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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1988

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ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen): Orders of the day for Tuesday, November 8, 1988. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 49-88(2): Progress Report On The Five Year Action Plan On Equality For Women

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling the latest report on progress on this government's five year action plan on equality for women. It covers the period from April 1987 to March 1988. On a number of selected items, it has been updated to June 1988. Progress has been updated by various departments on the areas for which they are responsible. Nineteen action items have been achieved since the adoption of the five year plan in 1985.

During the year covered by this latest report, there have been several new achievements. These include: the passage of legislation and regulations on child care standards; amendment to the Labour Standards Act to guarantee maternity leave; the development of a training program for child day-care workers just under way at the Iqaluit Campus of Arctic College; the completion of the new school health curriculum including a unit on family life; and the promotion of women in business through workshops and conferences.

In addition, many other action items are either ongoing undertakings with no specific end, or are in progress. Several of these are being worked on now and I hope to be able to report on their completion within the next year. Examples of these are: the inclusion of women in the affirmative action policy; the development of child care policy and program; and the first stage of a review of NWT family law.

I would like to thank my cabinet colleagues for their co-operation in undertaking the action items assigned to them, and in contributing to the progress report. I feel that we are making considerable progress and encourage my colleagues in the House to review the report and make any comments or suggestions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Population Growth And Educational Needs, Yellowknife South

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to speak on Members' statements for the first time. I just want to point out that I have lived in Yellowknife since 1958 and I have lived in Yellowknife South for the last three and one-half years. One thing that I certainly have noticed in Yellowknife since 1958 is the growth. I have seen not only the population growth in Yellowknife over those years, but particularly the last five years and it is, to say the least, overwhelming.

During my recent campaign I had the opportunity of walking almost every street, I would say every street, in the riding, and I have gone door-to-door-to-door and one of the things I have noticed, in addition to the size, is the number of children we have. Of course, when you look at children you look at the need for education and with education you need schools. I was at the opening of the N.J. Macpherson Elementary School in September. One of the things I was astonished to learn when I was there, was that it was already undersized. I did not particularly care to see the students from this area being bused across town. I would like to point out that the grade six students, in particular, are being bused to Mildred Hall Elementary School and although there are facilities there for them, it is inadequate. I hope that this government will take notice of the size and the population, in particular, in Yellowknife South, and will be making moneys available for both capital and the planning...

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Your two minutes are up.

---Applause

Members' statements. Mr. Ernerk.

Member's Statement On Dental Services, Keewatin

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, for many years Keewatin residents have been asking for a resident dentist. Both the Keewatin Regional Council and the Keewatin Inuit Association have worked hard lobbying both governments to achieve this goal. Finally, just last June, a private dentist opened a private practice in Rankin Inlet to serve Rankin, Eskimo Point and Whale Cove residents. The University of Manitoba was to serve the balance of the Keewatin communities. The Keewatin Regional Health Board approved of this and thought they had finally achieved their goal. The private dentist is training local people and renting space from local businesses. The people of the Keewatin are finally getting proper dental care. This was good for both the economy of the region and the health of the people of the Keewatin Region. However, there is a problem now. Medical services branch of Health and Welfare Canada has overturned these plans and will not implement until April of 1989. Our government was aware of this situation and did not do anything to ensure the Keewatin Regional Health Board's wishes were respected.

Mr. Speaker, are regional health boards only token organizations? Is this what the government means by devolving services to the regional level? The Keewatin Regional Health Board is very unhappy that their work has been overturned by some distant bureaucratic body, as I am. I will be expecting some answers soon from the government regarding this issue. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Death Of Fort McPherson Elder

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend to my colleague for Mackenzie Delta, Richard Nerysoo, my condolences and sympathy on the death earlier this morning at his residence in Fort McPherson, of his grandfather, William Nerysoo, Senior.

Mr. Nerysoo was an elder, highly respected and loved in his community where his skills as a hunter and a trapper over almost a century are legendary. He always found time for young people and advised and counselled them with humour and anecdote. William Nerysoo, Senior was born on June 20, 1895 on the Blackstone in the Yukon. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, I speak for yourself and all Members of this House in offering to the Member for Mackenzie Delta and the family and friends of William Nerysoo, Senior, our deepest sympathy and regrets. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Revenue Canada Tax Audits Of Northern Residents

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last few days I read with interest the number of letters to the local newspaper complaining about the income tax audits that were being conducted. I sort of felt sympathetic to some of the people over here that were being requested for those. However, in one of the articles I did seem to recall the individual from Revenue Canada saying that these were being done in the Western Arctic. Well I can now confirm, Mr. Speaker, that these are also flooding into the Eastern Arctic. I was dexed a copy of one this morning from my constituency.

First point that I want to make is that these things are being sent to my constituents in English and many of them cannot understand what they are getting. The second point I want to make is the information they have been asked for is ludicrous. My first inclination is to advise my constituents to throw them in the garbage but that would be counselling people to break the law so I cannot do that. So the information that I have been giving back to my constituents is to write back in their own language, Inuktitut, to Revenue Canada and ask them for the request in writing. Just for example, they have been asked for land deeds, rental agreements, location and legal descriptions of residence and of land, documentation of rental receipts, property tax bills, landlord statements, hotel receipts, hydro bills, telephone bills, cable television bills, home insurance documents, all to substantiate the fact that you live where you say you live. In addition to that they want all details of travel, of where they went, what they did, who they went with, the purposes of the trips. The information is totally out to lunch and I do not know -- it is federal government again but hopefully somebody from up here can tell them to at least modify their requests because this is just ludicrous.

It does not take that much. They already have all of this information. If they are only trying to substantiate the fact that somebody lived here last year, surely they can do it a little bit better than asking for all this information.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Medical Profession's Concern With Disease Registries Act

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, several members of the medical profession are now voicing concerns about the Disease Registries Act, which has been dealt with by this House. I would urge the Minister to consult with the medical profession before a date is set for when this act comes into force, so that if any changes or amendments are required you would have a chance to think about those and make any changes that she thinks would be necessary. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Ms Cournoyea.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have two replies to questions, however, one of the Members is not in the House so I will table that document.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Did you want to deliver your other return now?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kilabuk asked if I could provide to him the background information for the rules and procedures for the medical house in Montreal. I have the information which I will provide to him directly.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister, in our rules, Rule 55(3) does state that an oral question taken as notice must be answered orally on a subsequent day. So, for the record, could you read it into the record under the heading of returns to oral questions, please?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will put that aside but I have the return to a question asked by Mr. Pudluk, on October 26th, in regard to smoked meat and health.

