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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1989

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen): Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 7th, 1989. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 18-89(1): NWT Literacy Program

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, during the next three years the Department of Education will spend \$1.9 million to help Northerners with a limited education to become more literate and involved in running their own communities. The federal government through the National Literacy Secretariat has agreed to share the cost of the program by contributing \$250,000 to the budget.

The program will provide programs to help youth who dropped out of school before grade nine and now need help to get back into education, mature students who have been out of school for some time and who need education to get work and older residents who need to learn to read and write so that they can become more active in community life.

My department will soon be hiring a literacy co-ordinator to manage the program and to provide people with information about how the program works. We plan to involve community organizations in running the program and providing us with advice on those people who need the most help and the best way to provide it. One of the main questions we need to answer is, "How do we improve the ability of people to read and write in English while helping them to make better use of native languages?" This is an area where I need advice and I am looking for ways to involve community groups and organizations in finding the answers.

In 1989, we will spend \$50,000 on advertising to promote the program and to provide people with information on how to become involved in literacy. The Arctic College has spent \$145,000 on teleconferencing equipment and computer equipment to offer programs in communities by using telephone and satellite connections, and they will spend \$500,000 this year to provide courses in communities that will be identified by talking to organizations such as LEAs and native organizations.

The school system will run a voluntary tutor program where high school students will get credit for tutoring adults in their home communities. As well, a total of \$140,000 will be given to community organizations and non-government organizations to run tutorial programs, classroom education and literacy awareness programs. This will mean that students in many small communities will now be able to take courses through teleconferencing. They will be able to work with their own tutors to improve their education and community groups will have a way of helping residents who cannot simply go back to school.

Mr. Speaker, 1990 is International Literacy Year. We will gain a great deal of experience through our efforts this year which will allow us to improve our programs so that we have a strong support system for adult learners in 1990 and well beyond. I really believe that this sort of program is critical to the development of the North and that it will help people to become more self-reliant and to have a say in how their communities are run. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 19-89(1): European Actions Against The Fur Trade

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on the European actions against our Northwest Territories fur economy. At the first session of the European Parliament last fall a majority of the Members signed a resolution calling for actions to be taken against the fur trade. Those actions included legislation to ban leghold traps throughout Europe and labelling of furs imported from countries continuing to use the leghold trap.

In response to these actions a concerted program to lobby and educate appropriate European Parliament officials was implemented by the Fur Institute of Canada with the support of Indigenous Survival International. As a result of the effectiveness of our co-ordinated communications program, a revised resolution was recently passed by Members of the European Parliament. This resolution now calls for elimination of the reference to banning the importation of furs, increased discussions with the primary producers such as native peoples, support for Canada's pioneering trap research program and support for the concept of international trapping standards.

As well, Mr. Carlos Ripa Di Mena has been appointed as the new Commissioner for the Environment. He has stated his concerns about the viability of the labelling concept to Members of the European Parliament. He also informed them of his intent to speak directly with the Fur Institute of Canada and Indigenous Survival International. A minority of Members of the European Parliament reaffirmed their wish to have the fur labelling initiatives reviewed by the European Economic Commission. We are fully confident, though, that this concept will not be considered for legislation. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to provide more detailed background information for the Members upon their request.

In the coming months, several actions to support fur trapping will be implemented. These include continuation of the lobby and education process, and strengthening the European bureau for conservation and development as an on-site agency to promote positive conservation concepts. Members of the European Parliament will also be visiting Canada this May. They will have the opportunity to experience the culture, lifestyle and trap research aspects of the fur industry.

In response to emergency discussions on fur issues last year, wildlife Ministers across Canada agreed to a five point strategy calling for: the adoption across Canada of improved fur harvesting regulations emphasizing humane trapping methods; promotion of conservation, public education and trapper training; continued commitment to managing wildlife and its habitat; increased support for the Fur Institute of Canada and other responsible user and non-governmental groups; and enhanced communication at the international political level. We are continuing our efforts to advance actions necessary to implement this strategy. Specific actions which I have undertaken as Minister of Renewable Resources include continuing our efforts to support trap research; the phasing in of new trapping regulations and programs; enhanced efforts on trapper education; and continuing fur-bearer research and management.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the people of the Northwest Territories and their numerous efforts to combat these attacks on our traditions and our culture. For example, letters were sent to Europe by hundreds of our children and by community organizations and their leaders. Delegations representing our people have gone overseas to openly confront these people and

their advisers who have provided them with such poor information. Support for our actions has come from not only this Assembly, but the entire Parliament of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this government will continue to fight these attacks with every weapon at our disposal. We are not prepared to allow outsiders to be influenced by misguided animal rights activists to harm the people of this land. We will take whatever actions are necessary to ensure that our people are protected and supported. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Ministers' Statement 20-89(1): Emergency Power Outage, Yellowknife

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, if I might seek your leave to make a short statement by way of an emergency. Mr. Speaker, Members may well be aware that there is a bit of an emergency in Yellowknife today due to difficulties with the Snare hydro line which has overloaded the diesel capacity in the city. As a result the decision was taken this morning that our government offices, in an effort to contribute to the conservation of energy would be closed down this afternoon only, due to the need to conserve power.

Essential services will still be provided in areas such as the hospital and correctional centre, and legal and court registries will maintain skeleton staff but employees are receiving an unexpected holiday as a result of this crisis this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Zoe.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Legislation Re Common-Law Relationships

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have already raised questions in this House on a matter that is of concern to me and my constituents and I am sure to many people across the Territories. Mr. Speaker, the concern I have is the lack of protection afforded to the people in common-law relationships. It appears that more and more of our people are involved in common-law relationships and wish to be responsible. Adults want to be sure they are protected in the event of such things as accidents, fire or loss of either partner's life. This is a serious concern. Common-law relationships are many across the Territories. I feel that if people are being responsible and wish to protect themselves, their partners and families, then our government should provide legislation in this area.

Mr. Speaker, if legislation exists then it should be updated and the residents of the Territories informed on how our laws protect them. Mr. Speaker, I urge our government and the Minister of Justice to review this matter as this concern may seem small but is an important part of family life in the Territories. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Clarification Of Use Of Word "Leaked"

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After reading the Hansard transcripts of Friday, March 3, I realize I may have made an inappropriate use of the word "leaked" when I referred to a document on the standing committee on finance. I would like to make it clear, Mr. Speaker, that this standing committee on finance is a committee of this House and whatever documents we produce in fact are equally available to all Members. So it was therefore inappropriate to say that this document was "leaked" to another Member. It would only have been appropriate if I had said it had been leaked to the public which would have been a different thing.

However I would like to add, Mr. Speaker, that unlike the Executive Council, all the work that we do in our committees is not of a private and privileged nature. We do share with our neighbours across the street there. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Condition Of Housing Provided By NWT Housing Corporation

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have just returned from Rankin Inlet yesterday. Thank you, I had a good flight. Yesterday I was asked to visit NWT Housing Corporation house number 211. The couple that received the house from the Housing Corporation have a child and the house was in very poor condition. The walls were taken out, some of the studs in the house had been burned before and the house was not well made. It was quite a pitiful sight. The NWT Housing Corporation employee insulted her and made her cry. I am sorry to see that the Housing Corporation Minister is not here. It is obvious that the houses in Rankin and in the NWT should be of better quality and they should be inspected for fire, health and safety. I saw the health safety officer in Rankin Inlet. If the NWT Housing Corporation is going to make houses, they should not make houses from wood that has been burned. I think they should be re-retrofitted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O223-89(1): Percentage Of Native Employment In Senior Management

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question O223-89(1), asked by Mr. Morin on February 27, 1989, regarding native people in senior positions. In the territorial Public Service there are 65 positions which are at, or higher than, the assistant deputy minister level or equivalent. This includes deputy ministers, assistant deputy ministers, regional directors and heads of secretariats. Of these, eight are occupied by native persons. This yields a participation rate of 12.3 per cent for native persons in such senior level positions. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O261-89(1): Seat For Baffin Regional Council

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two returns, both for Mr. Arlooktoo. The first one is a return to Question O261-89(1), asked on March 1st, with regard to Baffin regional interdepartmental capital planning committee. In early February, the regional director of the Baffin Region sent a letter to the Baffin Regional Council inviting a representative from the Baffin Regional Council to attend the February 20, 1989 meeting of the regional interdepartmental capital planning committee.

Although invited, no representative of the Baffin Regional Council attended this meeting. The committee will reconvene on March 17, 1989 and in a letter sent out immediately following the February meeting, the invitation was once again extended to the Baffin Regional Council to have a representative participate in the upcoming and future meetings.

Return To Question O266-89(1): Size Of Gym For Lake Harbour

Mr. Speaker, I have a second return to Question O266-89(1), asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on March 2, 1989, with regard to Lake Harbour community gym. The facility to be built in Lake Harbour is a junior size community gym. When the question was raised, the Member referred to a community hall but it is important to make the distinction between halls and gyms, as they are of different sizes.

The Lake Harbour community gym will be a total size of 4100 square feet and the actual playing court will be 40 feet by 65 feet. The building capacity of the Lake Harbour gym will be 610 people standing or 325 people seated. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

Further Return To Question O191-89(1): Program To Assist Individuals With Unemployment Insurance

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Gargan on February 23, 1989, dealing with unemployment insurance information. The Unemployment Insurance Act is federal legislation and therefore the federal government administers the act and has primary responsibility for making the public aware of the applicable provisions. The Arctic Public Legal Education and Information Society is about to publish the second printing of a booklet on "Women and Finance". Included in the booklet is a section on unemployment insurance maternity benefits. The publication is expected to be available by the end of March. Arctic PLEI also is discussing with the Women's Secretariat the possibility of co-operating in the production of an information package on this subject. Thank you.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O330-89(1): GNWT Appearance At Manitoba Hearings On Meech Lake Accord

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure Members are aware that on Friday the Province of Manitoba decided that it would reverse its decision of cancelling public hearings on the Meech Lake Accord and, due to the new situation, after meeting with the First Ministers, the Premier of Manitoba has decided to hold public hearings. I have a question for the Minister of Justice as to whether or not we have any plans, as a government, hopefully in participation with the Assembly, to appear at those public hearings in Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O330-89(1): GNWT Appearance At Manitoba Hearings On Meech Lake Accord

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is aware, the government, along with the Speaker's Office, had already made plans before Christmas to send two representatives to the hearings in Manitoba; and then because of the constitutional language crisis in Quebec, Manitoba decided at that time not to proceed with their hearings. We put our plans on hold. Because the Manitoba government last week announced that they would be holding hearings -- and I understand the hearings will be of a fairly short duration; we are talking about two or three weeks -- presently my officials are getting in touch with officials from Manitoba, and I, in co-ordination with the Speaker, will be trying to co-ordinate an intervention by this Legislative Assembly in Manitoba. Thank you.

