions. The committee was generally pleased with the manner

in which this procedure was followed. The committee recognizes the great significance of the Finance Minister's Budget Address and believes that its importance should be realized by making it the first item of business on the day on which it is presented.

Your committee, therefore, recommends that: Rule 22(2) be amended to read: "22(2) Upon notice of the Minister of Finance's intention of presenting the Budget Address, the Speaker shall place the item 'Budget Address' on the orders of the day immediately after 'Prayer'."

#### Report Of Committee Of The Whole

Your committee closely examined our current rules regarding the item "report of committee of the whole". The Clerk of the Assembly informed the committee that the report is the method by which the chairmen of committee of the whole notify the House, during formal sessions, of what occurred in committee of the whole. Until such a report has been made, the House cannot refer to the bills or proceedings in a committee of the whole.

The committee realizes that the report is a procedural necessity. However, the committee is concerned about the requirement in our rules for a formal motion to adopt the report of the chairman of committee of the whole. Rule 83(2) requires the Speaker to call for a motion to concur. The Clerk informed the committee that the intent of the motion is to indicate that the House either agrees or disagrees with the accuracy of the chairman's report. A question then arose as to what the implications would be if the motion to concur was defeated. The Clerk informed the committee that this would likely result in all business that had been before committee of the whole on that particular day being dropped from the order paper.

Your committee is of the opinion that the potential for such a situation should be immediately addressed. The committee believes that the report of the chairman should not require a motion to concur. Matters which are addressed and resolved in committee of the whole should not be reopened and exposed to scrutiny via the report of the chairman of committee of the whole.

The committee recommends that: Rules 83(1) and (2) be deleted and the following substituted therefor: "83(1) The report of progress from the committee of the whole shall report on progress regarding bills and other matters under consideration. (2) Following the report of progress the Speaker shall call for the report to be concurred with."

#### Questioning Ministers In Committee Of The Whole

The committee is of the opinion that the questioning of Ministers in committee of the whole is an area which needs to be more clearly regulated and understood. The House has experienced a degree of difficulty, at times, during discussion of government bills in committee of the whole. Some Members have chosen to question Ministers other than the Minister responsible for a particular bill. Oftentimes this was a result of displeasure with comments or answers they may have received from the sponsoring Minister. Your committee believes that this practice is not conducive to constructive debate. The committee is of the opinion that a Minister sponsoring a bill should be responsible for answering questions concerning the content of the bill.

However, the committee realizes that there are instances where the content of a bill under discussion may give rise to questions that might be better addressed by another Minister of the government. This is especially true when the government's estimates are being debated in committee of the whole. Although the Minister of Finance sponsors the bill, each individual Minister is expected to answer questions concerning their departmental estimates and responsibilities. In other cases, questions arise during discussion in committee of the whole relating to government policy. The Government Leader is expected to answer questions concerning the overall management and direction of the government, including government policy.

The committee is of the opinion that some limitation should exist so that only the Minister who sponsors a bill should respond to questions concerning the bill. At the same time, your

committee believes that the sponsoring Minister should be allowed to defer questions to another Minister if questions arise relating to another Minister's responsibilities.

Therefore, your committee recommends that: The rules be amended by adding the following new rule: "(1) When a bill is being considered in committee of the whole, questions relating to the content of the bill shall only be addressed to the Minister in charge of the bill. (2) Notwithstanding (1), a Minister may defer questions on a bill to another Minister."

#### Questions Of Confidence

This issue has been referred to your committee by the 10th Assembly. In their third report, the 10th Assembly's special committee on rules recommended that two new rules be added to our rules to provide for a vote of censure of an individual Minister and a vote of non-confidence in the Executive Council as a whole. Your committee has reviewed the recommendations of the 10th Assembly and is of the opinion that specific rules regarding questions of confidence are not required at this time.

The recommendation from the 10th Assembly concerning a vote of censure of an individual Minister was made before this Assembly granted the Government Leader the power to discipline his individual Ministers. The Government Leader now has authority over the Executive branch of government and has the right to take disciplinary action with respect to the conduct of Ministers. This authority has been granted to the Government Leader for the first time and your committee is of the opinion that our Assembly should allow some time to pass before determining whether further safeguards should be added to the rules and procedures of our House to allow for censure of individual Ministers.

Regarding the issue of non-confidence in the Executive Council as a whole, your committee believes that rules providing for such votes are also unnecessary at this time. The Clerk of the House has informed the committee that it is a constitutional myth that every vote is a test of confidence. In fact, the experience of the United Kingdom and Canadian Parliaments reveal that a lost vote does not mean the automatic resignation of the government.

The special committee on reform of the House of Commons outlined the situations where a government would be expected to resign. The report of the House of Commons committee states: "A government defeated on a vote of confidence is expected to resign or seek a dissolution. Three types of votes can be termed confidence votes. First, there are explicitly worded votes of confidence. These state expressly that the House has or has not confidence in the government. Next are motions made votes of confidence by a declaration of the government. The government may declare that if defeated on a particular motion before the House, even one that is not an explicitly worded vote of confidence, it will resign or seek a dissolution. Then there are implicit votes of confidence. Traditionally certain matters have been deemed to involve confidence even though not declared to be so by the prior statement of the government. Falling within this category is the granting of supply. Failure to grant supply is regarded as the established means by which the House can demonstrate its lack of confidence in the ministry. However, it should be noted that a single defeat on a specific estimate would not in itself constitute a vote of non-confidence. In fact, because of the multiplicity of votes on all the aspects of supply, this is largely a category that has fallen into disuse. One could argue that this type of defeat actually belongs in the category of defeats that are not votes of confidence. As well, it may be said that the defeat on a financial or budget bill does not in itself constitute a vote of confidence unless the government states that it is a matter of confidence prior to any vote on the bill."

As Rule 1 states, our Assembly will conduct our proceedings according to our written rules and the customs of the House of Commons of Canada and all provincial and territorial legislatures, as they may be applicable to this Assembly. Our committee is of the opinion that our Executive Council would be required to resign if they were defeated on a vote of confidence as outlined above. Parliamentary tradition would require their resignation if defeated on one of the first two types of confidence votes.



However, your committee believes that explicitly worded votes of confidence are the most definitive manner by which the Assembly can determine whether or not the government enjoys the confidence of a majority of the House. Members of the Executive Council are placed on the Executive by motion of the Assembly. Your committee believes that if they do not enjoy the confidence of a majority of the House they should be removed in the same manner.

For the reasons outlined above, your committee is of the opinion that new rules providing for votes of censure and non-confidence are not required at this time.

#### Alternate Committee Members

Your committee has examined the procedures for the use of committee alternates. Rule 87(2) allows standing committees to call upon alternates to take the place of a Member who is absent from any proceeding of the committee. Most committees have made use of this flexibility as there are often times where a committee Member is unable to attend a meeting of a committee because of family or constituency commitments. This system has proven to be most effective when a Member gives advance notice of his or her intention to be absent, allowing the committee time to contact an alternate so arrangements to attend the meeting can be made on his or her behalf.

However, the committee does perceive a problem when committee Members are already in town but are absent from committee proceedings for unexpected reasons. Your committee realizes that although this problem is not widespread, it does present some difficulty for the efficient operation of committee activities. Your committee is of the opinion that the committee chairman should have the discretion to bring in alternates if they deem it necessary.

Your committee recommends that: Rule 87(2) be amended to read, "87(2) Each standing committee shall have, in addition, three alternates, any one of whom may be called upon by the chairman to take the place of a Member who is absent from any proceeding of the committee. When participating in committee business, the alternate shall be entitled to vote on any matter."

#### Opening Committee Meetings To The Public

Mr. Speaker, concerning opening committee meetings to the public. Your committee briefly discussed the implications of allowing members of the public to attend the proceedings of standing and special committees. The committee was favourable to this suggestion but felt that the mandates of each committee are so diverse that it would be very difficult to install procedures acceptable to every committee. Another issue that was discussed concerned the costs associated with providing written transcripts of the proceedings of each committee. If committee meetings are open to the public, transcripts would be required to ensure that the proceedings are accurately recorded and Members' comments are not misquoted or taken out of context. Your committee believes that each committee should have the right to decide whether it wants to open up its committee meetings to the public. Your committee is of the opinion that this decision should be continued to be made by each committee.

#### Committee Documents

Mr. Speaker, concerning committee documents. The committee examined the procedures for dealing with committee documents. The Law Clerk informed your committee that it is very clear from Rule 95 that all documents that come into the possession of the committee or which come into existence in the course of the conduct of the business of a committee, belong to it until it reports to the Assembly, at which time it becomes the property of the Assembly. The committee's concern, however, focussed on the issue of premature release of information by committee Members. Your committee was informed that the premature release of information by a committee Member prior to the report of the committee being presented in the Assembly is a breach of privilege. Your committee believes that all Members should be made aware of this responsibility.

### Ministers' Statements

Mr. Speaker, concerning Ministers' statements. Your committee is concerned that statements by Ministers are becoming increasingly frequent and lengthy. The committee is of the opinion that Ministers' statements do not always relate to government policy. The committee encourages Ministers to make statements of policy in the House but feels they should not use this time as a means to issue press releases. Your committee would urge Ministers to make their statements short and factual in accordance with Rule 21(1).

### Management And Services Board

Mr. Speaker, regarding the Management and Services Board. The committee discussed the relationship between Members and the Management and Services Board. As the MSB is charged with providing a wide range of services to Members, your committee examined the effectiveness and methods by which the MSB delivers these services to ordinary Members. The chairman of the committee will communicate the committee's concerns to the chairman of the MSB.

### Food And Beverages In The Chamber

Mr. Speaker, concerning food and beverages in the chamber. Your committee was asked to review Rule 13(10) which prohibits food and beverages, other than water, being brought into or consumed in the chamber. The committee is of the opinion that there is ample opportunity for Members to leave the chamber for food and beverages. The quorum requirements are not so stringent that this should prove to be difficult. As a result, your committee recommends no change to this rule.

### Translation Services

Translation services, Mr. Speaker. Your committee examined the delivery of translation services to Members. The committee realizes that limited resources often determine the extent to which government and committee documents can be translated for Members. However, the committee is of the opinion that all Members should have equal access to information. Your committee is concerned that the unilingual Members may not be receiving the level of service that should be provided to them. The committee is of the opinion that a stronger effort should be put forth to alleviate any differences in the level of service to Members.

### Implementation

Mr. Speaker, finally the implementation of this report. Your committee recommends that: Each of the adopted recommendations to the rules shall come into effect commencing the first sitting day of the fourth session of the 11th Assembly.

Motion That CR4-88(2), Standing Committee On Rules, Procedures And Privileges, Be Considered In Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, Mr. Kilabuk, that the first report of the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges be received and moved into the committee of the whole for discussion.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

The report will be moved into committee of the whole. Item 11, tabling of documents.

**ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 55-88(2): Report to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories on the Examination of the Accounts and Financial Transactions of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Year Ended March 31, 1988.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 11, tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 27-88(2), Appointment to the Management and Services Board. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to move back to notices of motion.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Morin, we will get unanimous consent on notices of motion after we deal with your motion. We have already called motions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**ITEM 14: MOTIONS**

**Motion 27-88(2): Appointment To The Management And Services Board, Carried**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act has been amended to provide for the membership of the Management and Services Board;

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. Pedersen, Mr. Kilabuk, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Nerysoo and Mr. Sibbeston.

Thank you.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Morin. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** All those in favour? Opposed? This motion is carried.

---Carried

**Motion 28-88(2), Appointment to the Board of Directors of the NWT Housing Corporation. Mr. Butters.**

**Motion 28-88(2): Appointment To The Board Of Directors Of The NWT Housing Corporation**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS there are vacancies on the board of directors of the NWT Housing Corporation;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to fill these vacancies;

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 NWT Housing Corporation;

AND FURTHER, that Mr. Knute Hansen and Mr. Charlie Lyall be recommended for appointment to the board of directors of the NWT Housing Corporation;

AND FURTHER, that the appointments be for a term of three years.

