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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Speaker

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

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

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

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

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

Butters, The Hon. Tom, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1069
Inuvik, N.W.T.
XOE OT0
(403) 979-2373 (Office)
(403) 979-2373 (Home)
(Inuvik)
Minister of Government Services and
NWT Housing Corporation

Cournoyea, The Hon. Nellie, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1184
Inuvik, N.W.T.
XOE OT0
(403) 873-7128 (Office)
(403) 977-2405 (Tuktoyaktuk)
(403) 979-2737 (Inuvik)
(Nunakput)
Minister of Health and Public
Works & Highways

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sibbeston, Mr. Nick, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 560
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
XOE ONO
(403) 873-6215 (Home)
(Nahendeh)

Whitford, Mr. Tony, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 2772
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2R1
(403) 920-8010 (Office)
(403) 873-5328 (Home)
(Yellowknife South)

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

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

Officers

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

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

Law Clerk
Mr. Don Cooper, Q.C.
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms
Mr. Harry Finnis, B.E.M., C.D.
Fort Smith, N.W.T.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 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, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Lewis, Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Morin, Mr. Nerysoo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pollard, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Whitford, Hon. Gordon Wray, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen): Orders of the day for Monday, November 7, 1988. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Wray.

---Applause

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 46-88(2): Department Of Regional Industrial Expansion Waives Ministerial Approval On Major Financial Programs

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to be back. Mr. Speaker, I was listening to the one hour show every day and managed to keep up to track a little bit on how the House was going. Mr. Speaker, there were some concerns raised by Mr. Pollard with regard to the EDA agreement. As you may recall, in June, 1987 the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion was facing severe financial difficulties. As a result of the uncertainty over program funding and in order to tighten controls on expenditures, the Minister responsible, the Hon. Bernard Valcourt, directed that all applications be reviewed and approved by himself personally.

This meant for northerners sometimes up to a three month delay in approval of applications. It brought about significant delays in processing applications for Special ARDA and the tourism and small business subagreements under the EDA. A burden on business clients resulted, and the delays soon became a concern of the northern business community and the government.

I asked Mr. Valcourt, in a letter, to review the situation and return signing authority to the appropriate officials in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that as a result of our government's efforts, Mr. Valcourt has relaxed the requirement, and signing authority has been returned to the North. Special ARDA and EDA small business and tourism applications are now being processed in a timely manner. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Ministers' statements. Mr. Wray, again.

Ministers' Statement 47-88(2): North Warning System, Northern Participation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring the House up to date on benefits northern residents have secured from the North Warning System project and northern participation. The objective of the Government of the Northwest Territories is to ensure that northerners have access to opportunities generated by the construction, operation and maintenance of the system.

At the political level, the government set out its objectives in a presentation to the parliamentary committee on external affairs and national defence. The presentation was followed up with a meeting of NWT Ministers and the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Beatty. The response from the Government of Canada has been positive. As a result of extensive discussions with the Government of Canada, changes have been made to federal contracting practices and procedures. Two large supply/service contracts have been awarded to Frontec Logistics and Canac/Microtel. The two companies made commitments totalling \$59.5 million, including the 502 person years of employment for northerners by 1992 and the training of 316 persons. These are contractual commitments, not verbal promises, and the contracts contain penalty clauses.

The main problem area to date has been in the awarding of construction contracts. There has been no provision in federal contracting procedures to use contracts as a tool for regional development. Federal construction contracting procedures do require contractors to give first preference to qualified local labour. There was no comparable rule for local business. However, as a result of our efforts, general contractors now have to commit to a minimum level of northern participation.

Five contracts will be awarded for construction of short range radar sites. Contractors bidding for the general contracts in the Inuvik and Cambridge Bay zones will have to commit to a minimum of 35 per cent northern content before the bid will even be considered; in the Hall Beach and Baffin Island zones, 10 per cent; and five per cent in Labrador. I was not happy with the differences in the Northwest Territories and passed my concerns on to the Minister of National Defence. I have been informed that the federal minimums were established based on local capacity and the federal government did not believe that the business community in the Eastern Arctic could undertake more than 10 per cent of the work. I should note that the minimum percentages are commitments that the contractors must agree to before the bids will be accepted as valid. Contractors will also have to justify using any subcontractors from outside the North even after the minimum levels are reached. Most important, Mr. Speaker, should the contractor fail to meet objectives, and the northern benefit authority in the Department of National Defence is not satisfied with plans for remedial action, Defence Construction Canada will withhold payment of an amount not to exceed the shortfall between commitment and actual expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first time that the federal government has placed northern regional benefits requirements in construction tender documents. This sets a precedent for future construction contracting. This should enable us to avoid situations such as the recent case in Rankin Inlet where a contract was awarded for the first phase of the upgrading of the airport and no minimum targets for regional business participation were set. In any event, it is estimated that there is still \$50 million of work to complete on the airport, which I anticipate will be subject to minimum regional business participation standards.

As Ms Cournoyea indicated on October 20, we have had a few setbacks but we are doing fairly well to date, Mr. Speaker. Committed and actual northern expenditures total \$65.9 million. If northern business can capture even the minimum commitments by the contractors, it will mean an additional estimated \$47 million to the NWT economy. In addition, the forward operating locations still have to be constructed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Ministers' statements.

Welcome To Mr. Tony Whitford, MLA For Yellowknife South

The Chair would like to, at this time, on behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly, welcome Mr. Tony Whitford, the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, sworn in just half an hour ago. Mr. Whitford, we welcome you to the Legislative Assembly and look forward to your participation and to again function with a full House. Welcome.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Welcome To New MLA

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased also to extend my words of congratulations and welcome to the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Tony Whitford. I commit to him my support and assistance as he represents his constituents' concerns and aspirations in this House. While Mr. Whitford follows a number of outstanding and distinguished Members in David Searle, Lynda Sorensen and Ted Richard, I know he will serve his constituents, the people of the Territories and this House with outstanding dedication, wisdom, energy and initiative. Thank you, sir.

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

Member's Statement On Proposal To Send Delegates To Congress On Traditional Medicine

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 27, 1988 the Minister of Health and the Government Leader reviewed a request by the Dene Nation to send delegates to the second international congress on traditional medicine. I would like to indicate my extreme disappointment in the position that both the Executive and Department of Health have taken. The rejection of the proposal was based on the fact that personnel within the Department of Health felt the conference was too oriented to the scientific community and, therefore, would not be of benefit to medicine people of the North. It is clear that professionals within the Department of Health have no understanding about medicine people or the knowledge of what their abilities are. In your keynote address, "A Pathway to the Future, Northern Growth Tradition and World Culture Development" at a UNESCO meeting, you indicated that the aboriginal culture preservation has been singled out as a high priority by the Government of the Northwest Territories. The basis of your decision to reject funding the proposal clearly indicates to the Dene Nation -- and, in fact, the medical professionals who down-play and degrade the role of Dene medicine to the rank of amateur magicians rather than scientists -- that your vision, if there ever was a vision, folds like a house of cards.

The Department of Culture and Communications did not take such a prejudiced view of the intellectual abilities of the Dene medicine people and believe that the second international congress would prove to be very valuable to the re-establishment of Dene traditional medicine. They funded the Dene Nation to allow one delegate to attend.

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

Member's Statement On Welcome To New MLA And Welcome Back To Hon. Gordon Wray

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of those Members in ajauqtit, let me welcome Mr. Whitford to our midst and certainly, with respect to our ability for ajauqtit, to provide him with service and advice whenever it is necessary. We are all prepared to do that.

Mr. Speaker, let me also welcome back Mr. Wray. Despite the fact that we may have differences at times, I would like to wish him well and I would like to indicate that we all have questions for him in the next days.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Member's statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Business Of The House

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, some people believe that today would be a ceremonial day in order to get Mr. Whitford sworn in and an active Member of the Legislative Assembly, but he has already committed himself, although he needs a holiday after a very long and hard campaign, he has committed himself, in fact, to the business of this House. I note, Mr. Speaker, that several people

were in the gallery for several days last week expecting us to get to some of the important business of this House, including discussion of the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, including some comments about free trade and, perhaps, even getting into the major constitutional paper that Mr. Patterson brought into the House on Friday.

I would like to make just one statement in addition to this, Mr. Speaker, if I may. In the bars and on the streets around town, people say that water, which we have an abundance of in the Northwest Territories, is not an item to be bargained in this free trade document. I would like to bring to Members' attention, article 22.01, "water, including natural or artificial mineral water and aerated water, not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter nor flavoured; ice and snow". All those things, in fact, are on the table in this free trade agreement.

When Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Kakfwi's friend, was posted to Ottawa and became a member of the joint commission, one of the things that he learned, apparently, was that the Americans were really worried about their water supply. They messed up most of their drinking holes and were looking at ours; our beautiful, clean, fresh water. So, Mr. Speaker, water is on the table. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. I think at this time that I would just remind Members that Rule 23, dealing with Members' statements, (3)(b) does state that it shall be confined to one matter. Members' statements. Water is on the table; I think we all realize that. Members' statements. Mr. Lewis, you have one statement per day.

MR. LEWIS: Point of order.

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

MR. LEWIS: The reason that I put all those items in one basket, Mr. Speaker, is because they all have one thing in common. They are things that this House, especially the government side, does not want to deal with. Thank you.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, that is a point of debate, not a point of order. A point of order is something against the rules of this House. Members' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Member's Statement On Rules And Regulations In Baffin House, Montreal

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Members' statements I would like to comment on the boarding home, Baffin House, in Montreal. The rules and regulations that they have at this time -- there are a lot of complications. The Inuit that go to the Baffin House, I have heard, are concerned about rules and regulations. Also, it was mentioned again to me that they were very unhappy with the rules and regulations of the Baffin House.

There is nothing about them stating that they are unhappy with the rules and regulations concerning alcohol and drugs in the Baffin House, but the other rules and regulations they have are not compatible to the Inuit people. We are going to have to look at other ways to resolve these problems that we are experiencing because I have a concern about the Baffin House in Montreal. I think we are going to have to look at resolving the problem with rules and regulations they have right now. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Welcome To New MLA

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lewis talked about welcoming Mr. Whitford and free trade. Just to clear up any confusion that Mr. Whitford may have, this Legislative Assembly has no intention of ever trading Mr. Whitford for anything with the United States. If I could seriously, Mr. Speaker, welcome our new colleague and my colleague

from Yellowknife South. I have had the pleasure of sitting in this House and working with Mrs. Sorensen and then with Mr. Richard, with both of whom I developed a warm personal and professional relationship. I know that when Mr. Richard left this House to become a justice of the Supreme Court, he left a vacuum in this House that I think we all recognize must be filled. Mr. Richard was a very distinguished and very capable Member of this Assembly and I know and I am sure other Members will agree with me that Mr. Whitford will fill those shoes and will give Yellowknife that strong and important representation that it needs. Welcome, Mr. Whitford.

---Applause

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question O143-88(2): Federal Funding Of Takuginai Program

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question O143-88(2) asked by Mr. Ernerk on October 26, concerning funding for IBC children's program. Mr. Speaker, the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation has for several years produced an excellent series of children's programming entitled "Takuginai". The project has been supported by this government, through funding from the Secretary of State, for the past three years. Recently, IBC experienced severe funding problems and was faced with the prospect of cancelling this fine project and laying off staff.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to advise the Member that the Department of Culture and Communications has found the resources under our aboriginal languages agreement with the federal government to provide IBC with \$120,000. This will ensure that the children will continue to benefit from this worthwhile series. Officials in my department are presently finalizing the details of the contribution agreement with IBC staff, and I expect that the corporation will receive its funding within the next few weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Kakfwi.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: This is a reply to Mr. Angottitauruq's question on November 3. The Kitikmeot Divisional Board of Education has been discussing the need for a high school in that region for some time. Recently questionnaires were prepared by the divisional board, and members from each community education council discussed the type of high school needed and its location with community residents.

At their divisional board meeting held from October 31, 1988, to November 4, 1988, a number of proposals were examined. The divisional board passed a motion stating that for the time being they were satisfied sending students to Sir John Franklin Territorial High School. They decided to study establishing a high school again at a future board meeting.

Once the Kitikmeot Divisional Board has made a final decision, I will consider it in relation to the overall plans for education. I know how important a high school education is and I am committed to a reasoned extension of grades in all communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Further Return To Question O232-88(2): Length And Cost Of TV AIDS Programs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to provide the following information in response to Mr. Pudluk's question of November 4, concerning the health information television spots about AIDS. As you know, all 10 spots have been developed in English and French, in Inuktitut and Western Arctic dialects, and in the Dene languages. The original contract for development came in at nearly \$52,000, and an additional \$8000 has been spent reshooting and preparing the spots for broadcast format, bringing the total development cost to \$60,000. There is no cost involved in airing these spots.

From the time of first airing in each language, spots will run over a five month period. The versions for English and French are expected to start airing this month, the versions for Inuktitut and Western Arctic dialects early next month, and the versions for the Dene languages toward the end of the year. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O223-88(2): Funding For School Busing In Pangnirtung

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: This is a response to a question asked by Mr. Kilabuk on November 3, regarding funding for school busing. Assistance for student transportation should be provided equitably across the NWT to ensure all students have equal access to school. Last spring the Department of Education researched the problems associated with student transportation and a policy proposal will soon be considered by this government.

At present the department provides funding to 14 NWT communities including Pangnirtung. In the 1987-88 school year \$21,000 was provided to the Baffin Divisional Board to assist Pangnirtung in providing a busing service for approximately 100 students. The same amount of funding will be contributed by the department to the Baffin Divisional Board this school year for student transportation assistance in Pangnirtung. Thank you.

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

Return To Question W20-88(2): Relocation To Northern Quebec

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Return to a written question asked by Mr. Pudluk, November 2, concerning relocation of people from Grise Fiord. Mr. Speaker, I am advised that 10 houses for the people relocating from Grise Fiord are being built in Inoucdjouac by the Province of Quebec through federal government contribution funding. The target date for completion is December 1, 1988. Allocation of housing to people of Mr. Pudluk's constituency will be made by the Inoucdjouac housing association. Thank you.

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

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. McLaughlin on November 1, 1988, concerning recognition of geographic and place name change authority. Mr. McLaughlin is correct that the Department of Culture and Communications deals with the recognition of traditional names for geographical features and populated places in the Northwest Territories. The toponymist position was created three years ago when geographic and place naming responsibilities were transferred from the federal government.

This government has the sole responsibility for officially recognizing geographic and place names within the Northwest Territories. The procedure calls for this government to notify the federal government when new names have been approved or when an existing official name has been changed. This was the case when Frobisher Bay changed to Iqaluit. The federal government's Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is then responsible for notifying all federal

government departments and Crown corporations, such as Canada Post, of our main decisions. Federal government departments responsible for mapping and federal government Crown corporations such as Air Canada and CBC have recognized the official name change of Iqaluit. Canada Post's reaction to the name change, when contacted in 1986, was that they would only change their cancellation stamps as they become worn out. We will contact Canada Post for an explanation of the delay in reflecting this important name change on their cancellation stamps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O238-88(2): Task Force On Justices Of The Peace

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, my first question in my new occupation here will be directed to the Minister of Justice, and it is concerning the task force on justices of the peace. A document was tabled on October 28. This is an important document, and it is dear to the hearts of a good number of people. I am just wondering if the Minister can bring me up to date on what is happening with this task force report.

---Applause

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The first question from the Member for Yellowknife South was directed to me...

MR. SPEAKER: Rule number one, Mr. Ballantyne.

Return To Question O238-88(2): Task Force On Justices Of The Peace

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. The question is an appropriate one as Mr. Whitford was a distinguished member of that committee of justices of the peace and coroners, and has been a mainstay over the years to the JPs and coroners in the Territories. I would like to tell the Member that in a statement I made to this House when I tabled the report of the task force, I said that I intend to forge ahead with the recommendations of the committee, starting as soon as this Assembly session is finished, and I intend to make a full progress report to the Assembly during the budget session. Thank you.

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

Question O239-88(2): Effect Of Free Trade Agreement On Fur Sales

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let the record show that I, the Member for Aivilik, am asking second to the new Member for Yellowknife South. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Government Leader. Within the trade agreement between Canada and the United States there are some important elements, as I understand it, but specifically some 10 to 15 years ago the United States Congress passed a law banning all seal pelts, ivory materials, polar bear skins, coming to the United States from Canada. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, if and when this agreement is put into practice these restrictions will be removed from...

Question O239-88(2), Ruled Out Of Order

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ernerk, I am sorry, but your question is not in order. The Canada-US freetrade agreement is on orders of the day and questions should not anticipate orders of the day. It should be left to the discussion of the paper. Oral questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Question O240-88(2): Policies At Baffin House, Montreal

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health. I will be talking about the Baffin House in Montreal. I would like, if possible, to get copies of the policies at the Baffin House in Montreal because I have only heard rumours but I have not seen the policies so I would like to get copies please. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O240-88(2): Policies At Baffin House, Montreal

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, I will.

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

Question O241-88(2): Assistance For YCC Inmate

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to either the Minister of Justice or to the Minister of Social Services. There is an individual staying at the YCC right now; he is from Cape Dorset. His name is Sangani Osuetuk. He approached me to see if I could be of assistance to him. Perhaps he should get assistance from a lawyer. I have his letter here requesting assistance. He is staying at the YCC here. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Two Ministers were identified in the question. Any volunteers? Minister of Social Services, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Return To Question O241-88(2): Assistance For YCC Inmate

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yellowknife Correctional Centre is under our department's responsibility. I would ask the Member if he could forward the letter to me and it will be reviewed by myself.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Arlooktoo, supplementary.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He wrote it in Inuktitut so it will have to be translated first. Sangani Osuetuk will be leaving soon and I will give it to the language bureau to be translated into English. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, like I said, it is written in Inuktitut, it has to be translated into English.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. I am sure the Minister appreciates that non-question. Mr. Ernerk.

Question O242-88(2): Authority Over Caribou Management Board

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Does the Minister of Renewable Resources have the overriding power over the Caribou Management Board?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O242-88(2): Authority Over Caribou Management Board

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, the Caribou Management Board recommends to me and I make the final decision. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ernerk.

Supplementary To Question O242-88(2): Authority Over Caribou Management Board

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. When the Caribou Management Board met some time ago, they made a decision that they did not support the commercial tags in the North. So, I would like to get an answer from the Minister of Renewable Resources. If he can perhaps make another decision because the Kaminuriak herd, there are enough caribou in the herd.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not quite understand your question. Would you please elaborate on this further?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: I apologize, Mr. Speaker, if I was not properly understood. Recently, the Caribou Management Board made a recommendation to the Minister indicating that they will not support commercial use of caribou from the Kaminuriak herd. I am wondering if the Minister could override that decision, the recommendation of the Caribou Management Board, since the people of the Keewatin Region live within the laws of the Government of the Northwest Territories and not the Caribou Management Board. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O242-88(2): Authority Over Caribou Management Board

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, yes, I can override their decision, but to this date I have not yet made any change to the policy concerning the Kaminuriak caribou herd. Thank you.

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

Question O243-88(2): Temporary Replacement For Sanikiluaq Co-op Store

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Public Works and Highways. On November 1, 1988, the co-op store in Sanikiluaq was destroyed by fire. The co-op plans to rebuild immediately, but is in need of temporary facilities from which to operate. A section of the old school complex adjacent to the government office is currently vacant, and has been requested for temporary use by the co-op. Can the Minister advise whether or not she would support this request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O243-88(2): Temporary Replacement For Sanikiluaq Co-op Store

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Public Works has made a decision to allow the old school complex to be used by the co-op, and because of the urgency of the matter we transmitted that information to them yesterday.

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

Question O244-88(2): Management Of Musk-Ox

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague for Aivilik has interested me in asking a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. It is a different question to that of my colleague, but a similar situation. The musk-ox hunting area assigned by his department, who makes that decision? Does his department or himself make that decision?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O244-88(2): Management Of Musk-Ox

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, on all our jurisdictions of renewable resources in the NWT, the Minister has the final say as to what the policy will be concerning wildlife management. Thank you.

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

Question O245-88(2): Location Of Individuals With AIDS

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please do not hesitate to correct me if I am making a mistake. My question is directed to the Minister of Health. On the radio I have been hearing that there are two individuals in Baffin who have the AIDS virus and I was wondering if I could be informed in which communities they are, if possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O245-88(2): Location Of Individuals With AIDS

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I cannot report that information. We have general policies and guidelines which were carried over from Health and Welfare Canada, including their established practice of only reporting AIDS statistics on a territorial-wide level.