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

Question O331-89(1): Advice And Input Of Members Of Legislative Assembly

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of Education with regard to an announcement that he made today. Can the Minister indicate whether or not he is going to seek the advice and input of Members of this Legislative Assembly? Or does he even think that it is necessary to seek advice from Members on such an important issue?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O331-89(1): Advice And Input Of Members Of Legislative Assembly

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I think it is important and we will seek advice from Members.

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

Question O332-89(1): Visit By Members Of European Parliament

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. In your statement today you stated that: "Members of the European Parliament will also be visiting Canada this May. They will have the opportunity to experience the culture, lifestyle and trap research aspects of the fur industry." Does that mean that these Members of the European Parliament will be coming to the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O332-89(1): Visit By Members Of European Parliament

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question O332-89(1): Visit By Members of European Parliament

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, do you have the itinerary for these Members? Are you going to make sure they get a wide variety of culture and visit with the Inuit communities as well as the Dene/Metis communities?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O332-89(1): Visit By Members Of European Parliament

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, at this point I do not have the itinerary. As soon as I get it, I will advise all the Members of their intentions in visiting the communities.

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

Question O333-89(1): Getting European Parliament Members To Come North

MR. ZOE: A supplementary to Mr. Morin's question, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister make every effort to get the European Parliament Members to come north so that they can experience for themselves, or would he try, in his best capacity, to get them up here?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Return To Question O333-89(1): Getting European Parliament Members To Come North

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that they will be coming to the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Morin.

Question O334-89(1): Visitor Witness Of Proposed Trap Exchange Program, Snowdrift

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister do you think that it would be possible to have them involved and witness the proposed trap exchange program between your department and the community of Snowdrift?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O334-89(1): Visitor Witness Of Proposed Trap Exchange Program, Snowdrift

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

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

Question O335-89(1): Past Support Of European Parliament Not Good

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My friend Don Morin's question, I will be adding another question to it. I have a short statement first. At the time when Peter Ittinuar was an MP, we used to meet with the European Parliament. They would not support our concerns very much at Strasburg. If they arrive in our country, are we not going to leave ourselves wide open?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O335-89(1): Past Support Of European Parliament Not Good

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, the European Parliament does not quite understand the lifestyle of the aboriginal people and they are concerned also in regard to hunting and trapping. This can also be an assistance up here. For myself, it would be nice if they were able to understand our culture and the ways of hunting and our lifestyle in regard to the wildlife because the wildlife is our livelihood. I think it would be more meaningful if they were to come up here and learn from the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O335-89(1): Past Support Of European Parliament Not Good

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not agree with the Minister on this point because I have already experienced the European Parliament. Why do you not bring in the European Economic Commission? Because they are the ones that are more concerned about the wildlife up here more than the parliament is.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O335-89(1): Past Support Of European Parliament Not Good

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to say that I am not ashamed of people living in the NWT and harvesting wildlife the way they have been doing for thousands of years. Secondly, we do not have control over who comes from the European Parliament; therefore we cannot direct them as to the Members they will be sending and we could only recommend to them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Morin was next.

Question O336-89(1): Increasing Percentage Of Natives In Senior Management Positions

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Personnel. Madam Minister, in your return to my question on senior government positions, this 12.3 per cent out of 65 positions, what is your department doing for training programs or doing toward increasing that percentage to meet the affirmative action target of 51 per cent?

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Return To Question O336-89(1): Increasing Percentage Of Natives In Senior Management Positions

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 51 per cent goal for us to achieve for native people in the Personnel department is the percentage we are looking at in filling all positions pertaining to the civil service. The 51 per cent is not only targeted toward the senior management level of government but it entails every level of government. In regard to training positions, training positions are continually being evaluated. However, I believe that they are probably taken more at regional levels, than the headquarters levels.

I want to indicate to the Member that 12.3 per cent does not appear to be a good percentage rate. I agree that we still have a long way to get natives into senior management positions but at times it is difficult for government to be able to retrieve them, for a number of different reasons. A lot of good, qualified native people sometimes do not want to move to Yellowknife. They would rather stay out in the regions or stay in the superintendent level positions, or whatever. But we certainly are, with our affirmative action program, trying to address it. Thank you.

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

Question O337-89(1): Phasing Out Of Government Employee Housing, Yellowknife

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a number of years ago this government embarked on a plan to phase out the housing allowance here in Yellowknife. Could the Minister tell me whether that program has been successful to date?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O337-89(1): Phasing Out Of Government Employee Housing, Yellowknife

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, that plan has been in place and effective since September, 1988. Civil servants here in Yellowknife after living in government accommodation in excess of one year, for six months after their one year allowable stay, are deducted \$100 off their housing allowance per month and \$100 every six months thereafter. So that particular plan has been in effect since, I believe, last September. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O337-89(1): Phasing Out Of Government Employee Housing, Yellowknife

MR. SIBBESTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's information to me but I am aware of that. My question is, what has been the effect of that policy? Has it made any real difference in the number of people in Yellowknife finding their own accommodation?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, as I had indicated the plan came into effect in September of 1988. I will take the question under notice to find out for the Member exactly how many have considered moving out of government accommodation into private accommodation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. That portion of the question was taken as notice. Mr. Sibbeston, do you have a supplementary to the original question?

Question O338-89(1): Policy To Phase Out Government Employee Housing, Fort Simpson

MR. SIBBESTON: Yes, while the Minister is reviewing the matter, if it is successful I wonder if the Minister would consider adopting that policy to other communities in the North, primarily Fort Simpson.

I indicated last week that Simpson was in a situation where it was timely, I think, for the community of civil servants there to get their own homes. If that program is successful here in Yellowknife, maybe that could also be adopted in other parts of the North, taking Simpson into account, too.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister, we will take that as a separate and new question. Madam Minister.

Return To Question O338-89(1): Policy To Phase Out Government Employee Housing, Fort Simpson

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly can consider the request from the Member. I think that in my opinion a policy which is applied should be applied fairly across the Territories. So I certainly will take that under consideration when I review the current policy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Ernerk.

Question O339-89(1): Request For Return To Question O335-89(1)

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Actually I am still waiting for a reply to my question regarding the invitation of European Economic Commission of Ministers, those who are real decision makers, as to their invitation to come to the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Alloofoo.

Return To Question O339-89(1): Request For Return To Question O335-89(1)

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can invite them on behalf of our Legislature. Whether they will come or not is basically up to them.

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

Question O340-89(1): Taking Europeans Out On Water To Change Their Attitude

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have got a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources as well, following up on what Mr. Morin and Mr. Ernerk were asking. My question is, if the Minister is unable to convince these Europeans to change their attitude after he has had them out on the land for five days, would he consider taking them out on the water for a couple of days?

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O340-89(1): Taking Europeans Out On Water To Change Their Attitude

HON. TITUS ALLOOFOO: Mr. Speaker, I will take that into consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Morin.

Question O341-89(1): Traditional Knowledge Of Interesting Places Along Highways

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Gordon Wray. Mr. Minister, travelling last year with the special committee on the northern economy, I had the special opportunity to meet quite a few people. One gentleman did bring to our attention that you could drive from Hay River to Fort Simpson without any real historical stops or any place of interest. It makes the trip very boring. I understand that DPW has taken on quite a signage program this year for our highways.

In your department do you have any policy or any guidelines of how you would take advantage of the traditional knowledge that is available in those areas or places that may be half a mile or a quarter mile off the highway that the Highways department or your tourist people are not aware of? Places that you could make little turn-ins and make the trip more interesting for tourists to Simpson, Yellowknife or wherever we do have highways in the North.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O341-89(1): Traditional Knowledge Of Interesting Places Along Highways

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned to Mr. Whitford yesterday, who essentially asked the same question, we are working extremely closely with Public Works in developing just those very signs. We are developing regional type logos so people can identify what region they are in. We are consulting with communities on local historical spots. The signage policy is a fairly comprehensive one. The best way to answer the Member's question would be to provide him with the same briefing notes that I am having prepared for Mr. Whitford, so the Member can see the extensive policy that we do have. We do have comprehensive policies and are now working on it.

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

Supplementary To Question O341-89(1): Traditional Knowledge Of Interesting Places Along Highways

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very short supplementary. Mr. Wray, a long time ago when a lot of the travel was done by water there were waterways that were basically highways. I notice our tourist maps show the highways and then they show one part black that is paved and another part dotted that is gravel; maybe another line on there could show the waterways so people know that they could leave their vehicles at a certain point and travel on what are navigable waterways. That would also help to enhance tourism, I believe.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Further Return To Question O341-89(1): Traditional Knowledge Of Interesting Places Along Highways

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for that advice, and I will pass it along to the planning people in my department who are responsible, in conjunction with Highways, for preparing those maps. We will take a look at that idea. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question O342-89(1): Appropriate Name For Falls At Trout River

MR. SIBBESTON: Following on Mr. Morin's question with respect to signage. I wonder if the Minister of Economic Development, while he is dealing with the matter of signage, would do a review of all the signs and all the names along the highway. A case in point is that there are beautiful falls at Trout River along the highway, and a number of years ago our government put up a sign entitled, "Whittaker Falls Territorial Park", or something to that effect, and the people

in the Simpson area did not know who Mr. Whittaker was. It is not a name that has ever been heard of in our area, so on my instructions the sign was taken down. Now that I am not Minister I notice a sign is up again.

---Laughter

I wonder if the Minister would look into that and ascertain really why the sign is up, who Mr. Whittaker is, and if he cannot find a good reason as to why it is up, consider using a more appropriate local name.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O342-89(1): Appropriate Name For Falls At Trout River

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I did receive the Member's letter on that very issue and I have asked my department for an explanation. The only thing that I can offer is that I suppose our signs have to correlate with the official maps that are put out, and I am not sure what is on the official maps. I think in general the long-term goal should be to change as many of those names as possible to names that are identified by that area and by the residents of that region. That is, I think, the long-term goal, but I will check into that matter and report back to the Member.

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

Question O343-89(1): Senior Positions Vacant In Culture And Communications

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture and Communications. During the beginning of this session, a number of Members raised a concern about Culture and Communications senior management not being in place. Could I ask the Minister if those senior management positions are all filled now, and who they are?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O343-89(1): Senior Positions Vacant In Culture And Communications

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, some of the positions that were vacant at the time this Assembly started are filled, and there are still some senior positions vacant. I am hoping that, within the next little while, in a matter of weeks, I will be able to fill the positions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Zoe.