Return To Question O142-88(2): Carcinogenic Effect Of Certain Foods

My honourable friend, Mr. Pudluk, is correct in his statement that smoking of tobacco is bad for the health. It has been well documented that this is a major cause of cancer in our population, and proven that the inhaling of chemicals such as tar and nicotine in the tobacco is harmful. The eating of smoked meat has not been so defined, although there are some definite pros and cons which I would like to share with you.

A few years ago questions were asked about the safety of eating barbecued food since the process of barbecuing and the chemicals coming from the burning coals were thought to be harmful. It has been found that the eating of burned or charred food is injurious to health.

The smoking of meat, and consequent eating, is not comparable with inhaling tobacco smoke. Smoking of food is a form of preservation widely used in our northern culture, and at this time it is not known whether the materials used in the smoking process produce any harmful chemicals. At our request, the health protection branch, Health and Welfare Canada, is conducting a library search on the effects on health of consuming smoked foods.

We do know, however, that country food such as dried meat or fish is generally considered safe when prepared in the traditional way in a smokehouse. Temperature of the smoke is critical, as is the length of smoking time in relation to the thickness of the flesh and the fat content. In addition, for safe eating, the raw meat or fish should conform with the following guidelines: The meat or fish has to be from a healthy animal or fish, no tuberculosis, brucellosis or trichinosis; the animal must be slaughtered, gutted and butchered under clean conditions; the knives used must be clean; the person doing the butchering must be healthy; the meat or fish must be stored, shipped and processed under clean conditions; smoked fish or meat should always be refrigerated or frozen. Following these guidelines should ensure safe eating of smoked foods.

We have as yet no information that says eating smoked food causes cancer. If we receive any information from the health protection branch to this effect, you will be advised immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I have three returns, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Question O94-88(2): Price Of Food, Spence Bay

To Mr. Angottitauruq, Question O94-88(2), regarding Spence Bay transportation assistance program. The statements made by the Member appear to be requesting a consideration of an extension of the transportation assistance program to communities which face a cost of living that is significantly higher than other communities. Currently, the role of Government Services is limited to administering the program that gives assistance to communities lacking summer marine or winter road service.

As the points the Member raised are more of a government-wide concern, I will place the issue on the cabinet agenda for further consideration and examination and give the Member a formal response at the winter session, or advise him by letter earlier if the information is available.

Return To Question O95-88(2): Study On Sealift For Pelly Bay

Again, to Mr. Angottitauruq, return to Question O95-88(2), regarding Pelly Bay resupply. Several years ago, this government investigated, with the federal government, the feasibility of operating a Transport Canada sealift into Pelly Bay. Sealift operations at that time were ruled out because Transport Canada stated that the waters leading to the community had not been depth-sounded and no marine charts of the route were available, and the Canadian hydrographic survey organization had no plans for surveying the area.

Ramsey Withers, the deputy minister of the department, indicated to me that he would examine the possibility of having the depth-sounding carried out. I am not aware of any testing being done, as mentioned by the Member in his question, or whether any decision has been made to have a ship attempt to navigate into Pelly Bay. However, I will undertake to review this matter with the federal Department of Transport. I have also instructed one of my staff, who is presently in Ottawa, to discuss this matter with coast guard officials. The results will be shared with the Member prior to or during the next session.

Return To Question O81-88(2): Reductions In Air Fares

In response to Question O81-88(2), asked by Mr. Ernerk on October 21, regarding air fares. In response to the Member's query about the ability of one company to offer air fares 35 per cent lower in comparison to others, I would ask him to consider the following: Different types of aircraft cost a different amount to operate. Operating costs experienced by airlines are very difficult to acquire and difficult to interpret. Data on the number of passengers travelling on a route is usually a year old when published. Cargo volumes are not recorded by route. Consequently, any analysis undertaken by staff will be inaccurate. Since airlines know what is being carried, and since the pricing strategies to recover the cost of providing service is a commercial decision, I suggest that such fare reductions are made in the boardrooms of carriers engaged in a highly competitive business.

Therefore, when I write to the carriers, who will be invited by the Speaker to attend the next session, I would also ask them to inform the Assembly of the economics of the schedule airline business and how they arrive at the pricing of their services.

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

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Return to an oral question asked by Mr. Pollard on November 3, respecting vacancy rates at headquarters in all GNWT departments. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pollard asked, "How many positions are there in the different departments in headquarters that those departments have not yet requested Personnel to fill?" The answer is approximately 113. This figure is an estimated one. There are 2302 positions assigned to headquarters, although not all positions are located in Yellowknife. Of these, 254 were vacant as of September 30, 1988. The Yellowknife Personnel office was running 141 competitions. This means that 113 positions were vacant with no request to staff the positions. The lack of staffing requests could be for a number of reasons: positions held for return of incumbents from education leave, pending organization reviews, and so on. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O122-88(2): Licensing Of Child Care Workers

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Lewis on October 25, in regard to the licensing of child care workers.

Individual child care workers are not licensed in the Northwest Territories. However, under the Child Day Care Act, every operator of a child day-care facility, either private or non-profit, must have a signed release from a successful job applicant for access to information about the applicant's criminal record. This information is reported to my department by the RCMP. If the applicant has been convicted of an offence involving a child or any other offence which bears directly on his suitability for employment this information is conveyed to the operator.

The Department of Social Services is also responsible for the administration of the Child Welfare Act. This act is designed to provide for the protection of children and spells out the legal requirements associated with the apprehension of children. The act also requires reporting of child abuse and neglect.

In residential child care facilities operated by the Department of Social Services, criminal record checks are conducted on job applicants as part of the screening process. The RCMP carry out a name check, and if a record exists, a fingerprint check would be carried out. A conditional job offer may be made, pending results of the fingerprint check. Any record of convictions would be conveyed to the department and a decision to hire/not hire an individual would be made at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O257-88(2): Seat Belts In School Buses

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Government Services, Mr. Butters, regarding the implementation of the seat belt legislation. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not the concern as expressed yesterday having to do with saving lives -- I would like to ask the Minister whether or not the implementation of seat belts is going to apply to school buses as well as passenger buses.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I do not have the direct knowledge of that particular question. I will try to get an answer and advise him. I would assume that safety is required in school buses just as it is in any vehicle.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. You are taking the question as notice. Mr. Gargan.