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

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, some brief biographical material on the three people. Mr. Haogak has served as president and vice president of the Committee for Aboriginal Peoples Entitlement. He has recently been appointed as a director of the Inuvialuit Development Corporation and has served as a director for Madison Oil and Gas Limited of Calgary. He is now the community chief councillor of the Sachs Harbour Community Corporation and the deputy chief councillor for the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

Mr. Hansen is a resident of Aklavik. He was employed by Esso Resources in the human resources area from 1974 to 1977 and was a land claims field worker and negotiator for COPE from 1977 to 1979. From 1979 to 1981 he worked in office management with Hansen Petroleum and in 1981 joined the hamlet of Aklavik as senior administration officer, the position he currently holds.

Mr. Charlie Lyall was formerly the secretary-manager of the Spence Bay housing association. He is currently employed as an agent for First Air. Mr. Lyall has served as a member of the Kitikmeot housing federation. He is currently a member of the Spence Bay hamlet council and deputy speaker of the Kitikmeot regional council.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 28-88(2), Carried

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

---Carried

At this time, the Chair would like to recognize the Pages for today. The names are: Bernice Lyall from Cambridge Bay; Carol Murray from Yellowknife; Colette Langlois from Yellowknife; Wayne McCowan from Fort Simpson; Robert Hawkins from Fort Simpson; John Carr from Yellowknife; Laurie Clement from Fort Norman; Jorgen Aitoak from Cambridge Bay; Soloman Lee Gargan from Fort Providence. I would like to thank the Pages.

---Applause

I would like to apologize to the Pages if I did not pronounce your names right.

Item 15, first reading of bills. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask unanimous consent to move back to notices of motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being sought to move back to notices of motion. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Morin.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 7, 1988, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that this Legislative Assembly requests the Executive Council to investigate the feasibility of moving the headquarters for Arctic College back to Fort Smith; and further, that the Executive Council consider tabling the results of the feasibility study at the next session of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Morin. Going back to Item 15, first reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Committee Report 1-88(2); Tabled Documents 15-88(2), 21-88(2), 16-88(2), 10-88(2), 11-88(2) and 28-88(2); Bills 26-88(2) and 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 10-88(2), PUBLIC HOUSING RENT SCALE DISCUSSION PAPER II; Tabled DOCUMENT 11-88(2), NWT HOUSING CORPORATION RENT SCALE

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The committee will come to order. Yesterday we were dealing with Tabled Documents 10-88(2) and 11-88(2) regarding the rent scale. Does the committee agree that we will proceed today with those two tabled documents first? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Following those two particular documents, what is the committee's wish? Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: If it is the committee's wish, the government is prepared, after we deal with Tabled Documents 10-88(2) and 11-88(2), to proceed with Bills 1-88(2) and 26-88(2).

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the government if they would consider dealing with my bill before we deal with the tabled documents, primarily my Bill 26-88(2), before Bill 1-88(2), because the changes, perhaps, if supported by the Assembly, would reflect on Bill 1-88(2). If it is passed, then it would require that, if we go through Bill 1-88(2) first, then we have to make amendments if we want to support it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. For the items to be discussed after rent scales, I have two suggestions on the floor. One, to go ahead with Bill 1-88(2) as proposed by the government House Leader, and two, by the Member for Deh Cho, Private Member's Bill 26-88(2) dealing with the Motor Vehicles Act. What is the committee's wish? Which one do you want to handle right after rent scales? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just also remind the Members that I would certainly like to discuss Bill 1-88(2), All-terrain Vehicles Act, because this will generate a lot of discussion, especially from the Members from the Eastern Arctic. So I would certainly like to discuss that bill before people are going home, and I would certainly like to discuss it as long as it takes, because I would like to see a good bill with that particular act. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** What is your preference? Before I ask the general question, I will go back to the government House Leader.

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** We do not foresee any technical difficulty if we deal with Bill 1-88(2) first. If there are changes in the other bill, I think we can accommodate them without a big problem.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Chairman, if the government wants to go to Bill 1-88(2) before they go to Bill 26-88(2), I have no difficulty with it. However, if Bill 26-88(2) is supported, then the government has to make amendments to Bill 1-88(2) to reflect those changes. That would require, again, another motion to go through that whole process again. I am just trying to see if we could save some time in dealing with my bill first.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Okay, following the rent scale, there are two suggestions: one to deal with Bill 1-88(2); the other to deal with Bill 26-88(2). What is the committee's wish? Mr. Pollard.

**Motion That Bill 26-88(2) Be Dealt With After Tabled Documents 10-88(2) and 11-88(2), Carried**

**MR. POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, following the rent scale discussion, I would move that we deal with Bill 26-88(2). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** I have a motion on the floor to deal with Bill 26-88(2) following the rent scale. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

**Tabled Document 10-88(2), Public Housing Rent Scale Discussion Paper II And Tabled Document 11-88(2), NWT Housing Corporation Rent Scale**

We will deal with Tabled Documents 10-88(2) and 11-88(2) in conjunction. If I can ask the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation for any opening remarks. Mr. Butters.

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Chairman, I made my opening remarks about four days ago when I sat in the House, though I would like to answer a question asked by the Member for High Arctic in oral questions two days ago relative to the possibility of having responses from the various communities made available to Members of the House when this debate was going forward. The discussions that have just been concluded in the communities have generated some 37 or 40 responses. These have not been translated. The corporation is developing a summary of the responses received, but as yet that summary is not available and probably will not be available by the time the House rises.

I have discussed this matter with the Member and he has agreed that we could proceed with the discussion. I would indicate, though, that I would be very pleased to have the corporation supply to Members the submissions that have been made from agencies and communities in their constituencies. So I will have copies of the documents made by groups for whom they are responsible as representatives provided to them. I will commit to doing that.

If I might now move to the witness table and possibly call Mr. Heron, the president of the Housing Corporation, to sit with me. I do not expect we will be answering questions. I would see this as an opportunity for Members to comment on either one of the papers, the first paper on the principles for developing a rent scale or the second one on the various elements that would go

into that rent scale. While welcoming comments from Members at this time, today's discussion would not preclude Members from making written comments at a later date or even submitting their comments by cassette between now and the time the rent scale paper is finalized. So if I may have permission to have Mr. Heron join me at the witness table, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Concerning housing. We have some comments to make, especially the Members from the Baffin Region. We have been advised by the people that the proposed rental scale increase is being opposed. We had some petitions that we tabled opposing the proposed rental scale increase. The petitions I had from my community stated they opposed the increase. They have opposed the increase because there is a lack of housing and there are very few home-owners. Also, there are large families in small units. Also the Housing Corporation units are very different. Some are very good, renovated and some are very old and run-down.

These were the reasons my constituency had for opposing the increase, especially for the pensioners. They were going to be deducting from pensions. Also the family allowances will be deducted from. One of the things that they had concerns about were that some of them were going to be paying up to \$2000 a month and that is the concerns that we had in my constituency. If it is going to be increased, it is being very much opposed. If they are going to be increasing the rental scale, they should build more houses and they should have more home-ownership programs, and also renovate those units before they increase the rental scale.

Also there is a concern from the residents of my community that there are quite a few houses where quite a few household members work and when they have increases on these rental scales, there was a concern. Especially with the young people, how are they going to be affected by this? Also, getting more units for younger people is a concern. If they are going to be putting into effect this rental program, I think there is going to be a lot of people that will be asked to move out because they will not be able to pay for their unit especially when there is an increase. It is a very big concern for my constituents. I have been told that they should really amend the proposed rental scale. I do not have anything on paper of recommendations but the report that they had concerning the Housing Corporation officials that were going to the communities to get input. My constituents are opposing this rental scale increase because there is a lack of housing at this time. These are the comments that I have from my constituents regarding the opposing of the rental scale increase. Thank you.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, on page 67 of this public housing rental scale discussion paper, there are so many observations. For many years, in the NWT there has been a great deal of discussion about the housing problem. When people speak of the housing problem they are referring primarily to the chronic shortage of housing as a problem common to all cities, towns and communities in the NWT. Do you agree with that statement, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Before we get into question period, Mr. Morin, do you have a general comment that you would like to make and then after everybody has an opportunity to make their general remarks, then we can get into question period with the Minister.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just wait until question period, then, to make my remarks. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Any general comments? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like you should be blamed for this item. Just a while back, we had implemented a committee in the Housing Corporation to deal with concerns of the communities, to do a study. In the report, we can see that there is a high rental scale at this time, and there are quite a few people that had mentioned the rental scale program is too high. At this time, the Housing Corporation is stating that the committee that was doing the study had a concern and they had to deal with changing the rental scale. They seem to be looking from a different point of view. They were trying to say that the rental scale program has to be better than at the present time. There was no intention at all of having to increase the rent for the units. We went to a lot of communities, but it is unfortunate that the Housing Corporation was not able to be included in the visits.

Also in the report at this time and the discussion paper we are going to have, this was the June, 1988 report, there is a concern also. There are quite a few people in my constituency, not only my constituents, but I have been receiving phone calls, and this is scaring them. For example, if I was employed, according to the hours, regular working hours and if I was making \$20 per hour, and after all the deductions we had to purchase food, from that \$20 I would have one dollar left over for my pocket money, if the proposed rental scale increase by the Housing Corporation is going to be implemented.

#### Difficulties Of Home-Ownership

Also, it states in the report that there should be more people having home-ownership. This is good in some communities, the home-ownership program, but in other communities it is quite impossible to have home-ownership. For example, if I was going to have my own home, if I am 65 I would have to resign from my employment. I would not be able to have any money to pay for utilities. Also, I could try and sell my own home but then there are not a lot of people who are purchasing houses right now. I would have to move out of my own home. If I had to leave my home before I sold the place, I would not be able to move into a Housing Corporation unit because there is a policy at this time that states that. Also, in early 1960s, I remember very clearly, for example in Resolute Bay all the units that were in the community were owned by the people; before they actually started building units they had their own homes. We were told that we will be giving you good units, brand new units, you will just have to pay a certain amount. They told us they were very good units, so we agreed and we moved from our own houses we had and moved into government units. Also, when we moved into the units the government burned down the houses we had owned before we moved. I had my own home at that time. I had to use quite a lot of money to try to build that house for myself. After 20 years they are telling me, get your own home. It is quite confusing today, looking at the Housing Corporation's policy. The units we had were demolished and we did not even get paid or were given any money for them, even though we had used quite a lot of money to put them up in the first place.

I have a great concern over this. I had such a great concern that I had proposed to have a committee, and also I was deputy chairman. I can talk on and on, but I would like you to know that this report we are discussing at this time -- I will not be agreeing with it. I will be opposing it. Perhaps maybe I do not quite understand it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

#### Discussion Paper Not Final Rent Policy

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I do not wish to enter into debate, Mr. Chairman, but I would point out to the Member that this is not a final report. It is the discussion document that was put before the communities. The authors recognized that concern. In fact, they even indicate on the last page of the discussion document, page seven of seven: "The scale outlined in this paper is not intended to necessarily represent the final rent policy." That policy will be developed as a result of the submissions that have been made in the past, as a result of submissions that are made by Members at this time and in the future. It is expected that there will be a discussion paper prepared which will recommend the final rental scale, and that paper will be put before this House at the opening of the February session. So Members will have an opportunity to examine



the final rental scale developed as a result of discussions that have occurred in the community.

I would like to answer Mr. Morin's question also. I had lost my place. I looked at my notes on the paper and I think I agree with the suggestion that there it is not a single housing problem but a number of housing problems which require different solutions in attempting to resolve them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Are we in questions now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): No, general comments. Thank you, Mr. Morin. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, I would like to mention the concerns of my constituents. I myself have a concern that I would like to mention. The people in my constituency, after they heard this news, were really unhappy about the discussion paper we have right now concerning rental scale increase proposals, especially those who are employed. There are quite a few households which include spouses and their children. Also those households are very worried about having to pay a large rent if this proposal is put into place. I was even told it was suggested that they should stop this and have it on hold for a year so that it can be understood by the communities.

Also, it was suggested that the people in the government units should have a standardized scale. I was told that they should standardize all the rent scales all over Canada. I was told by the older people that they still can make their own sod houses and also they can build them with resources available at this time. They even mentioned that if this is implemented, the Housing Corporation units, perhaps they should demolish those and build their own sod houses. If they are going to be implementing this rental scale program, I think it is quite possible to have sod houses right now. There are the different facilities for retailers that are in the communities, like laundromats. They can be independent. It was mentioned that they should standardize the rental scales because in each of the communities, there seems to be a sort of separation or they have different programs, although we have the one government.