Supplementary To Question O343-89(1): Senior Positions Vacant In Culture And Communications

MR. ZOE: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe I can get specific. Would the Minister inform the House as to when he would be filling the positions of deputy minister and assistant deputy minister for the cultural section of the department? He already informed the House 10 days ago that within 10 days he was going to make an announcement in the House. We are still waiting for his announcement. Now he is saying another three weeks. Could I ask the Minister to address my concern?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O343-89(1): Senior Positions Vacant In Culture And Communications

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I am hoping to fill this position in the next little while. The competitions went out and we have interviewed the applicants. I am hoping that within the month I will be able to fill the position.

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

Supplementary To Question O343-89(1): Senior Positions Vacant In Culture And Communications

MR. ZOE: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this whole issue has been dragging on for a little bit too long. Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is, how is that particular department functioning when we do not have the key senior management in place? How effectively are they functioning?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Alloo.oo.

Further Return To Question O343-89(1): Senior Positions Vacant In Culture And Communications

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, the department is functioning very well even with the absence of the deputy minister. I have very good staff that are able to work together and to fulfil our mandate as a department. One of the reasons why we are not able to fill the deputy minister position is that we have to check on references. Currently we are talking to some of the former employers of the applicants. I am satisfied that even with the absence of the deputy minister, we have very adequate staff that are able to keep the department going. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O343-89(1): Senior Positions Vacant In Culture And Communications

MR. ZOE: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from the comments I have received from the Minister responsible for Culture and Communications, maybe that department does not require the positions that are being advertised, if the staff are very effective as the Minister claims they are. So my question is would he agree that with the comments he made, maybe he should consider not hiring anybody in those positions?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O343-89(1): Senior Positions Vacant In Culture And Communications

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, even with the positions not being filled, I have a very adequate staff. They are able to keep the department going and are fulfilling their mandate. But they have been working very hard to fill their mandate. I still require a deputy minister for that department. Thank you.

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

Question O344-89(1): Staff Reallocation Of RCMP In NWT

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice regarding the meeting we had with the RCMP officials at lunch today. During the meeting they advised us that they would be having a staffing allocation review meeting this afternoon. I would like to ask the Minister if any of his officials will be in attendance at that meeting and regardless of that, what role the Minister would have in reviewing any recommendations on reallocation within the NWT that the RCMP might want to make?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne.

Return To Question O344-89(1): Staff Reallocation Of RCMP In NWT

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Member for notice of the question. As Minister of Justice, within the police services agreement I do have definite involvement in these sorts of decisions. I am not sure there will be anybody in attendance in that first meeting but before any final decisions are made I will definitely have an opportunity and my staff will have an opportunity to look at the proposed reallocation, if any. The arrangement that

we have with the police, and the traditional arrangement between police and government in other jurisdictions, is that the police are given administrative responsibility for making these sorts of decisions based on police needs. I am really trying to minimize political interference in that. I see our role as making sure they can justify and quantify their statistics and making sure that we are satisfied with the information on which they base their decisions.

I would have to have that information before we give our final agreement. Everywhere it is the same way. It is a delicate balance between decisions made on policing needs according to their methodology, and the political element. I am trying to keep very clear those two elements. So I will definitely be involved and there will be no final decision made until we are satisfied with the criteria that are used. I would have to see what they are proposing before any final decision is made on this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. McLaughlin, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O344-89(1): Staff Reallocation Of RCMP In NWT

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary question. The officials from the RCMP this morning advised that they used crime rate as one of the needs. I want to assure you this is a question to the Minister of Justice not Renewable Resources, but there is an old question: When a tree falls in the forest and there is no one there to hear it, does it make any noise? The same thing would apply to a small community that has no police officer in it. How is the department going to consider crime rate when there is no officer there in the first place to give out speeding tickets or careless driving tickets or impaired driving tickets? There will not be a crime rate if there is no one there to start with.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne.

Further Return To Question O344-89(1): Staff Reallocation Of RCMP In NWT

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think Mr. Gargan has made this point on a number of occasions, that without police we would not have crime. It is an interesting concept. I would say what we try to do in every community in the Territories is to have at least some police involvement. I do not think there is a community that we do not have at least a patrol cabin, or what have you, so there are some baseline statistics in every community. Obviously in the smaller community all you need to do is sit down and talk to the people and they can tell you exactly the problems that they have. Whatever methodology is used to decide, I will give assurance to the House that we will ensure that small communities are not left out of the process. Thank you.

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

Question O345-89(1): Commitment Of Executive To Decentralization

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Government Leader since he has not been asked any questions this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, a question on decentralization to the Government Leader. I would like to ask the Government Leader how sincere and how committed is the Government Leader and the cabinet in regard to decentralization? Are they fully committed to the policy on decentralization? It appears to me, Mr. Speaker, that depending on what is being decentralized, the Executive and the Government Leader are not approaching it in a manner where they are fully supporting decentralization. My question to the Minister was how committed are they or how sincere are they in the area of decentralization?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O345-89(1): Commitment Of Executive To Decentralization

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have answered questions I think three days running now on this issue of decentralization. I have been asked what the views of my government are.

I have been asked earlier in this session to table policy which we have developed as an initiative of our government which amends our organization policy to allow for decentralization. I have I think stated very clearly that we are committed to decentralization and I am sincere about that. The cabinet is sincere about that. We are committed to that.

I have also recited numerous significant examples including some examples for which we got severely criticized in this Legislature. I will remind the House that there were criticisms in the previous Legislature when there was decentralization from regional headquarters. But we have resisted the criticism and the attacks and persevered because we believe in decentralization and we are committed to decentralization. I have to say as well, Mr. Speaker, as I have tried to explain that it is not often as simple a matter as wrenching a department out of one community and into another. We also have to look at good government. So I am also committed to good government. I am committed to efficiency and I am committed to the best use of public resources. But with those, I believe reasonable, qualifications, Mr. Speaker, I can assure the honourable Member and this Legislature that we are committed to decentralization and I am confident if we have the support of this Legislature that over the term of our mandate we will be able to prove that commitment and demonstrate it in any number of ways in decisions that we take. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O346-89(1): Type Of Bodies Considered For Decentralization

MR. SIBBESTON: A supplementary to that question, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that the government had a good opportunity in the last while to decentralize an entity and that was Arctic College headquarters. It seems to me the matter of decentralization is the process of devolving to other communities in the area, entities or bodies of either government agencies or government departments which could very well function on their own. The government has some history in this area of decentralization. They have done that with DPW and the Power Corporation. If now the government does not feel committed or encouraged or in any way able to decentralize something like Arctic College headquarters, what could the government ever decentralize out of Yellowknife? Is there really anything? If there is not, tell us so that we know once and for all that there will never be any opportunity. If there is some possibility let the Government Leader tell us what are the sorts of bodies or entities that the government is presently considering decentralizing out of Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O346-89(1): Type of Bodies Considered For Decentralization

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in addition to the initiatives that I have already recited in this House, the power commission headquarters, the young offenders centre, the way we handled the acquisition of the forestry responsibility, as well as the decentralization from regional headquarters to communities in regions, I want to assure the honourable Member that we are at this moment very actively, in all our departments, scrutinizing every opportunity for decentralization. I believe I mentioned in the House the other day that one situation which seems to make sense which I will be pursuing, will be the Housing Corporation district office presently located in Yellowknife which serves, exclusively, communities outside Yellowknife. That seems to me to be a function that we could sensibly decentralize provided we do it in a careful way to make sure there is housing in place and that staff that are affected are given suitable notice, so that should they not wish to move they can make alternate plans.

Mr. Speaker, I think there are a number of other functions within departments of our government that it would make sense to decentralize. I believe that in every department there are opportunities for decentralization. There are functions that need not be in headquarters. I do not want to recite them all now, Mr. Speaker, because they are still under review but there are a number that are under active consideration and that have potential and that we will move on.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, when we take on new responsibilities I think we have an especially good opportunity to decentralize. If the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources will forgive me for mentioning this possibility without it really having been seriously considered since it is hypothetical, should we achieve agreement on a Northern Energy Accord and should we achieve responsibilities for oil and gas management, I would think that the administrative function of oil and gas management should perhaps logically be located close to where the oil and gas industry is located. That is an example of the sort of opportunity that I think we will have where we will want to look at a function. The Eastern Arctic sealift is another. If we are successful in negotiating responsibilities for the Eastern Arctic sealift, and this again is hypothetical, then I would think it might well make sense to locate that responsibility close to the location of the transportation centres for the Eastern Arctic sealift.

Mr. Speaker, I cite those examples to show the honourable Member that our government is seriously looking for every opportunity. I have stated publicly several times that we are very anxious to reduce headquarters growth wherever possible and I am sincere about it. If Members of this House will give us a little time, we will prove it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O346-89(1): Type Of Bodies Considered For Decentralization

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, in any government that is formed there is a certain life or period in which it makes its major decisions. This government now has been in existence for a year and there is probably only a year or year and a half in terms of the period when hard and good decisions are made. After that you coast and kind of wait for the next election.

AN HON. MEMBER: So that is how they do it!

MR. SIBBESTON: There is really only about a year or year and a half. It sounds as if there are considerations and sounds as if almost any month or week there is going to be some decision as to some more decentralization. Could the Minister or Government Leader indicate, at the outset, when the government will decide conclusively for this government the extent and the realm and type of decentralization that is to occur in the life of this government? He has not mentioned the Workers' Compensation Board. Would the Government Leader consider moving WCB? It is a nice little entity that could live and function on its own in some other community and add tremendous life to a community. Could the Government Leader consider that and also give us a timetable?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O346-89(1): Type Of Bodies Considered For Decentralization

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last question first. I agree that the WCB did look like a good candidate for decentralization. It is an arm's length agency of the government and along with the Minister responsible we met with the WCB to discuss this issue. Mr. Speaker, this board is not just a creature of the government. In fact, it is very largely funded by contributions from employers. It is not just government money. It is money that comes from employers who are the core of the economy of the NWT. The board also has to consider, whether we like it or not, its location to the centres of industry, the locations of labour unions, and the sort of services that they require from the board.

Mr. Speaker, the strong advice from the WCB, including regional members of that board, was that the costs, and there would be a premium of moving the board, would fall on the heads of the employers in the NWT and businesses in the NWT, not the government alone. The strong advice of the board, Mr Speaker, was that it would be irresponsible of our government to force the relocation of the WCB, which by the way would require a change in legislation, I believe, and pass on those costs to employers at a time when there is great concern about the cost of operating the board and about the costs of premiums to provide benefits to injured workers in the NWT. Mr. Speaker, after careful consideration, and I can assure the honourable Member that like him, we

looked very carefully at the WCB as a potential candidate for decentralization, after very careful consideration and for those reasons, and considering the advice of the board itself, including regional members who one might have expected would have said, "Yes, move this facility outside to our region or to another region where the economic benefits could be spread," the government decided that this particular opportunity was not an appropriate one.