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

Question O246-88(2): Advertisements Re AIDS In Inuktitut

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is supplementary to Mr. Arlooktoo's question. Is part of the problem, especially in the Eastern Arctic, keeping in mind that there are two reported cases in the NWT, is part of the problem in the Eastern Arctic the fact that there is not enough advertisement in the Inuktitut languages? Is that part of the problem, that the message is not getting to the general population of the East?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O246-88(2): Advertisements Re AIDS In Inuktitut

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, that is part of the problem. Generally the public feels that AIDS is something that is not going to affect them. What we have attempted to do, and we are attempting to do, is to bring to the attention of everyone in the NWT that potentially this virus is in their region, in every region of the NWT. In trying to get the message across, being a new thing, people generally feel that this type of infection or virus will not be close to them. It is going to be a big job, and it is going to be each individual's responsibility to take the precautions that are necessary. Certainly, people are aware and they do have information, but it is the general public's attitude toward any disease such as this, that it is always someone else who has it and there is no fear for themselves. It is going to be a difficult issue to face, and we will be stepping up our campaign and, hopefully, we will have the support of MLAs and communities to try to get across to individuals that they have to take this responsibility. Thank you.

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

Question O247-88(2): Locations Of AIDS In NWT

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Health. On Friday I was given to understand that the Minister did not want to release the region in which there were new occurrences of the AIDS virus, Mr. Speaker, and yet this morning I heard announcements being made by people in the Eastern Arctic on this very subject. So my question is, who speaks for the Department of Health, Mr. Speaker? Is it the Minister of Health, who says, "No, I will not tell you the region", or is it people in the Baffin who say, "This is the region"? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O247-88(2): Locations Of AIDS In NWT

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, hopefully, in issues like this that we can have an established policy that the Minister of Health directs. However, the announcement that came from Baffin was an unauthorized announcement and the Department of Health continues with the practice of reporting by territorial-wide statistics.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same Minister, if it was an unauthorized announcement, is there any truth to that announcement? What is the fact? Is it a rumour or is it, in fact, the case that these people are reporting factual information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pollard, that supplementary is out of order. It is not proper to communicate allegations to the House and then ask a Minister either to deny or to confirm it. Could you rephrase the question perhaps?

Supplementary To Question O247-88(2): Locations Of AIDS In NWT

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could confirm the reports from the Baffin that the AIDS virus, the new occurrences are in fact in the Baffin Region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question O247-88(2): Locations Of AIDS In NWT

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I cannot do that. The policy is that the Department of Health reports on a territorial-wide basis.

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

Question O248-88(2): Study On YCC

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, following a demonstration on the steps of our Legislature here, about conditions at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, an independent study was commissioned. I believe it was undertaken by a man called Hank O'Handley. Has the Minister yet received that report?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O248-88(2): Study On YCC

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have received a preliminary report although there are parts of the report that have yet to be concluded. Therefore the completed report has not been received. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O248-88(2): Study On YCC

MR. LEWIS: Has the Minister for Social Services reviewed this report and has she come to any conclusions about it?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question O248-88(2): Study On YCC

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, the report is currently being reviewed.

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

Question O249-88(2): Executive Discussion Of YCC Report

MR. LEWIS: I would like to direct this supplementary then to the Government Leader. Has this issue been discussed by the Executive Council; the issue of the report on the Yellowknife Correctional Centre?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O249-88(2): Executive Discussion Of YCC Report

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, we are aware that the report is being done but we have to discuss it substantively. Thank you.

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

Question O250-88(2): Tabling Of Review Of HAP

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Housing. In March of last year, the then Minister, Mr. Kakfwi, made a commitment to make a review of the HAP program and Housing Corporation and to see if the guidelines could be fixed to allow for higher income people to apply for HAP in the small communities. The Minister had made a commitment to table that in the House this fall session. Are you going to be tabling that this week, Mr. Minister?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I will take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question O251-88(2): Confidential Health Information Provided By Region

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could ask a supplementary to those questions that were asked by Mr. Pollard to the Minister of Health. Would the Minister indicate why she feels it is not in the interest of the public to provide information on a regional basis to be provided to the general public and to this Assembly?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O251-88(2): Confidential Health Information Provided By Region

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I believe we had quite an extended discussion last year on the issue of AIDS. When we discussed that, there were obviously different opinions on how these cases should be reported and to what level of reporting the general policy should require. Mr. Speaker, in those discussions and in the past policy of Health and Welfare, it was not deemed productive to announce by region or by community. The main reason is to maintain confidentiality. We have communities that are very small and regions that are very small and it was felt, and I still concur with this, that there will be many people who may not want to be treated if they feel that the confidentiality can be very easily breached.

We would like to maintain an atmosphere where people who are in the high risk groups and who feel that they may have contacts that would bring them in contact with the virus will come forward for testing and treatment. We feel that we want that type of co-operation. The individuals who are seeking help and who find themselves in the particular situation of contacting the virus would really need a lot of help and counselling. I believe that, given the fact that the NWT is a small community and people generally find out things, confidentiality is mainly for the protection of the individuals who are seeking treatment. We feel that we have to have the ability to have an open and honest approach and to make people feel that their particular problem will be treated confidentially when they are seeking medical treatment. Mr. Speaker, in other jurisdictions where they have smaller communities, the general principle is not to report according to region or according to community.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I did not mention anything to do with communities. What I did indicate was whether or not the Minister felt it was necessary to provide the information on a regional basis.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nerysoo, that is not a point of order. The Minister may answer as the Minister wishes, so that was not a point of order. Supplementary, Mr. Nerysoo.

Supplementary To Question O251-88(2): Confidential Health Information Provided By Region

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could indicate that I am not concerned about providing information on a community by community basis. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask if the Minister is prepared to abide by the policy of National Health and Welfare, that in fact provides information on a region by region basis across the country, and that includes province by province, and whether or not she is prepared to consider that same application of a policy to the NWT, of providing information on a regional basis here.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question O251-88(2): Confidential Health Information Provided By Region

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I believe that in the general guidelines that we are dealing with now, the NWT is one Canadian region. So if Mr. Nerysoo is asking whether I would be prepared to provide information in the five different Northwest Territories regions at this time, Mr. Speaker, no.

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

Question O252-88(2): Press Release Re AIDS In Baffin

MR. POLLARD: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Health. Did the Baffin Regional Health Board or the Baffin Regional Council or employees of those two bodies ask the Minister

of Health if they could issue a press release with regard to AIDS cases in the Baffin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O252-88(2): Press Release Re AIDS In Baffin

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, no.

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

Question O253-88(2): Minister With Responsibility For Air Transportation

MR. ANGOTTITAURUQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Government Leader. In the North, we do have problems, especially with the air transportation. My question is that in the future in regard to the Minister who deals with motor vehicles, are we going to be seeing the Minister deal with motor vehicles only, especially as air transportation is becoming a problem?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O253-88(2): Minister With Responsibility For Air Transportation

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cabinet has been considering the issue of government organization in order to better reflect the priorities of this government. I can assure the honourable Member that the work is well advanced and that we expect to announce some changes that will better reflect the priorities of this House when we present the budget to this Legislature and the public early in the new year. So, I would ask the Member to await more details till the next session. Thank you.

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

Question O254-88(2): Location Of Cases Of AIDS

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Health and Welfare. I know what you have given me is true. Being from the Baffin Region, I have been listening to the radio and I am not even sure if that is true but I do not believe that it is true. Maybe you can tell me. Can you definitely find out and see if there is really a matter of having two cases in Baffin and find out what area it is? Can you tell me that, Madam Minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O254-88(2): Location Of Cases Of AIDS

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, to repeat myself, I am not prepared to disclose how many cases in each region. Mr. Speaker, we would like people to be sensitive to the fact that no region is safe from this virus. We would like to bring to the attention of people that because it appears that there are some cases in one region, it does not mean that another region is free from the virus. So, I am not prepared at this time to be disclosing cases according to NWT regions.

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

Question O255-88(2): Funds Withheld By Defence Construction Canada

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To Mr. Wray, Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, with regard to a statement today on the North Warning System, northern participation. There is a sentence in there, Mr. Speaker, which says, "Defence Construction Canada will withhold

payment of an amount not to exceed the shortfall between commitment and actual expenditure." I wonder if the Minister could tell us, if there are funds withheld from a company, will they accrue to the Government of Canada or the Government of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O255-88(2): Funds Withheld By Defence Construction Canada

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really do not know the answer to that question but off the top of my head I would say that they will accrue to the Government of Canada. I do not think they are as generous as that.

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

Question O256-88(2): Funding To IBC

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications. Earlier he announced that \$120,000 would be made available to Inuit Broadcasting Corporation for the Inuktitut program, Takuginai. Can the Minister indicate to me and this House whether or not this is an annual funding?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O256-88(2): Funding To IBC

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, that was their request of this government to keep their program going. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Morin.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W22-88(2): Cost To Department Of Justice For Alcohol Related Crimes

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Justice. What does it cost your department in man hours for lockup, investigation, and legal aid for alcohol related crimes?

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

Question W23-88(2): Cost To Department Of Social Services For Alcohol Related Services

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Social Services. What does it cost your department for alcohol related matters, for example, incarceration at all your institutions, alcohol rehabilitation and family violence?

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

Question W24-88(2): Cost To Department Of Health For Alcohol Related Services

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health. What has it cost your department in the past year, 1987/88, for alcohol related health problems; for example, medivacs, nurses' time, and hospital costs? What percentage is this of your total budget? Thank you.

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

Return To Written Question

Item 7, returns to written questions. I would like to set the record straight. Mr. Patterson delivered a return under returns to oral questions today which should have been a return to written question. It was a return to a question asked by Mr. Pudluk on November 2nd, regarding provision of housing for former Grise Fiord residents now in Inoucdjouac. That should have been a written return.

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

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a document which I will file as Petition 15-88(2), from the good people of Fort Franklin. The petition is as follows: "We, the undersigned being 16 years of age and over and residents of Fort Franklin, petition the Government of the Northwest Territories to provide medical and hospital services in Yellowknife."

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. How many signatures does the petition contain?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: The petition contains 200 signatures.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Petitions. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present Petition 16-88(2), which is signed by 436 persons or approximately 80 per cent of the adult population of Baker Lake; the petition deals with what people in the community consider to be the leniency of sentences handed out to sexual offenders. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker I wish to table Tabled Document 60-88(2), a document on Bathurst Caribou, Forming a Plan for the Future, in English and Inuktitut.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 38-88(2): Additional Sitting Hours

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, November 9th, 1988, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that the Speaker be authorized to set such additional sitting hours as necessary to conclude the business before this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Notices of motion. Mr. Lewis.

Notice Of Motion O39-88(2): Appointment Of Yellowknife South MLA To Standing And Special Committees

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, November 9, 1988, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford, be appointed as a Member of the standing committee on finance and the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions; and further, that the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford, also be appointed as an alternate Member to the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges, and the special committee on the northern economy. And, Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Notices of motion. That concludes Item 12.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 31-88(2), Mr. Morin.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 31-88(2): Move Of Arctic College Headquarters To Fort Smith

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the special committee on the northern economy heard, at first hand, of the economic downturn of the town of Fort Smith at the public hearing held in that community;

AND WHEREAS the headquarters of Arctic College has been established in Yellowknife;

AND WHEREAS the original intent was to have only the president and secretary at headquarters;

AND WHEREAS the headquarters establishment of Arctic College now has in excess of 10 positions;

AND WHEREAS economic benefits could be accrued to the town of Fort Smith and to the Government of the NWT upon the transfer of Arctic College headquarters to the town of Fort Smith;

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 of 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.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will start off with a brief history. The changeover to the Arctic College system along with the board of governors occurred in 1985. In 1985 the possibility of relocating or establishing the Arctic College headquarters to Yellowknife was discussed. In reviewing documents, the argument brought forward was the need for the president of Arctic College to be close to government and that the only positions required at the time were the president and the secretary. With the relocation of the president and the need of a vice-president, responsibilities for the Thebacha Campus were established and filled. No other positions were to be removed or relocated from Fort Smith.

Since the initial establishment of Arctic College headquarters, the position of director of teacher education and the public affairs office have been relocated to headquarters. It is however, fair to say that the director of teacher education, while located in headquarters, is actually a field

position. The staff establishment in headquarters has grown to a complement of 11 positions and they are classified as follows: president, secretary, vice-president in charge of finance, secretary, senior policy adviser, public affairs officer and five finance persons.

Available Housing In Fort Smith

Fort Smith has at present, 19 vacant housing units of which 18 are buy-backs. The vacant housing consists of seven three-bedroom detached units, one two-bedroom detached unit, three four-bedroom detached units, three three-bedroom duplexes and five three-bedroom trailers. The cost of operation and maintenance is estimated to be approximately \$25,000 for the period of April 1 to November 3.

I would like to tell the Assembly why I brought this motion forth. In September while travelling with the special committee on the northern economy we went to the community of Fort Smith. I found this a very educational experience to meet and have the opportunity to talk to the people of Fort Smith. It has been said to me that the people in Fort Smith were always fighting amongst themselves and crying to the government to create jobs in their community. I found this very untrue. The people there seemed very united and positive and they have come to accept the fact that the government had to do certain things in decentralization to make a more effective government.

They are looking ahead to more agriculture, bison ranching and expanding their tourist industry. They have come to realize that they cannot climb out of their economic slump with government assistance only and they are doing everything in their own power to move ahead in a positive way. I am sure the people of Fort Smith agreed whole-heartedly with the Government Leader when he said, "Do not wait for government for economic advancement. Look within your own resources." This is what they are doing now. But the reality of this day and age is that the Government of the NWT is a big job creator. Jobs have a great effect on the economy.

Fort Smith is one of the least expensive places to live in the North. It is the only community in the North with surplus housing. It has good schools, recreation facilities and it also has the biggest Arctic College campus in the North. I may add that it is also the first Arctic College campus in the North. The reason I would like to see the government look at the possibility of moving Arctic College headquarters back to Fort Smith is they have available housing, and they also have the biggest campus in the North. I feel it would help stimulate the economy, show the people of Fort Smith that the government is still interested in the community, show Fort Smith that we are not pulling any more jobs out of there, show the NWT as a whole, that when we do make a mistake we move to fix it and we are still interested in decentralization of government services. We are still a government of the people. We still listen to the people and take their advice. We do not always give everything to Yellowknife.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I hope there is no truth to the rumour that Yellowknife has more sunshine than Fort Smith just for the simple reason that when you move a department here it seems to grow and I guess that is it for now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Morin. Secunder of the motion, Mr. Sibbeston.

Fort Smith Regional Administration Archaic

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to support the motion. I must admit though, in supporting it, that there is a selfish motive to the support of the motion. Fort Smith in the last few years has been assailed by decentralization to Fort Simpson and Fort Rae. I know that the community is a bit sensitive about any possibility of further decrease of its population of civil service and to an extent, its economic base. I know that when the Fort Smith administration is looked at rationally the conclusion would be that the Fort Smith administration is archaic and inefficient and really is due for a major overhaul.

Fortunately past government has started that process. It has started looking at the Fort Smith Region and has taken steps to rationalize it and deploy people to Simpson, Rae, and even the odd one to Yellowknife. I see this as just a start and I look to this government in the next few years to finish decentralization of Fort Smith. What it may mean, if it is done to its rational conclusion, is that Fort Smith should not be a regional centre of government. The civil servants there, the senior administrators and professional people, should be moved to Fort Simpson, Rae and Yellowknife.

In that scenario there is need to give something to Fort Smith. Fort Smith may lose its status as a government centre, but it could very well grow and increase in status as a community college, as an educational centre. This is where, I think, this motion makes sense, for the government to consider sending the Arctic College administration staff that it has started moving here to Yellowknife, back to Fort Smith. It would make sense. The administration of the college is at arm's length from government, and it is an entity unto itself, so it could very well function away from headquarters in a place like Fort Smith. Mr. Speaker, I support the motion heartily and hope that everybody else will also.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting this particular motion because the motion calls for a feasibility study to be undertaken, to see if it will be feasible to put Arctic College back into the community of Fort Smith. All the reasons that my colleague from Tu Nede has provided to the House warrant, I think, that there is a good chance of the headquarters moving back to Fort Smith. I, too, will be supporting this motion. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 31-88(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Morin, as the mover of the motion, you have the opportunity to speak last and this will close debate on the motion. Mr. Morin. Mr. Morin does not wish to speak. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed to the motion? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 14, motions. Motion 32-88(2). Mr. Ernerk.

Motion 32-88(2): Announcements On Commercial Aircraft In The NWT In Aboriginal Languages

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker,

WHEREAS air travel is the major mode of transport within the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS commercial aircraft are used to transport residents for medical reasons;

AND WHEREAS many of the travelling public do not speak English;

AND WHEREAS for safety reasons the travelling public should understand announcements on aircraft;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hudson Bay, that this Legislative Assembly supports the need for all announcements made on aircraft operating in the Northwest Territories to be in one of the aboriginal languages;

AND FURTHER, that the Executive Council communicate this request to all airline companies operating within the Northwest Territories and the Canadian Transport Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. The motion is in order. Mr. Ernerk, to the motion.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I support the Inuktitut language being recognized in the Constitution of Canada. In a sense this motion is almost calling for native languages of the NWT to be recognized as official languages in the NWT. Specifically to the motion, whenever I travel in some parts of the Eastern Arctic, especially in my own riding in the Keewatin Region, I sometimes notice that announcements in English are very important, but they are never repeated in the Inuktitut language. They are all safety announcements. Some announcements that are made in the Inuktitut language might be slightly different than safety announcements, but especially the old Inuit, and especially those who do not speak English, always find it extremely difficult to understand what is being said in an aircraft. The motion is designed for airline companies in the NWT to do what I think it is right for them to do, and that is to announce these safety announcements in both languages, Inuktitut and English, in our case.

I notice that there has been so much mentioned of the aboriginal languages dating back as far as 1984, Wednesday, June 27, 1984. There has been so much mentioned of the aboriginal languages to be used in the workplace, by various Members of the Legislative Assembly who are in this room today. There has been so much money spent, \$1.7 million from the Government of the Northwest Territories in this year's budget alone, 1988-89, and \$5.2 million from the Government of Canada. So everybody sees the importance of using the aboriginal languages in all areas of work, and at the same time in aircraft, especially when aircraft are operating in communities, in places where, for example, the Inuktitut language is being spoken. I am aware of one airline that announces in two languages, that is First Air in the Eastern Arctic. I think that other airlines operating in the NWT must follow suit. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. The seconder of the motion, Mr. Crow.

Inuit Travel By Air More Than Other Canadians

MR. CROW: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am the seconder of the motion, and I support the motion for the reason that we use the aircraft to travel more in Canada than other Canadians. I understand English, but there are some people who are only unilingual that travel on the aircraft that we use. Although bilingual people can understand and tell them what is going on, as to what they are supposed to do when an accident happens, people who can only understand Inuktitut do not usually understand what is going on. We have Air Inuit coming in from Northern Quebec. Although they call themselves Air Inuit, they do not announce in Inuktitut, and they use 748 aircraft. They announce in English and French. For Twin Otter aircraft they do not speak as to where the aircraft is going, or where we will be landing. In our region, when we are travelling on a small aircraft, they do not announce where they are going. I think this customer service should be improved in the region, from Montreal to Iqaluit. I travel regularly on that route. I always have to translate for the Inuit that are travelling with me. I think it is quite possible for them to employ some bilingual Inuit to help the customer service for their aircraft. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to support the motion. I am very proud of the contents of the motion. In the Eastern Arctic, especially in the Baffin Region, the users of the Inuktitut language in that region -- although we do not use it at all times and the passengers are, at times, all English speaking people -- do not use Inuktitut as often as the English language. It is very important to have an Inuktitut-speaking stewardess in the aircraft so she can speak to the passengers very clearly and serve them in Inuktitut, although when there

are no Inuktitut-speaking stewardesses in the aircraft they have recorded Inuktitut procedural announcements.

I believe in the motion. There are more Inuit travellers in my region. There are more Inuit travellers in the Northwest Territories, especially in the Keewatin, Kitikmeot and the Baffin Region. There are more Inuit travellers that use the aircraft and use a lot of money to travel throughout the region, throughout the whole year. I think we should look forward to this in the future. We will definitely need to see this come about because we are Canadians as well, and I believe in this motion truly and will support it whole-heartedly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recorded Announcements Not Adequate

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to support the motion as well. (Translation ends)

The motion being put forward is to try to help the passengers in the Northwest Territories to be comfortable. I guess I can say from the Arctic Circle to the shores of Hudson Bay and to the Baffin, the native language is very much needed in flights. I personally do not agree with recorded information because when you are on a flight there could be something going wrong and the flight attendants are to comfort the passengers.

In support of the motion, all I can say is the comfort of human words is rather safer for a passenger who may not understand what the aircraft is doing and any other safety procedures. When there is a problem in a flight, the pilot may know and may feel comfortable and also the passengers have to know. I guess by using those words I simply say I support the motion and I wish the other Members would support the motion. Our biggest transportation is air and when you are a passenger you are supposed to know what is going on. I simply support the motion, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supportive of this motion as well. It is in line with the recommendations of the task force on aboriginal languages. A letter was sent by a previous Minister of Culture and Communications to the airlines operating into and out of the Northwest Territories. He requested them to provide airline services, schedules and other flight information in aboriginal languages. In conjunction with that approach, the language bureau offered free translation services to the airline industry to translate their materials and to make tapes available for the airline's announcements in aboriginal languages.