Supplementary To Question O257-88(2): Seat Belts In School Buses

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, further I would like to also ask the Minister whether or not -- we did address one element of traffic safety and I would like to ask the Minister whether or not he would be implementing any kind of defensive driving course in the communities where the need is required to lessen the possibility of personal or public injuries?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O257-88(2): Seat Belts In School Buses

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I understand the Member's concern with regard to that particular matter. As I indicated yesterday, defensive driving is currently being taught at Arctic College and if you

are to pass the current driver's test you have to have a knowledge of defensive driving or you fail, because the test is made up of questions which relate to your defensive driving skills. I will look into the question made by the Member and see if defensive driving skills and knowledge might be available through schools or other agencies.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Part of the question taken as notice. Mr. Whitford.

Question O258-88(2): Terms Of Reference Of O'Handley Report

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question which is directed to the Minister of Social Services. Yesterday she survived a barrage of questions about YCC and she kept referring to the report or part of a report that she has already received. The question is, will she be able to provide to us, in particular myself, the terms of reference for the O'Handley report? There are indications that there was a second study being done and I just wondered if there was a revised set of terms of reference and I wonder if the Minister could provide the terms of reference to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O258-88(2): Terms Of Reference Of O'Handley Report

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had indicated yesterday the review that I had asked for, to be completed, was to be an internal review for departmental use. In regard to terms of reference there is only one set of terms of reference which I can consider to make available to the Members.

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

Question O259-88(2): Current Population Of Kaminuriak Herd

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not totally satisfied with the answer that I got yesterday from the Minister of Renewable Resources. I will ask another question with regard to the same issue. Does the Minister know the current population of the Kaminuriak caribou herd?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O259-88(2): Current Population Of Kaminuriak Herd

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O259-88(2): Current Population Of Kaminuriak Herd

MR. ERNERK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. How many?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O259-88(2): Current Population Of Kaminuriak Herd

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, 200,000.

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

Supplementary To Question O259-88(2): Current Population Of Kaminuriak Herd

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that there is a Caribou Management Board recommendation to him that there not be a commercial use quota, which is 350, in the Keewatin within the communities of Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin, Whale Cove and Eskimo Point?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O259-88(2): Current Population Of Kaminuriak Herd

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, yes.

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

Supplementary To Question O259-88(2): Current Population Of Kaminuriak Herd

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister if he supports that recommendation?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O259-88(2): Current Population Of Kaminuriak Herd

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, we have caribou management boards in the Northwest Territories, in different regions. It is not necessarily that the Minister accepts all the recommendations that are given to him. Concerning the recommendation made by the Caribou Management Board, I have not to date made a decision on their recommendation. Thank you.

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

Question O260-88(2): Funding For Seat Belts In School Buses

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to Mr. Gargan's question. I understand that the seat belt legislation will come into effect this coming year. If the answer from Government Services is going to be yes, school buses would be requiring seat belts, then my question would be to the Minister of Education. Would the department be giving additional funding to all the school societies to install seat belts into the school buses?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Morin.

Question O261-88(2): Additional Funding For Delegates To Conference

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Government Leader. International congress on traditional medicines has an annual conference. Will this government look at funding more than one delegate to go to the conference next year, if a request is made by the Dene Nation?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O261-88(2): Additional Funding For Delegates To Conference

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O262-88(2): Caribou Population Studies, Bathurst Island

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a similar question to Peter Ernerk's question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. In Resolute Bay we had a place where we went caribou hunting, Bathurst Island. There were no more caribou and I think there is a study being

done now to see if there is any increase in caribou. I wonder if you know if any studies have been done to see how many caribou are in that area? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O262-88(2): Caribou Population Studies, Bathurst Island

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this year, the Peary's caribou are not increasing up to now. We are very concerned about this, especially in the High Arctic. Our biologists know that the Peary's caribou are not increasing; they are decreasing instead of increasing up to today.

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

Question O263-88(2): Request For Return To Today's Question

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Education. Would the Minister consider giving me a reply to the previous question that I asked, before we prorogue today?

Question O263-88(2), Ruled Out Of Order

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister. Mr. Zoe, I am going to have to rule your question out of order. Our Rule 55(3) states that the Minister, when he takes a question as notice, will reply on a subsequent day under the item, "returns to oral questions". The Minister did take your question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O264-88(2): Review Of Proposed Seat Belt Legislation By Cabinet

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader with regard to the Motor Vehicles Act and the seat belt legislation that is going to be implemented. I would like to ask the Government Leader whether or not the Executive Council reviewed the Motor Vehicles Act itself and the implementation of some of those sections regarding seat belts, whether or not the Executive Council did discuss it and the implications that the new act would impose on the communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, could you confine your question to "seat belt"? Under our rules, we should not have questions where the item appears on orders of the day. The Motor Vehicles Act is still on orders of the day for today, so could you confine yourself to seat belts.

MR. GARGAN: Okay, I would like to ask the Minister then, the Government Leader, whether or not the Executive Council did review, that if the seat belt legislation was supported, what the implications would be with regard to such vehicles as maybe the transit bus, passenger bus or school bus. Just as a point of interest, Mr. Speaker, in the cities down south, people that are riding on transit buses or freeways or school buses are not required to use a seat belt.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O264-88(2): Review Of Proposed Seat Belt Legislation By Cabinet

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable Member knows, this bill, revisions to the Motor Vehicles Act affecting seat belts was dealt with by the 10th Assembly. Mr. Speaker, having been part of that Legislature and that government, I can assure the honourable Member that the amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act did get the fullest scrutiny of the cabinet's own committee on legislation and house planning, the cabinet itself, the standing committee on legislation of this Assembly, and of course the Legislative Assembly itself. So I would respond that the matter did get the fullest discussion and consideration. If there are any more detailed questions I would suggest they be referred to the appropriate Minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. This is a new question, Mr. Gargan? Across to Mr. Morin.

Question O265-88(2): Wood Bison Hunting For GHL Holders

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. Wood bison hunting that is being tendered in the newspaper, can general hunting licence holders apply for one of those tags? Can they put their name in to be drawn out of a hat?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O265-88(2): Wood Bison Hunting For GHL Holders

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O265-88(2): Wood Bison Hunting For GHL Holders

MR. MORIN: Yes, supplementary. Then will the Minister direct his department to rephrase this ad in the paper so it does say that, because in here it says only persons eligible for resident hunting licences? It should say resident hunting licence and GHL holders as well then. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I will look into the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. That portion of the question taken as notice. Mr. Ernerk.