Mr. Speaker, the Member asks when will decisions be taken on decentralization. I can assure the honourable Member that decisions are being taken all the time on decentralization. I think at almost every meeting of cabinet when we talk about taking on new responsibilities or how we organize government, we look at opportunities to decentralize. Every Minister is looking for opportunities to decentralize. Mr. Speaker, we will not be making a spectacular announcement in a matter of weeks about decentralization opportunities, but as I have said earlier in this Legislature, I believe that when the record is totted up at the end of our mandate, it will reveal that we have promoted the growth of this government in the regions, rather than headquarters. That may take some time, Mr. Speaker.

Let me mention Economic Development as an example. At the moment, in co-operation with the special committee on the northern economy, Mr. Wray's department is engaged in policy and planning work. That work is taking place in headquarters, but I can assure this House that the work is targeted at having expenditures take place, and economic activity take place, at the regional level. Some of our activity is short-term in headquarters with a view to seeing initiatives result in the smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, in sum, we are every day conscious of this imperative and in every decision that we take, we are looking for opportunities to spread the benefits of government and its activities, and its stimulation of business, outside headquarters and into the underprivileged communities and regions of the Northwest Territories, which really most need the help. I am not from Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker. I represent a constituency that is far away from Yellowknife, and I can assure the honourable Members that I am acutely aware of the concerns, and sometimes the resentment, that occurs about what seems to be inevitable growth in headquarters. I am committed to doing something to reverse that trend in a responsible manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W20-89(1): Housing Allowances For Employees

MR. SIBBESTON: Could the Minister of Personnel give precise details as to all the civil servants that have moved out of government housing here in Yellowknife since implementation of the housing allowance withdrawal, and all pertinent information to date on this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. 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 5-89(1), asked by Mr. Ernerk to the Minister of Justice, on compensation of the widow of Thomas Tugak.

Return To Question W5-89(1): Accident Investigation And Compensation

Hon. Michael Ballantyne's return to Question W5-89(1), asked by Mr. Ernerk on February 17, 1989, regarding compensation for the widow of Thomas Tugak. The incident which resulted in the death of Thomas Tugak of Rankin Inlet on November 29, 1981, was investigated by the RCMP and an autopsy was performed. The investigation concluded that the victim, Thomas Tugak, sustained fatal injuries as a result of the impact of the snowmobile which he drove into the side of a vehicle owned by the Government of the Northwest Territories and driven by an employee. Blood taken

from the body of the deceased revealed 200 milligrams of ethyl alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood. Statements of witnesses indicated that the deceased drove the snowmobile at a high rate of speed, through a stop sign into the side of the GNWT vehicle, which was travelling at a slow rate of speed. As the police concluded that the deceased was at fault in the accident, no action could be taken by the widow against the owner or operator of the other vehicle.

The public trustee administered the estate of Thomas Tugak and assisted the widow of Mr. Tugak to obtain Canada Pension Plan benefits. The widow of Mr. Tugak is presently collecting Canada Pension Plan benefits in the amount of \$396.72 per month as survivor and orphans' benefits for herself and her two children.

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

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

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Mr. Speaker, I have Petition 9-89(1) from Coppermine with 139 signatures and each page is signed by the original person. This is with regard to the pupil/teacher ratio in the Northwest Territories.

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

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 60-89(1), a letter of support for the move of Arctic College headquarters from Yellowknife to Fort Smith, from the town of Hay River; a letter of support from the hamlet of Coppermine; and a press release with support from the NWT Metis Association that does represent a majority of communities in the Western Arctic. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Morin. Tabling of documents. Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 61-89(1), Annual Report, 1987, Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 10-89(1). Mr. Zoe.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 10-89(1): Tabled Documents 58-89(1) And 59-89(1) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nede, that Tabled Document 58-89(1), titled Report of the Regional and Tribal Councils; and Tabled Document 59-89(1), titled Government Response to the Report of the Regional and Tribal Councils Review Co-ordinating Committee, be moved into committee of the whole for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Zoe, as the mover.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the motion speaks for itself. The motion suggests that we move these two particular documents into committee of the whole for consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. The honourable Member for Tu Nede, Mr. Morin, as the seconder.

MR. MORIN: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. Mr. Zoe, as the original mover of the motion, do you pass? All those in favour of the motion? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--Carried

Tabled Documents 58-89(1) and 59-89(1) are ordered into committee of the whole. Item 14, motions. Motion 11-89(1). Mr. Lewis.

Motion 11-89(1): Recess Of The Fourth Session, Withdrawn

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to withdraw Motion 11-89(1), Recess of the Fourth Session.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, does this have the consent of the seconder? Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Motion 11-89(1) is hereby withdrawn. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to seek unanimous consent to return to the item notices of motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent to return to Item 12, notices of motion is being sought. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 13-89(1): Recess Of The Fourth Session

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall move the following motion at the appropriate time: I move, that this Assembly recesses on or before March 18, 1989 and reconvenes on April 5, 1989, until the business of the session is concluded.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Notices of motion. Back to Item 14, motions. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Unanimous consent is being sought to deal with the motion just given notice of. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Lewis, proceed.

REVERT TO ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 13-89(1): Recess Of The Fourth Session

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife South, that this Assembly recesses on or before March 18, 1989 and reconvenes on April 5, 1989, until the business of the session is concluded.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Lewis, as the mover.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been quite a bit of discussion on the issue of the nature of the business that has to be dealt with in this House. It is the general feeling of ordinary Members and Members of the Executive Council that there should be no end date by which we should conclude the business of the House and we will serve the people until we figure that the work of the House has been done. But to meet the needs of people that have to consult with their constituencies then they would be allowed a break to do so as indicated by this motion. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. To the motion, the seconder of the motion, Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion, Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. The government is supporting the motion. Our only concern was that the budget and related financial bills would be completed. It seems the will of the House to do that before we break so the government has no problem with supporting this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 13-89(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. Mr. Lewis, as the mover of the motion do you wish to conclude? Mr. Lewis does not. Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Item 15, first reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 11-89(1), Loan Authorization Act, 1989-90.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has requested unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 11-89(1). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ballantyne, proceed.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 11-89(1): Loan Authorization Act, 1989-90

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 11-89(1), Loan Authorization Act, 1989-90, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

First reading of bills. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to give first reading of Bill 12-89(1), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has requested unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 12-89(1). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Kakfwi, proceed.

First Reading Of Bill 12-89(1): Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 12-89(1), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the first time.

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

---Carried

Bill 12-89(1) has had first reading. First reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed to second reading of Bill 11-89(1), Loan Authorization Act, 1989-90.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is requesting unanimous consent to give second reading to Bill 11-89(1). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Ballantyne, proceed.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 11-89(1): Loan Authorization Act, 1989-90

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thanks again to honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 11-89(1), Loan Authorization Act, 1989-90, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to authorize the Commissioner or the Minister acting on his behalf, to make loans to municipalities for municipal purposes, not to exceed \$25 million for the fiscal year 1989-90.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 11-89(1) has had second reading. Second reading of bills. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed to second reading of Bill 12-89(1), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is requesting unanimous consent to give second reading to Bill 12-89(1). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Minister, proceed.

Second Reading Of Bill 12-89(1): Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 12-89(1), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill is to amend the schedule to the Student Financial Assistance Act to establish for the 1989-90 and subsequent fiscal years the maximum amount of principal that may be outstanding in respect of all loans made under the act. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Bill 12-89(1) has had second reading. Mr. Clerk, Bill 11-89(1) and Bill 12-89(1) have had second reading and are ordered into committee of the whole. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1-89(1), CR 1-89(1), Tabled Documents 23-89(1), 24-89(1), 25-89(1), 26-89(1), Ministers' Statement 15-89(1), and Bill 9-89(1). In accordance with the powers given to me on Motion 12-89(1) yesterday, I order the House into committee of the whole to report back when the committee of the whole deems that their day's work is done, with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 9-89(1), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 3, 1988-89

Bill 9-89(1): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1988-89

Motion To Delete \$100,000 From Police Services Agreement, Withdrawn

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order. We are dealing with the supplementary appropriation bill. We have a motion on the floor, the committee motion moved by Mr. Morin. For the record, the Chair will read the motion. "I move that the special warrant which provides funding under the police services agreement, have the Department of Justice be reduced by \$100,000." The Chair will make a ruling on that motion. The motion is in order. To your motion, Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: I would like to withdraw the motion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Morin. The motion is withdrawn. Mr. Ballantyne, your point of order.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: A point of clarification, Mr. Chairman. It is because of the importance of this particular area that I want to make sure that the fact you have ruled the motion in order and Mr. Morin has withdrawn it, but I still reserve the right if it comes forward again, to challenge the ruling. I just want to have clarified the status; if you have ruled the motion in order, he withdrew it, it has no status. Can it be used as a precedent or not is the question? If it can be used as a precedent, at what point do we have the right to challenge and have a Speaker's ruling?

This is so important that if the decision that is made now is the precedent we should probably have a Speaker's ruling. If it is not, we reserve the right, and I am quite willing and want to sit down with the Members and talk about what this means. I am willing to do it in the future but I do not want to forego our opportunity now by acquiescing to this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Zoe, we can only deal with one point of order at a time. Mr. Ballantyne, I believe, wanted a point of clarification on a point of order. The motion has been withdrawn so the Member cannot reserve the right to challenge it unless the motion is still here. It has been withdrawn so you cannot reserve the right to challenge because it is not there to be challenged. As far as precedents go, Mr. Ballantyne, yes, a precedent has been set.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I am afraid I am going to have to challenge it because it is a major constitutional issue. There was not an opportunity, between when the chairman ruled on whether the motion was in order and before the Member withdrew the motion, for me to clarify it. I think it is something so important that I do not think it can be rushed through. I said, and I had an understanding with the Member and it surprises me that if it would have been withdrawn before there would not have been a ruling on it. That all got changed and I think the whole thing has not been handled right according to us. With something this important I think we should have an absolute legal and constitutional opinion. I cannot believe it. I make agreements with the other side and they get broken. This is very important.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The reason why, well I was not here but...

---Laughter

The reason why we broke yesterday was to give the Chair an opportunity to make a ruling on it. Before it was withdrawn, if Mr. Ballantyne wanted to make -- then he should have made it at that time. But I have already made a ruling on it and if Mr. Ballantyne wants to challenge my ruling then he can.