There has been some success with the translated safety material in Inuktitut now appearing on board the aircraft. In the Eastern Arctic, announcements in Inuktitut are becoming more and more common. Should this motion pass, as the Minister for Culture and Communications I will immediately write to all commercial carriers in the Northwest Territories again urging them to have such announcements in aboriginal languages. In addition, I can offer to assist them to provide taped bilingual translations of their normal flight announcements. Again, Mr. Speaker, I am supportive of this motion. Qujannamiik.

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

Agents In Northern Communities Should Be Inuit

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will also support this motion. I fully support this motion because I had an awful experience. We had an accident some time ago and I ran into some difficulties because I could not understand English. I started realizing that it is better to translate letters or what not. This agent is from Igloolik and this agent in Igloolik is a Kabloona and does not speak Inuktitut. As well, in Cape Dorset he does speak Inuktitut so I would

appreciate it if the agents were Inuit in the northern communities. If it states that, I will be in support of the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this motion regardless of where they come from or what the particular language requirements are in their area. Many of us can recall when we did not have scheduled airlines in many parts of our Territories and very often you did not know why a plane was not going somewhere and it was a mystery, almost a mystery to them. People felt that they really did not get very good communication with these people who were supposed to be taking them where they wanted to go.

I recall travelling with one person and it was his seventh try to get into a place and he did not understand any of the seven reasons why they had not been able to make it to the community that they were heading toward. I remember once flying in an airplane that had been bought from Ethiopia and the only things that were in writing in the airplane were in Arabic. There had been no change-over to any of the languages in use in this country, and that was in the Eastern Arctic.

Things Done To Make Passengers Feel Less Uneasy

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing that matters more to the comfort of passengers than to be spoken to in a language they understand. We do all kinds of things to make people feel a little bit less uneasy. We have all kinds of friendly people smiling and making your trip as comfortable as possible. You sometimes even have music coming on in an airplane as you are landing so that you do not feel frightened. The music would make you feel nice but there is no substitute for having a language spoken in that area used on that airline for people to get the ultimate comfort in flying. So, I very much support this motion and I urge other Members to do so.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting this motion. Last September, in flying up to Iqaluit, on the return trip with First Air was the first time I have ever heard an aboriginal language spoken in an airplane, explaining how to get out of it in case of a crash. I did not understand the language but I am sure all the Inuit on the plane were quite happy to hear their own language spoken by an Inuit person on the plane. I will be looking forward to flying into my communities and hearing the safety lectures given by the pilots, or whoever is doing it, in the Chipewyan language. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Morin. To the motion. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I too will be supporting the motion. I have, over my past years of working in the NWT here, travelled extensively on commercial airlines and I do see the need for, if not the stewardesses themselves to have the ability to speak an aboriginal language, at least to have certain tapes available so the safety messages can be presented to those persons on the aircraft. I do have concerns with being able to distinguish, I suppose, if there are certain aboriginal peoples on particular flights and if some way can be made convenient for the commercial airlines to be able to accommodate the needs of people prior to, or during the flight for the safety messages. I think its time has come. A lot of airlines do have only two languages and it is only fair that in areas where there is a large number of aboriginal people travelling, that they be addressed in their own language.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Whitford. To the motion. Question is being called. As the mover of the motion, Mr. Ernerk, you have the last reply and this will close debate on the motion.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank all the Members that supported the motion. I would like to thank my colleagues. The Government of the NWT allocates a lot of funding to various airline companies or organizations. I think the GNWT should now emphasize to the companies to hire more natives and push that. The reason why I brought

this up is, where can we start? How should we start this? Because the young people now are losing their aboriginal language. If we start using the aboriginal language in the workplace, I think it would alleviate a lot of problems that are due in the future. I am very happy that a lot of Members here are in support of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 32-88(2), Carried

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

---Carried

Item 14, motions. Motion 34-88(2), Mr. Ernerk.

Motion 34-88(2): Ministers' Statement 43-88(2) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have lost the seconder. Mr. Speaker, Ministers' Statement 43-88(2) to committee of the whole.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Ministers' Statement 43-88(2), "AIDS in the NWT", be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. The motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Ernerk. To the motion. Mr. Nerysoo. Question is being called.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Motion 36-88(2), Ms Cournoyea.

Motion 36-88(2): Appointments To The Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board, Carried

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS there will occur certain vacancies on the Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that this Assembly fill these vacancies in order for the Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board to conduct its business;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that this House recommend to the Commissioner that Mr. John E. Hill of Inuvik be appointed as chairperson; Mrs. Beulah Phillpot of Yellowknife be reappointed as vice-chairperson; Mr. Raymond Mercer of Rankin Inlet be reappointed as member of the board; Mr. Miles H. Patterson of Calgary, Alberta, be appointed to the Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board;

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms Cournoyea. Mr. Ballantyne is the seconder. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Motion 37-88(2), Mr. Ballantyne.

Motion 37-88(2): Appointment Of Constitutional Alliance Members, Carried

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS progress in political and constitutional development is essential to the settlement of land claims and to political and economic stability;

AND WHEREAS the by-laws of the Constitutional Alliance provide for the appointment of four Members of the Legislative Assembly to the alliance;

AND WHEREAS the Minister and Associate Minister for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development have participated since April of 1988 as representatives of the Legislative Assembly on the Constitutional Alliance;

AND WHEREAS the 10th Assembly recommended on March 27, 1985, that Executive Council Members participate more fully in the Constitutional Alliance;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River, that this Assembly appoint to the Constitutional Alliance, two Members, namely Peter Ernerk and the Hon. Tom Butters, one from the East and one from the West, to represent the Legislative Assembly at large and the interests of non-aboriginal residents;

AND FURTHER, that the Assembly appoint the Minister for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, and the Associate Minister for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, the Hon. Titus Allooloo, to represent the Government of the NWT;

AND FURTHER, that the alternates representing the Legislative Assembly at large and the interests of non-aboriginal residents be Ludy Pudluk and Richard Nerysoo.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. The motion is in order. Mr. Ballantyne, to the motion. Seconder, Mr. Pollard.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 14, motions. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to proceed with the motion to do with additional sitting hours that I gave notice of earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is requesting unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ballantyne.

Motion 38-88(2): Additional Sitting Hours, Carried

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that the Speaker be authorized to set such additional sitting hours as necessary to conclude the business before the House.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Nerysoo, to the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 14, motions. That would appear to conclude Item 14 for today. Item 15, first reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 27-88(2): Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 27-88(2), Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act, be read for the first time.

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

---Carried

Bill 27-88(2) has had first reading. Item 16, second reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to proceed to second reading of Bill 27-88(2), Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Minister is requesting unanimous consent to give second reading to Bill 27-88(2). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Minister, you have unanimous consent.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 27-88(2): Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 27-88(2), Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to authorize the Commissioner, on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, to make a guarantee of a loan made to Neptune Resources Corporation to enable the corporation to undertake the Colomac mine project. The guarantee is made notwithstanding the Business Loans and Guarantees Act as a pilot project to encourage native employment in the Colomac mine project. This bill authorizes a guarantee that does not exceed three million dollars.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 27-88(2) has had second reading. Mr. Clerk, Bill 27-88(2) is ordered into committee of the whole for today. Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters.

I would at this time advise the House that in response to the motion by Mr. Ballantyne to sit additional sitting hours, and in accordance with Rule 4(1), which allows varying the hours provided it is done so by order of the House, I place the House into committee of the whole, and the committee will report progress when the committee deems its work for today completed. The items we will consider will be: Committee Report 1-88(2); Tabled Documents 15-88(2), 21-88(2), 16-88(2), 28-88(2); Bills 26-88(2), 1-88(2); Committee Report 4-88(2); Tabled Document 56-88(?); Ministers' Statement 43-88(2) and Bill 27-88(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 CR 1-88(2); BILL 26-88(2), MOTOR VEHICLES ACT; BILL 1-88(2), ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES ACT; BILL 27-88(2), NEPTUNE RESOURCES CORPORATION LOAN GUARANTEE ACT; TABLED DOCUMENT 28-88(2), STAFFING PROBLEMS AT YCC; CR 4-88(2), FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES, PROCEDURES AND PRIVILEGES

Bill 26-88(2): Motor Vehicles Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with Private Member's Bill 26-88(2), An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act. We concluded on Friday, right after we dealt with the motion to allow the government lawyer to assist the committee when dealing with this amendment. Does the committee agree that the government lawyer come in at this time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. To deal with this particular bill, we already had the Member's opening remarks and we also had comments from the chairman of the legislation committee. We are back on general comments. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few brief comments on the statement made by the Member on Friday. Any debate, I think, that the government would have, would be left until we get into clause by clause examination of the bill. On Monday, the mover of the bill indicated that subsistence use roads, and he gave examples of those roads, would be cutlines, bush roads and trails. I would suggest, with respect, that cutlines and trails would likely not apply under the existing definition.

The Member also indicated that in the smaller communities people are required to go to airports and that in most communities only pickups are available, rather than family cars. I think it was implied that the use of the pickups to transport passengers was not possible under the existing legislation. Well, it certainly is. You can carry passengers in a pickup on a highway when there is an enclosed space on the box of the pickup and in smaller communities, people can travel in the box of a pickup provided it is travelling no faster than 30 kilometres or approximately 20 miles

per hour. So, pickups can be used to take people to and from airports, providing the existing requirements of the existing legislation are met.

The Member also indicated, using the figures from traffic from the ferry -- and that traffic figure is for between May and September -- that only one accident had occurred on that stretch of highway and he said he recalls that one being when he hit the buffalo; but, in fact, since the beginning of the year there have been some 13 accidents between January and August of 1988 in the Fort Providence area.

The Member also spoke about defensive driver skills and he asked, originally, relative to the programs which teach defensive driving. Well, at the present time the only such programs are offered by Arctic College, but none of us who currently hold a driver's licence in our pockets could have obtained that licence if we were not aware of the defensive driving practices necessary to obtain a licence. If you do not know those particular requirements, then you should not hold a licence. Possibly the Member is suggesting that all of us should be retested. I was retested a few months ago and I found the experience most interesting.

There was some suggestion, too, about not requiring seat belts on the roads in the smaller communities, the reason being that they were graded and tended to be bumpy. I think anybody that has driven a vehicle on a bush road or a road in a small community realizes that it is there that seat belts are probably most needed since one is constantly being bumped and pushed and thrown into the roof of a cab. The seat belt acts as a restraining device to keep you in your seat and in control of your vehicle.

Fines Not As High As Indicated

There was some suggestion, too, that the fines are either \$500 or else three months in jail. This was suggested for leaving a vehicle unlocked. Well, the fines that I have are not anywhere near that amount. Failure to wear a seat belt, fine \$35; leaving a vehicle unattended, \$35; riding in the box of a truck, \$25. So, the fines that were indicated by the Member are not as high as indicated. His figures may be the maximum but the fines that I have given you are probably more likely to be assessed by a judge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make my statement brief. My general comments are that I am supporting the bill proposed by my friend across. I think this took quite a while, to try and fix this bill up. We have been dealing with it for quite a while, concerning the Motor Vehicles Act. There were 146 pages on this act and 425 pages on the bill -- pardon me, clauses. I think it was really hard to try and deal with it, and we had to rush in trying to put it together.

The bill that is being proposed is going to be very beneficial to the smaller communities. The government is probably going to state that it will not be utilized in the smaller communities, but I know for a fact that in the smaller communities the populations are increasing rapidly. We know that some of the smaller communities are not going to become the same population as Yellowknife but if we have that proposed bill in place, it will be readily available for the smaller communities whether they are small or large. It will be utilized by each community. I also know that the government vehicles are very old and run-down and some of them do not even have seat belts. Also, some of the vehicles that come into the community, that have been bought, sometimes are not even in tiptop shape.

For these reasons I am going to be supporting the bill, looking at the future. At this time, non-native rules are not very useful sometimes for aboriginal people. Sometimes they are not applicable and I think that we should try and make bills that would be aimed more toward aboriginal people. We know that some of the communities have a great concern over this and there are not enough adequate vehicles in the communities. For example, in Grise Fiord the roads are very short in the community and if there was a vehicle that was stolen, they would not

go very far. It is like that in some communities. If they are going to be included in the bill -- the small communities -- if they are included there will be a lot of concern and problems in the community. I just wanted to make some comments that I support this. Thank you.

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

Amendment Will Not Accomplish What Is Intended

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I can, I guess, appreciate what Mr. Gargan is attempting to do but I do not think that the legislation, or at least the amendment, that is being proposed is going to accomplish what Mr. Gargan wants to accomplish, and I have a very difficult time with the amendments that are being proposed.

Firstly, let me deal with one particular issue. In the case of the subsistence use road, which means a highway which is used primarily for the purpose of gaining access to hunting, fishing, trapping, harvesting and gathering areas. Let me indicate to you that at this particular time, at this time of the year, that is exactly what the Dempster highway is being used for. I want to say that the community of McPherson, despite the fact that they may have some differences in times, do not see a need for the use of seat belts to be outlawed and, in fact, should be a requirement on the highways. They do have concerns with regard to the issue of people riding in the back of vehicles but I think that the bill has addressed that. I do say that it becomes very difficult to define subsistence use roads or highways because, if I read Mr. Gargan's comments, subsistence use roads are very different from the comments that were made by Mr. Gargan, because he is very specific about indicating such things as cutlines or a trail. Those are the kinds of words that he uses and the definition being proposed does not in any way reflect that.

The other thing that I still do have concerns about is the other point about exceptions, where municipalities have the right to ignore or, for that matter, vote against a particular piece of legislation. No matter how large or how small you are, the simple fact that we are talking about is the safety and the well-being of people in communities. It does not make any difference whether you are driving 10 feet or 10,000 kilometres, it is what happens when the individual gets into that vehicle. That is a very important part of driving. I want to indicate to you that when we deal with this issue of seat belts and making requirements where people use seat belts, I think the other point I want to make is that even if you are in a small community, once you begin to educate yourself to use the seat belt, then no matter where you go in the NWT or where you go in the country or where you go throughout the world, it is an automatic thing that you do; not only for yourself but for the safety of the children that you have travelling with you as well, because that is important. The intention is to make sure that you use seat belts for that particular purpose, for safety and protection reasons.

I wanted to say that I am not certain whether or not even the information Mr. Butters gave us with regard to the number of accidents is actually the amount that has happened. I will bet you that there are many incidents where vehicles go off the road and are not reported, are not reported to the RCMP or to any individual. I have seen situations where people have been off the road and could have really had a serious accident but walked away from those situations.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted also to note "the truck is being operated at a speed less than 60 kilometres per hour". Do you know that in most situations in most municipalities throughout the NWT, the actual driving or speed limit is 45 kilometres? In other words, you are now authorizing people to ride in the back of vehicles that are beyond the speed limits that have been authorized by most municipalities. It is very difficult to appreciate how one can allow the speed limit to be increased to such a large extent, not recognizing what now exists.

The other point I wanted to also make is that there was a situation here, Mr. Chairman, where an individual was driving less than the speed limit -- less than -- and an individual fell out, a young individual fell out of the vehicle and killed himself. Not driving at 30 kilometres an hour but driving at less. The driver stopped, and off that individual went, and killed himself. That individual was riding in the back of the vehicle.

Legislation May Not Always Be Convenient

Now I think one thing that should be very clear is that when we are passing legislation we have to realize that, as Mr. Pudluk probably said, we have to improve legislation so it meets the needs of the people in those communities but, as much as that, it should not always be convenient legislation, ignoring the issue of protecting the public or providing safety precautions where people, no matter where they are, can save the life of even one individual. One individual. Once we do that and once we ensure that there is legislation, I think we are doing our job.

I think to make the changes that are being proposed here may, in fact, not create that situation and, in fact, may cause the reverse to happen where we are not improving the legislation and we are not providing the safety factors in the legislation that will meet the test of the safety requirements that are needed to protect the public. I just wanted to, Mr. Chairman, make those particular comments. I have indicated that I will not be supporting the legislation the way it has been proposed but I also have to say that I can appreciate some of the suggestions being made by Mr. Gargan. I do not think the amendments are going to deal with those issues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. With that, the Chair will take a 15 to 20 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The committee will come back to order. General comments. Mr. Whitford.

Seat Belt Regulation Essential For Safety

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, on the Private Member's Bill 26-88(2), An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, I will not be supporting the bill. I have considered very carefully the implications of something like this. Over the years I have had the misfortune of being a coroner and I have reviewed so many cases where, if the people had been wearing seat belts, they would be alive today. In particular, in the last few years they have been more aware of it than before. It is extremely important that we take the initiative and follow suit. I have had a lot of negative comments about government interference, but I feel that it is important to the people that we are serving to protect them in some way, and this is one way of doing it. I think that we have a lot of highways in the Territories that are in such a condition that it is an essential part of safety.

As far as the other two areas, leaving a vehicle unlocked, again I have dealt with a number of these things. It is not a great issue, and I think that purchasing an extra key will solve the problem. It will go a long way to cutting down vehicular theft, taking a vehicle without the owner's consent.

The last part of it, of course, riding in a box in the back of a truck. I think at the speeds we are travelling here on the highways, it is far more dangerous than in the communities, of course, but I know I have been involved with riding in the back of a truck myself from an airport into town. Again if the speeds are kept within reason it will not impose any kind of a hardship on anybody, and the Motor Vehicles Act will go a long way toward preventing any kind of an accident. We have had some serious cases right here in Yellowknife within the last five years. A young lad riding in the back of a truck fell off and fractured his skull and died. That was all I wanted to say.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would simply say that Mr. Nerysoo took the words right out of my mouth. I would just like to explain in a few words why I will not be supporting the amendment made by Mr. Gargan through his Private Member's Bill. Simply, I say it dilutes the safety of the people of the Northwest Territories. The intent of the government is to put safety into driving. I can only say if you get too used to not following the law, if you went to Winnipeg you mentally do not follow the rules, because you are so used to it. Having said that, I guess Mr. Nerysoo took the words out of my mouth. I just wanted to add a little bit more by saying that. The Private Member's Bill is going to dilute the work or the intent of the government toward safety, and it is going to mentally support those who are so used to not following the rules. It is going to put them into jeopardy about safety procedures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is all I can say.

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

Subsistence Use Roads In Eastern Arctic

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought about this to some extent. I may or may not make any sense, but I will give it a try. When Mr. Gargan introduced this amendment, what I think he meant is back roads, not necessarily the highways within the city limits of Yellowknife, or those city roads within bigger municipalities, such as Inuvik, Fort Smith, Hay River and a number of other places. When Mr. Gargan was talking about this amendment, I heard him to talk about small roads, hunting roads, within places like Coral Harbour. That is what I heard him to say. When I use the words "subsistence use roads", I understand what the honourable Member means. In the Eastern Arctic where I come from, we have what I consider to be, and others consider to be, subsistence use roads. These are small trails, not necessarily major highways. We do not have major highways to begin with in the East -- let us speak to that issue when it comes -- but when we are talking about subsistence use roads in the East, we are talking about trails for hondas, four-wheel hondas, three-wheel hondas. Sometimes they are used for an odd truck. We do not have that many trucks in Rankin Inlet, but nevertheless those people who have trucks do use our

subsistence roads for occasional trips out of town in places like Rankin Inlet. I speak of other communities like Coral Harbour, Whale Cove, Repulse Bay and other communities in the region. I have no problem with that aspect.

To repeal the requirement for seat belts in municipalities, and let municipal corporations -- I take that to mean municipal councils -- have the right to do what they want with regard to the use of seat belts. In Rankin Inlet, a number of months ago, when the government was, I believe, going to put in place this mandatory use of seat belts, Rankin Inlet people told me, "I do not want a mandatory use of seat belts." Because Rankin Inlet is small and does not have that many trucks, it does not have that many vehicles or that many drivers, they would like to be able to establish their own use of seat belts.

(Translation) In our community, our roads are short and not very far from our community. If they were long and went far, like a real highway, and were recognized as a real highway it would be easy to recognize this bill. But here our roads are short and there are not that many vehicles that are operating in the communities. Municipalities and hamlets should have the freedom to decide whether they should enforce the speed limit as well as the seat belt regulations. I believe for that reason I will support Mr. Gargan's bill. Thank you.

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

Statistics Show Need For Regulations

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad we are finally at the bill after all this. I regret that Members caused an ordinary Member to feel so much hassle to get it into the House because I think Members are trying to put a Private Member's Bill through a lot more hoops than a government bill would have to go through. However, I am generally not in favour of this bill. I was favourable to the part which might amend the act to designate a subsistence highway but Mr. Butters explained to us that those types of roads, cutlines and trails, are not part of the designated highway system right now. So I believe him that those rules would not apply to that type of road.