#### Need For Standardized Rental Scale

It is good that the Housing Corporation is providing units in the NWT. It is helpful and it is fortunate that they can live in houses but also at the same time the people are very unhappy with the programs. This was a major concern in my constituency. They were holding public meetings concerning this report. I was advised that they were suggesting that they standardize these rental scale programs all over. Because they are employed and have to rent these units, this is going to have to be put into consideration of how they can improve this rental scale. If there was going to be a standardized program in place, it would be agreed upon by the people. I think if they go ahead with this new rental scale increase proposal it is really going to be opposed. I was advised that perhaps they should standardize all their rent scales to programs all over Canada.

The renters know that fuel, water and garbage pickup and the electricity utility bills are very expensive too. The concern they have, or what they are unhappy about, is that they seem to be alienated through this. When there is a household with a number of people working, they will have to pay large rent and also they would have to include pension and family allowances in this rental scale increase. My constituents and the people all over the NWT are very unhappy with this because they are sort of being separated even though they have one government.

I am also a renter. I am happy that I have a good unit and I am able to pay my rent but I am not very happy when in the NWT we have to pay different rent in public housing, also government staff housing and other units that are being rented. Perhaps they should consider, or have you ever thought about, increasing the government staff housing units? Concerning what I was told about this report from the people, I think I am going to try and have it postponed for a year, being a representative of my constituents. This was advice given to me by the people so I wanted to

bring that up and also myself I had a concern on this. I know that the government employees are going to be unhappy. We had to remove their accommodation benefits and this would be a real concern when they have to pay such a high price for their units. I would like you to put into consideration all my comments so that the NWT people will be much more happier; those of us who are renters.

These are the concerns of my constituents and when I saw this report I got concerned over it. Also, I think there are some other people who would agree with me. I will make more comments or questions later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, while the figures are still soft and are still under consideration I believe that Housing Corporation officials believe there is not going to be a rental scale increase across the board. With the general percentages that are being worked over now, the expectation is that possibly 75 per cent of current occupants of public housing could experience a decrease as a result of the new scale. However, those that are most able to pay, some 25 per cent, could experience an increase. So it is not an across-the-board increase. I do believe that the criteria of protecting those who have small incomes will be maintained.

In one of the papers, I think this is the one of June 1988, it indicates that the intent of the rent scale is to protect low and fixed income households from high rents. I think this principle will be maintained in the new rental scale.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Any more general comments? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am having a little difficulty with the document that has been provided to us. I received comments from my constituents and, as other Members have indicated, they are not satisfied with what is being contemplated here. What they are suggesting is that they should have the third paper come out. They had an opportunity to review the rent scale and they made their comments known to the district office as to where they stand on this particular rent scale. I would like to get into some particular areas. Another thing that, although the paper discusses a little bit, the scale itself does not really cover it. I do not feel that it is a problem with substandard units although the paper indicates that they are going to have a service deduction.

There are various deductions in this particular paper but the rent structure does not consider how old the unit is. There are a number of Weber units and it appears that these units are not seriously considered although they make one lump deduction for those types of units. There is no variation. There should be at least three or four different deductions depending on how old the unit is and what kind of condition it is in and the size of the family that is living within the substandard units.

#### More Problems To Be Considered

When my group reviewed this particular document, they basically suggested that there are a lot of problems within the rent scale that have to be further looked into. They view this particular rent scale as being that the higher income bracket people are being penalized by this particular rent scale. We have to come up with a rent scale that is equally good for the low income people and the higher bracket income people. A middle ground somewhere, where they are not being seen as subsidizing the low income people. That is one of the comments that was made at the public meeting that was held in Rae-Edzo.

They are saying that also family size is not really considered in the rent structure again. They are strongly suggesting that this review, this particular report should be looked into further. Generally, the summary was that there was little support for the posted rent scale. Especially the higher income bracket people were complaining, saying that the higher income we have the higher that we have to pay but on the other hand the low income people are not treated as fairly

or treated a little better than the higher income bracket. So that is what I am suggesting. We have to find a middle ground between a lower and higher income people. Even in turn, if we have to get Social Services, who eventually pays the rent anyway for the low income people, even if Social Services would have to pay a little bit more so that we can accommodate the lower income people and the higher income people, we have to find a middle ground somewhere to satisfy both groups. That has to be looked at more carefully. Again, I will just state that the community is suggesting that a third revision of the rent scale be conducted again and come back with this middle ground rent scale, different than what is being proposed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. Did you want to make any comments, Mr. Butters.

#### Public Housing For Those Who Cannot Afford Own Homes

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Really not, because as I say we are listening. But on the matter of the older houses that is true. There is only one figure, \$150 that has been put up as a deduction. One of the elements of the scale was simplicity and, I guess, we are attempting to achieve that simplicity by having one deduction for the older type houses.

I would point out too, in the principle document it was suggested that we are discussing public housing; housing for those people who are unable to afford their own accommodation and not for those people who can build their own homes. I think that this Assembly, in the past, has said that those people who are in public housing and can afford to get out into the private market and construct their own homes, should be encouraged to do so or discouraged from continuing to take up accommodation in public housing. This seems, to me, to be an underlying principle that has been long accepted by this House. If it is a principle that is no longer accepted by this House then I would like to be so directed or I would like to know of it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Any general comments?

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, just on that point...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): I am going to give everybody an opportunity to speak on a particular point if there is an additional concern. I wanted to get general comments from everybody. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I should tell you a little story first and then I will get on to my point. In 1968, when houses were being introduced to the Eastern Arctic, Tagak Curley and I were employed by the Government of Canada, adult education division in Ottawa, to go to the communities like Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour, to explain the new housing rental scale system as well as the establishment of the housing associations. The funny thing about that was that they put me into Coral Harbour and they put Tagak Curley into Repulse and their explanation was that, "Peter, you coming from Repulse, I do not think you will have that much influence over the people of Repulse and the same with you, Tagak Curley." So, they put us into our non-communities. They told us this, and I think that is part of the reason why the Inuit of the Eastern Arctic are having so many difficulties with continuing increases in rents. It is basically because they said to us at that time, "Go tell those Eskimos up there that they will never have to pay anymore than from two dollars, minimum, to \$68, maximum." That is what they wanted us to tell the Eskimos then and that is why we are having problems with increases such as this. Nowadays in 1988, from \$32 to well over \$900. So, on a matter of principle, we do not forget these things.

I often wonder as to the reasons why the rents are going up so much in the Eastern Arctic, according to this. I think I have an idea why. The cost of living is high, the cost of transportation of these materials is high, to the East. So, as a result, the government has some programs where introduction of a good conservation program is necessary, introduction of good home improvement is necessary so that the cost of these buildings is at a certain level, not so high.

### Private Home-Ownership Gives Independence

The government also introduced a private home-ownership program, including a home assistance program. I have said on a number of occasions, that I totally support private home-ownership because it gives you independence. If you know what you are doing then the cost of maintaining it and operating it is lower, compared to government homes, I suppose I could say in the Eastern Arctic, that is the area that I know most about.

If the purpose of the program, in terms of increasing rents is to keep up with the high cost of living, then I think we should take some of the comments made by some of the Members, especially people like Mr. Kilabuk, that people will build their own sod houses since they are no longer able to keep up with the high costs of rents in the communities. I am wondering if there have been any studies, if there has been any research done on the building of sod houses, modern sod houses, I guess, in the Eastern Arctic. We have used them before, I used to live in a sod house many years ago. A well constructed sod house; I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the government has done any researches into this type of proposal.

The other thing that we have no shortage of in the Eastern Arctic and it would probably be less costly, is the stone house. I have seen some stone churches in some of the communities in the North. Missionaries built stone houses and stone warehouses in places like Gjoa Haven, in places like Thom Bay, Spence Bay, Pelly Bay and a number of other places in the Arctic. I am also aware of one or two stone museums. If the program is designed to keep the prices down, we have all kinds of materials in the Eastern Arctic. We could utilize stone, there is no shortage of it there and sod, such as indicated by Ipeelee Kilabuk earlier.

One of the things that I notice, which is no longer in existence, is a good home management program. The government introduced these fantastic programs like conservation programs and yet home management programs, in terms of conservation of energy, do not exist at the community level. I continue to see, in the community, when the weather is 60 or 70 below and it is getting hot inside the house, then people open their windows in order to get some cold air in. So, nobody knows anything about the thermostat on the wall. If your program of energy conservation is not to continue to see so much cost in terms of wasted air, usage of so much energy, then we have to have some more good home management programs in terms of heating, in terms of good energy in the house.

### Senior Citizens Homes

The other thing that I missed here in this report is the issue of senior citizens homes. We have made some recommendations, from a number of years ago, that both the Housing Corporation of the Northwest Territories and the Department of Social Services, would undertake to build or to construct good senior citizens homes in the Northwest Territories. Yet, this report just about covers everything else in terms of rental programs but it misses the issue of senior citizens homes in terms of providing good housing, providing acceptable housing for the seniors who sometimes have a very difficult time in terms of meeting the high cost of rent. So, I suggest, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister and his officials that a good program for the senior citizens is a necessity in the Northwest Territories. I will just stop here for now. I have one or two questions after everybody has had a chance to make their general remarks. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you. As soon as Mr. Butters responds, we will take 15 minutes for coffee. Mr. Butters.

Expectation Of Minimal Rent

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I do not know if it is a response, but I would just wish to concur with what I heard Mr. Ernerk and Mr. Pudluk saying about the manner in which the whole concept of public housing was brought into the North. I heard it in the Mackenzie Delta and I can understand that people would take away from those briefings and the information they got at that time, and the expectation of being able to live in homes at a very minimal rent. I heard the same type of discussions being provided and I appreciate what Mr. Pudluk and Mr. Ernerk have said regarding the difficulty now, of people looking at greatly increased rental charges levied on them as a result of this government's management of public housing.

Just one other thing, there is a program for senior citizens. It does not come under the public housing program per se, but it is -- I am not quite sure of the relationship -- but I think CMHC funds it entirely and I believe it is maintained, as a result, by of our government. But there is a program outside the specific and particular public housing program which we are discussing here, for senior citizens.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nerysoo): Thank you, Mr. Butters. We will take a 15 minute break. I just want to indicate that there is a brief meeting of the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions in the committee room.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Would the committee please come back to order? Mr. Angottitauruq, general comments.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I know what the goal is of the NWT Housing Corporation. I like the system of the government saying, "Take from the rich and give to the poor." But then again, in my argument, why raise the rents when a lot of these houses are very old now, and many of them are a health hazard if they were in the South. I have seen a few people in the small communities in a good house, who would move into an older house, even when they are getting good wages. Not all, but some do, because they have large families and they cannot afford the good home. I know it is to encourage people with higher pay, to make them think that they should get their own HAP houses. For example, there is a person that I know that was receiving a wage of \$60,000 a year and they told him, "You cannot get your home-ownership because you are making too much money." With this rent scale, how much would he have to pay in a year? There is another person also, that made \$59,000, almost \$60,000. He has been trying for four years to get home-ownership because he knows he can afford it. But right now, how much is he paying? I guess if the Housing Corporation want to raise the rent, I think they should be fairer to the tenants and also to the applicants. I know there is not enough money to go around for all the applicants.

#### Policy On Home-Ownership

The fact is that in the small communities, especially where I represent, there are a lot of northern rental houses, and a lot of those people may be paying quite a bit, instead of two dollars, while those other people who are paying \$32 are in better houses. That is acceptable. But then again, when you apply for home-ownership you have all kinds of red tape, you might say. If the NWT Housing Corporation want to raise the rent, they should also think of their policy on home-ownership. It does not work in some places; it works in other places. I have a number of people in my riding that have home-ownership, and I have a number of people who seem to qualify, who are denied. I am not saying anything new, so I will just stop here. But I would just like to remind the NWT Housing Corporation that some of these houses that we rent are not acceptable through health, but because there are no other buildings like apartments, they do not write them off.

I should go a little further. There are some communities that require old folks homes, but since they are small these houses cannot be filled as old folks homes all the time. In the small communities there are some people who are employed to clean the older peoples' homes, when they are handicapped. I think since those communities do not have old folks homes, it may be a good idea for them to live in row houses, the older people, with two bedrooms. Before I go any further beyond the rent scale, I should stop my comments here. I think I have said enough. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. General comments. Mr. Crow.