Question O266-88(2): GNWT Support For Dentist In Keewatin

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. As I indicated in my Member's statement we now have a resident dentist in Rankin Inlet serving some communities in the Keewatin Region. It has been brought to my attention that the Rankin dentist will not be able to operate much longer without the support of the GNWT. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the Government of the Northwest Territories would consider entering into an agreement with the Keewatin Regional Health Board to keep a northern-based dentist in Rankin Inlet, and that northern-based dentist be supported by the Government of the NWT, so that he could continue to serve the communities mentioned during my Member's statement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question O266-88(2): GNWT Support For Dentist In Keewatin

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I guess I can give a long, protracted statement about the agreement between the federal government Health and Welfare Canada and the territorial government on the turnover of health services to this government, but what I will say is that there are certain understandings that we undertook in terms of phasing over outstanding and previous arrangements. In respect to the honourable Member's request, it appears to me that we are in support of that arrangement, provided that there is due respect given to the past arrangement with Health and Welfare Canada. We have agreed that in changing these arrangements that were in existence before the transfer, that we would carry out procedural matters with the Keewatin Regional Health Board, the University of Manitoba and this government, so that when we make these decisions the Keewatin Regional Health Board is consulted and in full knowledge of what the agreements are. As I have related earlier, the arrangements exist to April 1, 1989, and the people who are wishing to continue their private dental practice in the Keewatin have been

notified that we would request that they put forward their proposals. I guess the short answer to his question is, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Pudluk was next, and then Mr. Morin.

Question O267-88(2): Age Of Occupants Of Group Homes

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services, regarding the people that look after the handicapped. I think they stay in one building and I wonder, are the younger ones and the older ones together in the same house, or do you have regulations that certain age groups stay together? I think there are houses being built for these handicapped people in the NWT. I wonder if there are any regulations that you follow to put certain groups together. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O267-88(2): Age Of Occupants Of Group Homes

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the aged and handicapped homes, there are a number of aged and handicapped units being constructed, or that have been constructed, throughout the NWT and, basically, the homes that are constructed are determined on the needs identified in the respective regions. The program basically is to provide the homemaker services to the individuals in their home communities and to promote family contact with southern institutional clients in order to promote reintegration whenever it is possible. In regard to the aged and handicapped group home in your community, depending on the assessment of the need, the group homes are identified as to whether they are adult group homes or aged and handicapped for younger age groups. Basically, once the assessment is done, it is determined what type of home is required to meet the needs.

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

Question O268-88(2): Pricing Policy For Beer In NWT

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. In the budget session of next year, could you table in this House a paper explaining how it is that we can sell a case of beer in Hay River for one price, the same price in Inuvik, how we collect the tax from that, and how it breaks up into regions; hopefully, at the beginning of the session?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O268-88(2): Pricing Policy For Beer In NWT

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I will try to put together with the Minister of Government Services that whole pricing policy and table it at the beginning of the session.

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

Question O269-88(2): Wages Of Community Alcohol And Drug Counsellors

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services. Is she aware that alcohol and drug co-ordinating counsellors in the community are some of the lowest paid people in the community, and the lowest paid people that basically work for the government? They are lower paid than a secretary is. They undergo extensive training that could stretch out into years, but yet after they do all that training, they do not seem to get the benefit. So what happens is that we lose these people to go and work for the government where they can make a decent wage. Is she aware of that?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O269-88(2): Wages Of Community Alcohol And Drug Counsellors

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, yes, I am fully aware that for some of the individuals that work in that specific area there is a pay equity discrepancy. I am trying to address it. However, I must indicate to the Member that it is according to the proposals that each band council or hamlet puts forth to our department, and they determine the pay levels that are paid. We as a department accept the proposals and, further, at the same time, either approve them or deny them pending the recommendation of the board of management that looks after the alcohol and drug program. However, as I had indicated earlier in this House during this session, it is being reviewed to see how we can address this particular problem. Thank you.

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

Question O270-88(2): Support To Minister For Programs Re Alcohol Problems

MR. MORIN: Yes, it is to the Government Leader, but it is supplementary to that same question. To the Government Leader, are you aware of the alcohol problems that are existing in the communities and are you, as a Government Leader, giving the Minister of Social Services your support and the moneys to combat this problem in the community so that the co-ordinators, alcohol councillors and people that are working in the communities, can get a just wage so that the government jobs are not always stealing them from those programs? Are you in support of that?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O270-88(2): Support To Minister For Programs Re Alcohol Problems

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the honourable Member that I am certainly well aware of the serious problems caused by alcohol abuse in the Northwest Territories. I was aware when I practised law where over 90 per cent of the criminal cases I dealt with were directly related to alcohol. I am aware, as well, from my own community which has tried to tackle the problem of alcohol abuse and has had some success in dealing with it.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound problem that we should always do our best to deal with. I have had the privilege of visiting other northern jurisdictions in the world, including Greenland, and I think that although there is a great deal to be done, in fact, the Northwest Territories has some lessons to offer to other northern jurisdictions in coping with alcohol problems.

Mr. Speaker, the Member has asked a specific question about the adequacy of wages for alcohol and drug workers and councillors at the community level. I cannot specifically comment on the Member's point but I do want to assure the honourable Member that I have full confidence in the abilities of the Minister of Social Services to tackle this problem. Since the health transfer we now have a one-window approach to alcohol and drug problems in the Territories and funding and I know the Minister has reconstituted the board and is reviewing its operation and I can assure the honourable Member that social problems as the Commissioner's Opening Address indicated, are a priority of this government. It is not just economic development, we have to have a solid social foundation in our communities.

If the Minister of Social Services were to bring forward proposals that would improve the operation of counselling services at the community level, they would have my support and I am sure they would have the support of the cabinet. I hope that answers his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Is this a supplementary? Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question O270-88(2): Support To Minister For Programs Re Alcohol Problems

MR. MORIN: So then what you are saying is, with a proper proposal from the Minister of Social Services you would release more money to that type of program.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O270-88(2): Support To Minister For Programs Re Alcohol Problems

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, it would depend on what the Minister of Social Services recommended. The Minister of Social Services might recommend that we find better ways to utilize the existing financial resources that are available to us. I have to take it to cabinet and the government has to take advice from the Minister of Social Services on precisely what measures should be taken to improve the way we deal with alcohol and drug problems at the community level but if the Minister recommended more funding I am certain cabinet would give it serious consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Zoe had his hand up first.