On the other matter, as far as seat belts and a number of people riding in the back of pickups and matters like that -- a lot of times people in the Assembly are called upon after they have expert information, statistics that show that people can be killed in slow speed accidents, people can lose control of their vehicles if they are not properly harnessed in. Statistics show this. Experts show this. And even though it is possibly unpopular with the general public I think most people, the unvocal majority, understand the reason for having to do this. I think this is one of the times to do this. Even though Members may be getting pressure from a vocal minority of people, the Members have to do what is in the interest of the general public and so I will be voting against the bill.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have always supported the bill and what I have heard to this date is quite valid. I will still be supporting this bill. I have heard from small communities that they will not be able to enforce this act and will not be able to go along with this act. It helps the smaller communities in my region, the Baffin Region, especially my own community where there are very few vehicles and the road is very short to the airport. If they are trying to enforce this act it will not be applicable as compared to the highway regulations in Sam Gargan's constituency. Understanding what implications it might have for the people in this area, although there are quite a few accidents on the highways, I will not try to be responsible for not supporting this act because of all the available statistics. I will still be supporting Sam Gargan's Private Member's Bill. I want it to be known for my own reasons in my region that I will be supporting Sam Gargan. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Kilabuk.

Bill Supported Because Of Benefits To Small Communities

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that knowing that I am an MLA, although I am supposed to be making legislation, it seems that I cannot have any effect in making legislation. Some parts of the amendment would be helpful to the small communities and I want the act amended so that it would be applicable to the small communities and I would be able to strengthen it by supporting this bill. I know that as an MLA I will not be believed by my own constituency that it is not coming from the government, it is not coming from the Executive. It is coming from the aboriginal people and it will be a benefit to the aboriginal people and the hunters. I support the intent knowing that my communities are small communities. There will always be people living there but they will not grow to the extent that Yellowknife's population is and they will not have a highway in the near future. Although Sam Gargan's bill is very good for my community, if I lived in the larger community I would not support Sam Gargan's amendment. For our communities that do not have highways, we support this amendment.

Knowing that he is an MLA, he is supposed to be making legislation and I have learned before the Legislative Assembly opens what legislation you are going to be introducing at this time. I believe our authority is not effective. I think we will not be asked as regular MLAs what kind of legislation is coming forth at this time and we will not have any effect in letting it go forth, what we would support.

The amendment to this act I support, but the bill, I think we should postpone and look at it some more and have the Executive look through it, as well as the drafters of the legislation and not rush it through. People that have larger highways and smaller highways should have separate legislation. We are rushing it through. I am not quite satisfied with the two sides of the story. We review the bills and the amendment that he is proposing and we have been reviewing quite thoroughly. If we can put the two together then we might be able to get better legislation to come forth, if we can consolidate the two sides of the NWT and if we do not rush this bill. It will be in effect for quite a long time but not currently and it will be in use for a long time. I believe that we should postpone this amendment at this time, although I support it. Thank you.

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

Safety Should Be First Consideration

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not think I reached my 10 minutes before. I think I would like to further explain what I have already explained. Yes, I totally feel as equal to all MLAs and we make legislation. But to make a Private Member's Bill to delete some of the words out of the government bill, I still say that you are diluting the safety of the people. We have roads in small communities which are not highways and some can stretch a good distance. If you are not really worried about the safety system, that is exactly what this bill is saying. Even in the back roads you can go pretty fast sometimes. Let me give you an example. Way before I started thinking about being an MLA I was a reckless driver. I had a friend on a short road that went out to the airport, and I told him, "I am going to catch you no matter how fast you are going." I caught up to him halfway and I asked him how many miles an hour he was going. This was in a small community of about 450 at that time. He said he was going 86 miles an hour. It is that kind of fact you have to look at. Now that is why I said that if you are not going to practise your safety procedures in a small community, what if you went to Winnipeg, Edmonton or even Yellowknife and are not prepared to look at these safety things. You are just going to have an accident of some kind. If you were to use all these safety procedures, you might save your life. Now for me that is thinking of the future as an MLA, for the safety of those in the future. It is for only that reason I will not support the Private Member's Bill.

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

Definition Of Subsistence Use Road

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have said what I thought was the meaning of the subsistence use roads. I am wondering if the Law Clerk might explain to Members just what a "subsistence use road" means and what powers the municipalities will have in order to enact this legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Law Clerk, we are asking for interpretation of subsistence use roads.

LAW CLERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, as this definition stands, it is fairly imprecise. It could mean just about any road, roadway or highway. I believe that I, on Mr. Gargan's instructions, have drafted some motions to amend, and the subsistence use road definition will include another phrase which will, in effect, say that the subsistence use roads do not include primary highways as designated under section 3 of the Public Highways Act. I believe Mr. Gargan circulated a list of all the highways in the NWT that are considered primary use roads and one of them is, for instance, the Dempster highway that was being referred to earlier, and it includes ice roads as well. Most of the highways, I believe, in the NWT that are maintained by the government are primary highways so this legislation or draft bill does not affect the requirement for seat belts on highways. It does not do that. The definition of highway as it stands is very broad right now and includes any roadway that is travelled, whether private or public, travelled by the public and so it can be any roadway, whether it is maintained or not, that is available for use by the public. That could be a subsistence use road, I suppose.

The other question about the application of this within a municipality. This bill would not make it mandatory for the use of seat belts in a municipality unless the municipality or the municipal council, by resolution, whether it is just a vote in the council chamber, said that seat belt legislation should apply in that community. So, it would leave it up to the individual community to decide whether or not that community should have seat belt legislation in place inside the community.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if there are any further general comments but if I maybe could just ask that Members might agree that we go to each clause and I would like to speak to it before the Members vote on it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree that we go clause by clause? Mr. Ballantyne.

Example Of Alberta

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I have a general comment. I am still not sure of the process when we get into clause by clause. When we get to the first clause and there is no agreement, the chairman is going to have to decide what we do with that. So, just in case, I want to make a couple of general comments.

I think I understand the position put forward by some Members. They feel that the legislation as it presently exists creates some hardships in the communities. I think I can sympathize with their point of view. I think the same argument was used in other places in the country over the last 10 years. Alberta is probably the best example. Alberta resisted seat belt legislation for many years and they were, in fact, the last jurisdiction of the provinces to get seat belt legislation. A lot of the same arguments were used, that in the smaller communities it was not really necessary, that in northern Alberta it was not really necessary and that each individual has a right to decide whether or not they are going to be safe.

So, there was a lot of controversy. There was a lot of pressure put on the Legislative Assembly and the politicians of Alberta not to pass seat belt legislation. Because of the reasons that the government and other Members have used today, the Legislative Assembly of Alberta felt that

even though it might be unpopular in some of their constituencies, that it might be unpopular among, at that time, a majority of residents in Alberta, there was an overriding public good and an overriding responsibility for politicians to show courage in the face of opposition by their constituencies and by their constituents. The result, I think if you did a poll now in Alberta, is that there is general acceptance of their seat belt legislation. I think the statistics over the past few years have shown there has definitely been less loss of life and less serious injury since their seat belt legislation was put into place. I think that now, as the population, I am using Alberta as an example, was educated, became aware of the fact that they are much less likely to be injured or killed, I think if you asked the people of Alberta if they wanted to go back to the old days they would say no. I think it has been generally accepted now in every jurisdiction in this country. It means that governments, whether they are municipal or territorial, have a responsibility to provide education that in the end, the result is well worth it. Politicians who supported that legislation, in the months and years following, I think, now feel that they did the right thing and that they looked after their responsibilities in a very good and courageous manner.

I think here we are facing that same situation. I do not think it is a matter of southern laws and northern laws. I do not think it is a matter of big communities or small communities. It is a matter of safety. It is a matter of public safety. People can die just as easily in northern Canada as they can in southern Canada. People can be injured just as easily in a small community as they can in a big community. People can die or be injured just as easily on a subsistence road as they can on a major highway.

Responsibility Of Members

I think the question that we, as legislators, have to ask ourselves is, what is our responsibility? Does our responsibility mean that sometimes we have to make decisions that some of our constituents, perhaps, do not understand or, perhaps, do not agree with? Do we have a responsibility larger than public pressure? I think these are the questions that we have to ask ourselves and I know that our government feels that it is very important that we send out this very strong signal of responsibility to the people of the Northwest Territories that we, as a government, and we, as a Legislative Assembly, feel that people should protect themselves. If they do not protect themselves many of them will die and be injured and there is the cost to our society. The cost of hospital care, the cost of policemen. We generally as a society pay because somebody is careless. The argument that was used in Alberta, and I heard this one many, many times was that I, as an individual, have the right to decide whether or not I am going to act in a safe way. It is my responsibility. The argument that I would like to use against that is that it is more than just your responsibility, because first of all if you are injured a lot of other people get involved by your injury.

Secondly, it might just be argued that one individual has the right to decide about their own safety but no individual has the right to decide that their children's lives or their friends' children's lives should be put into jeopardy. Nobody has that right. I think we owe it, at least to younger children who cannot make that decision as to whether or not they should wear seat belts. We as a government owe it to them to provide protection in our legislation for them. I think that is the underlying reality about what we are trying to do here.

So, although I admire Mr. Gargan's perseverance in pushing this Private Member's Bill through, and I think I understand some of the frustrations in some of the smaller communities, it is going to take, I think, some time and it is going to take some effort by this government and it is going to take education but more importantly, it is going to take experience. I think if we can keep this legislation, the existing legislation, in place for another three to four years, I think that it will prove itself. I think in three or four years no one will be asking to change the legislation because we will be able to demonstrate that it has worked. For those reasons, and I will not go into the technical details of each one of Mr. Gargan's clauses, I think as legislators it is very important that we do not support the amendments put forward by Mr. Gargan and that we support the bill as it exists and, hopefully, in years to come we will look at even strengthening our existing legislation. Thank you.

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

Argument Of Smallness Not Valid

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few comments. There was a time, I think, when I probably would have been sympathetic to Mr. Gargan's position and that of some of the other Members who represent small communities like me, because in many ways, yes, it is a pain. Seat belts, who is going to enforce seat belts in Chesterfield Inlet or Whale Cove or Baker Lake? I have talked to some of my constituents and they are of the same mind, you know, it is a pain in the royal you-know-what. We have got parkas on and seat belts are broken half the time and they are never going to wear them, but there are a few things that come out in the whole discussion. I also represent small communities like other people and I think that too many times we use the excuse, well we are small and we are isolated and we do not have this and we do not have that so it should not apply to us, but it is becoming more and more of an invalid argument. We are not small, isolated communities any more. There are dozens and dozens, hundreds of vehicles running around in the Eastern Arctic in Baffin and Keewatin communities. There are probably 200 vehicles in the community of Baker Lake; there are probably 300 in the community of Rankin Inlet and, in fact, the danger increases every year because we have a very small road network and an increasing number of vehicles using that very road network. Our roads are not expanding but the number of vehicles that are using them are expanding them greatly.

There was a time when you got what was called an NWT licence and that was because you drove in Baker Lake or Whale Cove and you were never going to drive outside of those communities so you never worried about it. But more and more of our people are travelling; more and more people are going south and they are coming to Yellowknife. They are driving on roads other than NWT roads and we have a responsibility to be like the rest of Canada and most of the western world. Our people have to be educated, and it is better to educate our people now, than to wait 10 or 15 years from now after a few dozen have been killed, and then educate them. You might as well start educating people at the time that it is important, not after the fact.

I think there are a couple of instances that personally convinced me, because I am like everybody else, I find it a pain to put a seat belt on, quite frankly. It is just a pain. But in 1975 there was the first-ever road accident in Baker Lake involving a GNWT half ton and a co-op fuel truck. I was the driver of the half ton, and I was driving at less than 10 kilometres an hour. When I ran into the back of the fuel oil truck, because he failed to signal going left, the man beside me, the secretary-manager of the hamlet, was thrown forward and hit the windshield and had to be medivaced to Churchill for head injuries and damage to his back. From that point on, I realized just what wearing a seat belt meant, because I watched the man just literally whip forward into the windshield, and I was going slow. I had slowed down for this fuel truck. I was not going at much more than 10 kilometres an hour. I was charged by the RCMP; in fact, I was found guilty for tailgating, following too close behind. The estimated speed was nine kilometres per hour, and this man was hurt.

There was another instance not that many years ago with a pickup truck going to the airport. Again, loaded with people, and we have seen that in every one of our communities; in fact, half our taxis are pickup trucks. But there is something that we forget, that the bulk of our roads are gravel roads, and what inevitably happens with gravel roads is the washboarding. When you are driving with a pickup truck over washboarding gravel, the back of your pickup starts to bounce, and many people have been injured in the NWT by being thrown out of the back of pickup trucks. We tend to forget it. I saw six people thrown out of the back of a pickup truck on the airport road between the town and the airport in Baker Lake. Luckily, not one of them was injured other than a few minor scrapes and bruises, but that was only because the truck rolled and missed them by about six feet, or else there would have been a lot of dead people there.

We cannot ignore the fact that, like everywhere else, we are growing up as a jurisdiction. We are getting a lot of vehicles, and there is not one community that any of us represent in this room, where there are not roads where you can go at high speeds, whether it is at Lake Harbour, whether it is at Pangnirtung, whether it is at Resolute Bay, whether it is at Baker Lake, whether

it is at Rankin Inlet. There is not one of those communities that does not have a road where you can travel at high speeds. That is a simple fact. What is going to happen is that people are going to be injured. People are being injured, people are being killed. By delaying this, we are only increasing the number of injuries and deaths.

Pressure From Constituents

We might succumb to the pressure from our constituents that we have all felt, and pass this measure, but we are going to have to go back a year from now and re-change it, or two years from now. Eventually the deaths and injuries will become great enough that we will be forced to change it back, and then what is going to happen is, somebody is going to say, "Well, you could have done it four years ago, but instead 20 people had to die before you saw any sense." That is just no way to run a government or to pass law. You do not do those things.

Local Governments Failed To Pass Laws On Three-Wheelers And ATVs

I have asked my office, and they have not come back, but one of the points I want to make also, was the fact that we were going to give local governments the ability to pass these laws, or to make it the local government's responsibility. One of the reasons that there is an All-terrain Vehicles Act on the table today, is because local governments failed to live up to their responsibility in passing laws on three-wheelers and all-terrain vehicles. Those local municipalities have had that power for over 10 years, and very few of them have passed laws on all-terrain vehicles. As a result, there have been hundreds of injuries and deaths in the NWT.

Because at the local level, they are much more subject to the direct political pressure than we are, we can sometimes step aside from the real community political pressure and pass laws. They have not been able to resist it, and there are many hamlets who should have laws, that did not, because people in the community did not want their kids being affected by the All-terrain Vehicles Act. They did not want their kids wearing helmets, so they did not pass those laws, and the same thing is going to happen if we try and give this kind of responsibility to local governments again. Inevitably most local governments will not pass those laws. That is the only point I wanted to make. You would not see an all-terrain vehicles licence here if the local governments had exercised their responsibility that we gave them under that legislation years ago. The same thing will happen here.

We are going to eventually pass this law. Mr. Gargan's Private Member's Bill may go through right now, but you know as well as I do that at some point in time in the not too distant future, the government is going to come back and they are going to pass another law. The only difference is going to be that people are going to have to be killed in the meantime. I know we do not like it, and many in this room do not particularly like it, but sometimes you have no choice in these matters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the first Private Member's Bill, so it is obviously an issue of great concern for one of our ordinary Members. Mr. Gargan has done a lot of work to try to get it prepared. I think anyone who has followed my work in the House will know that I do not particularly make the job of the government an easy walk every day to work...

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

MR. LEWIS: ...and as ordinary Members we do tend to try to help each other every day, as much as we possibly can. But on this particular bill, Mr. Chairman, I have several concerns. I will just go through them very briefly.

I think that when I discuss highways, I am always thinking of safety. That has become the big issue in this city, because we have lost so many of our young people in highway accidents, and we like to blame the roads and the conditions and so on, but as the Minister responsible for

highways has correctly pointed out, it is not just one factor. It is not just simply not having bad roads. If there is anything that a legislature should do, it seems to me, in everything we do, is to try to make some provision for the security of our people. That seems to be a major responsibility of a legislature. As I watched Mr. Gargan prepare this bill and began to look at my own experiences, and my own understanding of the problems of small communities, I began to think not only of small communities in the NWT but those even smaller communities that exist in southern Canada. There are places in southern Canada which are tiny little places with no more than three or four families, and in those places I am sure they must wonder why they have a sign which says that you cannot drive more than a certain speed, because the road is empty most of the time, and yet they have a sign right outside their house which says that you cannot exceed 90 kilometres an hour, or whatever. They must wonder if this makes any sense.

The bigger issue to me is that if we are going to be serious about protecting the public, we have to realize that as a jurisdiction we have more in common on this whole issue of using vehicles, than we have that makes us different. We have small places, as I have indicated, in southern Canada just like we have, and to be quite honest I know that many of those rules and laws that exist in southern Canada, for the protection of the public, will probably be violated. You probably find people on the back roads not wearing their seat belts. The law is there to protect them. You do not have a policeman on every corner trying to check on this isolated little country lane whether you have your seat belt on or not. But the law is there to provide that protection for you.

So far as the use of seat belts is concerned, Mr. Chairman, like other Members, I find it to be a pain as well, but over a period of years I have gotten used to them and put them on. To be quite honest sometimes many places, in small country towns, when I am out in the country I do not put them on. I am only going 50 miles an hour and it is no big deal for me and I am not afraid of getting caught, if that is the concern that people have.

As far as the issue of riding on a truck at a low speed, on the 28th of October, two years ago, a young man named Justin Meyer was thrown from the back of a truck in this community and he died. That vehicle was going at a very slow speed but when you land from a vehicle on your head onto a very hard surface, then as in the case of this particular individual, the results are quite fatal.

Exposure To Mistakes Of Others

The other concern that I have is, why is it that we only look at the truck that is going at a certain speed? If you have someone in the back of your own truck you may feel quite good and secure because you are only going at a speed of 60 kilometres an hour. But if you are on a road and you have people in the back of your truck and they are not secured by seat belts and you are involved in an accident with somebody else who is going 70, 80, 90 miles an hour then the results also will be fatal. It is not just simply a matter of what you yourself are doing in your own truck. It is the fact that you are exposing your passengers to the mistakes of other people who are using the highway.

So although I have watched with great interest Mr. Gargan's attempt to try to make things that would be more in touch with what his own people would like to have, I believe that what he is doing is making a change, if you like, or proposing a change in the Motor Vehicles Act which may be popular and may make people feel good that they are not being hounded by a bad law, but in the long run I think we have a responsibility for making good laws.

The test of time will determine whether these good laws will stand up and we find that they result in a lessening in the number of accidents. I know from my interest in statistics that since seat belts became legislated there is no doubt whatsoever, the statistics are there, that the number of accidents have declined incredibly. Even that one argument alone should be enough to convince us that we are on the right track in adopting the idea of seat belts in our jurisdiction.

So, Mr. Chairman, although I have agonized some time about this principle of really ordinary Members having their impact on the law and trying to get legislation changed, in this particular case I have gone through every one of the items and have decided that although this may be

popular for a short time, in the long run it would not be to the advantage of the people that we represent and for who we are supposed to be trying to provide a secure society. In fact, the law as it was proposed I think was a good law and we should try to live with it and test it and I am convinced that it would stand the test of time.

Amendments Would Have Impact On All Of NWT

So although as ordinary Members we tend to stick together on many of the issues that matter to us, I believe that Mr. Gargan has raised something which is not unique to, say, the area in which he lives but which is important to that group of people. It is not something that I can support, simply because it impacts the whole of the NWT and could have grave consequences for the rest of the NWT. And I add that I suppose I wish we were doing something through an amendment which would maybe only have an impact locally and which we could all support, but in this case, I think that it would be a mistake to allow the amendments that Mr. Gargan has proposed to proceed.

One tiny little thing; just a short anecdote. We sometimes joke about vehicles that we want to keep running to keep them warm. But early one morning about a year ago, a young man going on shift very early in the morning left his jeep outside of Roy's Confectionery just as soon as it opened, to buy a pack of cigarettes. When he got back there was no vehicle. The vehicle was gone and it was found 10 days later up at the sand pit near where they have "Folk on the Rocks", up in that area. So vehicles do tend to walk off if you leave them unattended and running. Just a few comments, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, can we go clause by clause?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree we go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Bill 26-88(2). Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment that I wanted to put on clause 1, "subsistence use road"...