MR. CROW: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the rental scale that is being introduced by the NWT Housing Corporation, in my constituency this is also a concern. Last year, when I was campaigning and wanting to be an MLA, I was first of all informed with respect to the housing association in Sanikiluaq. This was again introduced last spring to be considered, when it was discussed and public meetings were held. It was discussed over the local radio in Sanikiluaq. The concern is that the rental scale should remain the same. The scale that we are using at this time, they do not want it to be changed in my constituency. They do not want to see a new rental scale being introduced, especially for the older people, because their pay is not very large. Also, the student or family allowances they do not want to be included in the income that the family has. Why do we have to introduce a new rental scale? This is well understood in my constituency, especially the people of Sanikiluaq, that the rental scale that is being introduced by the NWT Housing Corporation, is not the same to the people because it varies with the salaries that each individual person is making. It starts from \$32 and up. Most of the people, with respect to the houses that they rent, pay whatever they can into the house that they are renting, and are

trying to come up with an equal way of having the families pay the rents. We have seen this material that is before us right now, but I think the rent will be too high if we adopt what is being proposed. Even if a person was paying \$32 before, they can go up to \$1000, \$2000, \$3000 a month, using the proposed scale the way it is.

#### Houses Shift In Sanikiluaq

Also, in my constituency, because my riding is an island, the land is just mud under the surface, so in Sanikiluaq the houses are always getting water damage from the bottom because they are continually being moved by the mud that freezes in the winter and thaws again the spring. The houses are always shifting. Some will tip in the winter, and when the mud freezes the other part of the house gets pushed up the other way; and when it thaws again in the spring it will go back to its original place. That is how much shifting there is in Sanikiluaq, and it is very hard to keep them upright, even though that is being worked on. They do the lifting when the house has too much tilt, but we have not been able to find any way to keep it constant. If we are going to be paying \$2000 or \$3000, up to \$5000 every month, it would not be fair to charge anybody that much for this type of house. Many people have said this.

One of the major concerns was that it stated that a family living in one residence would have to put up their total income from the same household; family allowances, welfare cheques and money earned by people who are employed. They have to add up all their income. The first one would be \$800 and this would be deducted as a base income. Under \$800 is not counted as income but this \$800 is going to make a lot of difference, because for Inuit who are living in the same house, it is never constant.

For example, my wife and I and one daughter live in a house and there are only three of us. It is okay for us to pay \$800 but there are some people who live in the same community who have a husband and wife and with 12 children. The man who is the head of the household gets paid for his work, but there are 14 people living in the same house. There are perhaps 16 people living in the same house. The \$800, after adding up all the income from the entire family, is not going to make much of a difference because it is too small. It is just too small. That family still has to have food. They have living expenses and since everything is always getting more expensive, I think we have to think about this amount as a base allowed before being charged through the rental scale. We have to try an alternative and I have been instructed to change it. That is how my people have thought about this. If it is not too late to change it we have to look at ways of changing it. I have been specifically instructed to make changes to that.

#### Request For Furnished Houses

The other concern is that if you are renting from the NWT Housing Corporation, it is good if we can be provided with a warm house but the houses are not properly built, or the land that they are sitting on is not stable. Then once we get into a public unit, the house has nothing in it. There is a fridge, I know that. Also a stove. That is all there is when we go into the houses. But things such as beds or furniture for the house have to be bought by the tenant. I know some government employees are given staff housing by their employer, completely furnished. There is everything included in there. There are fridges, washing machines, dryers, everything that you need for the house. So if we have to live by the rental scale from here on, using the new rental scale, I think that the NWT Housing Corporation should be providing furnishings, just like the NWT government staff housing units. I think that would make it acceptable and I was instructed to say this.

I think more work has to be done on what is being proposed. It is causing major concerns for the residents of the NWT. So if we could defer this proposal I think that we should be looking at improving the proposal and delay the time it will come into effect. As I heard Ipeelee Kilabuk talking about proposing a motion to postpone the rise in rental scales, I will be supporting the motion that he may propose. But I just wanted to say some things that should be considered.

The proposal before us is not up to par. I think our housing authority has written a letter to the NWT Housing Corporation after perusing the information, writing about their concerns regarding the proposal. Following the feedback from the communities, I do not think that we should be doing anything about it yet. I would like to see it brought back to the House after everybody's concerns have been addressed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Tabled Document 11-88(2), (Translation) NWT Housing Corporation Rent Scale is on the table. Do any other people want to make comments? Mr. Nerysoo.

#### Rental Assessments Made On Gross Income

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to say that I had a quick chance to review this particular document. What I find, Mr. Chairman, and if I could go through three of the objectives that have been proposed as a result of the review. One, with regard to simplicity. What I find is that the attempt to improve the manner in which rents are paid now does not seem to be improving. Maybe there is a suggestion that is the case and maybe that is the case because, as Mr. Butters pointed out, 75 per cent of those that are tenants may find a reduction. But it is not simplified despite the fact that there is a suggestion of an \$800 benefit, as it is called -- anyhow, it is a reduction in the calculations. What I find difficult to appreciate is the total calculations in terms of the rents paid, and that is a total of 30 per cent of the gross amount, the total amount in that household.

One of the problems has been, as we have argued in this House for many years, and I know Mr. Butters is fully aware of it, that people do not like the idea of the calculations of whether or not it is 25 per cent or 30 per cent, of the total income. Because, what we do not take into consideration, even under these calculations, even under these suggestions that are being made now, is that we are making a calculation on rent prior to reduction by taxes, prior to reduction by other deductions that are taken off as a result of requirement by the federal government. We do not take into consideration the cost of living. I know that there is a suggestion that will happen but that is not, in many respects I believe, going to deal with the question of those who really need the help.

I do not have a solution, I guess you might say, at this particular time. I do know that if you are going to simplify it then you are not going to give people control. I think that the Aklavik housing association pointed it out really clearly in that you are going to have a situation in which the head of the household would have to be responsible for rental administration and collection for the family's rental assessment. In other words, the head of the household is going to have to assume responsibility for collecting rent from all his family, or those people in his family that are working and I do not think that that is the intention. If you are going to simplify the process, I do not think that is the intention of this government. I think the intention is to ensure that the individuals who are paying rent are capable and willing and able to pay those rents.

#### Difficulties Created For Head Of Household

What I also find is that, in terms of a point raised by Mr. Crow where the elders, the elder tenant who is the head of the household, is going to have to assume the responsibility of collecting from those family members, that may be grandchildren that are living in that household or able to work, that individual is going to be responsible for collecting the additional rent that is to be paid by that elderly person and I do not think that was the intention of this particular review. It was, in fact, to ensure where there was a situation where the head of the household could be assessed individually, the housing association could determine whether or not they could assume the responsibility for collecting from those individuals of that household. It makes it awfully difficult and awfully complicated and less supportive of those people who are supposedly the head of the household, the manner in which the calculations are made.

I want to say that one of the problems that we have had all along in terms of rents is where we have taken 25 per cent, even now, of the household income and added, of course, the \$75 for



each individual. I know for a fact -- I can give you an example. In Arctic Red River, in my constituency, one lady was working for seven hours a week, her husband was working 17 hours a week, and they had to pay rent of, I believe, over \$600. Now, they must have been making a lot of money in order to pay that kind of rent. That is on a daily basis. I do not know how the calculations were being made but that is an indication of the way in which this 25 per cent calculation of overall money made was being assessed as the rent. Maybe there was a mistake. Maybe that is something that has to be looked into but that is an indication of where I see that these people, even though they were not employed, you might say, full time or eight hours a day, were being assessed for what I consider a very, very large rental rate; too large for the income that they were receiving.

#### Rental Scale Should Allow Self-Sufficiency

I also wanted to make one other point about self-sufficiency, Mr. Chairman. I would have hoped that, if anything, we would have been ensuring, in this process, a situation where those people that had no choice but to be in rental units would be able to maintain their families. In other words, they would have enough money to buy enough food, to buy the necessary goods to maintain their families and, at the same time, have extra spending money so that they could do things other than just maintaining their families. What I find is that I am not sure whether or not these new rental scales will accomplish that, particularly since we are back into the situation of taking, again, even more money and making the assessments to a larger scale. Going from 25 to 30 per cent of the total amount of money in that family, where before it was 25 per cent of the householder's income plus \$75 for each individual in that family. That is the way that the calculations, if I remember them being introduced in this House, that is the way that the calculations were made.

I do not know how that is going to accomplish this idea of self-sufficiency. Maybe I am reading the issue wrong but I have taken a quick assessment and I do not know if this is going to accomplish it. Maybe it is the way in which the calculations are made and the way in which we deal with those people that are working, because what I find is that the manner in which we determine the rental scale forces people not to work because the less money they make, the less money they have to pay. In fact, it is in the interest and it is to the advantage of people not to work because then the government assumes total responsibility for paying for all the costs of the unit. They provide them with social assistance to pay their rent, plus they provide them with social assistance to pay for food, for clothing, for everyone in that family. In some ways I do not know whether we are moving forward or we are moving backwards.

#### Home-Ownership Is The Goal

I think that what we should be doing is making sure that those people that want to remain in these homes find a way of putting away at least some money so that they can assume the responsibility of investing those savings into their own home. Right now I do not see that as happening.

In the case of home-ownership, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to say this. We have been trying, in this Assembly, to provide and have been, I think, pretty successful but we have been trying to provide more people with their own homes. One of the problems that we have encountered is that there are individuals that are caught between, that are not being paid or not making enough money to fit within that category of the maximum amount that we have for the HAP program. In fact, they might be \$100 or \$200 beyond what we are asking for, \$2000. So, they are sort of outside. What I find, if this process is going to be successful, is that we are probably going to have to look at this. The argument that is being made is, let us not have the people being dependent on government support. Well, I do not think that is going to happen. I will give you an example of why I say this. In most smaller communities, in the High Arctic, in the Eastern Arctic, in many of the smaller communities including Fort McPherson, which is in my constituency and which is on a highway, the banks are not going to give individuals mortgages to build their own homes because there is no housing market. There is no market for them. In fact, I will give you another example where an individual bought, and Mr. Butters knows the kind of structure I am talking about, a "512" structure, a two-bedroom house, for \$500. Now if that was in Yellowknife, that

would probably be worth \$70,000 to \$80,000 to buy that unit. That is the example. Now, if you want to talk about a housing market, if a person can buy a house for \$500 in a small community how do we support that? How do you expect the banks, when they hear that, to even suggest that a mortgage assistance program should be available or that they should subsidize or somehow come up with a mortgage for those people in those communities? My feeling, Mr. Chairman, is that we are not going to get out of this responsibility of providing some support to those individuals that want to get into owning their own homes outside of the HAP program.

#### Need For Mortgage Assistance Program

We are going to have to review or consider developing some kind of mortgage assistance program to help these people buy their own homes, construct their own homes. Even, Mr. Chairman, to have these people using that money maybe to take advantage of the reduced costs of supplies and goods maybe in conjunction with our government. But I just wanted to make those comments because I was reviewing the good submission that the Aklavik housing association made to our government and they did take into consideration many of the things that I have been talking about. They made the suggestion in fact of the deduction of \$800. But I have no problem with the idea of deduction. The problem I found is, what about those large families? Would there be a formula that would include the larger families? If there was \$800 for three people, what about 10 people? What would the calculation be, because I assume there are larger costs depending upon what the number of household members were? I was just trying to make those general comments with regard to what has gone on so far.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. General comments. NWT Housing Corporation rental scale. Further general comments? Does the committee agree that the general comments are over and are you ready for the questions to the Minister? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Who starts off with the questions? Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, the question I had asked you earlier. The question was, do you agree with that statement under "Summary Observations", page six of seven, stating, the chronic shortage of housing as a problem common to all cities, towns and communities in the NWT?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: It seems a reasonable statement, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: So you agree, Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I said it seems a reasonable statement. I am a reasonable man.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Morin, would you recognize the Chair for the record, so that the words in the record would be recorded properly? Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a yes, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I do not want to get into an argument with a Member. This paper is developed by the Housing Corporation. It makes a lot of sense in many areas. It suggests ways in which to address the housing problems in the NWT. Some of them make sense to me, some of them do not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Does that statement on page six of seven make sense to you?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Would the Member read the statement again?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. "For many years in the NWT there has been a great deal of discussion about 'the housing problem'. When people speak of the housing problem they are referring primarily to the chronic shortage of housing as a problem common to all cities, towns and communities in the NWT."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Well, the question asks for a subjective response on what people expect of housing problems. I think that is probably a good statement of what the expectation of people is when you refer to the housing problem. Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Morin, I think that just for the comfort of the interpreters maybe between the questions and answers, take a little time for the interpreters so they can be a little more comfortable.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I have a yes, am I correct, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I cannot really understand the line of questioning here. I do not think I am on trial. I think that what the statement refers to is the perception of people with regard to the housing problem in the NWT. That sounds like a sensible statement to me. It sounds like a reasonable statement to me. I said that five minutes ago.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page five of seven, Mr. Minister, in the problem of substandard units, it says, "Some, indeed many, higher income households have chosen to accept poorer housing standards in return for higher disposable incomes. What makes matters worse, is that since the inferior units often operate as rent shelters, the tenants resist their destruction even when the Housing Corporation is able to replace them." Mr. Minister, with that statement from this paper, is the Housing Corporation saying that they are able to replace houses in the communities and they are not doing so?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I do not think that is what the statement is saying. I think that the statement describes the situation that you outlined a few minutes ago, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Heron to clarify that particular matter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Heron.