Question O271-88(2): Additional Funding For Community Proposals

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to my colleague's question to Madam Minister Marie-Jewell in regard to the funding. As the Minister indicated, she puts the onus back onto the client that is producing the proposal but on the other hand it is usually her department that is saying, "Sorry, even though you have an elaborate proposal that considers everything that the employees require", it is usually the department that does the stalling with limited funds...

AN HON. MEMBER: What is your question?

MR. ZOE: I am getting to that yet. There are limited funds there and my question to the Minister is, I realize she is undertaking a study but how soon is she going to get to the bottom of this and would she have additional funding in the upcoming budget?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O271-88(2): Additional Funding For Community Proposals

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I am fully aware that the Member is asking me to determine what is going to be in my upcoming budget, and I must advise him that I am unable to respond to that at this time. However, in regard to how soon this problem would be looked at, I indicated in the House, earlier, that there are inequities in the distribution of funding to communities and it does take time for inequities to be addressed. I anticipate that they will be addressed. I do not know if they will be addressed as quickly as next year but they certainly will be addressed in my term as a Minister. Thank you.

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

Question O272-88(2): Status Of Rankin Inlet Alcohol And Drug Program

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to Mr. Morin's question regarding alcohol and drug programs. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. Is Rankin Inlet, Sappujjijit Friendship Centre alcohol and drug program, being re-evaluated? What is the present status?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O272-88(2): Status Of Rankin Inlet Alcohol And Drug Program

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, the present status of the alcohol and drug contribution is that Rankin Inlet, for a 10 month period for this year, received a funding of $102,000 and it will be reviewed like any other program for next year's budget.

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

Question O273-88(2): Fort Providence To Distribute Wood Bison Tags

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I tabled two documents during this session concerning the resolution of support from the Dene/Metis leadership and the Deh Cho Regional Council, supporting Fort Providence in bison tags and for them to distribute these tags. I would like to ask the Minister, why did he go against the Dene/Metis leadership and the Deh Cho Regional Council and why he did not want to have Providence control these tags?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O273-88(2): Fort Providence To Distribute Wood Bison Tags

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My view of the management and the allocation of tags for the wood bison is that there is a legitimate interest of not only the Fort Providence community, but there is also I would call it a "harvesting right" by other communities, especially Fort Rae, that we allocated the tags to. Also because the herd was put there by the Government of the NWT, I feel it is the right of the residents to be allowed to hunt in that area for a certain amount of that allocated quota.

At this point, allocation of tags I believe is 16 to Fort Providence, 12 to Fort Rae and another 12 to be drawn out of the hat. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O273-88(2): Fort Providence To Distribute Wood Bison Tags

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. Again to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I am quite correct in saying then, that he did go against the wishes of the leadership as well as the Deh Cho Regional Council. I also understand what the government is saying when he says that it was the government that planted those bison there. It is nothing but a headache to my community to try to get control of those herds. But will the government consider taking back those bison, if he is concerned about why they planted them there in the first place? Would the government then consider giving the headache to someone else and relocate them somewhere else?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O273-88(2): Fort Providence To Distribute Wood Bison Tags

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is ironic that the Member would make that sort of remark. There are very few places in the world that you could harvest a bison. These bison are very important for the NWT I believe. It is a disease free herd and it is surviving very well. It is a resource that could be utilized by communities. It will be a supplement to their food. I am not at this point prepared to say that the government will take the herd away from that area. Thank you.

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

Question O274-88(2): Issuing Hunting Tags Defeats Purpose

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to Mr. Gargan's question. As the Minister is aware in my area of Fort Resolution we have a bison herd, Hook Lake herd it is called. It is out of the park. It is on the east side of Slave River. As the Minister is probably aware one of the main reasons that the agreement in principle was not signed in July in Hay River is that the South Slave region wanted control of that herd. As you are aware, your government has basically agreed that the South Slave region will take over and control that herd of buffalo, east of Slave River.

When the herd of buffalo was moved to Fort Smith, the main idea of transplanting them there was so that the herd can grow and they can be used to be transplanted to other herds so that you can establish other herds in the North. That is the number one reason that herd was put into Fort Providence, so why are you issuing the hunting tags now when you know that they need seed stock from that herd into that Hook Lake herd to replenish it? Why are you not waiting until something can be done with that? You would save yourself a lot of headaches too if you just waited and give us back those buffalo later on.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O274-88(2): Issuing Hunting Tags Defeats Purpose

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the residents of that area, Fort Providence and Fort Rae especially, have suffered some degree of restrictions on their trapping because of the herd. I believe it is their right to harvest now, since the population of that herd has gone up to a large enough population for the harvest to take place. Also, the harvesting is part of the management tool to keep the population down to a manageable size. That is why the hunting is allowed at this point. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O274-88(2): Issuing Hunting Tags Defeats Purpose

MR. MORIN: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is it not the first priority of that herd to be used for restocking other herds in the North? I understood we got a paper on that herd and that is what was given by Renewable Resources. The first priority was for restocking; second priority was then for hunting.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, that could be but I am not aware of that statement. But I will look into it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. That supplementary taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Ernerk.

Question O275-88(2): Report On Tannery

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Is the report on the tannery finished?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O275-88(2): Report On Tannery

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, my department is working with Economic Development to report on the tannery. I believe it is going to take some time to come up with an ideal recommendation to the cabinet. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O275-88(2): Report On Tannery

MR. ERNERK: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Will this report be available for us to take a look at during the winter session of the Legislative Assembly?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O275-88(2): Report On Tannery

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I cannot say at this point whether the report will be ready for the winter session.

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

Question O276-88(2): Income Threshold For HAP

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Minister, as you are aware in order to be eligible for a HAP unit, there is a certain threshold of income you have to fall under. In Hay River the threshold is 40-some thousand dollars, and in Fort Resolution it is 30-some thousand. Why is that? It is cheaper to live in Hay River than Fort Resolution. Will you look at changing that, or doing something?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O276-88(2): Income Threshold For HAP

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The criteria for the HAP program is one which I am interested in examining, as I was when I sat with the honourable Member. The question he asked me yesterday was whether I would be tabling some of these evaluations of the criteria at this particular juncture. The department is considering them, but it has not come to a resolution of that particular problem as yet, so I have nothing to table. I will commit to the Member that I will be looking into that personally, in the weeks ahead.