Chairman's Ruling Challenged

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I challenge your ruling. Something of this magnitude -- there was a five second time gap between the new major ruling and when he withdrew it; there was no time whatsoever for me to challenge the ruling. For something of significant constitutional impact this is no way to run a Legislative Assembly, sir. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay, Mr. Ballantyne. Are you challenging my ruling?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne has a right to challenge my ruling with regard to withdrawing the motion. I will rise now to report to Mr. Speaker.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 9-89(1), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 3, 1988-89

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee of the whole has been considering Bill 9-89(1). My ruling with regard to withdrawing a motion was challenged.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. The House will now take a break while I consider this matter.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The ruling required by the Chair has proven to be a great deal more difficult and delicate than anticipated. The Chair will put the House back into committee of the whole, with Mr. Gargan in the chair, and the ruling will be delivered before the end of today.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER COMMITTEE REPORT 1-89(1), REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 1989-90 MAIN ESTIMATES; BILL 1-89(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1989-90; BILL 9-89(1), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 3, 1988-89; BILL 11-89(1), LOAN AUTHORIZATION ACT, 1989-90; BILL 12-89(1), STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Bill 9-89(1): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1988-89

Department Of Justice

Police Services Agreement, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come back to order. We are on the supplementary appropriation bill. Police services agreement, special warrant, \$1,199,000. Agreed? Mr. Morin.

Motion To Request Review Of Effectiveness Of Great Slave Lake Communication System, Carried

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion. I move that this committee request the Minister of Justice to review the effectiveness of the Great Slave Lake communication system operated by the RCMP and table his report in this House before the end of this session.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Morin. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? This motion is carried.

---Carried

Police Services Agreement, Total O And M, Agreed

Police services agreement, \$1,199,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, special warrants, \$2,149,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Not previously authorized, \$190,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, I understand that there are two outstanding items left, one is in Personnel. I distributed the positions to all Members yesterday. The other outstanding item is in Housing, to do with the \$750,000, and I have a statement which I will make, which I hope will satisfy Mr. Pollard. I have talked to Mr. Pudluk, and I think that should deal with those two topics. If you would like to do Personnel first and then the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Does the committee agree then that we return to Personnel. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Personnel

Staff Relations, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. We are on staff relations, page seven. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The one outstanding issue in this particular item was that Mr. Pollard had asked for a listing of all the positions in the Keewatin and Kitikmeot Regions. I handed that out yesterday and it was distributed to all Members. You could ask Mr. Pollard if he is satisfied with that response.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pollard has indicated that he is satisfied with the list. Staff relations, page seven, special warrants, \$198,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Not previously authorized, \$20,000, surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, special warrants, \$218,200. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Not previously authorized, \$68,000, surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

NWT Housing Corporation, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. We will go back to page four. Housing Corporation. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. With respect to the outstanding item on this one, Mr. Pollard asked if we would make a commitment to give the Legislative Assembly advance notice of next year's program. I will make that commitment on behalf of the government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess what I was afraid of on the \$750,000 is that it is money being spent this year for next year's work, Mr. Chairman so that next year's work is increasing by \$750,000. The Minister of Finance is correct that if you go in at this end with \$750,000 presumably you should have \$750,000 available next year for the next year's work. My concern is that if next year's work, by the allocation of housing to those communities that require early delivery, is less than \$750,000 then the department would appear to be making some money on the deal. Mr. Ballantyne's indication that he is going to provide us with next year's numbers on the advance work that they will do for the next fiscal year satisfies me, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pollard. NWT Housing Corporation, special warrants, \$750,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, \$750,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. That is it. Does the committee agree that we go to Bill 9-89(1), in your legislation binder, tab nine. Does the committee agree we go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay. Clause 1, application. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Supplementary appropriation for 1988-89, clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Reduction of appropriation, clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Purpose of expenditures, clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Lapse of appropriation, clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Accounting, clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Commencement, clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Schedule. Operations and maintenance. Vote one, operations and maintenance. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total appropriations and maintenance, \$9,352,650. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Vote two, capital. Total capital, \$5,787,500, surplus. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total appropriation, \$3,565,150. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 9-89(1), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1988-89, is now ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in consultation with the chairman of the ordinary Members committee it was agreed that we go ahead with the new Department of Safety and Public Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that we go to Safety and Public Services with Mr. Ballantyne? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 1-89(1): Appropriation Act, 1989-90

Department Of Safety And Public Services

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two important reasons why safety must be a priority for government. First, pain and suffering by members of the public must be prevented wherever possible. Second, costs for hospitalization, medical care, sick leave and loss of productivity resulting from accidents places a great burden on society. Morally, this government cannot accept having NWT residents injured or killed in preventable accidents. As a government, we must also be fiscally responsible by preventing costly accidents.

The decision to create this department reflects the government's desire to take a pro-active approach to safety issues in northern workplaces, and the emphasis it places on the importance of safety and public service issues.

The organizational structure is consistent with those being adopted by other governments, as occupational health and safety concerns achieve greater public attention nation wide. By setting up a department dedicated to these issues, this government is making clear its intention to give them highest priority.

The consumer affairs division, which provides direct services and education to the public, and the labour section and Labour Standards Board, with their responsibilities for ensuring that employment rights of workers are maintained, are appropriately grouped with the public and worker safety functions of the new department.

The Minister of Safety and Public Services will become responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, better enabling the government to integrate information and to respond to concerns about workplace safety.

In this budget the department will increase funding levels to enable improved services to the public within certain priority areas.

Safety

Steadily increased construction activity in the Northwest Territories has resulted in requirements for increased inspections of all kinds, including elevator, electrical safety, boiler, welding and gas. Safety has set for itself the objective of increasing the number of on-site Safety Act inspections by 25 per cent, and this cannot be accomplished with present staffing levels. Accordingly, the budget reflects an increase of two safety inspectors, one in Yellowknife and one in Rankin Inlet, an electrical inspector in Yellowknife and a boiler pressure inspector.

In addition to the increase of inspectors to monitor and enforce the various aspects of safety legislation, the department has taken a number of initiatives since last summer which can be summarized as follows: First of all, a safety training review is taking place which will suggest ways and means to improve programs throughout the NWT. Secondly, the duties of work site health and safety committees, as described in the Safety Act, are presently being reviewed by the department. Workplace hazardous materials information system regulations and amendments to part three of the industrial safety regulations, which will require construction workers to wear mandatory protective clothing at the work site, were passed in January 1989. Two video text safety programs were developed in native languages, in conjunction with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety in Hamilton, Ontario. In 1988, the department concentrated on developing safety training programs to over 600 persons in the communities and in the schools. The safety division is currently developing information systems for each inspection branch.

Fire Marshal

Mr. Chairman, the department is requesting, as I said before, an additional person year for an assistant fire marshal in Rankin Inlet. This inspector will be responsible for the Keewatin Region and enforcing the provisions of the Fire Prevention Act.

This office in 1988 has taken the following initiatives: it has developed a fire investigation and fire alarm certification course; in conjunction with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, it is preparing a proposal on a territorial fire training plan; it has amended the Fire Prevention Act and developed a computerized fire inspection and statistics recording system.

Mining Inspection Services

As a result of ongoing meetings with the territorial mine occupational health and safety committees and the mine managers, it was determined that a new position could augment mine safety and mine rescue training at each mine site in the NWT. In addition to that extra person, a mining inspector is required to assist the existing mine inspection staff, who will have a speciality in rock mechanics.

Some of the relevant changes to this division could be summarized as follows: The division has undertaken a review of all mine safety training in the NWT. The director of mining inspection services was replaced in November 1988 by Mr. Walter Skelly, formerly the director of MIS in Saskatchewan.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne, perhaps, to assist the interpreters, could you slow down a bit?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. In conjunction with members of the joint mine safety committees, the division is currently working on revisions to the Mining Safety Act and its regulations and drafting new incident/accident reporting forms for the safety committees. A computer software program is being developed to record accident statistics and hazard alerts.

Mr. Chairman, I made a commitment in this House two years ago that the department would undertake a comprehensive review of labour standards legislation. Because of the emphasis in the last year on safety, that review has not taken place; but I want to emphasize that the department is still committed to make that review and once the Government Leader has chosen

the new Minister, the terms of reference and the make-up of that particular review will be finalized.

There are obvious costs in starting up a new department and in making safety a greater priority. I believe the improved protection of public and worker safety which results will be a benefit well worth the costs. By increasing the number of inspectors by seven and the O and M budget by about \$1.4 million, we feel that our objectives can be achieved with the co-operation of government, labour and management. Mr. Chairman, whoever the new Minister is, I believe, now has a very strong base to work from to address the very real safety problems in the NWT. With that, Mr. Chairman, with the permission of the committee, I would like to bring witnesses into the House.

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

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to Safety and Public Services and the WCB, Mr. Chairman, Members of the standing committee on finance believe there should be a strong relationship between the department responsible for safety and the WCB. The Minister of Finance agrees, I think, that as soon as there is a shuffle the Minister responsible for the WCB should also be the Minister of Safety and Public Services. If that is the case, Mr. Chairman, the committee supports this change.

With regard to mine safety, Mr. Chairman, mine safety has been a major concern for the government in recent years. In response to this, the new department has been created to provide an increased emphasis on safety and the department is increasing the number of staff in both mine inspection and mine training areas. Members of the committee support this attempt to strengthen the government's ability to fulfil its mandate with regard to mine safety. However, both the committee and the Minister for Safety and Public Services want to emphasize that the responsibility for mine safety rests not only with the government but also with the mines, the unions and the individual workers. Regardless of the effort by the government to improve mine safety, if the other parties do not fulfil their responsibilities, the mine safety situation will not improve.

That would lead me to recommendation 20, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on finance recommends that the Minister for Safety and Public Services continue to emphasize that the responsibility for mining safety lies jointly with the government, the employer and the employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Does the committee agree that the Minister brings in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay, Mr. Ballantyne. For the record, Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have on my left, Mr. Jeff Gilmour, the assistant deputy minister of Justice, and I would like, Mr. Chairman, to put on the record my thanks to Mr. Gilmour, who since August has been acting deputy minister of this department. We have gone through some difficult times but very productive times and Mr. Gilmour's contribution to the department has been above and beyond the call of duty. I just want to put that on the public record. He has done a fine job in this difficult area.

I also have with me, Robbie Robinson, the director of the safety division. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. General comments. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same issue that the Minister has just spoken about, since Mr. Gilmour is acting as the acting deputy minister for the new Department of Safety and Public Services, how soon does the Minister anticipate that these senior positions will be filled in the newly created department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: We are presently advertising for the deputy minister position. The competition closes on March 17th and we would like to fill the new positions as soon as possible after this budget is approved. We would hope, depending upon the response, to have that position of deputy minister finalized by the time this session ends, I hope. We will try, anyway.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. General comments. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question to the Minister, whether this incident that I voiced during the Member's statement this afternoon falls under this particular program. Mr. Chairman, first of all I guess I should indicate to the Minister that I am very pleased about your two announcements for Rankin Inlet. I take it that you will be placing a public safety officer and assistant fire chief -- is that what you said in your opening remarks? Yes? I welcome that because Rankin Inlet hamlet council has been talking with MACA as well as, I think, your department of a need to establish a position of this important nature.