**MR. HERON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I read the statement, people when faced with possible rent increases, choose on their own or for purposes of necessity, to move into different accommodation. As the Minister has indicated, there are people who consciously make those decisions to move into less desirable accommodations, in the view of whoever is making that judgment if you wish, so they could have more income to spend on things that they desire. In that respect, there are certain situations where tenants do resist the destruction of the units that they are presently in.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So you are saying that the Housing Corporation is able to replace them but they do not for the simple reason that they cannot destroy the unit that is there already. Is that what you are saying?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Heron.

**MR. HERON:** Mr. Chairman, I do not believe I said that we deliberately pursue a course of action which would ensure that we maintain those older units with the thought that we can generate more income and possibly not have to replace them. We have quite an active program with northern rental replacements. For example, where there has traditionally been some in the communities, we have 25 units that are being replaced annually, which are those really substandard northern rentals. It is not our corporate philosophy to retain those older units. It is surely a matter of necessity that we retain them. It is not a corporate philosophy to retain them simply to retain them.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Morin.

#### Replacing Units Questioned In View Of Shortage

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, on page six of seven you say, on the one hand, that you have a chronic housing shortage in most communities. That is what this paper is saying to me. Yet, on page five of seven, you are saying that the Housing Corporation is able to replace some units. Those two things seem to be in conflict, that we have a chronic housing shortage but yet you have the ability to replace units, or put new units in. Can you clarify that for me, please?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Chairman, I heard the president of the corporation say that the corporation is now replacing 25 units annually. I assume that is in the corporation's budget. I do not take from the statement, as Mr. Heron indicated, that tenants are resisting the corporation from going about its business, which is providing adequate, safe and affordable housing for people of the NWT. I do not think that necessarily detracts from the statement in the paper. I think the corporation is providing as many houses as it is able to under its current budget arrangement.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I hear the Minister saying that the Housing Corporation is replacing approximately 25 units annually in the communities, and that is all they are able to replace. So this statement here is not true, on page five in this paper, because it is saying here, it is blaming the tenants, resisting the destruction even when the corporation is able to replace them. But yet, you have said that they are able to replace 25 and that is what they are doing already.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** The statement says that the tenant resists the destruction of the unit. Sure he does. But that does not mean to say that the unit will not be taken down, as I understand it. The people have moved into these homes because they pay a lesser rent and they have more disposable income. That is why they are in there. Some of them. Some of them have large families. I would suggest that if the corporation is required to replace a house, then it is going to replace that house. Maybe the president can correct me.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So it is your belief that they are living there so they can have a cheaper rent, or maybe a bigger house for a bigger family, but you do not believe it is because there is a chronic shortage of housing in communities, that we have to use these houses, that we have no choice. Is that what you are saying?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** It is obviously a combination of both elements, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Zoe. Sorry, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Morin has still got the floor. I thought he was finished. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the objectives of this public housing rent scale, you have, on page two of seven, starting under "Self-sufficiency", that the second objective is that the scale must encourage tenants to be financially self-supporting and independent of public assistance, and the third objective is that the scale must promote independent home-ownership by establishing a firm connection between the rents in public housing and the operating costs of privately owned homes. Do you believe that this paper meets those two objectives, Mr. Minister?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Minister.

#### Trying To Develop Best Possible Rental Scale

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** The object, Mr. Chairman, of this paper is to receive from the populace at large its conception as to whether it does. We have just heard a few minutes ago from a Member of this House that on the basis of simplicity, the paper on the proposed rental scale does not meet that principle. That is what we are sitting here for, to listen to comments of Members and not face questions as though we were in a jury box. We are not on trial. We are trying to develop the best possible rental scale for the people of the North. That is why we are here listening to you. To the particular case of "simplicity", Mr. Nerysoo indicated that it does not seem to be meeting that criterion, and I, for one, was quite taken with his arguments.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I apologize if I make you feel as if you are on trial, because I am not trying to do that. I am just trying to get a point across. Under "Rent-to-Income Graduation" it says, "The purpose of the gradual rate increases is to indicate to the higher income households, in a very clear and direct way, that they earn enough to support the cost of operating a private home on their own." Then, on page five of seven, it says, "Now, with the introduction and expansion of HAP, a housing program is available which higher income households can use to their advantage to provide them with shelter at a fixed cost. HAP has replaced the necessity for maximum rents."

With that statement, Mr. Minister, I was hoping to hear from the Housing Corporation of an expansion of your HAP program. The previous Minister, Mr. Kakfwi, stated last fall that we were going to get this in the fall session, so that higher income people were eligible for HAP. Right now, they are not. In your "Objectives" of this paper, for "Self-sufficiency" and "Private Home-ownership", (2) and (3), this paper does not even address it, really, because it is not really worth the paper it is written on. Do you have an expansion program for HAP?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the paper does not address the HAP program as such. The paper that the Member is quoting from deals with the proposed new rental scale. I recognize that statements were made on the HAP program earlier in the year, and possibly we could get a report from the president with regard to that particular program at this time, but we are not discussing the HAP program in the committee of the whole. If the Member wishes a response, possibly Mr. Heron could give him a response to that particular question on the enhanced HAP program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under objectives of this public housing rent scale, (3) is private home-ownership. That is how come we are discussing that one. If you do not mind, maybe the president could tell us about the expansion of the HAP program so that the higher income people living in public housing can move out into their own home and do not have to pay the high rent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Heron.

People Of High Income Not Qualifying For HAP

MR. HERON: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Member is making some reference to the desire to ensure that those people who do not qualify on a specific community-by-community basis, with their incomes, if they are over a certain, what we call, threshold -- for example, there was a comment that if an individual is \$132 over what we call the core needs income threshold, they do not qualify for HAP and that is the group of people that we are looking at addressing. I believe the honourable Member was hoping that at this session we would be able to produce a paper for that group of people, by the government, so as to refer to it internally as an access program which has not been fully developed. Policies, etc., have not been fully completed but we have received some direction to be pursuing that particular item to ensure that we, in fact, begin to provide some form of assistance to those higher income people who do not qualify for HAP.

I would just like to remind the honourable Member that the agreement for HAP is a cost-shared program between the Government of Canada, through CMHC and ourselves, under a global agreement in which every community has a core needs income threshold; and there are some other principles, such as, 30 per cent of your gross income should be used as the measuring stick to see whether or not you qualify for some form of assistance under the HAP program. So, it is not simply a unilateral kind of decision that is being made by the NWT Housing Corporation; it is a joint agreement with the federal government, and as such we are very desirous of enhancing the levels, if you wish, for people in the higher incomes to access some form of assistance. At this point in time we have not finalized and have not presented a paper, per se, to the Minister for his consideration as to what the program is going to look like.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In "Private Home-ownership", under the objectives, the third object is that a scale must promote independent home-ownership by establishing a firm connection between the rents in public housing and the operating costs of a privately owned home. Then it says at the rent-to-income, on page four of seven: "The purpose of the gradual rate increases is to indicate to the higher income households in a very clear and direct way that they earn enough to support" their own home. Why would you even put that in a paper when you do not have a program for these people to go to? It does not make any sense to me at all. It is like you are putting the cart before the horse. Maybe you could answer that first.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

### HAP Askew With Public Housing Arrangements

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** I will allow Mr. Heron to respond. I know the Member is unhappy with the current HAP program and the eligibility and the criteria for the HAP program. I myself had raised questions on the program earlier in the year. I certainly will look at the HAP program as soon as I get a chance, to examine it in some detail. It is askew with the public housing arrangements, I would agree, but I want to look at it. I want to see where it is askew. I want to see where it will fit. However, I will ask Mr. Heron to respond with regard to the specific question.

**MR. HERON:** The intent of indicating to the folks that are reading this document is that at some point in time the desire to own and operate your own home reaches a point where you yourself can afford to move on to the private market if you wish and, in fact, take on those responsibilities. That is quite a common practice in market communities, if you wish, and even in non-market communities where those responsibilities shift from the government to the private individual. This is a reference that our proposed rent scale is intended to demonstrate that at some point in time, when you start paying less than 30 per cent of your gross income to maintain a home, that is the level at which it is considered, nationally, that you should be able to afford to own and operate your own home. So, that is a national kind of standard accepted under CMHC criteria that you would, in fact, move to that point in your disposable income or your income in general, if you wish -- and I better make sure I am careful here, not disposable income, but your total income -- where you should be able to own and operate your own home. That is why this particular rent-to-income graduation and the reference to private ownership is in here, that at some point in time, we have to get the government out of the business of providing houses and assistance when the private home-owner is able to do it on his own. That is the intent of indicating that at some point in time, that point has to be reached.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree that people that do make a lot of money should be out of the rental scale, the rental unit, and into their own homes. But, there is nothing available in the small communities. If that is what your intent was, to encourage people to move out of public housing and into their own home, in the market communities where there is private enterprise, where you can get mortgages, that is what it should say on the front. You know, a public rental housing rent scale discussion paper for Yellowknife, Inuvik, Fort Smith, Hay River, where there are mortgages available. It should not include the small communities where you cannot get a mortgage.

I am not only not happy with the HAP program, but this paper, too, makes me very unhappy. There are such conflicts in the document, that all we are going to do, Mr. Minister, is go out there and run it through the community and you are going to get a lot of negative input. You are getting it here already. You should take this back to your officials and tell them to think twice and put something forward that makes sense and is not in conflict with each different paragraph, before you even take it out into the communities. That is what I am saying.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Zoe.

### Gross Income Rather Than Net Income Used

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister or his officials indicate to me why, or the rationale behind using, in the current system, the current rent scale, why they are using gross income rather than net income?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** The NWT Housing Corporation is a partner in public housing with CMHC. These are terms which are used by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq):** Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Actually, it is dictated to us by another force.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Well, I guess I should mention that public housing is built through cost-sharing arrangements with Canada Mortgage and Housing. You will have noticed in the paper it pointed out that "The present rent scale recovers none of the construction costs for public housing and only 10 per cent of the operating costs." CMHC, which is very used to operating in southern Canada, finds this hard to understand and, in fact, is really put out with the territorial government. You will notice on page seven of eight it says, "Because the Housing Corporation does not comply with the terms of the national rent scale, CMHC cuts back its contribution to public housing by the amount it estimates that the Housing Corporation does not collect in rent." So, yes, we are tied into terms and conditions that are developed nationally.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you. I figured I was going to get a different answer but I figured the answer that was going to be coming from the Minister was because it was easier to do calculations and so forth, but I guess that is not the case.

Can I refer back to Tabled Document 10-88(2), in regard to the \$800 household deduction? Could I ask the Minister where he pulled this magic number from, this \$800?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I guess I deserve all this. It just seems like two weeks ago that I moved this into the committee of the whole for discussion when I was sitting among the ordinary Members. Now I am accused of pulling out a figure of \$800. I do not know where I pulled it from but I have the trusty president of the Housing Corporation to respond, to the Member, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Heron.