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

Question O277-88(2): Minister's Attendance At Baffin Region Meeting Re Housing

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation. In the Baffin Region the chairmen will be having their meeting shortly. Will you be going to that managers' meeting?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you wait for the Chair to listen to translation? Mr. Minister, would you go ahead please.

Return To Question O277-88(2): Minister's Attendance At Baffin Region Meeting Re Housing

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to be present at that meeting, and I hope to make a visit, weather permitting, to Lake Harbour and Cape Dorset with Mr. Arlooktoo at that time.

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

Question O278-88(2): Utilization Of School Gyms

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Community Affairs. As you are aware, in some of the communities they have what they call a school gym that

is used as a community hall as well. Has your department looked into how well this is working, and if not will they look into it?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O278-88(2): Utilization Of School Gyms

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the program the Member mentions is a joint program between ourselves and the Department of Education. It does call for a multi-use, multipurpose facility. Indications to date are that it has been successful, and one of the reasons it is successful is that because we are able to combine facilities, we save money and are therefore able to build more of these facilities than previously. Therefore, more facilities have been built because of this policy. We have had a number of minor problems in terms of acoustics for dances, or spectator seating for sports events. However, the designs are constantly changing and we have arrived at a fairly decent design, and the complaints seem to be at a minimum now. We reviewed the standards and criteria for these facilities last year and they were updated, and in some cases made a little bit larger. We are constantly evaluating that program and the best method of evaluation for us is the feedback that we get from the communities, the people that actually use those facilities. They seem to be working pretty well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Morin, supplementary. New question?

Question O279-88(2): Highway Contracts For Northerners

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Public Works and Highways. Madam Minister, last winter the then Minister of DPW, Gordon Wray, had stated in this House in answer to my question about looking at the big contracts we have in the South Slave region for paving the highways, and how the Alberta government tenders these contracts. They stipulate to the contractor what he would pay for a certain piece of equipment, for example a grader gets paid so much an hour, a certain sized truck gets paid so much an hour, and I see by travelling in that region that most of the contractors on those big jobs all have Alberta plates. They are all Alberta trucks. Does this government want to hire Alberta trucks and bring in people to pave our highways, or are we going to look at stretching a contract out, or making it smaller, whatever it takes, to ensure our northern contractors are the people that are doing the work.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O279-88(2): Highway Contracts For Northerners

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member, the past Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Highways, and myself as both Minister and the representative of the Beaufort region, are aware that highway construction and maintenance can bring these kinds of benefits to the North. Our concern is to get maximum benefits to northern businesses. Mr. Speaker, we can have a long discussion on this particular issue. However, I would like to say to the Member that I am aware of this situation and the details of how sometimes, even though this government wishes to recognize northern contractors, the privileges that we pass on to some of our northern businesses are manipulated and do not pass to the smaller truck owners that work out of the NWT. All I can assure the honourable Member is that this particular issue on how we can possibly make sure that the Alberta licence plates are replaced by legitimate NWT small businesses is presently being addressed. I cannot conclude right now that we have come to a total solution, but the issues have been addressed and the experiences of the past Minister and other officials have been brought together, and we are attempting to deal with the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Ernerk.

Question O280-88(2): Expansion Of Rankin Inlet Air Terminal

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that I have already asked this question to the Government Leader previously, but I would like to hear it straight from the horse's mouth, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. It is regarding possible expansion for the Rankin Inlet air terminal. We now have military coming into Rankin, we now have a number of other airlines coming into Rankin, and I am wondering if the Minister would be prepared to support a possible expansion of the Rankin Inlet air terminal because I know it will be supported by our new Member of Parliament, Jack Anawak, on November 21.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O280-88(2): Expansion Of Rankin Inlet Air Terminal

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be looking forward to Mr. Anawak's support. I think, rather than deal with the expansion of the existing air terminal building, my support really must lie with the construction of an entirely new airport terminal building. Actually, I was the airport manager in Rankin Inlet when that airport terminal building was constructed. Its intention was only to service at that time Twin Otters and the occasional YS-11 that came out of Churchill. It was never intended to service 727s, 737s. I am not hopeful, however, that Transport Canada will come across with the capital dollars necessary to construct a new terminal building. I know that, for example, here in the capital city of Yellowknife which has probably the heaviest air traffic of all the communities, it took many years to convince them to expand the terminal building and you only see it happening now, after many years of agitation. My hope for Rankin Inlet would be to somehow convince them to use some of the money that they are expending on the expansion of the runway itself to construct a proper terminal facility because I know that Transport Canada has no capital plans at this time to do anything in Rankin Inlet. As I mentioned in my letter to Mr. Bouchard, they pass the freedom-to-move policy without ever really having regard for the impact that it would have on airport facilities, particularly small ones like Rankin Inlet. So, I can offer the Member my support, however, I am not hopeful that it will happen unless we can somehow convince them to utilize some of that money. Thank you.

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

Question O281-88(2): Support For Free Trade

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, it is pretty clear that we are probably not going to have a discussion today on free trade but I know that our government was represented and did make a presentation to the parliamentary committee that reviewed this issue, and at that time indicated that it supported the free trade deal. So, I would like to ask the Government Leader if he supports free trade.

Question O281-88(2), Ruled Out Of Order

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, your question is out of order. Free trade is on the orders of the day on three different papers today and questions should not anticipate orders of the day. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O282-88(2): Extra Teacher For Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. In his return, Mr. Kakfwi said that the student/teacher ratio is 19 to one and that the formula used does not include culture, including instructors, nor does it include classroom assistants. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not he would reinstate one extra teacher back to Fort Providence as it applies on this student/teacher ratio?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O282-88(2): Extra Teacher For Fort Providence

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the enrolment figures that the department uses are the ones that the community provides to the department and that is how the number of teachers and classroom assistants are all assigned to the community. If the Member feels someone has miscounted or short-changed Fort Providence then we can have a look at it and count over again.

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

Question O283-88(2): Mr. Kakfwi's Birthday

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a lighter note, Mr. Speaker, the arctic secret service has reported that yesterday was Mr. Kakfwi's birthday. I wonder if the Minister could confirm that please, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: You know what the next question is going to be.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, could you confirm?