Mr. Chairman, yesterday I was invited to a housing association house or a Housing Corporation house by the new tenants who will be occupying that place in a short period of time. But because the house was in such poor condition, as tenants of the Housing Corporation they decided to renovate the place themselves. Whether they broke the rules or not does not matter to me but the point that I want to make is this, Mr. Chairman. When I got into the house there was a health inspector, health environmental officer, who was there as well, checking around the place with her machine.

I was there to observe the fact that they had invited me to come to this place because they said the place is not liveable. They had explained to me that it was in very poor condition and when I got there, indeed it was in very poor condition. It had previously burned down, and when it was renovated some years ago, you could see the studs where the structure had burned. They had placed the walls onto these burned out studs. If he would have had a public safety officer/inspector, I would have thought that would have been against a building code of the NWT. That place would have been condemned by the public safety officer.

So I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if Mr. Minister would care to check out what I am saying. The house is number 211 in Rankin Inlet. Just so he satisfies himself as well as the Housing Corporation and, as well, the tenants who are going to be there, because I have a very big concern about their children -- young baby, I think -- and the fact that as a carpenter and a house builder, I did not think that kind of a building should be occupied by anyone who has a concern for safety as well as the health aspects of the individuals who are going to be occupying that house. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Certainly, I will undertake to investigate the concern and I will get the information back to the Member.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. When do we expect to see these two new positions in place in Rankin Inlet, the assistant fire marshal as well as the public safety officer? Is the fire marshal a position? Is that a full-time position in the community and is part of his responsibility to train volunteer firefighters? Yes? Okay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Well, we will be advertising that position and we will fill it as soon as we can. We are trying to work out housing now, with the Department of Personnel. It is a full-time position and they will be training volunteers, not just in Rankin but in the Keewatin.

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

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are on general comments I would like to touch on something similar to Mr. Ernerk's concern or just what he was talking about. I said one time this fall session that why would the NWT Housing Corporation want to raise the rents while some of their buildings would not pass if they were down south, due to health hazard living conditions.

On a visit with the Minister of Housing after the session, we inspected a few houses in Pelly and it has been a problem of the tenants for a long time now. Not in Spence right now, but there may be in Pelly and in Gjoa Haven. Our climate is extremely cold and I am talking about these little bugs they report all the time in some of the houses. Our climates are extremely cold and they call to say they see these little bugs. For a native person you might think if they were natural they would not be living in such a cold climate but there is great concern from the tenants. The Health department has sent some samples out, and report that there is no danger to humans whatsoever. But as a tenant if you are living in a building with bugs in it, with different kinds of bugs -- there are three different kinds of bugs they state that they see and whatever could these bugs be, because the Health department would not tell the tenants what they are. They say they eat meat. We are human, we have flesh and the tenants ask what if the bugs come into contact with the babies? What if they crawl into their ears and nose, what would happen? The tenants want an honest answer I guess. I know this is not the responsibility of the Department of Health but since it is in line with safety, it should be a concern of the Department of Safety. First of all, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Safety, does he know anything about these little bugs that are reported in some of these NWT Housing Corporation buildings, and what they are?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, I do not, but I definitely can bring your concern to the attention of the Minister of Housing or the Minister of Health.

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

Concerns Regarding Safety In Small Communities

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this problem has been a long time waiting for a good answer. The reason I brought it up is because this is the Department of Safety, and it is to do with the safety of the tenants. When we go to the Housing Corporation, to the respected people in the communities, to the region, and to the Department of Health, the only reply is that there is nothing harmful about these little creatures, whatever you call them, or little bugs; and they would not give the name of these things. They do not know what they are, I guess. The concern of these people in the small communities just goes around in circles, with nobody answering and no department taking the question seriously, to really find out the answer. That is what we face in the small communities; we cannot get direct answers, I guess, because the building is more valuable than the people, and they are worried about what they are living with -- the bugs in the buildings.

The other question is, in the isolated communities they have fire departments but they have a limited amount of medical staff. In the small communities you do not have an ambulance. In the small communities there are volunteer firefighters, and it makes me wonder why, when there is an accident or any emergency medical problems, the residents never call for assistance from fire departments, because they are the fastest form of ambulance. If there is an accident, or medical problem, it requires real fast service, and since nurses are human, they sometimes go visiting after working hours. On two occasions I was present when people had heart attacks, and it was after working hours. In the confusion we could not find the nurse, and it made me wonder why the fire department could not respond. They should know how to handle these kinds of problems. The Department of Safety should be dealing with that. Do the volunteer fire departments get first-aid courses in the small communities? They seem to talk only about fires, they do not talk much about safety. The only time they seem to respond is when there is a fire somewhere. They do not seem to respond to other emergencies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: My understanding is that some firefighters get some first-aid training through St. John Ambulance. For a serious medical emergency, they are definitely not equipped to deal with that. It would be the nurse that is responsible. I am not quite sure how else to answer the Member. There are certain people with certain skills in the community. The firefighters deal with a situation that they will find at the scene of a fire. If somebody is injured, they should be prepared to give first-aid, but their major responsibility is to take that injured person to the expert who has the skills to deal with it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Whitford.

Importance Of Staffing New Department Of Safety

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a couple of comments, and congratulate the Department of Justice for taking the action they are taking in creating a new Department of Safety. I certainly hope from the Minister's opening remarks that we are not just seeing a cloning of the Department of Justice here, having the same Minister and the same bureaucracy. We are also looking at a new mandate, one of safety, safety for the employees. I think during the SCOF sessions in the fall here, I stressed that, of the fatalities last year, the majority of them were in mining. Perhaps if the department had been larger, or had they maintained their staff, they may not have had some of the incidents that occurred.

I wanted to wonder out loud here, whether or not the department had brought up its staff to full capacity -- do we have any vacancies in this department now that will need filling? For example, last year there was a shortage of mining inspectors. Has the department looked very carefully at its needs, not only for the inspection but also for the enforcement, so that its complement of people will not be so strained as to be ineffective. This would be my first question for the Minister, Mr. Chairman. Are they up to staff? If not, when will they be up to staff?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: As far as mining inspectors, or people in the field, there are two vacant positions, but one of them has been filled and the person will be starting on April 3rd. The two new positions, obviously, we are going to start advertising for those right away, so we will fill them as quickly as we can. We are doing not too badly right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Am I to understand then that the mining inspection portion is not yet fully staffed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Remember we are dealing with a budget starting April 1, 1989, so of the present complement, we are short two; one position has been filled and that person is coming on April 3rd. That will leave us one short. Then we will start advertising for the two new positions. As of April 1st, we will be three positions short, because we have two new ones; and we will try to get those filled as quickly as possible.

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

MR. WHITFORD: You do have target dates for those?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: As soon as possible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: The words "as soon as possible" cause a certain amount of concern to me when it comes to the Department of Justice. As soon as possible sometimes means a long, long time, Mr. Chairman, and I just wondered if they do have a target date. Can he assure me, if nothing else, that before June, say, these positions are going to be filled?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I do not know how much experience the Member has with hiring in the NWT, but I think the Member recognizes some of the problems. In fact, the two positions are presently vacant because we did not get a suitable candidate the last time we were advertising it. So I could give you a target in say, June. It is all systems go and we are pushing hard to get them filled. I will tell you, if they are not filled by June, I think you can throw something at me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Get your cup ready. Mr. Zoe.

Concern Regarding Enforcement Of Safety Regulations

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, in the area of safety. Just a comment, or maybe I can ask how the Safety department ensures or enforces the Safety Act because I know that a number of volunteer fire departments go out and do inspections of various units; not only houses but also businesses and so forth. They do an adequate job and they fill out these required forms and they submit their reports to the municipalities. My understanding is that the municipalities forward it on to the fire marshal's office and if there are problems with say, for instance, a Housing Corporation unit, then I was told last year that the department informs the Housing Corporation of all the deficiencies in the unit that the volunteer fire department indicates in their report. What happens when these volunteer departments go around the second time and they find out the same problems as the last time? How is the department dealing with those types of things?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Just to clarify, Mr. Chairman, is Mr. Zoe talking about fire inspections or safety inspections? They are separate functions. Just to clarify.

If I can I will give you some examples. When I was the Minister of Housing we had the men, and in a couple of communities when the electrical wiring was very unsafe, we essentially told the Housing Corporation to fix it and they fixed it. So if there are obvious deficiencies that we are aware of -- remember that the safety inspectors generally are inspecting construction sites. They generally do not go into people's homes to look at that unless they are specifically asked to do that. But that is not their normal function, to go into Housing Corporation units.

What a safety inspector would do is for instance, when they are building a building or when they are actually at the construction phase, that is where they are enforcing the Safety Act. The fire inspection side do building code inspections in units. They make the report and what should happen is the Housing Corporation should respond to the deficiencies and fix them. If that does not happen, the Member should let me know but I did not receive anything all year from the Member indicating that you had a concern.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I realize that the safety inspection people usually primarily inspect the new construction of buildings and so forth but I was not getting at that. The volunteer department that inspects businesses and units, it could be individual units or Housing Corporation units, and they find deficiencies in wiring and it is noted on the report. Now once the report gets into the fire marshal's office what follow-up do they do? If it happens to be a Housing Corporation unit then the Housing Corporation is informed that these deficiencies exist and they should fix it up but what follow-up does the department do after they inform the Housing Corporation to make sure that the work is done before we have a serious accident? If it happens to be electrical there could be an electrical fire even though the department informs the Housing Corporation. If the group is reinspecting the units again, their second round -- it usually happens twice a year in most communities, that they do inspections on units -- if it is noted again in the report a second time around, what kind of follow-up is the department doing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Well basically the department has been trying to work with the local authorities, whether that is the housing association or housing authority who have that responsibility and they are the ones that are funded. The Housing Corporation has the repair funding and it seems to me that they have the responsibility to ensure that the necessary repairs take place.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Okay, well let me try again. The Minister does not quite understand my question. I realize it is the housing association's responsibility to fix all deficiencies that have been noted to them by the fire marshal's office. Now what happens if they do not fix the deficiencies at the fire marshal's request? Now what kind of follow-up do you do to make sure that it is? What kind of enforcement is there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

Co-operation Rather Than Prosecution

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Generally, especially in the smaller communities, they have attempted a co-operative approach and generally they have been able to work it out. If there are some specific cases where it has been blatantly ignored I would like to know about it but I do not know what cases. They ultimately have the possibility of prosecution. They do have that possibility, but at a local level that means prosecuting a local housing association or authority or the band or whoever is doing it. What they have tried to do there is to try to work it out to come to some sort of reasonable solution.