MR. HERON: In response to the honourable Member's question, I have been informed that in the Northwest Territories the basis of it is, if you work an average of 40 hours a week at the minimum wage, this should be the minimum income that you would earn over a space of a year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not particularly happy with this flat rate business that they are proposing in the document because I do not think that is going to serve the purpose although it is going to make things more simple. I do not think on the overall they are going to accomplish what they are trying to do unless this particular amount is increased a little bit more; a little higher so that higher income brackets can come down a little. As I indicated earlier, we have to find a middle ground so that we can accommodate both the higher income people and also the lower income. Another thing that is not considered for this \$800 is that family size is not considered.

#### Service Deduction On Substandard Units

Maybe if I could jump to another area, Mr. Chairman, on the substandard units or the service deduction of \$150. I think this area has to be looked at again because the service deduction of \$150 only applies to public units that are not equipped with: 1) hot and cold running water; 2) bath or shower; 3) indoor flush toilet. It applies only to these three categories and I think this area has got to be seriously looked at. The reason they put that service deduction in there was because of the problem with substandard units. But they also have to consider the structure of the units. We have a lot of Weber units, old units.



There has to be a scale put in place, a scale that can determine if your house is five years old, 10 years, 15 or something and your service deduction should be based on that. That is a suggestion that I am bringing forward to the Minister because, as you know, you get a lot of complaints from tenants who are paying almost the equivalent to their neighbours but they are in a unit that is in real bad shape, where they have gaps in the room where you can look into the other room, especially the Weber units, and where the house is shifting and stuff like that. All these structural problems that are there. They are not a maintenance problem per se. It is more structure. Those types of things have to be considered and if they are considered, then they should be put under this category, under service deduction, and with a floating scale where it will not be a specific amount set. With that also the size of the family has to be considered too. I do not know if I am making sense for the Minister. Does he understand what I am trying to say?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Zoe, he indicated he understands. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I think I understand. I think that the point that has been made by a number of Members is that in communities in which there is no housing market it is very difficult to determine what the actual discount should be or what the actual rent should be. We understand that. I do not know how to address it. I will address it as best I can. Mr. Heron may have some suggestions on how we can work in these communities. I do not know. But I understand what the Member is saying. As he is, I am troubled with just a flat rate across the board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Well, I made a suggestion to the Minister where he should have a floating rate. Based on the structure itself, if it happened to be Weber units or other units, then they should have various categories with a set rate. For instance, we can start with this \$150 rate for houses without these three items included. The next category might be Weber units that do not have these three items in them or another category where the structure is not -- there is a problem with structures that they cannot fix. It is not a maintenance problem. Some kind of different rates for all these various categories, that is what I am suggesting, especially for the service deduction. Hopefully that would help the Minister when he is considering making changes to this \$150 flat rate. As he indicated, he is having problems with that at the moment too, as a flat rate straight across the board.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I will look at that. I think it is a valuable suggestion. It may not translate into easy management or administration but I will certainly look at it because I share the Member's concern with regard to a flat rate across the board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): For the information of the committee, you use the Chair before you speak. The Chair will say your name. Mr. Zoe.

#### Higher Income Blocks Qualification For HAP Units

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the issue that was raised earlier on by Mr. Morin and Mr. Nerysoo, for the higher income bracket people that are currently living in public units. They are, as both of the Members have indicated, having a difficult time because they are in a higher earning bracket. As my colleague indicated, in most of the smaller communities, even though the higher income bracket people want to get into their own unit they do not qualify for HAP units, or they cannot even get a mortgage from a bank because there is no marketplace in the small communities. Banks are reluctant to take risks, especially for people in the small communities. I believe it was Mr. Morin or Mr. Nerysoo who suggested that the government ought to develop something in that area, where we can help these types of people out so that we can get them out of the public units, because most of them want to get out of the public unit if they can find someone to back them up. The banks are reluctant to help people even in the higher income bracket.

I commend the Minister for trying to address this particular problem, but it is going to be a hard task to satisfy everyone across the Territories. No matter what you come up with, you are still

going to get criticism. I would still say that if you can improve on some of the areas that you have identified in your document, hopefully that would eliminate a lot of the criticism. For instance, as I indicated earlier on, if the condition of the units is considered in the rent scale, where there is a deduction, those little types of things would help. Even high income earners, that would satisfy them to a certain degree. They will not be fully satisfied, but at least they would realize that you are trying to consider all angles to help both the low income people and the higher bracket people, so that we can try to get a sort of middle ground to satisfy both. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Further general comments. Mr. Butters.

Members Urged To Study Documents

HON. TOM BUTTERS: What Mr. Zoe says is very wise. The final rental scale is not going to be universally received and applauded. I am aware of that, and I think Members in this House are aware of that. The intention, as I indicated at the beginning of the discussion, would be that the rental scale is developed as a result of the consultation in the communities and the discussion we are having here today. We will come back to the House in the budget session in February. I would urge Members to study the documents that they have been given. I would ask the housing people, Mr. Heron and his people, to ensure that MLAs get all the material that they need to carry out a thorough study of the scale because, not only will I receive criticism, but if you people approve the scale in February, you will receive criticism for its shortcomings and omissions. I welcome your comments and your recommendations. I urge you to examine it at some length and depth. I would encourage Housing Corporation officials to sit down with you, if they are in your constituencies, in your communities, and discuss with you this particular issue. It is not an easy one. It is going to probably get a little worse before it gets better. But if we all work on it together, I think we can develop something which will satisfy most of the people and work in their best interests.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some questions which were included in my general comments, which are the concerns from my constituency, regarding the old age pension and family allowances. Are they going to be included as income of a household? This is one of the major concerns from my constituency. Mr. Minister, I would like to hear your comments on this issue. What can I expect in the final income regarding these? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I will ask Mr. Heron to respond. As I understand it, all elements are still under examination. So we have not established any hard and fast determination of what the definition of income could be or will be. They will work toward that, as a result of the consultations being held and discussions such as this. I will ask Mr. Heron to confirm that situation.

MR. HERON: Mr. Chairman, I do not have much more to add. It is quite a universal concern that is being raised by communities and by individuals and by associations, that we refine the definition of income, considering all the kinds of things that have been discussed in the communities as to what composes income; family allowance, unemployment insurance, pensions, those kinds of things. The Minister is correct. That is part of the consideration that we are presently analysing at this time.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since that is the case, my second part of the question was what can I expect, that according to the documents the old age pension and the family allowances will be included as family income? My constituents are saying that family allowances and pensions should not be included as income. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I think the Member is correct. It does include in the income, all sources of revenue mentioned by the Member. The president of the corporation has informed me that the definition of revenue from all sources has not yet been firmed up or finalized. They may start from this position, but as a result of recommendations and suggestions they get through the consultation process, they may change that particular alignment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Is there any further discussion? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry that some of the concerns from the communities are not available to us, but I found out yesterday regarding the recent meeting of the NWT Housing Corporation board of directors, and also from the secretaries in the housing authorities in the communities. So I want to ask you, what are some of the concerns they made known to you after seeing those documents on the rental scale? Did they approve it, or did they want to do further work? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, obviously I have not seen all the documents that have come in. I have not had time to look at them. I did not have an opportunity to discuss them with Mr. Jaeb, or any concerns the board may have had. I did agree to his request that when all the material is compiled it will be made available to the board for the board's examination and recommendations as they are required. I will ask Mr. Heron to respond with regard to some of the material that they have been receiving from the communities.

MR. HERON: My memory is rather limited, but many of the concerns that are being raised here today, Mr. Chairman, are the very kinds of concerns that have been coming from the communities. We are hearing the same message consistently from MLAs, as well as communities. Things like, there are no alternatives for the higher income earners in the community. There are no programs available in non-market communities for them and there is no government program to assist them. The determination of rent, that you so eloquently described in terms of the condition of houses or the relationship between the condition of the house and the amount of rents that we are charging, as the definition of income, for example, is certainly one of the ones that has some universality to it. Those are some of the kinds of concerns that come to mind at the present time but many of the things that you are iterating here today are, in fact, very consistent with some of the commentaries we have been receiving thus far.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Member for Aivilik. Or Mr. Pudluk, are you done with your questioning?

#### Comparison Of Rent Versus Private Home-Ownership

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Pudluk wanted to make a short statement, so he did. Mr. Chairman, so as not to get into trouble with the Minister, I will try and use some of the wordings that are used in this paper. I thought I understood the Minister to indicate earlier that this really has nothing to do with private home-ownership, but it has to do with rental scale. That is what I understood. But, Mr. Chairman, private home-ownership, to me, has a lot to do with this paper if you take a look at rental scales, especially the proposed rental scale. If I could just indicate this comparison taken from Eskimo Point, for a family of four, if you take a look at this rental scale, the new one, I take it if you are making \$4000 a month the maximum would be \$992 a month. If you multiply that by 12 it would pay to the Housing Corporation at least \$12,000, according to my arithmetic. If you are a private home-owner in Rankin Inlet, which is not that far away from Eskimo Point, if you have good insulation and if you maintain your home properly, a three bedroom house would cost you roughly \$2000 to \$2500 a year in Rankin Inlet. So that is \$8000 to \$9000 difference. So my question to the Minister and to the Housing Corporation, is, should not the Housing Corporation be introducing more private home-ownership programs in the NWT?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Some years ago, I do not know how many, maybe 14, I sat as chairman of the task force on housing. One of the main things suggested in our report, besides creating the corporation which we have today, was to encourage home-ownership. As you know regarding home-ownership in the Territories, I do not know the figure, probably 92 per cent were in rental housing and maybe eight per cent in home-ownership. I think that the objective would be to reduce the figure as much as we can so that more and more people are in their own homes. Personally, I think that anything that can be done to increase the number of people that own their own homes and operate their own homes would be beneficial to our Territories and create a greater degree of independence than currently exists. As far as the corporation's position, maybe I could ask Mr. Heron to respond.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Heron.

MR. HERON: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for Aivilik is exactly right on target relative to the encouragement of the corporation to have private citizens move into their own private homes. And if you in fact end up paying \$11,904, to be more precise, using the \$992, that would, I think, in the mind of the individual be adequate incentive to determine whether or not that person would want to go ahead and build and own their own home. This is, I guess, that threshold of encouraging the private individual who is presently living in public housing, to in fact move to their own private accommodation.

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

MR. ERNERK: I welcome that evaluation from both the Minister and the president of the Housing Corporation, Mr. Chairman. The Housing Corporation has a home-ownership assistance program that has been in existence for a number of years now. Certainly if you take a look at this program, I know that in my riding more people are taking advantage of it. The president could correct me if he wants to, but I take it there have been between 17 to 20 new home-owners in Rankin Inlet during the summer of 1988. If the program works properly and is successful, I take it that more and more people will be taking advantage of a private home-ownership program, especially under HAP.

#### Abuses Of HAP

What I do object to in this program is the fact that some of the terms or conditions are not being met properly. In other words, they are being abused, in my opinion. I have noticed that in some of the communities; the new home-owners are able to add so many feet this way and so many feet that way. That is not meeting the terms and conditions of the program. I also know that when the program started out a couple of years ago that the Housing Corporation people told us in Rankin at a public meeting that if you make between, I believe it was \$25,000 to \$28,000 a year, that you are eligible for HAP program. I took notice of Mr. Angottitauruq's remarks earlier when he said that the program is not exactly the way it should be, that people who make a lot of money are taking advantage of the program. So if the program is designed for those particular people with minimum salary, then for a maximum salary, it should be designed for those people. The program should not be, and the terms and conditions should not be abused to the extent where you are able to add so many feet this way and that way. Otherwise, it defeats the purpose of the program. It is no longer a home-ownership assistance program. I wanted to say that, because while I think it is a very good program, it requires a certain amount of re-evaluation by the Housing Corporation.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, there has been an evaluation, as Members recall. I think Mr. Kakfwi made a Minister's statement some days ago regarding the evaluation. I will ask Mr. Heron to indicate where that evaluation is at the present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Heron.