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, what is the process for amending a Private Member's Bill? Is it the same as in the case of a government bill?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Butters, all Private Member's Bills are dealt with in the same manner as we deal with a public bill. So we follow the same procedure for a Private Member's Bill. The Chair is having some difficulty procedurally and will take a few minutes break so I can talk to the Clerk and the Law Clerk.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The amendments are quite extensive. Are they required to go back to the legislation committee or does the legislation committee consider these amendments?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The legislation committee has reviewed the amendment to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, but are you referring to the amendment that Mr. Gargan is going to be

proceeding with? Mr. Butters, the Chair does not have those amendments yet so I cannot make a ruling on it to see if they are in order or not. So I cannot advise you on that particular question that you have raised.

I will call clause by clause and then I will take it from there. Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The Chair is of the opinion that clause 1 is not agreed to, that I cannot call the other clauses because clause 1 specifically says: "The Motor Vehicles Act is amended by this act" and supersedes all the other clauses.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Your point of order, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, is it not usually the practice to go from clause 2 and then the short title?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan, for your information, for any amending bill you start with clause 1. New bills you start with clause 2.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, can I have a count of the yeas and the nays?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan, I do not have a motion on the floor for a recorded vote. The requirement is, when we are dealing with bills, that these clauses are agreed to and in this particular case, it is the opinion of the Chair that since clause 1 was not agreed to, that the Chair has no alternative but not to report this bill forward. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a comment before we conclude this bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree that Bill 26-88(2) is not ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan is making a request to go back to general comments on this bill. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if the Members were aware but I guess a year ago the Minister of Government Services received from the NWT Association of Municipalities -- the government at that time was dealing with the Motor Vehicles Act and was going to introduce it but the municipalities also requested that the government -- there was a motion passed by the NWT Association of Municipalities regarding the seat belt legislation. In

there, just for the Members' interest, it said that, and it was supported by the association at that time, "Be it resolved that the NWT Association of Municipalities urges the Government of the Northwest Territories to legislate the compulsory unconditional use of seat belts and/or constraining devices on vehicles operating on GNWT highways outside municipal boundaries, and that local municipalities would have the option of including this in their by-laws."

I understood, too, that at that time when this act was being discussed last March or April, somewhere around there, that the government too did have amendments to sections of this act that they thought were going to be challenged. So, I thought I would just let the Members know because -- I will provide copies of the motions that were passed at that time. The NWT Association of Municipalities represents 56 communities.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Does the committee agree that we move on to Bill 1-88(2), All-terrain Vehicles Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister, opening remarks.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I would like to go to the witness table, Mr. Chairman. The witness is present, our legal counsel, Ms Giuseppa Bentivegna. I would like to ask whether the committee would permit me to invite into the ropes Richard MacDonald.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Proceed to the witness table, Mr. Butters and you can make your opening remarks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): The witnesses are in their seats and the Minister is in the witness chair. Would you like to introduce your witnesses for the record, Mr. Minister?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left hand and your right, Richard MacDonald, the Department of Government Services. To my right and your left, Giuseppa Bentivegna, legislative counsel with the Department of Justice.

Minister's Opening Remarks

I have a few opening remarks before the chairman of the standing committee on legislation reports. The bill presented to Members today is Bill 1-88(2), An Act to Amend the All-terrain Vehicles Act. The targets of this legislation are those vehicles identified as three or four-wheeled ATVs which the Members know are very popular in all our communities. These vehicles serve a variety of useful purposes and are important tools to hunters, trappers and fishermen, and are a primary mode of transportation for many families in our settlements. At the same time, the dangers of these machines have been well documented over the past few years; so much so that the three-wheeled variety has been taken off the marketplace throughout the United States and Canada. That is voluntary by the manufacturer. No other jurisdiction in the country allows an ATV on a public roadway.

Mr. Chairman, I believe our communities recognized the dangers of ATVs when they requested that a generic ATV by-law be developed for their use. Unfortunately very few followed up on their

initial concerns and as a result less than half our communities enacted any by-laws at all. Those who did enact by-laws such as Yellowknife, Inuvik, Cambridge Bay and Eskimo Point found that these safety matters and others were well accepted by members of the community. Despite this we are still faced with several fatalities and numerous injuries each year. It is my view and the government's view, Mr. Chairman, that the government has a responsibility to implement and enforce these important safety laws as soon as possible.

Wearing Of Safety Helmets Important

One of the key amendments of this bill involves the requirement to wear approved safety helmets. Safety helmets are considered to be the single most important factor in the prevention of injury resulting from ATV accidents and in the NWT we know from accident reports that less than five per cent of our ATV drivers are reported to be wearing them. Our most recent fatality in the Territories, which occurred only a matter of days ago in Chesterfield Inlet, may have been as a result of head injuries inflicted to a helmetless driver. The importance of this particular aspect of the bill cannot be expressed strongly enough.

The issue of passengers on these vehicles has been addressed by limiting the number who may ride on ATVs to two persons, even though the machines are designed for one person only. I have taken into consideration the realities of our northern lifestyle and our residents' unique requirements and although it may not be a full step, the limit of two persons is certainly a positive step in the right direction.

The age of 14 is proposed as the minimum age for operation of these ATVs. It is a nationally accepted standard and has been generally approved by the communities we consulted. It is an age where body strength is considered developed enough to handle most ATVs, although each year these machines seem to get larger and more powerful.

The final amendments propose that registration of ATVs and public liability insurance be mandatory. While these are not elements that contribute directly to the elimination of injuries, they are nevertheless safety items, safety for the public, through protection of pedestrians, passengers and private property.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as expected in situations like this, reaction to the proposed amendment has been mixed. I and my predecessor have consulted with the public, with our communities, with the distributors of these machines and with our fellow Members. I believe this was to be read by Mr. Kakfwi because I have not made those consultations but certainly Mr. Kakfwi and Mr. Sibbeston have carried out those consultations. There have been concerns over costs, over the cost of helmets and over the cost of insurance. Compared to the price of the machines, these additional expenses are not great. Compared to the real costs of injuries and fatalities, the cost of a helmet is insignificant. Mr. Chairman, we are concerned here with safety and its fragile relationship to a potentially dangerous vehicle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Mr. Ernerk, chairman of the standing committee on legislation, would you like to make your remarks.

Comments From Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A brief statement. (Translation ends)

The bill was first reviewed by the standing committee on legislation on April 14, 1988, in Yellowknife. Discussion of the key issues including clause by clause review, took place in a meeting in Rankin Inlet on June 14 and 15, 1988. The bill was last reviewed by the committee with the Minister responsible for Government Services, Mr. Butters, on October 27, 1988 in Yellowknife.

Some of the significant issues discussed at those meetings were addressed by the Minister. Mr. Chairman, the Minister, Mr. Butters and his officials explained to the committee that the use of

motorcycle Canadian standard approved safety helmets will be required for use while riding on an ATV. Children in the amauti for example, would not be required to wear a helmet. The question as to whether or not people who use ATVs for harvesting purposes should be required to pay a fuel tax has been referred by the Minister of Government Services to the Minister of Finance for review. So, Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on legislation refers the bill to the House for consideration. That is my report. I wonder if I could make one or two statements before you call for general comments.

ATVs Used For Work Purposes In Eastern Arctic

Mr. Chairman, the issue of safety when we talked about this, was our very first and foremost priority with the people in the communities, and with four regional radio programs that I had with CBC from Rankin Inlet which reached communities in the Keewatin Region, the Baffin, as well as the Kitikmeot Region. I had a meeting with the Keewatin Regional Council on this, back on May 16 and 17, 1988, in Eskimo Point. These changes to the All-terrain Vehicles Act were discussed at that time. I should like to indicate that we received quite a large number of witnesses who made some recommendations to us during our standing committee meeting in Rankin Inlet during the 14th and 15th of June, 1988. The witnesses indicated to us at that time that they consider these machines, three and four-wheelers, not as recreational machines as perceived by many people in Yellowknife and other places outside of the tree line. They indicated to us that these machines were considered work horses. As a matter of fact, I have carried two, sometimes two and a half caribou, bull caribou on these machines, from great distances whether it is 30 or 40 or 50 miles. So these machines are, of course, considered work horses in our communities. I often wonder, Mr. Chairman, how we could consider these machines to be recreational vehicles when the cost of oil mix is so great. It is so high that we can never consider these machines as recreational machines but as a means of transportation basically no different than those vehicles operating in the city of Yellowknife. We use them from home to work or vice versa. So I guess, Mr. Chairman, I will just go this far for now because those are the kinds of things that the committee heard and I am very aware of them and I confirm them, especially after we met in Rankin Inlet on June 14th and 15th. I know you could also confirm them because you were there, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk, for those general comments. General comments. Does the committee agree that we go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 7, regulated areas. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 8. A number of changes on this. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, I have a question on clause 7. I would like to go back.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Does the committee agree that we go back to clause 7?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, thank you. What is a "regulated area"? How far does that go?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I believe the committee would be better served if our legal counsel responded to the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Ms Bentivegna.

MS BENTIVEGNA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A regulated area would be where there is not a municipality...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Excuse me, I think we are having an interpretation problem here indicated by Mr. Kilabuk. Go ahead, Ms Bentivegna.

MS BENTIVEGNA: Mr. Chairman, the regulated area that is spoken of here is where there is not a municipality, or a municipal corporation, or a settlement corporation, but there is an elected body, and there is a community, and they would ask the Commissioner to define the area where they would apply to make by-laws for that certain area for the ATVs. It is where there are no municipalities or a municipal corporation or a settlement corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 8, interpretation. A number of subclauses. Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Again, I would ask legal counsel to take us through these changes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Ms Bentivegna.

MS BENTIVEGNA: Mr. Chairman, clause 8 is what would apply now. It is a new part that has been put in to apply to three-wheeled and the special all-terrain vehicle. This is where it is set out, the insurance and the age limit and the helmet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 8. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Clause 8, we would like you to understand why you have several wordings that have been changed to one or the other. We have stated earlier that Inuit would like to use the Inuit custom in the legislation wording. When they become 16 and 18, they are recognized as adults, but in Inuit culture when we become 14 we recognize that we are able to help our parents. It used to be 16 but now it becomes 14. We have changed for that reason, because young people are able to help their parents at that age. As well, the changes as they come by, I will state them, for people that have not heard the reasons why we have changed them, including the Government Leader as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question with regard to 14 years of age. If he had committed a crime, in regard to this act, would he have to go through the courts? They are able to go to the youth court at 16. I am asking you this question for that reason.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): There seems to be a little bit of disturbance because Mr. Kilabuk was trying to speak, and I think Mr. Minister heard the question. Would you reply to Mr. Kilabuk's question, please?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The question, Mr. Chairman, is a new one that was not put during the standing committee review, nor the recent review, but possibly Ms Bentivegna could provide an opinion on the question asked by the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Ms Bentivegna.

MS BENTIVEGNA: Mr. Chairman, the Young Offenders Act applies, if I am not mistaken, to young people between the ages of 12 to 18. We have raised the age for a young person from 16 to 18. I do not think that someone who is 14 would be charged, but I would have to check.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 9. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, under section 6.33, in which it says: "No person shall operate or ride on a special all-terrain vehicle on a highway unless (a) the person is wearing a prescribed

helmet;" I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, through you, if the helmets that are on display in the committee room here are considered to be prescribed helmets for all-terrain vehicles?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I will ask Mr. MacDonald to speak because he borrowed them, I think, from a local supplier, who would not mind his name being mentioned.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. MacDonald.

MR. MACDONALD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The helmets shown on display are what we would consider prescribed helmets. The helmets in the display have a DOT label on them, meaning that they would meet the US requirement. If they met the Canadian standard, it would be a CSA label on it, but either one would be approved.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I believe that the prices on them are the Yellowknife prices?

MR. MACDONALD: The prices on the helmets are Yellowknife prices.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. MacDonald. Clause 8. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I do not quite understand. I wonder if I could get some clarification because one of the helmets out here is a hockey helmet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. MacDonald.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: That is a very good point, Mr. Chairman. The hockey helmet is there because the hockey helmets were discussed by the committee at some length in Rankin Inlet. I guess it was put there to give Members a comparison between the two types of protective devices that we discussed when we were in Rankin Inlet, but I will let Mr. MacDonald speak to that matter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. MacDonald.

MR. MACDONALD: Yes, the hockey helmet was just there for comparison purposes. I apologize for the mistake.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. MacDonald. I believe, then, that hockey helmet is not prescribed to be used on three-wheelers. Clause 8, interpretation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 9, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 10, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 11, agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 12, Insurance Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 13, coming into force. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Bill as a whole, agreed? Mr. Ernerk, did you have any comments? Mr. Ernerk.

Insurance An Issue With Elders

MR. ERNERK: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The issue of insurance was very much an issue with the people that we talked to in Rankin, especially those elders who have a certain fixed income as elders and other people who do not work on a full-time basis but receive a regular income from various sources of wage economy. A need to establish a special insurance for a number of people was raised several times, basically because these machines are used for five, six months of the year, in the Eastern Arctic. I know that the Minister touched upon this issue during his opening remarks, but the issue of special insurance for the people that I mentioned was not addressed directly and specifically. I wonder if the Minister has any remarks, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, yes, the extensive hearings that occurred at Baker Lake involved a number of people who made presentations and raised this matter. Did I say Baker Lake? I meant Rankin Inlet. I was there so I should know where I was. The matter of insurance was raised. I have notes here that I am looking at from Jack Anawak's presentation and he mentioned this issue. I believe that the way that this could be addressed is that you could get insurance on a half year basis. My understanding is that you could insure the ATV for six months and then transfer that insurance in the wintertime onto your snowmobile, which would split up the coverage between the two vehicles. Now, I am told that this can be done. I will just have Mr. MacDonald confirm that that practice is acceptable.

MR. MacDONALD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That option is available from some insurance companies and, like everything else, when you look for insurance you have got to compare. Hyska's Insurance Agency, out of Churchill, which deals with a lot of the Baffin Region and the eastern communities, Keewatin Region, will allow you to transfer your insurance to your snowmobile later on in the year. Some places, like in Yellowknife, that option would not be available to you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 13. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I understand that, but when I talked to the Hyska's Agency people some time ago, back in the spring, they told me that there were different categories of insurance. For instance, if you are 16 years old, between the ages of 16 and 24 you pay a certain amount for your insurance for so much money, I forget the amount but it was something in the neighbourhood of \$90. Am I correct? Maybe the Minister could correct me on this but if you are over 24, then you could get a different class of insurance again, from Churchill, Manitoba.

So, those insurance things are applied to the Northwest Territories from Manitoba; not necessarily our own; not necessarily what I am hearing from the Minister's staff.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

Age Of Operator May Determine Insurance Rate

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct that the amount of insurance paid is determined by the age of the operator but I think that reflects the experience of the operator and it is anticipated that a more experienced operator who has not had a series of accidents would be less liable to an accident than a younger person, but I will ask Mr. MacDonald to comment on insurance as he has studied the various rates available in these particular areas.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. MacDonald.

MR. MacDONALD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Ernerk is correct regarding ages, at least as far as the Keewatin goes. The insurance policy for an 18 year old with a good driving record in Rankin Inlet would be \$83. For a 35 year old with a good driving record, the policy would be \$55. Other companies, such as Husky in Inuvik, do not differentiate between age and everybody pays the same rate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 13. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I guess there is a certain amount of truth to the expression that says, "Those who giveth will taketh." One of the reasons why we were very concerned about this, the people that we are going to be charging insurance are the older people. The Minister of Social Services not too long ago announced that the supplementary income for the elders across the Northwest Territories, I believe, will be \$100 or slightly over \$100. Now, the government will take that away from the elders, the senior citizens of the Northwest Territories. I am quite willing to raise my hand and pass this All-terrain Vehicles Act because, as I said in the beginning, the first and foremost priority has to be safety but at the same time I would hope that it is not just one of those programs where the government wants to make a profit, revenue, from the people of the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Any further comments? Bill as a whole? Does the committee agree that Bill 1-88(2), An Act to Amend the All-terrain Vehicles Act, is ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would commend the chairman of the standing committee on legislation for taking his committee to Rankin Inlet. I think this was an ideal community in which to study this legislation. I was a Member of that committee at the time and I recall being moved by a statement made by Jack Anawak, KIA president, who referred to the problem that had occurred when we tried to devolve to the communities the responsibility for licensing and regulating vehicles in the community through by-laws. The ex-mayor of Rankin, Mr. Anawak, indicated that while that might be a municipal-type responsibility, he felt that it was more important that the manner in which such vehicles were regulated, that the laws enforced should be carried by the second level of government, the territorial government, until the municipalities are ready to accept the responsibility. That was quite moving for me because as a previous Minister of Government Services, I tried to work with all the communities to establish their own legislation.

Territorial Government Must Take Responsibility

I was sorry that the situation Mr. Wray described a few minutes ago occurred, when we had half of our communities regulating and legislating themselves but the other half allowing their vehicles to go unregulated. Unfortunately, I think the second level of government, this government, has to take back the responsibility for providing this legislation and ensuring that the public who use the vehicles in our communities are safe and the pedestrians who walk our roads are insured against accident.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the committee agree that this bill is ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): With the conclusion of discussion on Bill 1-88(2), does the committee agree that Committee Report 1-88(2), Standing Committee on Legislation, is concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, committee. I think we have had a rough day today. I thank the witnesses and Minister. We excuse the witnesses from the committee of the whole.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just one thing, Mr. Chairman, before our witnesses go, as Ms Bentivegna said she will have an answer for Mr. Kilabuk's question tomorrow relative to page 14.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The committee will now come back to order. What is the government House Leader's wish?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, if we could continue then, as formerly discussed, to Bill 27-88(2).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Does the committee agree we go to Bill 27-88(2)? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

Bill 27-88(2): Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act

Finance Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this act requests the Legislative Assembly's authorization to provide a three million dollar loan guarantee. The guarantee is relative to an \$18 million working capital loan from the Bank of America to Neptune Resources Corporation for the operational requirements for the Colomac mine. The total financing package for Neptune's Colomac project is dependent on a government guarantee of the working capital loan. Without such a guarantee it is unlikely that the project will proceed.

As this guarantee act only covers a portion of the working capital loan, the loan guarantee will not be issued unless the federal government guarantees the remaining \$15 million of the working capital loan requirement. Our review of the Colomac mining project indicates that it is a viable mining venture which, with appropriate safeguards, will generate significant employment for NWT and native residents. However, like most projects of this nature, there are some risks that the guarantee may be activated, in which case the government would have to pay three million dollars to the bank. Cabinet has carefully weighed the risk of this occurring versus the native employment benefits to be realized. Based on this review, we are recommending that the guarantee be provided.

Mr. Chairman, the situation surrounding this loan guarantee is unique. With a minimum financial commitment in comparison to the size of the Colomac project, the government has the opportunity to negotiate firm and innovative employment benefits for the North. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources also have some opening remarks to be made relative to this act. Mr. Chairman, I think that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources will probably sit at the witness table with witnesses. Any questions that the Members might have about the financial aspects, I am prepared to take. I am sure that Mr. Wray is prepared to take any questions on the economic benefits of this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Chairman of the finance committee, Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this bill came upon us on Friday. It was reviewed this morning by the joint committee of the standing committee on legislation and finance. We have had no time, sir, to do any research into this particular bill. Suffice to say that the Ministers explained this to the standing committees on legislation and finance this morning and we agreed to allow the bill to come into the House. But there will be questions from individual Members as the bill proceeds through the House, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. Wray.

Economic Development And Tourism Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Ballantyne mentioned, I and Minister Cournoyea have also some introductory remarks. Mr. Chairman, we are considering a very important issue, an issue which may have long-term effects on NWT residents. The issue is whether or not this government should become directly involved in the NWT mining industry. To become directly involved will require this government to give a guarantee over three years, a working capital loan of three million dollars for Neptune Resources to develop its Colomac gold property near Indin Lake, 140 miles northwest of Yellowknife. The federal government told us that before they will consider Neptune's request, we must change our policy and take the lead role in financing the guarantee.

The question that has to be asked is, why should we consider changing our policy and take the lead role? Well, the answer is fairly simple. Exploration and mining have traditionally played a key role in the economic development of the North. Since the first mica was mined in Baffin Island in 1876 until the present date where we have six operating mines, four gold mines in the

Western Arctic and two lead/zinc mines on Baffin Island, mining employment provides the majority of private sector income and about 2100 jobs. The average direct wage, including benefits, in 1985 was \$59,500. So as this is 1988, it is probably up around \$65,000 to \$70,000. Mr. Chairman, it is 350 jobs and the income potential for northerners that make us consider Neptune's request for assistance in this positive light.

The community most directly affected will be Rae. A 1986 statistic shows a potential labour force of 845, with 285 people employed. The official unemployment rate is 28 per cent but in actual fact we all know that the unemployment rate is much higher than that. By comparison, the unemployment figure in Yellowknife is five per cent. Per capita income in that community is one of the lowest in the NWT at only \$4640. This compares to a per capita income in Yellowknife of \$18,127. Social assistance is very high, with direct payments in the neighbourhood of \$750,000. The community desperately needs the economic opportunity which will be created by this proposal.