Return To Question O283-88(2): Mr. Kakfwi's Birthday

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes, I would be happy to. Thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to...

AN HON. MEMBER: How old is he?

---Laughter

Question O284-88(2): Exemptions From Seat Belt Legislation

MR. GARGAN: I would like to, again, direct my question to Mr. Butters, regarding the seat belt legislation. Mr. Butters is aware, I suppose, that there are certain people that are exempt from that seat belt legislation. Just to mention that the enforcers of that seat belt legislation are exempt from it. In other words, RCMP do not have to use seat belts. Also, emergency vehicles, such as ambulances are exempt from this seat belt legislation, and also people that are under the direction of a doctor because of their physical size or disability of some sort; they are going to be exempt from the seat belt legislation.

The only people that are not exempt from -- students on a school bus are not exempt from that legislation, so I would assume that Mr. Butters is aware of it and that he has made the appropriate forecast for next year so that you could install straps in school buses for students. Has the Minister made any plans in that area, to put straps in buses and passenger buses as well?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O284-88(2): Exemptions From Seat Belt Legislation

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the Member is aware that if there are not belts in the vehicles provided by the manufacturer, then it is not a requirement of the operator and owner to put in such belts. The same applies for school buses, in response to his earlier question. If the manufacturer has provided seat belts in the buses, then they are to be used. If they have not been provided, then they, too, are excused of putting them in and installing them.

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

Question O285-88(2): Seat Belts In Buses

MR. ZOE: Thank you. My question will be directed to the Minister responsible for Education. If Mr. Butters is correct in assuming that buses that are not manufactured with seat belts are exempt, then would the Minister consider installing seat belts in those types of buses that did not have those seat belts when they were manufactured? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters. Sorry, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O285-88(2): Seat Belts In Buses

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: As the Minister of Government Services indicated, if the bus was manufactured without seat belts, then there is legally no requirement for the school bus to have seat belts installed in it. If the bus is manufactured already with seat belts, then if they have been taken out, they will be put back in. As of right now, there is no thought of installing seat belts in all school buses that previously had no seat belts but as the Member indicates, it can be considered.

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

Supplementary To Question O285-88(2): Seat Belts In Buses

MR. ZOE: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is of great concern to me because one of my constituents travels 11 kilometres, from Rae to Edzo, and they have to travel on the access road and also on our territorial highway where there is a great deal of traffic and I am quite concerned. That is the reason I am asking if the Minister would undertake to provide additional funding to various LEAs that do not have seat belts in their existing school buses. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Zoe, I believe that was the same question over again. If it was not, Mr. Minister do you have a different answer?

Further Return To Question O285-88(2): Seat Belts In Buses

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: The people that would normally take direction from Education, not to slight the MLAs, in most communities or regions we have either divisional boards, particularly in the East, or we have education authorities or education societies. From not only Rae but any other community where there are school buses being used, if the community demands strongly, they also feel strongly, about seat belts being available and if the technical arguments are in support that they can be installed without great cost and without actually being a detriment to safety, then we would seriously consider it. That is how it would be done.

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

Question O286-88(2): Seat Belts In School Buses

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, the intent of the seat belt legislation is to save lives; even one person's life is this important. I believe the Executive to be saying that. Now does it not mean,

then, that having 40 students in a bus should take on that much more importance to the Executive?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, to whom was that directed? Mr. Butters.

Return To Question O286-88(2): Seat Belts In School Buses

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, it is an important issue to the Executive and, in fact, at the present time our government is in contact with Alberta to determine what is happening in that jurisdiction. In Alberta, at the present time, only the driver is required to have a seat belt but we are looking into what is being done in the provinces to try and address the matter that the Member has brought to our attention.

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

Question O287-88(2): Caribou Meat Processing Plant

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Yesterday when I was talking with Tagak Curley, president of the Keewatin Wildlife Federation, and when we were talking about this issue of Kaminuriak herd's commercial use, he indicated to me that the Keewatin Wildlife Federation is in favour of the establishment of a meat processing plant. Are there such discussions that are taking place between KWF and Renewable Resources?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O287-88(2): Caribou Meat Processing Plant

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: I believe that the Keewatin Wildlife Federation has been talking to Economic Development of our government on this issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I then ask the Minister of Economic Development?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ernerk, you cannot ask the same question twice. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question O288-88(2): Transcripts Of Task Force Report On Aboriginal Languages

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture and Communications. The Minister did say that he was going to provide me with transcripts of the task force report on aboriginal languages. However, Mr. Speaker, I also agreed that if the cost of the task in transcribing is too much, I would be satisfied if I could get sections of the committee hearings which actually say that an aboriginal language bureaucracy should be established in Yellowknife. I will be satisfied if he could give me sections of those committee hearings which actually say that. Then I believe the Minister did say that he was going to provide me with those during this fall session. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the status on that?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O288-88(2): Transcripts Of Task Force Report On Aboriginal Languages

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I have the information that I needed to provide the Member. I will give him that information. I have that information now. I will give it to him before the end of the day. Thank you.

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

Question O289-88(2): Establishment Of Meat Processing Plants In NWT

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Could the Minister indicate to me if the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is planning to establish meat processing plants in the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O289-88(2): Establishment Of Meat Processing Plants In NWT

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if as a department we are planning on establishing them, but I know that as a department we are certainly working with groups to help them establish plants. We have done some work with a group in Cambridge Bay, the hunters and trappers in Cambridge Bay, and a small plant has been established which has turned out to be very successful.

We are, as part of the cabinet strategy on input substitution, looking comprehensively at meat processing plants and all of the various types of food processing plants throughout the North. Most certainly the Keewatin will be one of those regions, given the large number of caribou available to residents of that region. So certainly the Keewatin would be a part of that strategy. As to location, we are not at that stage yet. We are merely examining the feasibility and the economics of these plants. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Wray. Oral questions. Are there any further oral questions? Mr. Ernerk.

Question O290-88(2): Superintendent Of Social Services, Keewatin Region

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. Earlier last month I asked the Minister regarding a new superintendent of Social Services in the Keewatin Region. I am wondering who that person is. I understand that person has been named.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O290-88(2): Superintendent Of Social Services, Keewatin Region

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to advise the Member that the new superintendent for the Keewatin Region is Mr. Greg Cummings.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Oral questions. Are there any further oral questions?