**MR. HERON:** Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, the Minister did make a Ministers' statement in the House and did present to the House a copy of the HAP evaluation that was conducted by Ferguson, Simek, Clark, I believe.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Chairman, I just have a few comments to make on this subject. I certainly agree with the intentions outlined in this document to simplify things and to move toward self-sufficiency and to encourage private home-ownership. But the comments that I have heard today and some other ones that I have heard recently, suggest that maybe this will not happen if the new program suggested here goes into effect. Last Thursday, when I was going down to Edmonton for the northern development conference, two ladies from Tuktoyaktuk were sitting alongside of me and as soon as they knew that I was a Member of this wonderful group of people here, they wanted to talk about housing. The point that they wanted to make was that many of the young people now do not see much incentive. They see having to pay a tremendous amount of money for rent and it is acting as a disincentive for savings, and so on. So, that is one problem with this particular scheme.

I wonder if the Minister has given any thought to an old program that used to exist at one time called the home-ownership assistance program whereby people, in fact, could -- there are different ways of doing it. I know that once you get rid of the cap, the rent can rise to something like 30 per cent of total gross income. Perhaps what could be done is to say that any moneys, if you like, that would be paid above the cap could be converted into equity. That is one possibility of handling it. The money would, in fact, be put into a home-ownership program. That is one possibility.

#### Tax Shelter For Home-Owners

I know in the old scheme what you were allowed to do was through the tax regime, whereby individuals who wanted to register in a home-ownership program could have a certain percentage of their income sheltered from paying income tax, so that that money could be converted into the equity in a house once you took it out. So there have been programs in the past which have helped to encourage home-ownership. I believe, from the comments that I have heard, that one of the biggest objections to this program is the removal of the cap so that those people who want to work and want to make money, and so on, would find this as a disincentive. They do not see much point in trying to make lots of bucks because it is just simply taken away from them by having to pay such a high rate of rent in these communities.

That is my main comment, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the Minister, when he looks at this discussion paper again, could give some thought, perhaps, to looking at just a different way, if you like, of encouraging home-ownership than the one that is proposed in this paper. Thank you.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** I welcome the Member's suggestion and I will certainly look into that particular solution.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Thank you. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Reading over this public housing rental scale discussion paper has reaffirmed my belief that the Housing Corporation, as it is, is an organization to serve itself only and not reflect what are truly the community needs. In the past, I have had many complaints from people in the communities saying that the Housing Corporation staff is -- I am talking about head office now -- basically they are there just to create a bureaucracy and put out useless pieces of paper like this and that is my view of it.

### Housing For Natives Is Their Right

It seems that the Housing Corporation head office in Yellowknife has the mentality that they are doing the native people in the North a favour by supplying housing to us. In the small communities, where we do not have reserves like they do in the South where housing is supplied, and housing is supposed to be supplied to our people, it is not a fringe benefit, it is a right in the communities and I have always believed that. I know that when dealing with Housing Corporation staff there in the head office, their mentality is, "Why in the hell should we build housing for you Indians?" Basically, "Why should you get free housing?" There is still the same mentality there and this paper proves that to me.

If you look at any civil servant that works for us, we subsidize them, \$450 a month for every month that they work for us and over a year that adds up to \$5400, over 20 years, \$108,000. Now, who is supplying who housing? That is basically it. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, I listened to the Member's comments. I understand where he is coming from.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, could I, maybe for clarification, ask a couple of questions? First, how is economic rent determined from one community to another? Is it based on some regional assessment or is it based on some territorial assessment? What are the calculations that go into economic rent?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: That is a very good question. I will turn it over to the president of the corporation.

### Methods For Rent Calculation

MR. HERON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Minister. Mr. Chairman, generally speaking I suppose there are two methods for determining what is rent. One method, I suppose, is not always available but in some situations it is and that is what will the market bear? For example, in the city of Yellowknife, the bureau of statistics for the Government of the Northwest Territories produces, whether it is quarterly or monthly, a survey of all rental accommodations in the city. For example, they will tell us how much the average rent being paid in the city is for a one-bedroom, two-bedroom, three-bedroom detached house. That is one method.

In the communities, we are talking about those things that are the standard items that are looked at in terms of a house, that is the total financing cost plus other operating costs such as water, utilities, fuel, electricity, taxes and those costs that you have to incur to operate a home. Basically, it is the costing approach as opposed to depending on the market to determine what the levels of rent should be. That is the economic rent. But generally speaking in the principles of economics you would let the marketplace determine what the rent should be, if there is a market.

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

MR. NERYSOO: I guess that has been a problem for the communities to calculate, if there is really no market to determine a particular rent. The other problem would be the situation where, despite the fact that Yellowknife might have a number of units available, the problem is the inflated market that seems to exist right now in Yellowknife because of the lack of housing. Therefore, the rent calculations are much higher than they ordinarily would be if there was a surplus of housing.

Mr. Chairman, has this particular item of alternatives been discussed where communities do not have private units for rent or not enough HAP units or where no mortgage is available? I think that is the question I asked earlier, particularly for those who wish to construct a home. What is the process now that is available to them to seek assistance?

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

Problem In Communities Where No Housing Market Exists

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I think that the Member has underlined a problem that has been raised by a number of Members. Mr. Morin, yourself, Mr. Chairman, and others have pointed out this vacuum that exists in the smaller communities where there is no housing market. My expectation at the present time is that the allocation of the NWT Housing Corporation, or whatever units they may be able to allocate to the community, would appear to be the major source of housing -- or somebody going out and cutting their own logs if they live below the tree line. While I will ask the president to respond to that question, I think it is the crux of the issue that we have discussed this afternoon.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Heron.

MR. HERON: Mr. Chairman, I know in the old days there used to be discussion, and I did not really want to bring it up, but it was thought that the vacuum could be addressed by the rural and remote native housing mortgage program, but we all know what kind of difficulty we have encountered with that. The Minister is correct. We have been given direction to begin to look at those alternatives, as a corporation. That direction has been given to us, through the Minister.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, if I could maybe suggest to the Minister that one other option that might be considered is a program of assistance to GNWT employees that could alleviate their application, you might say, to utilize the HAP program. There are situations where many government employees are actually the ones that are capable or able to take advantage of the HAP units and, therefore, those people in the communities that are not employed the GNWT, while they may have the financing, do not often have the opportunity to get involved. I was hoping that our government might take into consideration some kind of particular program in that particular area as well. At one time we talked about it, but I am not sure what the situation is right now with Personnel, or with our government. If I might ask the Minister to comment on that. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, we began by looking at a new public housing scale, and obviously the debate has taken us into many related areas. It is reasonable that those areas should be examined, along with the scale, because they are interrelated and integrated into the total problem that we have to address. The Member is quite correct. The suggestion he has made is not a new one. It has been made to government before. Obviously, it is not an initiative that the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation should adopt or pursue. It is the government itself, and I do believe that the Minister of Personnel, the Minister of MACA, and the Government Leader are looking at this matter and giving it serious consideration. It is not a possibility or an option that is being ignored. I believe it is being actively pursued at this time.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not really want to get into those other areas, but I just thought I would raise them in terms of the question of assistance to those who wanted to get into home-ownership. I would like also to ask if there has been any thought given to ensuring there was a recognition of problems that might arise. I think that the submission from the Aklavik housing association in particular, outlined a number of the items that could be of serious concern; particularly when calculations were being made in determining the overall income.

### Concerns Raised By Aklavik Housing Association

Maybe I could point them out, as was done by the Aklavik housing association, and ask if these particular items have been reviewed. One, the problems dealing with the earnings of children under the age of 18, and in regular attendance at school; two, the question of family allowances, because family allowances were intended by government for ensuring that the children were taken care of, it was being directed particularly directly at them. It was not intended to be what you might consider income. The other one was disability pensions, where it was money intended for maintenance of individuals who were certified medically as being incapable of getting employment, to maintain themselves. There were disabled contributions, and child benefits. There were also survivors pensions where the Aklavik housing association was concerned, if there was a situation where a deceased spouse had savings, whether or not that was part of the calculation. Orphans benefits, again that is money for the maintenance of children of deceased parents. What is strange is that this particular item is non-taxable by the Government of Canada, they do not have to pay any taxes. Yet the question is, was this also included on a monthly basis? With regard to such things as old age pension, was this included in gross income when they were assessed rent prior to their retirement. That was prior to, because they could end up with two retirement allowances, one if they had worked for a long time for government, and their calculations were according to that, and then all of a sudden they afterwards received an old age pension. Whether or not that was being calculated. The question, I guess, of registered retirement savings plans, was that part of the calculations for overall income? In the case of hunting, trapping and fishing, the question that was being asked in that particular case, would expenses be deducted from revenues from these enterprises? In other words, if an individual was paying for a new snowmobile, was this a reduction in the overall income, or for that matter other expenditures that were being made?

These were the kinds of questions that were being asked by the Aklavik housing association. I thought if you could indicate whether or not these calculations, or these issues, were being addressed and maybe indicate how were they being addressed in this process, in this review.

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

### Recommendations Expected From All Members

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Housing Corporation officials will give the submissions they have received very serious consideration. I have seen a number of papers, and the quality of the papers that I have examined has been very good. I have read material from the Eastern Arctic. I have read the Aklavik paper, and I found them pertinent and to the point. I believe that if the other 40 papers are as good then we will be well served by the people who took the time to write in. I inquired because as an MLA I received the housing scale from the corporation with a request to respond. I just asked how many of you fellows out there did respond because I assume you all got the scale. My answer is that nobody responded; not any of the MLAs responded. So what I am saying to you is this discussion day is very valuable. I am going to write letters to you all and I am going to send you the material that exists and I would expect you all to respond. Mr. Morin's comments today are very welcome. I do not have any problem when he addresses and makes suggestions to the corporation in a positive and productive way. I will expect from him many positive and productive suggestions. But I will write you all and indicate to you that I would like to receive written suggestions and recommendations relative to the scale.

The material that has been received I understand has been very good. I think the Aklavik presentation was an excellent one. In fact it was from the Aklavik paper that I first began to be concerned as the MLA for Inuvik, with regard to the scale.

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



Issues Raised By Community Associations Must Be Considered

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say that I think it is important now to raise these particular items because it is within the next six months or so, that some kind of suggested solution will be proposed. While the suggestions are being made, I think that what we have to do is to make sure that these concerns that have been raised, particularly since the Assembly was not in session, that these items are being addressed in terms of the review that is taking place. I wanted to raise them because they are concerns that have been raised in written form by my constituents. I wanted to make sure that if the government is going to pursue changes that they recognize that there are other issues than those that might have been considered, that are necessary to review this issue of rental scale, particularly with regard to the issue of calculations.

The one other question if I could. Would I be able to have someone, if it is necessary, be available to meet with the housing associations in my constituency to deal with this particular item; someone that is involved directly, not the district manager?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: My immediate response would be, yes, because I feel that I am going to speak with Mr. Heron and the officials of the corporation and ask them through their field people to ensure that Members are contacted and the discussion is pursued with regard to this paper so that we do have full response from Members regarding their concerns and recommendations. So my immediate feeling would be, yes. I would ask Mr. Heron to so direct his staff to do that. But I would like to ask Mr. Heron to see if that is feasible.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, just one thing that I am interested in is having someone that has knowledge and is being involved in drafting the documentation. We have a tendency sometimes of sending people that may say, "Oh yes, we will get the information back to the individual," but we are not confronting the actual person who is doing the job. I am not sure how we deal with that particular situation.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Well, that is a little bit more difficult. I think that in view of the time frame left us, if we are going to get something before mid-February that type of consultation might be physically impossible. I will ask Mr. Heron to respond to see whether his staff can do that.

MR. HERON: Mr. Chairman, on the assumption that all the associations and communities that we have already visited for public meetings, if everybody was in agreement that they would meet at a specified time, it may be possible logistically, to achieve. I agree with the Minister that it would be extremely difficult for us to revisit all the communities and reexamine the documents that are presently before us. The alternate solution is to meet with the MLAs on a person-to-person basis and try to extract from them those kinds of concerns that are being addressed here this afternoon, and subsequently incorporate that into our analyses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Any further comments? Mr. Nerysoo. If not, Mr. Kilabuk.

Scale Could Affect Family Relationships

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have too many questions now because some of the questions that I was going to asked are asked. The only other concern I have is in regard to the families living under one roof and particularly to the rental scale. I think that we would be breaking the relationship of the family because in some families, they like to

stick together. In regard to the scale, the income that is coming into the house, has there been any thought about this? I think it would tend to break up the relationship of the families. I just wanted clarification on this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I understand what the Member is saying but I do not have any personal knowledge of what the corporation might be doing to permit the families to stay together if they so wish. I will ask Mr. Heron to respond.