Historically, the Dogrib Dene have not fared well when it comes to earning a living in the mining industry, despite the fact that mining activity has been going on in traditional Dogrib lands for many, many years. In the discussions with this government and the Dogrib community, Neptune has indicated they are prepared to enter into a social economic benefit agreement that would maximize the Dogrib potential to realize earned income for the lifetime of the mine.

Unique Benefits Agreement

Neptune has developed a unique benefits agreement with the Dogrib Tribal Council, the provisions of which include the first opportunity of employment to residents of communities in the vicinity of the project, with a target of a minimum of 25 per cent of the total labour requirements; the first opportunity to local businesses for all contracts and the provision of labour and material; the provision of on-the-job training; close and ongoing communication between the company and the community for business opportunities, employment and training and an operations monitoring committee; the provision of a company-funded community liaison officer to ensure the maximization of local benefits. The community liaison officer has been hired and is now working with the affected Dogrib communities.

Even though Neptune and the Dogrib communities have reached an agreement on benefits, our belief was that some enforceable mechanism had to be in place that would ensure northern jobs for northern people because many times in the past we have had agreements with resource development companies and those agreements have never ever matured, particularly in the mining industry. To overcome this potential problem of unmet targets, we met with Neptune and aggressively negotiated certain conditions acceptable to Neptune Resources Corporation and the GNWT under which a loan guarantee might be considered. We have agreed in principle to a NWT native work force level of a minimum of 25 per cent of the total work force of the mine under the following conditions: the lifetime of the agreement is five years; the 25 per cent employment quota is to be phased in over the first two years; a penalty clause of an amount of cash to be determined for each job under the quota, and the cash penalty would accrue and would not be payable until after the short-term debt is paid, which is three years. By establishing these conditions for native employment, we have, hopefully, guaranteed a minimum of 70 mining jobs for northern native people and an earned income potential of \$4.3 million annually, or \$21.5 million for the five year period of the agreement.

The difference between this agreement and other agreements is that others are couched in cute language and bureaucratic finesse, with many complicated conditions. Probably the best example is the Nanisivik agreement. This agreement does not rely on good intentions or best efforts. It is a straightforward business commitment. Furthermore, if the company does not meet its measurable commitment, it will be subject to severe financial penalties. The understanding between ourselves and Neptune Resources is what we think is a new and a fresh and a bold approach to government-industry relations. Nothing speaks to commitment and confidence like cold hard cash on the table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Minister of Economic Development. Minister for Energy, Mines and Resources.

Energy, Mines And Resources Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As both the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Economic Development have stated, Neptune plans to construct the mine mill complex on their Colomac gold property, which is near Indin Lake, and that is 220 kilometres north of Yellowknife. When the project is completed, it will employ 350 people. Construction started this past summer, and operation is planned by late 1989. One of the biggest economic problems that have been expressed, and that the people of the NWT face, with the development, is retaining the benefits for major projects. In the case of many of our mines, the employees work in the NWT but their families live in the South. A mine situated in the provinces, where there is a resident work force, creates two or three jobs directly in the service sector for every job at the mine site. Such is not the case in the NWT, where many of the mine workers fly in and fly out of the Territories from the South.

Consider the recent conference on northern development held in Edmonton. The conference was organized by a group based in Edmonton and was sponsored in part by the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, the Alberta Chamber of Resources and the Northern Alberta Chamber of Commerce. The mayor of Edmonton presented a talk at one of the luncheons and he invited anyone developing in the North to visit him for assistance. Very clearly, they realized the significant benefits from our northern developments. If you add this, if you wish, all we are left with is the shaft and the tailing ponds.

If we are to improve this situation in the future, the Government of the Northwest Territories, in consultation with the communities and developers, must formulate legislation. This legislation will ensure that communities in the region, and the broader NWT economy, benefit to the greatest extent possible. In the interim, while this legislation is being developed, other methods of ensuring maximum local participation are particularly useful. With government help, the Dogrib Tribal Council and the management of Neptune Resources have signed an agreement which will ensure that at least 25 per cent of the jobs are filled by native northerners from the Dogrib and those communities. Provisions are built into the agreement to help ensure that this target is reached. They include a liaison officer to be hired by Neptune to work with the communities to ensure this target is reached. A "buy North" policy is also included, and studies suggest that the socio-economic benefits possibly could be 40 out of 200 jobs during construction and \$18 million in northern purchases, 70 out of the 344 jobs during the five year life of the project, and \$11.5 million yearly in northern purchases. Although not finalized, Neptune and the Dogrib communities are operating as if the agreement were signed. Neptune has hired 14 Dogrib people and 10 northerners out of the 65 people who are currently working on the property.

Funding Shared By Federal And NWT Governments

Unfortunately for Neptune Resources, the stock market crash approximately one year ago which we all know as Black Monday has made it impossible for Neptune to raise all of the financing for the project. The federal government has stated that it will consider financially supporting the project if the NWT is willing to share in the assistance in a tangible way, as Mr. Wray has mentioned. The company has requested that the government provide a working capital loan guarantee of \$18 million. It is desirable that the Government of the NWT demonstrate its support for this project by offering to guarantee up to three million dollars of the working capital, provided that the federal government provides the balance. Provision by both governments of the necessary loan guarantee will enable the potentially significant social and economic benefits to be realized.

Mr. Chairman, I would wish to invite the deputy secretary for the Financial Management Secretariat, Mr. Lew Voytilla, in as a witness.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in her witness?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister, you can bring in your witness. Madam Minister, for the record, would you introduce your witness?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Lew Voytilla, who is the deputy secretary of the Financial Management Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Madam Minister. Do you have any further comments, Madam Minister?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: No, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did want to have an opportunity to raise a number of questions and maybe first if I could ask if the government could provide us with all the statements that have been made by the various Ministers at some time so that we can look at the figures that have been quoted. There were, from the comments that have been made, a number of questions I had.

Firstly, with the issue of the loan guarantee itself. If I could ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, was there any discussion carried out with Neptune Resources that went beyond just employment? Was there any consideration for the Dene/Metis or the Dogrib communities holding a financial position in the company and, if so, what were the results of those discussions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, to my knowledge we did not discuss that particular issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

Opportunity For Joint Venture

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, if that was not a discussion item, it concerns me that it was not carried out because, despite the fact that we talk about employment, one of the opportunities that we do have and particularly one of the advantages that probably aboriginal people had in this particular case, was the possible opportunity of a natural financial position in the venture itself. I know that we talk a lot about the idea of providing a situation where individuals can be employed but I hope that in future that whenever a situation of this type arises that we can utilize the financial obligations that we make to ensure that there is a financial position. I think our arguments could have been used and probably we will all have to defend this and I am not opposing it, but it is strange that as a government we do not try to encourage northern native business development at a time when we can. Maybe it is something that we overlooked in this particular case but hopefully in the future we will not miss a situation where we could have gone to a development corporation of some sort and said to them, "We will be prepared to loan you the money so that you can buy a financial position in the company; a joint venture type of relationship."

Could the Minister indicate to me, or the government indicate whether or not the Government of Canada has indicated where and what department they are going to find their financial resources from?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I will respond to the first part of Mr. Nerysoo's question. With all respect, Mr. Nerysoo, I do not think really it is our responsibility to go to a development corporation and solicit, on their behalf, them getting into joint ventures. I think that we certainly are open to the development corporations coming to us and saying, "Look, we would like to get a piece of this action. Will you help us?" By all means, we are open to that but I really think the responsibility lies with them and not with us.

With regard to what discussions have taken place, the Dene/Metis, as far as I am aware, have never approached us and asked us for assistance in that area. However, I cannot speak to what negotiations have taken place between the company and the Dogrib Tribal Council and the Dogrib community, generally speaking, because we are not aware of those discussions so it may very well be that discussions along those lines have taken place but we are not aware of them.

Just to assure you, Mr. Nerysoo, that if at any point in time one of the development corporations comes to us and says that they would like to participate in this type of business then we are more than willing to sit down and work with them and assist them in whatever way we can.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I guess I am raising the issue because we have not had too many opportunities as a government to participate in a venture of this particular type and an investment of this type. I think we always worry only about the question of native employment rather than the other opportunities that are available for native business development. I do not necessarily mean we have to approach all the organizations or the people, all businesses, but we have to make them aware that here is an opportunity for you, we are lending this money on the basis that it is going to provide employment. Whatever additional opportunity we have, including investment opportunities is, I think, something that we should consider all the time.

Financial Negotiations By Organizations Depends On Information

I am not sure how long we went into this discussion as a government. I am not sure whether or not we even consulted or made people aware that this issue was going on. Maybe others knew. Maybe the Dogrib community. I do not know if they knew that there would be money available to them of such magnitude for them to invest in the company because you are talking about a loan guarantee here, it is not as if we are going to upfront the money. Anybody that had an opportunity to know that there was going to be a loan guarantee of three million dollars, maybe they would have been negotiating a financial position but we do not know that.

The other question I had, Mr. Chairman, and Ms Cournoyea did not answer, but has the government, this government here, had any discussions with the federal government and could you indicate what department is prepared to provide financial resources? Is it Indian Affairs? Is it Northern Affairs? What sector of DIAND is it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, the department that we have been dealing with is Indian Affairs. Mr. Chairman, just to be sure, the issue of financing for Neptune and the Colomac project has been one that has had a great deal of press coverage in News/North and the Native Press. As I suggested earlier, I have not been approached, to my knowledge, by the band to be involved in an equity position or to become shareholders, although I am aware that some time ago, perhaps a year ago, long before my time, there was some discussion between the mine and the development corporation. What the project was trying to acquire was cold cash at that time. There were just not the funds available, so certainly the Dogrib Tribal Council have looked at it very thoroughly. This is a bit of an issue here where the person who has the hammer on the project really would like to secure her equity position and the controlling position so that she can carry out and bring forward her plans. There are some difficulties in there, but I have not been attuned to all the discussions that have taken place over the last two years. I am aware that there

have been discussions. To my recollection, the Denendeh Development Corporation had some discussion at one time with them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, maybe that is the reason I raised the question. They did in fact have discussions with the tribal council, or the regional development corporation. The reason that they could not proceed was that they did not have the financial support to get into an equity position. I think the reason I am raising this particular item is that at least after this particular decision is made, as the Minister has indicated, we will consider those items in the future. Employment is only one aspect of any project. I know that the Minister knows full well that is the situation from her experience with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the development decisions that they made there in terms of investments.

Could I ask, Mr. Chairman, in terms of the commitment for employment, did the company make any commitments that they were going to advertise in the northern newspapers, making people aware that there were employment opportunities and indicating what kind of jobs were available to people of the North?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I do not have the agreement that was agreed between Neptune and the Dogrib Tribal Council. I am aware that in that particular document there are commitments on making sure that people know about the jobs and what types of jobs there are. Given that we are dedicating a loan guarantee we would certainly, as a government, want to make sure that we also provide some of the service through our government to let people know, and perhaps try to bring more people into the training area for those particular job functions. We would make the commitment ourselves, because that is part of our responsibility. I know that in the agreement with the Dogrib Tribal Council and Neptune, they do have a statement of intent in that area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Thank you, Madam Minister. Not to interfere with your questioning, Mr. Nerysoo, but do Members wish to break for a meal and then come back after, or do you just want to keep going? What is the wish of the committee?

AN HON. MEMBER: Keep going.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): We are agreed to keep going. It shall be done, Mr. Minister of Finance, from the \$57 million. Mr. Nerysoo.

---Applause

MR. NERYSOO: After today, it is \$54 million, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, would the Minister indicate, have there been any discussions, other than Rae, as to whether or not there is going to be a location in the NWT from which employees will be flown out, or centred, so that they may be taken into the mine for employment reasons? Is Yellowknife going to be the centre, or is it Edmonton, what is the situation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Madam Minister.

Personnel Office In NWT

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, part of the discussion so far was that Neptune will be putting their personnel office in the NWT. Whether it is Rae or Yellowknife, or Hay River, I do not know, but they have made that commitment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: No, that is all I want to ask.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in regard to this bill, although I realize this is a bill geared specifically to a specific corporation, I believe the socio-economic impact is going to benefit particularly my region, and in terms of employment and business opportunities, as the Minister indicated, we have met with Neptune Resources. The regional tribal council did, and they have a legal agreement between the two, specifically for employment and business opportunities. The Minister indicated that there is a clause in that specific agreement where the target for the first year is a minimum of 25 per cent of the overall jobs, once the mine is in operation. Hopefully, with the training programs that are going to be in place in a year or two, this would increase the percentage year by year, and they are predicting the mine can last to a maximum of about 15 years. The study shows that the best time of the mine would be the first five years.

As Mr. Nerysoo has indicated, has my region been consulted about acquiring an equity position? Our regional corporation has had some dealings with Neptune Resources in terms of trying to get either equity positions or even a joint venture type of deal through Neptune Resources, but that has not materialized. I realize that it would have been a better deal for our regional corporation to take in the loan guarantee, but I think that one of the conditions that the federal government have placed with Neptune Resources, is that it has to be government to government. I think that is one of the reasons that we could not get involved in trying to acquire an equity position. As you know, over the life span of the project, there is going to be an estimated 350 jobs and we are targeting 25 per cent minimum for the first year, but that is only specifically for my region. If you look at the overall picture, the percentage would be higher, especially when northern people are hired besides the local people around the vicinity of the mining area.

Benefit To All Communities In Vicinity

I still claim that it is going to benefit all the outlying communities that are in the vicinity of this particular mine, particularly small communities like Snare Lake, Rae Lakes, Lac la Martre and Rae-Edzo, and also Detah. Hopefully, the various communities can get into service contracts with this particular mine so they can get ahead themselves. As you know, a lot of the small communities have a local corporation, and we also have our own regional corporation which can also tap into having some service contracts with this particular mine. It is going to be to our advantage, not only for employment but also for business opportunities. That does not exclude us from going into joint venturing with other groups, particularly the Denendeh Development Corporation or the Metis Development Corporation. I think the door is still open for those type of things to occur.

In the overall, although the loan is only for three million dollars, the project, I believe, is going to be in the neighbourhood of \$158 million for the lifespan of the project. So although some Members may feel that we have to be cautious with the three million dollars we are going to guarantee this particular group, if you look at the overall numbers, I believe it is only about two per cent of the overall project. So I think the employment and business opportunities are going to outweigh the amount of money that our government is going to guarantee this particular group. Thank you.

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

MR. NERYSOO: I thought I was not going to make any remarks, but I have to respond to some of the comments made by Mr. Zoe. I think I have to raise a couple of concerns that I raised earlier. Firstly, let me say I am not cautious about the idea of the GNWT investing in economic projects. What I am concerned about is that it is only based on the concept or the opinion that this is a pilot decision. In other words, this is a once in a lifetime decision. It is based on the fact that we are encouraging native employment. If you are intending to do that, Mr. Chairman, there are many ways of doing it, other than loan guarantees.

What I would have liked to have seen -- not in this particular case right now, but hopefully in the future it will happen -- is that we look to a situation where the young people and northern people can take advantage of a program of this type to go into business ventures, so that they stabilize the economy of the NWT. There are businesses here that are capable of handling and responding to the mining industry. In this particular case here, that is not the situation.

Assistance Through Indian Affairs

What also concerns me is that I asked the question to the government and I am happy that the Minister responded indicating that Indian Affairs is the department they are dealing with. I must indicate to you that the experience of Indian Affairs providing assistance to native people, native companies in the NWT, has been horrible. It has been terrible. In fact there have been situations where you cannot even get \$75,000 for a period of 18 months to two years. All of a sudden they find there is a situation where they can come up with \$15 million tomorrow, because of our government being prepared to make a commitment.

Now I agree with the decision that the government has made. All I am saying is that I am raising concerns that there are other investments and if the department is going to respond and our government is going to respond here, then surely, in future, when there are other projects, this government cannot ignore them. They cannot ignore them if only -- the thing that they say is that it is providing native employment. Hopefully it will go beyond that. Hopefully this government will pursue the Government of Canada and have them indicate that they will respond as quickly to aboriginal businesses, that that money will be available to them, so they can invest.

The situation shows that historically the Government of Canada did not respond even to my colleague's region. They submitted a proposal to Indian Affairs and they were rejected and it was the same project. So I am kind of curious as to what the reasons are that they could not respond to a native proposal two years ago and all of a sudden decide that there is a different way that they could respond to the company here. That is why I am raising the concerns, but I am hoping that our government will deal with that in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to clear up one thing. The indication from the Government of Canada is that if we as a Government of the NWT are willing to proportionately come up with some funds or some guarantee, they will do so. Ottawa has not earmarked that money yet. So we may still be in trouble. So it is not a 100 per cent guarantee that they will do it. They have indicated to us that if we would take a similar responsibility, then they would entertain that as well. I just wanted to say that it is not a 100 per cent security at this time. And certainly for Mr. Nerysoo's statements, I feel that this government has to take those suggestions and work toward that direction.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): General comments. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: As I understand it, this is a guarantee of a loan. Will there be moneys exchanging hands? Will you be writing a cheque to Neptune Resources or is this just in the form of co-signing a loan and it may never be used, but just in the event that it is needed it is there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): The Minister of Finance is indicating that he would like to answer. Is that okay with you, Madam Minister? Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: If this bill passes, tomorrow there is not an exchange of dollars or a cheque written. There will be no exchange of dollars unless the bank calls the loan. So if this project is successful, then no money changes hands and we are not out of pocket. It does not even show up on our books. If there is some problem, for whatever reason, the bank calls the loan and at that point we have to show it as a liability on our books. If the company goes bankrupt, then we are out three million dollars.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments. Bill 27-88(2). Does the committee agree to go clause by clause? Mr. Crow, do you have this bill in braille?

MR. CROW: No, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Mr. Crow, would you like me to read the clauses as we go through them?

MR. CROW: Mr. Chairman, you read it for me this morning. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Just checking out your memory, Mr. Crow. Clause by clause. Clause 1, definition. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Clause 2, authority to make guarantee. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Clause 3, agreements. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Clause 4, delegation to Minister. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Clause 5, source of payment. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Clause 6, regulations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Does the committee agree that the bill is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Madam Minister, we would like to thank you for appearing and we thank your witness. It is my understanding that we are looking at Tabled Document 28-88(2), Staffing Problems at YCC. Tabled Document 28-88(2) was tabled on October 19, 1988. Mr. Lewis.

Tabled Document 28-88(2): Staffing Problems At YCC

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, as you recall, there was a demonstration which took place on the steps of this Legislature on October the 14th. Subsequent to that demonstration I wrote down all the issues that were raised with the Minister for Social Services and those issues have been numbered in this document from one to eight. Mr. Chairman, I will take your advice on the best way to handle this. Do you want me to simply go through the various concerns, or do you want me to speak generally?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pollard): Mr. Lewis, if I could suggest first that you speak in general terms, then we will see if there are any other general comments from other Members and then, perhaps, we could deal with the items, one through eight, individually. Is that acceptable to you, sir? Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, there were clearly several problems at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre which led to the demonstration taking place on October 14th. Many of these had been documented up until that time but they had not been given any kind of public exposure.

As a result of the meeting that took place at that time, the Minister was obviously concerned enough with what she heard to undertake to have an independent study made of the various problems that took place out at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. So, I think that what resulted on October 14th is that several of the issues which had caused concern to people working at the institute were, by this process, brought to light and needed to be really laid down quite carefully as a list of grievances, I suppose, and those grievances have now been examined more carefully by an expert on work in corrections, a man named Hank O'Handley, from Alberta. As the Minister indicated this afternoon, she has now had an interim report.

Of course, what we are not quite clear about, Mr. Chairman, is what an interim report really is and whether there is an expectation that there will be a much fuller investigation after this. In fact, the statements made today about an interim report leave more questions asked than answered, because all an interim report does is to, at most, give the Minister, perhaps, a flavour of the problem. It is quite easy to say, "Well, we have not discussed it substantively", which is what Mr. Patterson had indicated, that the cabinet had not discussed it substantively. We never had a chance to pursue what "substantively" means. Presumably it means that the cabinet was made aware of it but there had not been any discussion or any suggestions about how the problems out there can be solved.

So, the events of today, Mr. Chairman, leave the feeling that the interim report does nothing more than raise expectations about something far greater than we can expect to have done in the near future. What concerns me somewhat is what really an interim report is. Was that part of the terms of reference, that an interim report had to be done within so many days and that there be a fuller report done by another date? Who knows, maybe another one after that.

Those are the kinds of issues that, really, I am concerned with today, Mr. Chairman, that we really do not have a good feeling about the way the problem is being handled. Having an interim report to me suggests that, okay, we will just look at the tip of the iceberg and have a crack at that and maybe once you have looked at that you can give me further direction to do something else. Or, is there an expectation that there will now be a full inquiry? It leaves many questions unanswered. Anyway, that is my introductory comment about the scene at YCC, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Lewis. General comments on Tabled Document 28-88(2), Staffing Problems at YCC. Madam Minister.