But if the Member, and I will take note, if the Member thinks that they should exercise that prosecutorial power I am open to it. But at the community level, the message that I have got as I travel around the communities is, let us try to work it out. No one at the community level has ever said that the local authority should be prosecuted. When it comes right down to it, to answer your question, the ultimate hammer is prosecution.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that the ultimate thing to do is to charge the individual but I am saying, I assume there are a number of warnings or some correspondence with the party that is responsible or who has been notified a number of times before they would go to the ultimate but I do not see that happening with the department. That is what I am saying. I do not think that is happening with the department, that there is follow-up. Say for instance there is bad electrical wiring in one of the housing units. It is a building that is almost condemned or whatever. Now, what I have seen or what my observation has been is that there is no follow-up by the department. Once the volunteer fire department files all those reports with the safety division, maybe there is only one notice given to, say it happened to be a housing unit, and the Housing Corporation is notified of the deficiency but there is no other follow-up after that and they let it go. I am saying how many times are they warned or how many times are they consulted before they would pursue the ultimate of prosecution? I do not think that is happening in the department that is why I am questioning the Minister on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I feel I am at a bit of a disadvantage because I do not know of specific cases. The Member has never made me aware of specific cases. I am told that there is a follow-up generally if they know about it. There are lots of places they do not know about but if you can give me specific cases we will track it but I am told that it is followed up and they are able to resolve it. But if that is not happening I would like to know about it. This is the first time -- I mean, in the last year you have not given me any examples so if you would give me some it would help.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, these volunteer fire departments make every effort to try to enhance the safety of all buildings in the communities. The Minister is saying, give me examples; tell me about these situations. From the response I am receiving from the Minister, it appears or it sounds like the department is not even bothering to review the individual reports that are submitted to their office. It sounds to me that once they receive it, if they do not find a real serious problem with it then it is shelved and they do not do any follow-up. That is what I am sensing from the response of the Minister. I am not quite happy with it. What the department should be doing is seriously reviewing these reports on an individual basis. If it happened to be community A with so many houses with deficiencies then all those individuals who are responsible for those units should be notified. I am not seeing that happening either. That is the concern that I have, that even though the communities themselves are trying to enhance the safety aspect of units, businesses and housing units, the department is not doing what it should be doing. I am having a little bit of difficulty in that area. Just a comment, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Zoe. General comments. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is in the area of safety and enforcement of safety within mines and working places. Have there ever been any cases where any of the mines in the NWT have ever been prosecuted and charged even with violations or infractions of safety regulations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, not to my knowledge. I would say that it is my view and the view of the department that shutting down a mine is much more effective than prosecutions. I have shut down two mines because of problems. I have shut down parts of a number of mines on a number of occasions. That is a very strong hammer but there has been some criticism, as the Member knows, of the department. I issued instructions with the new chief inspector of mining, if the case warrants to go ahead and prosecute, to use the double hammer, that of closing a mine or part of a mine or prosecuting if need be.

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

Native Representation In New Department

MR. WHITFORD: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I certainly hope in future that with the department's new mandate that yes, they will go in and not only shut them down but also enforce by prosecution of violating companies. We have had some bad examples in the past here of gross safety violations. If nothing has happened, people have a tendency to want to get away with these things. I certainly hope with the new mandate that they will be a little bit more diligent in pursuing these things and certainly when they have their staff they will be able to as well.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I just want to move on to another subject, same department. This one here deals with the department. Because it is a new department it has got a new mandate. It has got a fresh start so to speak. The territorial government does have an affirmative action program and one of the components of it I guess, is its intent certainly to increase the number of native people in the departments. I wonder if this new department is going to dust off the affirmative action policy and see how it can look toward meeting the government's objectives for having some native representation in this department. I have done a quick review of the staff there and it does not seem to indicate too many long-term Northerners there.

I wondered if the department will be looking at that in future and certainly looking at on-the-job training. We do have a good number of positions that do turn over from time to time because the department has its mandate to cover the entire NWT in the different regions. There are several different regions and several different ethnic groups from which it might be of some value to the department to have a representative in the department, an honest-to-goodness, hardworking, earnest individual in their department; somebody that has earned their position, not just tokenism but people that are going to be genuinely interested in working for the Department of Safety. Mining inspectors could be taken from the ethnic groups that are located across the NWT, and other people from within the affirmative action program -- lady mining inspectors, for example, or handicapped persons -- but look very carefully at its affirmative action program. I do not know if the Minister wants to comment on it, but I certainly will be keeping an eye on it. I have two more years to go, so I can dust off my question next fall and the next budget period. Would he care to comment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Affirmative Action Policy

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think the Member's comment is a good one, and we have a full push on in the Department of Safety. Now every supervisor has to complete a hiring form before we hire anybody, to ensure that the maximum opportunity is given to native people. What I told the people in both Justice and Safety, and in Finance, is that I want them out looking for people, beating the bushes for people, because the normal process takes some time. In fact, the latest evaluation from the affirmative action group is, and I will quote it: "Based on its recent work, the department appears to have found its stride in terms of affirmative action, and is moving well in planning for future years." I think they recognize there have been some significant improvements, and that is definitely a major objective of this department.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Minister be able to give me an indication of how many native people he has in his department to date, so I can use that as a comparison for the next time I ask the question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I do not have that information right here, but I can get it for the Member so he can have a comparative analysis for next time.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Moving on to another topic, Mr. Chairman, I want to compliment the department on this lovely book, called The Safety Act, Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, and it is bound nicely. It is very well laid out and it covers just about anything you want to know about safety and the regulations in a very readable fashion. Any person working for a company or an agency that has any concern with safety at all, in my opinion, is advised to read it. It is easy reading, and it is something, I feel, that should be available to every person that wants it. As I understand it, it covers some fairly new features unique to safety manuals, and again my compliments to the department on it.

Cost Of Publication On Safety

I was quite pleased to obtain a copy because I had some concerns from constituents about its cost. I received a letter that had been sent, and there was some concern about the cost, \$18 for it, and it is required, under section 6 of the Safety Act, that every employer shall maintain for reference by all his employees a copy of this act and regulations, and shall make it available for them to read. I guess this has caused some concern, and I am still not satisfied with the cost of it.

I asked the question in the House the other day and I did receive a response, which I am thankful for. However, it does, to me, indicate that this is an addition to operating a business in the NWT. You are compelled by law to have this book, and it seems that almost every business has received a letter like this. Albeit it is a letter that is photocopied, and it may have been inadvertently sent around. Does this department have a policy or a program in which it mails out things like this, rather than just send it off to everybody and hope that everybody will buy a copy? What policy directs the department to recover its money for this excellent book? Is there any other way of doing this a little more humanely? I have a couple of suggestions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: First of all, we have made available to the Member some of the costs. I think it is \$17.51 per copy, and then add on top the mailing charges, so it is a break even. One thing I want to emphasize, this is not an extra cost for doing business. This is part of the cost of doing business. Safety is part of the cost. I think that your standing committee on finance said to me and my department, "Ensure that the responsibility for safety is shared equally with the employer, the employee and the government." We feel very strongly -- and that is why it is in the act -- that each employer, as part of doing business in the NWT, should incur this cost. Each employer, because of the nature of the employer's work, is putting employees in some hazard, and has some responsibility to ensure that this is made available to the employees, and has a responsibility to pay for it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: My concern is with safety, and I agree with the department, and I know what the committee suggested and how they are going to go about it; but does that ensure, Mr. Chairman, that each business is going to have a copy of this? That is not the question. There is a legal requirement for them to have it, it says that every employer shall have it, but there is no guarantee that they are going to have it. Charging them \$18 is not one way of doing it.

Enforcement Of Section Of Act

I would like to make a suggestion that this be included with the business licence. You buy a business licence -- if the licence is worth \$100 as an example -- raise the price to \$115 or \$110 to cover the cost of this beautiful book. As soon as they buy their licence, they get their book, then we ensure that this business has this book. At the present time, Mr. Chairman, I do not see a way that they can enforce this unless they go to the premises and demand to see these. It is

a hit and miss thing. I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if they would take a look at that in light of the suggestions that have been made, not so much to lighten the financial burden of the business, but to ensure that if the licence they are applying for requires them to have the safety regulations, it comes with their licence, at the same time. In that way you can ensure that they all have it. Right now I can go and buy a licence, the way I understand it, walk out of there and take my chances, but it is not me, as a businessman, who has to worry -- I only have to worry about getting caught. It is the employees, and this department is stressing safety to the employees. I want to make sure that at least the employer has a copy. Is there any way you know of that everybody has one of these books?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, we do not know if everyone has one, and I think the Member's suggestion is a good one. We are prepared to look at that. We will have to work with the municipalities because they give out business licences, but that may be a better control mechanism. We will definitely explore it. I would like to thank the Member for his comment.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few comments to make as well. First of all, the more I think about this position of assistant fire chief in Rankin Inlet, I see a great need for training on the part of the fire brigade in Rankin Inlet. The reason I particularly mention Rankin Inlet is that I am aware of the fact that there have been two or three major fires in the last few years in Rankin where a number of people have died. Last year a young child died. Some time ago several people died in one of the major fires there. Last year, the fire happened right next door to my house, so I was an observer. A number of times the fire truck ran out of water and the fire hydrant froze. Those are facts. I see a great need to take a look at this firefighting at the community level much more closely than it has been previously. Would you like to answer that, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

Training For Firefighting In Communities

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: We agree with the Member and we are trying right now between myself and the Minister of MACA to develop training centres in the NWT. I think the point is a good one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the chairman himself was talking about when he was talking about little bugs living in some of the houses, I know what you are saying. Those are maggots. Those are little bugs that live around decaying areas of the house, especially in warmer areas of the house, like ducts. The reason they grow in these places is because the Inuit sometimes put meat on the floor and the oil -- (Translation) The oil seeps into the boards under the floor. (Translation ends) Those maggots begin to grow.

When I was building my house a few years back the same situation occurred. There were lots and lots of maggots around the house. The house was not condemned by the public health officer but what the nursing station did was to give us some Javex to kill them all off. That way we got rid of them. The point I am trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is that there must be a lot of houses in the same situation as mine was because a number of years ago when the Housing Corporation was renovating these houses, and there were many of these houses in our region, they built on top of the original floor. There must be all kinds of maggots and bugs underneath those original floors in many of the houses, Mr. Chairman. The same thing you were talking about. I am with you.

Spelling Of Names In Vital Statistics Records

The other thing that I want to touch upon is the recording of vital statistics. The Minister is aware of the fact that as a result of Project Surname that was carried out in 1970, I believe, during the centennial year of the NWT, so many names were spelled in certain ways and different ways that today, when people go south to have their children, hospitals in the South change the spelling of some people's names. Once you get that spelling you stick to the spelling of your name the way it was spelled by the hospitals. I have seen this happen in Winnipeg and Churchill.

The other thing is this department spells your name the way they think it should be spelled. This is the final word that they live by. The only way you could change the spelling of your name is to pay \$200 to the government, to the court and the court will change your name.