MR. HERON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Naturally, it is not our intent to encourage families under one roof to break up. The logistical difficulty that we have of course, is as Mr. Nerysoo has indicated, the responsibility to collect rents from the households seems to fall on one member of the family, as opposed to everybody contributing and it working rather smoothly. There has been consideration that the local housing authority would, in fact, assess rents on each individual and be responsible to collect rent from each individual within the household that is earning some income. It is thus shifting the burden away from the head of the household, whether it is an elderly person or the patriarch of the family, whatever. That is conceptually one of the vehicles or the way or the procedure for achieving the removal of that responsibility from the head of the household. We are quite confident that in the collection of rents the local housing authority people, who are for the most part from the community, would find the most amenable way of collecting rents without causing these family disruptions.

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

#### Education And Counselling On HAP

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that you have put some thought into this. Are you trying to educate and tell people about these HAP programs? Are you telling the people that if you own a house that it is that you would be able to get -- has there ever been anything on this?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I just took a quick look through the home-ownership assistance program evaluation and that element is one of the things that the evaluation team has indicated that the Housing Corporation must do. The evaluation seems to indicate that more could be done in that particular area but I will ask the president to respond.

MR. HERON: Mr. Chairman, I would only reflect what the Minister is saying. We realize that that is a particular area of concern. In dealing particularly with home-ownership clients we are, in fact, in the process of developing video tapes that are cut down from four hours to one hour that seem to get the point across and assist us in counselling potential home-owners in the communities that are going to be recipients of HAP assistance. So, we recognize the problem. We do have program people who do, in fact, deal with the communities on a regular basis to provide that kind of program counselling and education, if you wish, in the communities throughout the North.

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

#### Ability To Construct HAP House

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you. The other thing that I have been thinking about is that there are some families that have full-time jobs and are making good money and they do not have any idea as to how to put a house together. Have you been doing any research for those people who have approval to get a HAP house? Do you know if they are capable of even putting a house together? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Before I respond I would like to ask whether it has been translated? Is that document in translated form? Again, the question raised by the honourable Member is an important one and one that was addressed by the evaluators in their booklet on HAP. They indicate that the problem he has described is one which the Housing Corporation should address. It suggests here, delaying the package, allowing the people to plan for their homes by learning about building construction and saving money before receiving the building materials. So, there is a recognition that the current program might be improved. At least that is what the evaluation says. Maybe Mr. Heron could respond.

**MR. HERON:** The interaction of our staff with the people is that we recognize that as being integral to ensuring that the homes do, in fact, get built. However, one of the critical elements which we find in the selection of clients, if you wish, and those that apply, is that we have come to depend on the local people, the hamlet council, the local housing authorities, board members who form a committee of local people, to go through a process of assessing whether or not an individual who has applied to HAP is really capable of performing those functions of building a house. So, there is a great deal of dependency by the corporation on the people at the community level to identify whether or not a person from that community has the necessary skills or necessary resources or the desire to, in fact, get the house built with his or her own resources. We are dependent upon the community to give us that kind of guidance when we are making the assessments of the individuals who are about to receive a home-ownership assistance grant from the corporation.

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

#### Pamphlets On House Building Need To Be Translated

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand your reply very clearly. If you are seriously thinking about this, all the pamphlets that you have should all be translated and we would be more happy if it was done. The individuals who will be applying for houses will have to be able to read or have an understanding and if they have been translated then it would be a lot easier for the applicants and maybe this will be a lot better in the future. It was not too long ago that people were getting into HAP housing. Maybe in the future we can start educating people because we should know whether they are capable of building a house. We seem to be pushing a little too hard, especially in the East. Once you start putting out pamphlets I would like to see them all translated because you are the people that are providing the houses. I am wondering if this has been initiated yet. Thank you.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Chairman, Mr. Kilabuk's suggestions are to the point and I think very valuable. I do not know how much translation has been done of the material that exists, but I would agree that as much material as possible should be put in people's hands so that they can apply for and participate in and complete programs which the corporation has offered. I certainly will determine just what degree of translation has occurred with these important documents.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Thank you. Mr. Morin.

#### Motion To Recommend That Minister Of Housing Prepare A New Public Housing Rent Scale

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move a motion. I move that the committee recommend to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation that he prepare and present a new public housing rent scale to ensure that it reflects the reality of the housing situation in the communities, prior to bringing it back before this House. This is being translated and typed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Mr. Morin, your motion is in order. To the motion.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel that this is one of the most conflicting documents I have ever read, that was ever tabled in this House. From one page to the other, it just does not

make any sense to me. I am sure that it would not make any sense to most people in the communities. I think that with the Minister's high-priced help, he should be able to come up with something a little better than this the next time he does bring a paper into this House. I hope that something does come forward that has a little bit of imagination and does reflect the housing needs in the communities, and the communities' ideas of how they can solve the housing problems, how they can solve their rental problems in the communities. As far as I am concerned, that is where you have to start to solve your housing problems. I have said enough today about this. That is all I will say for now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. To the motion.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Point of order. I do not have the motion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): To the motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I would like to read the motion, so I completely understand it. "I move that the committee recommend to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation that he prepare and present a new public rent scale to ensure that it reflects the reality of the housing situation in the communities, prior to bringing it back to this House." I thought that was what I had committed to do when I opened the discussion. I think I said that we would be bringing back the scale on the basis of what we had from consultations and what we had from this group and what I have from your response to me when I send you letters. We will be doing that, so I have no problem with the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): In other words, Mr. Morin, Mr. Butters is supporting your motion. To the motion.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Butters cannot vote from this seat, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): To the motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: And I support Mr. Butters.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Recommend That Minister Of Housing Prepare A New Public Housing Rent Scale, Carried

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Are there any further comments on Tabled Documents 10-88(2) and 11-88(2)? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to confirm what I have been trying to bring to the Minister this afternoon that the introduction of private home-ownership is very important to the communities. One of the comments that I notice here, Mr. Chairman, on page 29 of the home-owners assistance program evaluation is it says, "Less than 10 per cent of my income is spent on operating and maintenance," meaning the house. This is very good. Under the Housing Corporation conditions in terms of rental scale, 25 per cent of your income goes to the house. So I would again urge the Minister and his president that he continues to push or to introduce the issue of private home-ownership to the communities in the Eastern Arctic.

One thing the government should really begin to take a look at is rock foundation instead of gravel foundation because gravel shifts. The house shifts and life expectancy is that much shorter when it continues to shift all the time. But rock does not shift.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Tabled Documents 10-88(2) and 11-88(2) are now concluded? Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Yes, Mr. Chairman, according to what I said I would like to make a motion, if I am allowed, but I do not have a copy in English. It goes, I move that the Tabled Document 11-88(2) regarding rental scales should be delayed for one year to give the people a chance to understand more about home-ownership assistance programs and other programs of the NWT Housing Corporation and that following this review, we can discuss it again in 1989. This is for the people who rent the houses. Do you want me to read it again? I got lost before.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Kilabuk, maybe we will take a couple of minutes break here while you prepare your motion so that we can circulate it to the Members.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Point of order, Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I wonder whether the wording I heard in the translation is in order. I think it might require a couple of words to effect it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister, I have not ruled on the motion yet because I do not quite understand what the motion is saying. That is why I am suggesting I should take a couple of minutes break so that I can have the copy brought before me. Perhaps before I call for a break, one of the Members would move a motion to extend sitting hours until we can conclude this particular item. Mr. Pudluk.

#### Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we extend the sitting hours until we have completely concluded the housing matter. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I have a motion on the floor to extend sitting hours. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

We will recess for a few minutes until we have Mr. Kilabuk's motion written, translated and brought back to the House. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

I call the committee back to order. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my motion. I will reintroduce it at the budget session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

#### Motion To Report Progress, Defeated

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Point of order. Mr. Pudluk.

**MR. PUDLUK:** Earlier, I made that motion that we extend the hours until we complete this document.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Mr. Pudluk, that was not a point of order but you are correct. The previous motion was to extend the hours to conclude the item under discussion, but Mr. Ernerk's motion supersedes Mr. Pudluk's motion so if the motion passes, then the two documents will stay on the order paper. To the motion. All those in favour? Those opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Discussion of Tabled Documents 10-88(2) and 11-88(2). Does the committee agree that discussion on Tabled Documents 10-88(2) and 11-88(2) is now concluded? Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I guess when I made some of my remarks this afternoon I talked about stone houses. The reason I talked about stone houses was because I believe in this. I would now like to move into discussing a rock foundation, as I was doing just before we broke for a motion that was not passed here or that the Member withdrew. Is there a motion?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** No.

**MR. ERNERK:** Okay, thank you. As the Minister knows very well, the houses in the Eastern Arctic do shift every spring and every fall and that is basically because we have a lot of gravel foundations, gravel pads. It would be good to have HAP houses that are placed on a rock foundation because, as I said just before we broke for that motion, a rock foundation would be good because it would preserve the house. I often wonder as to why, when the Housing Corporation is building those houses on the rocks -- and I am aware of some houses that are being built, especially the HAP houses in places like Repulse -- they put gravel foundations. I just saw a whole bunch of them in Repulse Bay this September when I was taking a look around the community, observing those people who were going to build their own houses. So, I think it would be good. We have no shortage of rocks in the Eastern Arctic. It would be good to start thinking about using rock as your foundation so that the house is preserved. It would not move for a long period of time.

The other thing, in 1970 or 1971 -- it was first discussed when Mr. Butters was first elected to the Legislative Assembly, with Mr. Pearson -- was the issue of starting to make concrete basements. I know this could work too in the Eastern Arctic because I have seen some in Greenland when I was visiting Greenland in 1972 and again in 1976. A lot of houses that they have built in Greenland have a basement built right on top of a rock, solid rock. I think that if the government, if the Housing Corporation would move in that direction, it would be a very positive move.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Thank you. As you are aware, Mr. Ernerk, you were a little off the topic. We were discussing rent scale but I let you go on because it related to housing in general. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Chairman, I hope you do not rule me out of order either. Mr. Ernerk has raised an issue which does relate to providing housing that, in the long run, will be cheaper for people and so on. What I would like to do though is to say that the idea that all these locally available materials which could result in houses lasting longer and having less maintenance costs and being cheaper to build, is based upon some myth. I know, for example, that many of the rock houses that Mr. Ernerk referred to earlier have been strongly advocated, especially by many of the Oblate fathers, priests, that believed that European style houses were the solution to the housing problems of the Territories.

I know, for example, that the house that was built or the mission that was built at Igloodik out of rock by Father Louis Fournier, and the big church that was built at Igloodik by the same priest, with

lots of local skill and talent, is no good. You can only use it for about a month or two in the summer but in the winter it has no insulating qualities whatsoever. So, you cannot afford to keep it heated.

When Father Louis Fournier went out to establish a camp at Ikpik, maybe 200 miles away from Igloodik, he thought that that would provide affordable housing for people because they were using local rock. They imported cement and so on but that also only resulted in people getting sick because they were not warm houses, they were very cold.

You cannot just simply translate what they do in Europe, on the farms in Europe, with using rock, to the Northwest Territories. After 30 years of trying to convince people that they should be using more rock, Father Fournier, in talking to me about two years ago said, "After all these years, I must admit defeat. I am a stubborn man but I was wrong, those stone houses are not very good at all." However, I believe that Mr. Ernerk's statement about providing a good foundation for our houses, is probably a good one. Although I may have strayed a little bit away from rental scale, Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to make this remark about some of the comments on stone houses in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Tabled Documents 10-88(2) and 11-88(2) are now concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. I will now rise and report progress.

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

#### ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF Tabled DOCUMENT 10-88(2), PUBLIC HOUSING RENT SCALE DISCUSSION PAPER II; Tabled DOCUMENT 11-88(2), NWT HOUSING CORPORATION RENT SCALE

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Documents 10-88(2) and 11-88(2) and wish to report this matter is concluded, with one motion being adopted.

#### 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. Zoe. 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. Item 21, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

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

#### ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Friday, November 4, 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), 28-88(2); Bills 26-88(2), 1-88(2); CR 4-88(2), First Report of Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges
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. This House stands adjourned until Friday, November 4, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT







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