Objective Operational Review

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, as I had indicated after the events of the demonstration that had taken place, it did leave me with some concerns as to the operation of the correctional centre. At that point, I had concurred with the recommendations of my deputy minister that we look at trying to achieve the objective, impartial operational review, which I had initially intended and still intend, to be internal to the department. I wanted it to be conducted basically to determine what actions may be necessary to ensure that we have a smooth-running operation.

The review was commenced on Tuesday, October 18th as Mr. Lewis had indicated, by Mr. O'Handley, who is the executive director of audits, standards and investigation with the Alberta solicitor general's office. His review, as I had indicated in the House earlier, is not totally completed and I would not say it is an interim report; it is basically a preliminary report to look at some of the concerns. Those were the terms of reference that he was to adhere to. However, the conclusion of the report, in regard to total recommendations being able to address the concerns, is still not completed; therefore, I want to advise Members of the House that the total conclusion of the review is not completed and assure you that recommendations from the report, to ensure that we have a smooth-running operation out there, will be implemented once the total review is completed. Thank you.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Can I ask, Mr. Chairman, a couple of questions with regard to this particular item, of the Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister, are you prepared to answer some questions?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I certainly will try, as I always do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: I want answers of yes, or no. I am just kidding, this question period, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in terms of the concerns raised by the correctional workers, is the Minister going to take action with regard to ensuring that those workers that are supposed to receive particular rates of pay are going to be paid accordingly?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If there are discrepancies that are being found, they will be corrected immediately and they would be corrected, in the event that these discrepancies are detected, so that these individuals would get their rate of pay from the date they were hired.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. In that case, they will be retroactive to an appropriate date?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Nerysoo.

Casual And Full-Time Positions

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Minister going to ensure or is the Minister going to conduct a situation where those individuals that have been hired on as casuals during the time that there are full-time positions available, the casuals are going to be considered for filling a full-time position?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: The full-time positions are intended to be filled as indeterminate positions. I believe some of the problem is the fact that it is difficult to try to get away from the use of casual employees because of the fluctuating population at the correctional centre. However, any positions that are identified as indeterminate will be filled as indeterminate positions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. Is the Minister considering the possibility of additional staff and indeterminate positions to respond to a situation where there is a requirement for that staff at the correctional centre? I use the word correctional centre because that is the correct wording, not correctional institute.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you. I am happy that one Member recognized that we do have a facility called the Yellowknife Correctional Centre and not the Yellowknife Correctional Institute. I thank you. But in regard to the question asked, I believe the determination of the number of staff is also going to be, as part of the review, determining whether or not the existing number of PYs for that facility warrants the amount actually needed. Currently, I cannot indicate to the Member that I am considering it; however, I am waiting for the results of the review. And if the need is identified, then it is warranted. If it is warranted and identified.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Nerysoo.

Indeterminate Positions Open

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we could go back again to the issue of indeterminate positions. What is the situation right now in terms of indeterminate staff positions and requirements? Are there positions open and is the department considering providing to those casuals that have been employed by our government and, in some cases, for long periods of time -- considering recruiting those individuals as part of the indeterminate staff population that is there? I do not mean to cause problems in terms of "population" being used here, in terms of those resident there, but I refer to staff members.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, if I can get clarification from the Member. Are you asking, will the casual staff be considered for indeterminate positions if indeterminate positions are identified?

MR. NERYSOO: If there is a situation where there are identified positions available, are these people going to be considered for employment, particularly when there is a situation where you

might have five, six, seven positions that are full-time and then you have 10, 12 casuals? Are these individuals going to be offered the opportunity for full-time employment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: These individuals do have the opportunity to apply on any positions in the event they become available. However, I will not indicate that they will be given opportunity for consideration. In the event they apply, they will go through the normal hiring practices for consideration to be hired, taking into account the policies that the Personnel Department has in hiring.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. One aspect that concerns me is, if you read the tabled document, the fifth concern with regard to contracting out, security service maybe because of my own experience, having many years ago been employed at the correctional centre. Those people that do not know, I did have the opportunity to work out there some years ago and I know that one of the aspects that is important is, of course, security; but more than that is the ability and the reliability of staff and individuals that work there to know the people that are involved in that particular centre. My belief is that public institution -- and we may all think, or some of us think, that the only reason that it is there is for incarcerating people and not giving them an opportunity or not providing them with professional staff. Particularly professional training -- I am kind of curious as to why we have already decided to consider contracting out security service, particularly when responsibility is supposedly there. That is why you hire full-time staff. I am kind of curious as to why, all of a sudden, we are going that route rather than retaining professional people for that particular reason, to help and provide a service to those people that are there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

Contracting Out Security Service

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Hiring or contracting out is certainly not a practice that is normally used with any institutional setting, especially in a correctional setting. No doubt there is concern. I have been advised that the correctional centre has utilized contract services on two occasions: One in April, 1987 when they could not get a female correctional officer to work to cover the female unit and there was no one available; the second occasion was in regard to supervising a suicidal inmate, which was basically to watch over the inmate on a continuous basis. But normally the practice is not to use a contract service in lieu of a correctional officer. However, there are circumstances that are beyond control and have to be looked at.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, in terms of overtime being worked. Is this aspect of concerns raised being addressed in your report? If so, has the Minister clarified with her department how that should be done, or whether or not recommendations will be made by the report to ensure that these kinds of things do not happen in the future?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Overtime is a part of the report and I anticipate the recommendation in regard to alleviating the amount of overtime being utilized would be a recommendation in the report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. No, that is all I wanted to ask.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. General comments. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: This must have been a casual encounter because I see "casual" exactly nine times in this tabled document. I do not know what is expected of me here, Mr. Chairman. Should this not be more or less between the Minister's staff and the staff at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre? We voted the money in March of 1988 for the correctional centre to operate and for salaries. What is expected of us? What are we to do? What are we to pass? Anything? What can we do?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): I guess for your information, Mr. Ernerk, it is for the committee's discussion and information. General comments. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you maybe I can ask the Minister, how many training positions are there within YCC?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Currently they do not have a training program in place.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Zoe.

Training Program Should Be Considered

MR. ZOE: I think the Minister hit it on the nail. Maybe that is one of the reasons that they are encountering a lot of problems, because you are utilizing too many casuals. If you did have training positions within this particular centre maybe you would not be running into the problems you are running into right now. Utilizing casuals as it indicates in the tabled document here, warrants that you are going to run into problems as the staff have been complaining about.

One of the reasons I raise that, Mr. Chairman, is that I believe there are various levels of officers within the centre and if these particular individuals do not have specific training then I cannot see how they would carry out the work that they are supposed to carry out at the centre. It is a correctional centre. Those inmates are supposed to be in there to hopefully correct themselves prior to getting out and these individuals have got to have specific skills. Hopefully this individual that you have conducting the investigation would look seriously into this area of training. I think the staff at the YCC are not fulfilling to their maximum as to how they are carrying out their workload. I hear that there are serious problems of this sort happening at YCC. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, if I could enlighten the Member. In the past there were training programs in place. However, statistics basically indicate that once the correctional officers completed the training level, they immediately left to other different programs whether they were within the government or other institutions in the South. However, I am waiting basically for the review and it should be determined whether or not training programs should be back in place but I am basically waiting until the review is completed to determine whether or not that is a necessity to be implemented. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Whitford.

Fluctuation In Inmate Population

MR. WHITFORD: I too, notice that there are quite a number of casual positions here, fully one third of the employees there are casual, and the remark I heard to justify that, was that there was a fluctuation in inmate populations. Now I live right across the street from the centre and I must say that in the past, I have been responsible for sending people there and I find it hard to understand that there are such fluctuations that you cannot have on staff, regular officers, and reduce that casual employment by a considerable amount. I would like to know how long this has been going on and why has this been allowed to deteriorate to such a point, where the employees

are demonstrating in front of the Legislative Assembly for a number of things; certainly for safety, the fact that they are overworked, and the fact that they are undertrained. As I see it, the lack of training is a major problem.

I guess I have a whole bunch of questions for the Minister responsible. What efforts are being made to fill these positions other than waiting for a report? I mean that corrections centre has been there since -- well, I have been here for 10 years and it has been here before that for sure. I am wondering why it has gotten to this state, where the employees are so run-down from lack of training and certainly their ranks have eroded to a point that a full one third of their employees are on casual basis. Is she having difficulty in finding trained workers? If you cannot find them in the Territories, are they available elsewhere? I will leave that and see what the response is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I think there are a couple of reasons for the amount of casuals used at the centre. One is the fact that the Yellowknife Correctional Centre has undergone renovations for the past few years to accommodate an increase in population. The other current factor is the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre is currently being renovated to expand and being allowed to accommodate more inmates and therefore we are currently, on an interim basis, taking the overflow from the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre. These are a couple of areas. I know part of the terms of reference asks to look at the organizational chart in regard to the amount of inmates that we are taking, but it fluctuates quite greatly. The day that I believe I got questioned in the House I indicated that we had 170 inmates and as of today we have 149 inmates. So you have 21 inmates difference in a couple of weeks. It is difficult to determine the inmate population.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Whitford.

Staff Training In Times Of Decreased Population

MR. WHITFORD: In any operation such as corrections, you know there are going to be fluctuations. But I would expect in an operation such as that, knowing that it is going to be here forever, crime just does not go away, that there is a nucleus of staff, and fine, if the inmate population drops for some reason or another for a short period of time, that interim or this time would be used to further train their staff. But surely there must be indeterminate positions there that are not being filled right now and maybe if we filled them, if the Minister were to take action to fill these positions, then there would not be this problem. In times when there are population decreases and work slows down, instead of laying people off they further train them, knowing full well that there is going to be an increase in population of inmates at a later time.

I wonder if instead of sort of band-aid measures being taken by staffing it on a casual basis, and working people to overtime as this indicates you are -- 102 hours of overtime in a two week period -- the Minister might instruct her staff to staff these indeterminate positions straight away, which I think might alleviate some of the problem. Find them, wherever they are. Surely there are corrections officers available someplace.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Basically, I have got to indicate to the Member that any indeterminate positions, if they are not filled are currently in the process of being filled in accordance with the positions that were identified initially for the centre. But I have to indicate to the Member that in accordance with the tabled document stating that one inmate worked 100 and some hours in a matter of a two week period, according to the statistics that I received from the department, that is incorrect. These statistics were as a result of the demonstration and some of the accusations that were made by the union when they demonstrated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Whitford.

Assurance Immediate Action

MR. WHITFORD: Just a slight correction, I do not think it was the inmates that worked 102 hours, it was probably the casual workers. But there is something wrong at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre in that, I guess if we wait so long for a report to be completed, if something serious happens there -- I go a little further in here and I look at concern number eight where an incorrect amount of medication was given to an inmate and the person slept soundly for two days. This is not something that we can just say, "Well, we have to wait until a report is done before we take some action here." This is serious stuff, we are dealing with people's lives. Not only that, we are dealing with the lives and the safety of the people there. Good heavens! If you work regular hours of 40 hours a week and you end up working another 50 hours -- that is 90 hours in my estimation. All that has to happen is that something serious happens once and something serious could result. I still think the Minister should assure us that she is going to take swift and immediate action to deal with these things instead of waiting for more reporting on this thing. If it is lack of staff, then let us get on with staffing. Let us get on with some better training.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the reason I am waiting for the report is that I do not want to continually look at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre and try to deal with the problems in a band-aid type approach. I basically want to ensure that whatever recommendations come from the report, whatever investigation appears necessary, be implemented. And it will be determined on what type of ramifications that are also considered. But I can assure the Members that certainly the centre is being looked at, that the discussions of what the union has brought forth, and the members and their demonstrations, have left me with concerns to get an impartial and objective review done at the centre. I am sure what problems there are will come out in that report. I certainly do not intend to leave the centre as it is. If there are problems identified, they are going to be dealt with.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Can the Minister clarify for me how soon is she projecting that she is going to have a report on hand? How soon is she going to consider dealing with some of these particular items, in terms of responding positively to the concerns that have been raised and also trying to address, at least, immediately, some of the concerns that have been raised in terms of staffing and in terms of trying to provide for positions that will ensure a service is being provided professionally at the correctional centre?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I anticipate the report to be completed by the end of the week. There are certain things that I have requested the department to look at in the event that they do find discrepancies, to ensure that they are corrected. So there are things that are being looked at. However, once the report is in, the recommendations will be reviewed and implemented as quickly as possible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again for the Minister, who is on the hot seat at this point in time, I would think that if I were the Minister and so many concerns were raised that the staff in the department I was responsible for, were demonstrating in front of the Legislative Assembly and rumours flying around and tabled documents that make certain allegations and things, that I would go down to the institution personally and see what the situation was. Has the Minister been to YCC and had a first-hand view of some of the working conditions that prevail there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I toured most of the correctional institutions, if not by last December, by January of this year, just shortly after I became Minister, to try to become familiar with my department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Does the committee agree that this item is concluded? Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal with each one of the items if we could, please, just briefly. Maybe if I could deal with that, Mr. Chairman, since I did table the document.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Does the committee agree we go item by item on the tabled document?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Item 1, Tabled Document 28-88(2)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Tabled Document 28-88(2), Staffing Problems at YCC. Item 1, Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Minister has made an undertaking on this one, that those people that were in positions for which they were not paid properly, there will in fact be a redress and they will be paid at the proper level. Am I correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: That is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Item 1, are there any further comments? If not, item 1 is concluded. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I have a comment. The total officers that are on the floor are not 30, there are 38. That is in item 2. I apologize, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Item 1 is concluded. Item 2. Mr. Lewis.

Item 2, Tabled Document 28-88(2)

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the business of determining exactly what the numbers are. The Minister was right, that there are more than 30 people, but I am talking about the 30 people that actually work on the floor. I am not talking about people that are hidden away somewhere. These are floor people, so my question would be, whether this is a reasonable number of people to do the work that has to be done, since fully one third of this very important -- these are the people that actually do the work in the centre there -- if fully one third of these are casual people. It seems to me that that goes to the root of the problem, because there are obviously 30 jobs that have to be done, and yet only 20 of them you could say are indeterminate positions. My question therefore to the Minister would be, what is she going to do to make sure that these 10 required positions are, in fact, made into indeterminate positions?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that I cannot concur with the Member's comments. As I had indicated, there are 39 correctional officers and these are the people that have hands-on on the operation. Out of that is the casual staff also, but it certainly does not total 30 as the item indicates, and one third of them being casuals. That is incorrect.

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

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, this information is, of course, from the period before October 14 when this information was collected, so it is possible that this information is by now outdated. However, would the Minister tell us then exactly how many officers there are and how many of those 39 are now casual?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Six are casuals.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Any further comments on item 2? If not, is item 2 concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Item 3, Tabled Document 28-88(2)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Item 3. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, in item 3 there is clearly a problem when the department has to hire someone for -- here we mention the term "three months" but more regularly it is six months, after which time if someone is still in a position then they have to be made into permanent jobs. My question to the Minister is, is this not against the contract requirement, that we simply take somebody on for six months, or three months or whatever, then lay them off for five days and bring them back on again? Is that not contrary to the agreement that is made in the contract?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, in regard to casual hires being laid off and taken back on, if there is no indeterminate position identified, exactly what the cases are for each of these individuals have yet to be determined. It is generally the practice of the government not to, on a continuing basis, lay off and rehire.

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

MR. LEWIS: With respect, Mr. Chairman, I do not believe the Minister has answered the question. There is a practice, as I understand, at YCC whereby, for several years, someone would be given the job for six months, then laid off, then rehired again. So my question is, is that not against the practice which is required under the contract? That was my question. In other words, that is wrong. Is it not wrong to do that?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to determine -- I do not think it has been a practice for several years. I sometimes believe the accusations are being exaggerated, and as I had indicated if it is found that there are not enough PYs as a result of the review, that will be addressed.

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

MR. LEWIS: I am not doing a good job of describing the problem, Mr. Chairman, because I do have recorded instances of people that are hired for six months and are then given a five day holiday and then rehired again. It is not an exaggeration, it is a fact. So my question is, and it has nothing to do with whether you have the staff or not, it is a separate problem. What I am saying is, does the Minister not agree that this is in fact contrary to the contract? She is breaking a

contract that she has with our employees by continuing a practice that is not condoned. That is all I am saying.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I believe the practice in hiring casuals is that generally a casual is hired for four months and if it is deemed that they require an extension, they are given an extension of two months. In regard to the contract, I guess I do not understand what contract, and maybe the Member should clarify what contract he is talking about.

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

MR. NERYSOO: I think I could clarify maybe, and I cannot speak for Mr. Lewis, but I think the public service agreement has certain conditions under which individuals should or should not be employed. I think that is the issue being raised by Mr. Lewis. Mr. Chairman, if I could ask this particular information from the Minister. Would she make available a review, an analysis, of the historical employment levels at the correctional centre, including the casual employees? Could she indicate the extent to which these casual employees have been used in terms of the amount of time employed, whether or not they were rehires, and to what extent were these rehires used with regard to casuals? Also could she provide us with information as to the amount of time for which these casuals were used; in other words, were they used eight hours, 16 hours, whatever, how much time were these individuals asked to work?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister. The honourable Member is asking for information that you could provide to the House at a later date.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, his request could be considered. However, I want to indicate to the Member that the concern he has expressed is probably going to be one of the issues that are being reviewed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that case, I assume that she can provide the information.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I indicated in part of my opening remarks that the objective and impartial operational review initiated, was to be internal to the department. I would have to further consider the request of the Member, in all fairness, to everyone who participated in that review. They were basically advised that it was an internal document for departmental information.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, I was not going to continue with any more discussion here but one of the problems that arises out of a discussion of this type is the suggestion sometimes to Members that we exaggerate with regard to the information that we have. I think that it is important that we get a situation where at least the information that we are receiving is either addressing the concerns that have been raised by the staff at the correctional centre, or is supportive of the issues raised by the Minister. Otherwise, this Assembly, Members of this House, are not going to be able to support the Minister when she comes forward to seek additional financial resources in the budget or, for that matter, provide support for her when it is necessary to address other concerns. It makes it difficult and I think it is important that that type of information be made available to Members. I do not mean that the Minister necessarily has to provide this House with decisions in terms of the discussion; what I need are the numbers, the numbers to, at least, make some judgment.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I appreciate the Member's concerns. I guess, basically, Mr. Chairman, I just want to ensure that information, in the event I consider releasing it, is not brought out -- if it is -- for Members' concerns. I have no problem, specifically, with information for Members. However, I do have a problem that this information be then considered to be tabled for public information. This is why I am reluctant and I did indicate that I would consider it.

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

MR. WHITFORD: That question was similar to the one that I was going to ask. I just wondered if the person assigned to doing the study of the problems at the YCC was going to be looking at that shameful practice of employing people for three months and laying them off and then hiring them back, after five days. I will clarify why I said shameful. This used to occur in federal departments, at least, where the department did not want to hire the person on and give them access to all the benefits that were going to be available to a person who was longer term. I thought that was done away with years ago. If what I read here is still in practice, I wondered if the person doing the independent study would be making note of that and putting that in his report?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, yes, that is part of his terms of reference under review.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Item 3. Item 4. Mr. Lewis.

Item 4, Tabled Document 28-88(2)

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, item 4 here indicates there is too much overtime being worked at YCC by both casual and indeterminate staff. Now, when I sat down with people that are familiar with the operation of YCC, this particular case of one individual who had worked an incredible amount of overtime was brought to my attention. The Minister said that this information is incorrect. Now, I am interested in getting correct information. So, could she tell us then, since she has examined this document, what would be the highest amount of overtime that anyone would have worked out there, over a two week period?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I have been advised by my department that the most overtime worked by a casual, according to their documentation, is 66 hours.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Item 4. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Was that a week or is that a pay period?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: That is on a two week period.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Item 4. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: I just wanted to confirm that that was by an indeterminate staff member, not a casual, is that correct?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: That was a casual member, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Item 4. Is item 4 concluded now?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Item 5, Tabled Document 28-88(2)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Item 5. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has indicated that there has been very, very little contracting out of security service over the last couple of years. In fact, she went back to 1987. The contracting out of work means that you are not able to build up a staff that will deal with particular problems, so has the Minister also included in the terms of reference of the review which nobody has seen yet because it is internal and it is a review for her department's officials to look at, does it also include the provision of the specialized sort of security service that is required at the centre?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, as I had indicated to the Member it is not the practice to contract services out unless it is a last resort. It was not part of the terms of reference basically to identify specialized services, as the Member has expressed.

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

MR. LEWIS: Maybe, Mr. Chairman, the Minister could indicate to us, in addition maybe to the example that she gave us of a suicidal person, other instances of the kinds of things that would require contracting out services at the centre.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: As I indicated to the Member, the other instance was when they could not recruit a female correctional officer and, as I had said, the other one was the suicidal incident.