Item 6, written questions. No written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, return to Question W19-88(2), asked by Mr. Ernerk to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; return to Question W21-88(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo to the Minister of Education.

Return To Question W19-88(2): Data On Effects Of Uranium Mining At Kiggavik Uranium Mine

Hon. Nellie Cournoyea's return to Question W19-88(2), asked by Mr. Ernerk on November 2, 1988, regarding data on effects of uranium mining at Kiggavik uranium mine.

This response is provided on behalf of the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources and myself as Minister responsible both for Health and Energy, Mines and Resources.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has requested that the Kiggavik uranium mining proposal be subjected to a formal public review. The Executive Council chose the federal environmental assessment and review process because it is the most intense and complete public environmental and socio-economic review available to our government. The baseline data requested by the Member covers only a few of the many important topics which the review panel must deal with in order to determine the effects of the proposed project on the land, water, air, plants, animals, and people in the Keewatin. Hearings will be held in Keewatin and other Northwest Territories communities so that residents can participate throughout the review process and state their concerns directly to the panel.

The panel will first visit the communities to ask residents what issues they are concerned about and what baseline information they want presented at the formal hearings. The company will then be aware of the questions it must answer and the information it must provide in its environmental impact statement. The environmental impact statement is the company's project proposal, which the panel will review.

The need for adequate baseline information is well understood, particularly for something as complex as uranium mining. This is an important question because baseline data is fundamental to government's ability to assess the actual effects of uranium mining. Monitoring the effects of the project over time is difficult without a complete baseline as a reference point. The Government of the Northwest Territories will want to ensure that adequate baseline information is in place for those areas under its jurisdiction.

At present, territorial, federal and municipal governments and industry have only a part of this baseline information. Additional information must be carefully focussed if it is to be useful. The review panel's final report will identify any outstanding baseline data required before the project can proceed. The baseline information which the Member requests will be required by the panel. It will be available to the public and the Member as it is prepared and provided through the review process.

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

Hon. Stephen Kakfwi's return to Question W21-88(2), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on November 3, 1988, regarding financial resources for Dene for education.

Prior to requesting funds from the Government of the Northwest Territories for the creation of education policy development staff, the Dene Nation requested financial support from the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. In response, Indian and Northern Affairs denied the request and suggested that the Dene Nation explore the support available from the Assembly of First Nations, AFN. The AFN had carried out extensive fieldwork among the Dene in the NWT as part of their national review of Indian education.

In May, the Dene Nation requested funding from the Minister of Education for the creation of two education policy development positions and a half-time administrative support position for education work. The Minister of Education acknowledged the request and is considering it. The Minister has received similar requests for funding from the Dene Cultural Institute and community band councils for work in the area of education and he is currently consulting with the Dene Cultural Institute. The Minister plans to meet with the Dene Nation following the conclusion of this session of the Legislative Assembly to discuss their request.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

Item 8, petitions.

Item 9, reports of standing and special committees. Item 10, tabling of documents. Mr. Ernerk.

ITEM 10: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should very much like to table Tabled Document 64-88(2), from the Keewatin Inuit Association to the Minister of Health, regarding dental services in the Keewatin Region.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 65-88(2), a statement on Special Initiative on Community Health and Health Service Delivery North of 60, National Health Research and Development Program, in English and Inuktitut.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Tabling of documents. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 66-88(2), Equality for Women, A Five Year Plan of Action, 1985-89, Progress Report to March 1988, in English. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 10, tabling of documents. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 67-88(2), a statement on the Business Incentive Policy, in English and Inuktitut.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Item 10, tabling of documents.

Item 11, notices of motion.

Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 13, motions.

Item 14, first reading of bills.

Item 15, second reading of bills. Item 16, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Tabled Documents 15-88(2), 21-88(2), 16-88(2), 56-88(2); Ministers' Statement 43-88(2), with Mr. Zoe in the chair.

ITEM 16: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The committee will come to order. What is the committee's wish? In which order would the committee like to proceed? Can I get direction from the committee as to which document they would like dealt with this afternoon? Tabled Document 15-88(2). Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee want to deal with Tabled Document 15-88(2), tabled by Mr. Butters?

---Laughter

Mr. Gargan.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): We have a motion on the floor to report progress.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Just for clarification, if this vote is successful, prorogation is on the order paper. Do we prorogue if this vote is successful?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Yes, if it is on the order paper. I have a motion on the floor to report progress. Mr. Ernerk, your point of order.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, is it my understanding then, that if the vote should be successful that all the items on the order paper will die?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Yes. I have a motion on the floor. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

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

ITEM 17: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Documents 15-88(2), 21-88(2), 16-88(2) and 56-88(2), and Ministers' Statement 43-88(2), and also Bill 26-88(2) and wishes to report progress.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Is there a seconder to the motion? Ms Cournoyea, thank you. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 18, third reading of bills. Item 19, assent to bills. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared, at this time, to assent to bills and also to prorogue the third session of this 11th Assembly of the Legislature?

ITEM 19: ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories I assent to the following bills: Bill 1-88(2), Bill 7-88(2), Bill 9-88(2), Bill 10-88(2), Bill 16-88(2), Bill 17-88(2), Bill 18-88(2), Bill 19-88(2), Bill 20-88(2), Bill 21-88(2), Bill 23-88(2), Bill 24-88(2), Bill 25-88(2), and Bill 27-88(2).

Tribute To William Nerysoo, Senior

Members of the House have been advised of the death early this morning of William Nerysoo, Senior, the grandfather of Richard Nerysoo, a Member of this House. He was a respected elder who shared his knowledge of trapping and fishing with the young people of his area. William Nerysoo was a strong supporter of the very effective Concerned Citizens committee of Fort McPherson. He leaves many grandchildren to mourn his loss. My sympathy, and I am sure the sympathy of Members is extended to the Nerysoo family.

One final note, I am pleased to notice, as an observer of the activities of this House, the excellent service provided by the Pages and the Sergeant-at-Arms at this session.

---Applause

The service provided is regularly very good but I should judge it to be outstanding this time.

Time And Place Of Next Session

The next session of this Legislature will commence at 2:30 p.m., February 8, 1989, in Yellowknife.

ITEM 20: PROROGATION

As Commissioner, I prorogue this third session of the 11th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

---PROROGATION

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