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

MR. LEWIS: Would the Minister confirm then that those are the only two cases that she has been able to dig up where contracting out took place?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: In accordance to my department, these are the two cases that they explicitly recall. However, I am sure that the review will be able to determine if there have been other cases. However, I believe those are the only two cases.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does committee agree item 5 is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Item 6, Tabled Document 28-88(2)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Item 6. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I want to get my facts correct. I understand that there would have been cases whereby a casual employee would be required to supervise the entire wing of between 70 to 80 people with only a few days experience. In other words, this would be a brand new person who is not experienced in this area and yet after just a few days on the job, they could end up with that kind of very, very heavy responsibility. Does the Minister agree with the statement that that has happened?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, that is a possibility. However, I do want to indicate to the Member to keep in mind that inmates are, at the same time, monitored by circuit TV throughout the centre on a 24 hour basis. According to the information that I have received, apparently on three separate occasions, they had a staff trainer from Alberta brought into Yellowknife in order to train staff in some of the techniques of self-defence. However, it is possible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Item 6. Does the committee agree item 6 is concluded? Item 7. Mr. Lewis.

Item 7, Tabled Document 28-88(2)

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, this particular subject I raised some weeks ago when we discussed the Public Service Commission, and I did not get a very good reception from Members of the government on some of the charges that I made on that date. I did promise though that if, in fact, we do not get an improvement in the way we administer our public service that I would take things further. So today I am not going to be citing individuals. However, maybe the Minister could answer a very simple question. Has she ever involved herself in the hiring process, whereby she would determine whether a competition should be filled or not, on the basis of applications received?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I am somewhat surprised that he would feel that I would do such a thing, but if I can bring back a concern that I had raised. On one date, according to the Hansard I rose on a point of privilege on October 14th to deny the public accusations that were made against me on the radio report of October 12th. I indicated to the House that all positions at the centre were staffed according to proper government procedures. I indicated to the House that I did meet with Mr. Crook to determine why the Union of Northern Workers would make such an incorrect statement to the press, and it was determined that Mr. Crook was ill-informed of the situation. I also indicated that it was disheartening to note such organizations initiating unwarranted and unfounded statements to the public. I still stand by that statement that I made. I certainly am also further disheartened to understand that the Member for Yellowknife Centre would believe in such an accusation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does committee agree that item 7 is concluded? Item 8. Mr. Lewis.

Item 8, Tabled Document 28-88(2)

MR. LEWIS: It is a fact that corrections officers are required to dispense medicines between 7:30 and 8:45 every day and that the staff are uneasy about having this responsibility. This is a very serious matter and I think Mr. Whitford has pointed out that maybe we cannot wait for a report before we do something about it. Does the Minister consider this to be a priority, to provide some kind of direction to staff that have to administer medicines with no training in this area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the centre has a medication dispensing unit. A trained nurse seals the medication into separate blister packages and labels the packages with

the inmate's name and the time he is to take the medication. The package includes the name of the medication for the officer's information and the shift supervisors are instructed in the use of administering the routine. In regard to the accusation of the inmate who slept for two days because of mistaken administration of medicine, there is no record of it and I find those accusations unfounded.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Is item 8 concluded? Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Was this item also included in the terms of reference for Mr. O'Handley to look at training in this particular area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, because that was an issue of concern, it will be reviewed in the review process.

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

MR. LEWIS: Just one final question, if I may, Mr. Chairman. The Minister referred originally to an interim study or an interim report. She has now decided that was not an interim report, it was in fact a preliminary report. What more has to be done in order to get this problem resolved? What can we expect beyond the preliminary report?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: If my memory recalls correctly, I did indicate that it was a preliminary report, Mr. Chairman. I am sure those are the words that I had used and not the words that Mr. Lewis would have hoped I may have used.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister, I do not think you answered Mr. Lewis's question. If I can ask Mr. Lewis to repeat or rephrase his question.

MR. LEWIS: Okay, I will do it a bit differently this time, Mr. Chairman, if I may. What was the purpose of the preliminary report?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the preliminary report was in regard to reviewing certain issues in accordance to the terms of reference. Basically to provide assessments and recommendations. As I had indicated the preliminary report basically focussed on reviewing the correctional centre.

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

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now the report then that is currently being worked on, that will be finished by the end of the week and I am using the words of the Minister this time, as I believe I did last time, Mr. Chairman, when I referred to interim and preliminary. How would this second report be different to the first report? I would have thought that a preliminary report would give you an idea of things that you should get on with right away, you know this is something you should do that cannot wait, and maybe a full report could deal with more long-term things. What is the difference between these two reports?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I basically do not have all the recommendations to look at in totality to determine which ones should be in priority to be implemented.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Item 8, Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Without pushing the Minister too far, Mr. Chairman, is there anything in the preliminary report that tells the Minister that she should get on with something right away? She does not have to spill the beans. Is there anything in there that tells her that she should get on with something right away?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: As I indicated to the Member the preliminary report fails to basically look at what recommendations should be implemented. I await for the total report which I anticipate will determine in priority what concerns and what recommendations are to be implemented immediately.

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

MR. LEWIS: I am using the Minister's words again, Mr. Chairman. The Minister said that the report failed to do something. That means that there was something that she expected it to do that it did not do. So am I correct in saying then that she is not happy with the preliminary report and that is why another one is being written?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: No, I am happy with the preliminary report but I am basically indicating that the total report is not completed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Does the interim report indicate that there is any unrest at YCC or does the report indicate at all, as well, that there is nothing to worry about? I will go back to my original question. Does it indicate that there is something, some basis to the concerns at YCC that the Minister would like to get more detail on. This is why she sent it back. Or is it indicating that there is nothing wrong at YCC and she sent it back to find out if there is indeed something wrong.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: As I indicated to the Members earlier that report was for the purpose of an internal review for departmental use. Until the report is completed I find it difficult to be able to indicate and determine whether the report is for public information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Is item 8 now concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): That concludes Tabled Document 28-88(2). Moving right along we will go to Committee Report 4-88(2), First Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges. Mr. McLaughlin.

Committee Report 4-88(2): First Report Of Standing Committee On Rules, Procedures And Privileges

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members are aware that basically the report made five or six recommendations and I would suggest, in order to make this timely and get through the document quickly, I propose that I will introduce each recommendation with a motion supporting its passage and then Members can debate each one of the recommendations. If Members are agreed, I think that would be the fastest way to deal with the report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree that we deal only with the recommendations?
Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. McLaughlin, first recommendation, then.

Motion To Add New Rule 55(5), Rules Of The Legislative Assembly

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the first recommendation, deals with the time limitation on oral question period. 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." Mr. Chairman, I move that that recommendation be accepted by the committee of the whole.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I have a motion on the floor. To the motion, Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very difficult time at this particular time to make a decision on whether or not there should be a time limit allowed on oral questions. I think that Members have to realize that this is the only time, really, that we have an opportunity to question our government and to make accountable our government. I think the suggestion of limitation that has been proposed probably comes about because of some of the experiences that we may have encountered in the past where maybe on one or two occasions question period has taken up the whole day in this Assembly.

It seems kind of strange that we should be in a situation where we have consensus government, that we try to work as closely as possible with one another to respond to those issues that are before us, or those issues of concern we as ordinary Members think are important for our constituents or for the public to address in terms of the issues that are important for us. I am not completely opposed to a time period but I have a very difficult time with the idea of limiting the question period to 60 minutes. I would really like us to defer a final decision of implementing a time limit on oral questions, possibly until after the winter session so that we get a good feel for the extent to which the question period may extend. One has to realize that a year ago, when we got into budget session, we went in terms of one day, the whole day in question period; but that was after an election. That is when Members here have a lot of issues that have to be addressed, because that is why people have been elected to this House.

It is a bad time to make a judgment as to how long questions may go and to suggest only 60 minutes, that is, an hour. There are times when we go a bit more. We have gone longer than that, in fact only three times, I believe. But I think it is a bit premature to talk about limitations right now, particularly if we have not had the option of at least one more budget session to make the judgments that we see as necessary. I would ask if we could consider at least deferring the implementation of such a rule until after the budget session so we get a good feeling for the time we might be able to use. We might not use it all, in future, but let us get a good feeling because this is a non-election year and we will get a good handle on what we are supposed to be doing.

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

MR. ERNERK: I, too, have some difficulty with question period being 60 minutes. I am just thinking from the point of view of the fact that there are all these ordinary Members on this side of the House and on that side of the House, starting from Mr. Whitford to Mr. Anottitauruq to Mr. Gargan, who require a lot of time to ask questions. Maybe tomorrow I will ask a supplementary to my question of today. I do not really like going back and forth from one day to the next. So I think since we have so much interest in question period, we should not put a time limit on question period. I like it the way it is. I think it has gone well so far. We do not always get answers. But as the Speaker says, you do not always get an answer that you like. I like the question period the way it is because it allows time for somebody like me to think before I ask

a question on a supplementary issue. I do not really want to put a time limit on this issue as well, at this point in time.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Mr. Chairman, the concern I had was already raised by Mr. Ernerk.

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

Motion To Defer Implementation Of New Rule 55(5), Rules Of The Legislative Assembly, Ruled Out Of Order

MR. NERYSOO: I move that we defer implementation of a time limit to oral question period until after the winter session of 1989.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Nerysoo, your motion is out of order because we have a motion on the floor and we have not decided if there should be a time limit or not.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Point of order.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: There is a motion on the floor and the Member could vote against the motion to meet his objective.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Speaking to the motion, I have not been here that long and I may find at some future date that 60 minutes is not long enough. I, too, would like to have an opportunity of testing the time, whether or not 60 minutes is sufficient. I am going to have just two days to exercise my responsibility as a Member and I, too, would like to see it delayed until I have had an opportunity of testing out whether or not I do have enough time in 60 minutes to express and ask questions and things of that nature.

Motion To Add New Rule 55(5), Rules Of The Legislative Assembly, Carried

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

--Carried

Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion To Amend Rule 22(2), Rules Of The Legislative Assembly, Carried

MR. McLAUGHLIN: The second recommendation regards the Budget Address. I move 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'."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The motion is in order. You can speak to your motion, Mr. McLaughlin.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion To Amend Rule 83(1) And (2), Rules Of The Legislative Assembly, Carried

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the report of the committee of the whole. I move that Rule 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."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion To Add New Rule, Rules Of The Legislative Assembly, Carried

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Concerning questioning Ministers in committee of the whole. I move 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 refer questions on a bill to another Minister." Mr. Chairman, Members should note that there was a typo in the report and that the word "refer" is there, not "defer". Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): He read the motion correctly so he does not have to make an amendment to his report. He moved his report into the committee of the whole for discussion. He is moving each recommendation and he read it right. So the motion is in order. To the motion? Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Was that word "refer" or "defer"? I have it written here as "defer". Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): That was a point of clarification. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion To Amend Rule 87(2), Rules Of The Legislative Assembly

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding alternative committee Members. I move 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."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, if I could ask, with regard to the motion, for clarification.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, what happens in a situation where there is an absence of the chairman? There is nothing here indicating the acting chairman, just the chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. McLaughlin, would you like to answer that? Go ahead, Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, under our rules it is assumed that whenever the chairman is not there and the deputy chairman of the committee takes over, that person is the chairman as far as the rules go. So, if you had a situation where the chairman was not present at a standing committee meeting, when all the Members arrive the deputy chairman would then chair the meeting and that person, then acting as chairman, would carry that rule out.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, what if there is a situation where they are both missing? For instance, in a standing committee where, because of other meetings or because of other situations, the chairman and the deputy chairman were both absent, what happens in that particular case? The suggestion is a chairman, but the rules process says there is a deputy chairman; but I am suggesting to you, why do you not add the words, "the acting chairman"?

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, in our rules of our Assembly it is understood that the chairman of the committee of the whole, for example, is whoever is in the chair and that at any meeting that the Assembly holds, any committee meeting, if the chairman or the deputy chairman is not there, the person is then selected at that meeting to be the chairman of that meeting and is for all intents and purposes, under the rules, the chairman. So that if a committee of seven people is meeting and if the chairman and the deputy chairman are both absent, the five Members that are there would choose an acting chairman and that person would then carry out the duties of the chairman, which would then be to find two alternate Members to come to the meeting.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, then can I ask the Clerk to provide the information? It is my understanding that, in terms of the committee process system, there are only two chairpeople that have been indicated. One, the chairperson, chairman, and a deputy chairman. Those designations are clear here. In the motion that is before us, is there a definition, according to Mr. McLaughlin's explanation, where the chairman is anyone, according to our rules? It is clear in our rules that there is only one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Point of clarification from our Clerk. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Chairman, there would be a problem if the chairman was unable to act and if the deputy chairman was not able to act. You would have to have a committee meeting to appoint an acting chairman. So, this would not come into play. This is to

call a meeting together. If a chairman of a committee calls a meeting and finds that he cannot get all his Members, he then has the authority by this rule to call on alternates and if he cannot act, for any reason, then the deputy chairman would act and call in alternates but if both the chairman and the deputy chairman were not available then nobody would be called in. The meeting would have to be waived.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Amend Rule 87(2), Rules Of The Legislative Assembly, Carried

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

---Carried

Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion To Recommend Date Of Implementation, Rules Of The Legislative Assembly, Carried

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Finally, for implementation of this report. I move 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.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Just to inform Members that are not in their place, their votes do not count. Mr. Patterson put up his hand by the ropes and by the ropes your vote did not count. Does the committee agree that this committee report is now concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. No, Mr. Chairman, if I could ask for clarification on the part of the report before -- if I could go back to an issue of clarification.

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

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. Seeing as our government wishes to make sure that Members in this Assembly do not ask too many questions or try to make them accountable, could the chairman indicate whether or not there is a motion, or is he going to consider a motion to enforce page 13, in particular, Ministers' statements?

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Generally, I am not sure what the Member is getting at, Mr. Chairman, but basically the rules imply that Ministers' statements are supposed to be short and factual statements on Ministers' policy. Our comments here are just to remind Ministers that that is what

their statements should be; just strictly statements related to Ministers' policy, government policy only; short and factual, as the rules say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Nerysoo, I hear what you are trying to say but as you are well aware, the enforcement of any rule is conducted by the Speaker to make sure that rules are adhered to. I am sure that the Speaker will be reviewing this particular report to comment on Ministers' statements to make sure that they are short and factual, as the committee has reported. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Point of order, Mr. Chairman. I realize what you are saying, but my concern is that the government is quick to limit this Member's ability to make this government accountable. Today is an indication, Mr. Chairman...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Point of privilege. Madam Minister Cournoyea.

Point Of Privilege

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, the Member, in all due respect, is inferring that because a limitation of an hour has been placed, that we want to limit the questions and the ability to be accountable. I believe that is imputing a motive on myself. I do not believe that, and I think that if there is a restriction on the number of minutes on questions, it has already been indicated that we very seldom went over an hour anyway. I feel very slighted. The indication to me is that I would consciously limit somebody's questioning or the accountability I have.

Chairman's Ruling

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): On Ms Cournoyea's point of privilege, as she indicated her reasoning, the Chair believes that the Member should retract his comments because the fact is that the whole committee has agreed on this particular item in regard to limiting, specifically, the question period. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will review the statements that I made and if I inferred any motives to my government or my Executive Council, then I will retract them at the appropriate time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, just one more thing regarding Mr. Nerysoo's comments or request for future information on that item. Basically, some Members had gone to the committee with the idea that Ministers' statements were taking too long and were not always according to the rules. So all we are doing is just pointing out the committee's interpretation of the rules. We did not see that any rules should be changed and we are hoping that the Speaker might read our report and hopefully agree with our comments in this matter. But the Speaker himself is the ultimate authority, of course, on the interpretation of that rule. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister, on your point of privilege, are you quite satisfied as to Mr. Nerysoo's comments? Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I will be looking forward to his review.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Order. Order! Does the committee agree that the committee report is now concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Prorogation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): What is the committee's wish? I have other items in committee of the whole. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to strongly protest against the chairman because the Member for Natilikmiot will swear that I was the first one to have my hand up, about 10 minutes ago, and I am the last one to be recognized by yourself. I strongly protest that. But anyway, I move free...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Ernerk, you cannot question the Chair unless you rise on a point of privilege.

MR. ERNERK: Well, Mr. Chairman, I will do it on a point of privilege.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Could you state your point of privilege for the record?

Point Of Privilege

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege. I raised my hand on a number of occasions, as Mr. Angottitauruq will testify to this House. I was the first one to raise my hand up and I am the last one to be recognized. I would like to protest that.

Chairman's Ruling

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): On your point of privilege, Mr. Ernerk. As a Member you are aware that a point of privilege supersedes you having your hand up, when Mr. Nerysoo was making his comments. At that time I realized you were the next person to go to, but Ms Cournoyeva interjected with a point of privilege; so a point of privilege supersedes anybody else. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I move that you recognize the clock.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Prorogation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I have a motion on the floor to report progress. All those in favour? Opposed? I will now rise and report progress.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The motion is carried. I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Could we return to Item 14, because one of the reasons for us, in fact, meeting today was to get Mr. Whitford both sworn in and also appointed to some committees?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. We will hear from you immediately after we have done the report of the chairman of the whole. Mr. Zoe.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF CR 1-88(2); BILL 26-88(2), MOTOR VEHICLES ACT; BILL 1-88(2), ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES ACT; BILL 27-88(2), NEPTUNE RESOURCES CORPORATION LOAN GUARANTEE ACT; TABLED DOCUMENT 28-88(2), STAFFING PROBLEMS AT YCC; CR 4-88(2), FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES, PROCEDURES AND PRIVILEGES

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 1-88(2); Tabled Document 28-88(2); Committee Report 4-88(2), and wishes to report these matters are now concluded.

Motions To Accept Reports Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Kilabuk, thank you. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the committee has been considering Bills 26-88(2), 1-88(2) and 27-88(2), and I wish to report that Bills 1-88(2) and 27-88(2) are recommended for third reading, and that Bill 26-88(2) is not recommended for third reading.

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

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

---Carried

Mr. Lewis, you wanted to ask for unanimous consent.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to motions so that we could appoint Mr. Whitford to some committees.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being sought to return to Item 14, motions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Lewis, proceed.

REVERT TO ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 39-88(2): Appointment Of Yellowknife South MLA To Standing And Special Committees, Carried

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

WHEREAS there are a number of vacancies on the standing and special committees of the House;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to fill these vacancies;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford, be appointed as a Member of the standing committee on finance and the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions;

AND FURTHER, that the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford, also be appointed as an alternate Member to the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges and the special committee on the northern economy.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Thank you. Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, while we are on Item 14, motions, I would like unanimous consent of the House to waive the normal rules of the Assembly in order that prorogation be added on to the orders of the day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being sought to waive the rules of the House. Are there any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin, you do not have unanimous consent. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, might I ask unanimous consent to go back to Item 11, tabling of documents?

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent being sought to return to Item 11, tabling of documents. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Butters, you have unanimous consent.

REVERT TO ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 61-88(2), The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Annual Report, 1986-87, in English and Inuktitut.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 62-88(2), Draft Legislation, Environmental Protection Act. I would also like to table Tabled Document 63-88(2), Draft Legislation, Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Alloofoo. Anything further on Item 11, tabling of documents? Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, there are still some outstanding matters on the order paper for the committee of the whole. Can I seek unanimous consent to return to committee of the whole?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is requesting unanimous consent to return to committee of the whole. Are there any nays? I hear a distinct nay.

---Laughter

Order. Item 19, third reading of bills.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Third Reading Of Bill 1-88(2): An Act To Amend The All-terrain Vehicles Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 1-88(2), An Act to Amend the All-terrain Vehicles Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mr. Butters, I missed the bill number.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, Bill 1-88(2).

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 1-88(2) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

Third Reading Of Bill 27-88(2): Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I do not need unanimous consent. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 27-88(2), Neptune Resources Corporation Loan Guarantee Act, be read for third time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 27-88(2) has had third reading. Third reading of bills.

Item 20, assent to bills. Item 21, orders of the day.

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

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, November 8, 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. Petitions
9. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
10. Tabling of Documents
11. Notices of Motion
12. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
13. Motions
14. First Reading of Bills
15. Second Reading of Bills
16. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Documents 15-88(2), 21-88(2), 16-88(2); Bill 26-88(2); Tabled Document 56-88(2); Ministers' Statement 43-88(2)
17. Report of Committee of the Whole
18. Third Reading of Bills
19. Assent to Bills
20. Prorogation

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what form this takes but I believe the Clerk may have omitted to announce a public accounts committee meeting tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin, would you say that again, please?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Speaker, I was earlier given to believe the public accounts committee was meeting at 11:30 tomorrow morning. I was wondering if that was still on.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, yes. I also neglected to announce a caucus meeting at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning and a public accounts committee meeting at 11:30.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 8, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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