But this is one small example that I got yesterday. The Minister is aware of this because I have been trying to get this done for the last couple of years. I am going to read it out with your permission. It is a letter regarding the spelling of a name. This lady writes to me, "I am writing to let you know that I have been waiting for a birth certificate for the last two years. In the month of October, 1987, I went to the court workers here in Rankin Inlet to get my birth certificate corrected from the previous one that had misspelled my first name. I was told at the time that it would take about six months for me to get my birth certificate. It has been nearly two years now and I still do not have a birth certificate. In the past I had a good birth certificate with nothing misspelled and all the information on the card was correct. Sometime in the summer of 1978, when we were boating to Repulse Bay I was sitting on the edge of the boat and dropped my wallet with all my identification in it. I had not bothered to reapply for any of them until I was working for the GNWT in Rankin Inlet in 1979 or so. When my birth certificate came in the first name was misspelled. Vital statistics in Yellowknife had typed Theresa instead of my christian name Theresie. Due to the fact that it took four weeks to get my birth certificate I needed it immediately at the time because I was taking my family out on holiday. The Department of Personnel needed all of our birth certificates in order for me to take them under my travelling expenses. I later tried to send the birth certificate back for correction but was told by vital statistics in Yellowknife that I had never been listed as Theresie and that they had no record of my name like that whatsoever. They told me that I would have to go through a lawyer to get my name changed from Theresa to Theresie."

She went on to indicate, "I had a baptismal record that indicated I was baptized Theresie by Reverend Father Lavers in Repulse Bay, but such records were never given to the Inuit people and were just kept by the priest. You know that the church burned down with all those records in 1965 or around that year. All other IDs that I had were written Theresie. The marriage certificate I had before was written Theresie. My parents named me Theresie and not Theresa. When I went to school in Chesterfield Inlet I was taught by the nuns to correctly spell my name as Theresie and not Theresa. I really do not know how else to explain any more. After all, I know who I am."

There is a little bit more here but I am going to end here. There is this thing about controlling even your names in the communities where I come from. It is difficult for individuals like this lady here who has been trying to get her name spelled properly, the way it was spelled when she was born. The department becomes a pain in the neck. I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could take a look at this and get it done once and for all because he knows that we have been working on this very simple thing for the last couple of years now.

Problem Of Unsolicited Telephone Sales

Moving on to consumer affairs, under the departmental goals, the interests of the public are protected through consumer education and through registering professions. One of the things that we came up with or experienced in the Keewatin Region a number of times now is these southern companies -- they call themselves any kind of company. They call your home and they are particularly difficult for unilingual people like the Inuit. They call themselves anything. I cannot even think of a certain company that I can refer to but when they call you, they call you

to tell you -- I will give you an example. Mariano Aupilardjuk, a famous carver from Repulse Bay who now lives in Rankin, a few years ago apparently he got all these 300 lighters that were sent to him from Montreal. They were sent COD. He came over to me and said, "This guy called me from Montreal and he indicated to me that I have been selected in the NWT as the best carver." Fair enough because he is a good carver. "I have been selected as the best carver and we are going to be sending you for your prize, 300 pens with your name and telephone number on it, complete with address and everything. And at the same time you will get a beautiful Swiss watch free of charge."

So anyway, a few weeks later he got this COD for about \$250 or so and he called me up and I asked him what it was about. He said, "I was selected to get this Swiss watch but what they did not tell me was that I was going to get a bill for \$250." We went to the RCMP and asked what we could do about these guys who call us from southern Canada. They told us in the end that they could not do anything. The thing to do was to send these 300 pens back to these guys and just do not bother paying the bill.

So this is just a small example of what we experience in our communities. These are high class salespersons soliciting funds or whatever. I have had several calls from different companies like that. What do we do about them? For me, I can tell them to go to hell but for Mariano Aupilardjuk and those who do not speak English, they cannot say anything but just listen to them and end up with a big bill later on. What can we do with some of these guys because they are also a pain in the neck? Do you understand what I mean, Mr. Minister? How do we protect the consumer? Do we provide more education to the public and say that when they call you, you do not have to bother talking to them? How do we do it? We did something like this with Joseph Caulfield already but maybe there has to be a much more concerted effort to educate the unilingual people about the kind of sales people that we get from Montreal. They are all over the place, Toronto, Winnipeg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk, for the name of those little bugs that did not have a name in my constituency. Nobody would tell us. Now I can go back and say they are little maggots. Mr. Minister.

Direct Sellers In NWT Communities

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the concern expressed by the Members is one we have heard from other communities. It has to do with direct sellers in the NWT. What we are trying to encourage at the community level is that before a hamlet council gives a business licence they make sure that the direct seller has a territorial licence. They will have to come to the consumer affairs department so they will have a chance to check them out and then let the community know. We are starting, on March 20, this community awareness and working closely with the communities and with the hamlets, so they will not issue a hamlet business licence until we have checked it out.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): General comments. Department of Safety and Public Services. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you. Just if I could ask the Minister if he could develop maybe a memorandum of understanding of some sort with the Department of Health in terms of this particular issue with the Safety department so that the concerns that have been raised will be dealt with and not only that, that there will be a monitoring system to ensure that if there are any problems, they will be addressed either by the nurses or someone in the Health department at the most appropriate time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

Not All Businesses Require Safety Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Well, I will have to look into that.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to refer back once more and for the final time, I hope, to this letter requesting or advising the businesses of this publication, and the cost, about the Safety Act requirements. As I understood after talking with Mr. Robinson, not all businesses should be getting this but the businesses themselves, if that is the case, then the businesses themselves may not be aware that they need to obtain a copy of the safety regulations. Am I correct in saying that sir? Mr. Chairman, am I correct in saying that not all businesses require the Safety Act? That is the first.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: That is correct.

MR. WHITFORD: The second part of it would be, Mr. Chairman, is there some way that the businesses that do get these will be able to determine whether or not they need to obtain this set of acts? I might offer a suggestion that they be classed as industry or business or a certain class distinction, A, B, C, D and all those businesses that are class A, B and C require the manual. Those that are D, E and F, or whatever the case may be -- you know, a little sewing centre -- may not require them because they fall under a certain category. Therefore they will not get a letter. If they do get a letter, they can look at it, determine whether they are required to have this act and act accordingly.

But this way here you do not know. Your letter from the government is signed officially and you run out and buy one whether you need it or not. Is there any way that they can be classified so that the businesses do not have to feel guilty or do not have to buy something that they do not need?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Generally, my understanding is that the only businesses that do not require it are mining and federal government. Everybody else requires it.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Now I am confused as to why government does not need it and mining industry does not need to have a book of safety regulations telling its employees, informing its employees of all the things that they need to comply with. There must be some other book in its place. Can the Minister then tell me what this other requirement for the mines and for government would be?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

Mines Under Mining Safety Act And Regulations

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: First of all, I think the Member has made his point that there might be a more official way of distributing it. I have already agreed that we would look into it. Secondly, the mines obviously are under the Mining Safety Act and there is a whole other set of regulations dealing with mining. The federal government have their own legislation and their own policies and procedures. Each area has a book or manual that sets out certain safety requirements.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: One more question, Mr. Chairman. Was that the federal government or is that the territorial government?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The Mining Safety Act and regulations are territorial government.

MR. WHITFORD: So territorial government needs these packages.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: You got it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): For the record, when you replied, Mr. Minister, I do not think it went on the record so would you like to answer now?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I said, "You got it."

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

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, are we on safety or can we move into the other section of public services?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Whitford, we have not gone into detail yet. We are still on general comments. General comments.

AN HON. MEMBER: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Does the committee wish to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): We are on page 9.08 of the main estimate books. Directorate, total O and M, \$649,000. Agreed?

AN HON. MEMBER: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): One agreed. All agreed.

---Agreed

Consumer Affairs, Total O And M

Consumer affairs, total O and M, \$533,000. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Just if I could, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister can recall there was a question that was asked by Mr. Pollard about the 649 machines and whether or not those machines would be placed in communities other than Yellowknife. Could the Minister maybe update me on that situation? What is the status on placing these machines in the communities or their regional centres?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I do not have the information here but I will make it available to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, one of the tasks of vital stats as I understand it here in the next little while is to computerize all of the information that they have. That is to take all of the vital statistics off the long forms and paper forms and put it onto computers. This raises several concerns. Almost any day of the week you can listen to the radio and there is some news about hackers getting into Revenue Canada's files and having whole bunches of information taken out due to computer thefts and other things. We also hear where they are sabotaged and somehow or other people get into it and make changes to vital documents in universities and colleges, etc. The concern I have is, has the department looked at this carefully to ensure that there is going to be no breach of security or breach of confidentiality in all of these documents: births, deaths, marriages, name changes, etc.? That is just one of the questions I have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: There are many computer systems in the government. The Department of Government Services is the department that is looking at and is in charge of security for computer systems. I think the question can probably be best directed to the Department of Government Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: I suppose we should direct it there but it is the Department of Public Services that is looking after this information. It is in trust to them and does concern some people if adoption information is accessible somehow or other. I am not sure how the hackers go about their job but if they can get into the Pentagon's information systems and Revenue Canada's system I am not sure whether or not the general public are that concerned about the vital stats of myself but there are other bits of information that may get into the wrong hands. All I am asking is, can they assure this House that the information that is going to be collected is going to be protected? I have another one. I have two years and I am going to hold you to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister, I do not think your answer was recorded.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I said experts smarter than I am tell us "Yes." We are working with the Department of Government Services and I will say again that they are responsible for that. We take their advice. They tell us that our system is secure. We have lawyers. We do not have computer experts. They have the experts and they tell us that it is secure. That is the best we can do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever you introduce a new system, whenever you move something off a long sheet onto a shorter sheet, all of the original documents -- very important things, certificates and old, old documents that were referred to by my colleague here and were given at some point in time, maybe written out, by the old missionaries, etc. -- all this information is taken off of this and put into a computer. What is going to happen to all these old papers? Are they going to be shredded and destroyed or archived someplace safe and secure?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: That is right. They are going to be somewhere safe and secure.

Consumer Affairs, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Are we ready to go again? Consumer affairs, total O and M, \$533,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Safety And Fire Safety, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Safety and fire safety, total O and M, \$2,439,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Mining Inspection Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Mining inspection services, total O and M, \$902,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Labour Board And Labour Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Labour board and labour services, total O and M, \$325,000. Agreed? Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The labour board and Labour Standards Act have come under some criticism maybe just on a small -- I am sorry. I will not pursue that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): There was no question. Labour board and labour services, total O and M, \$325,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Grants And Contributions

Grants, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Detail of grants and contributions. Grants, total grants, \$21,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Contributions, total contributions, \$10,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Detail Of Grants And Contributions, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total grants and contributions, \$31,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): The following pages are information items. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the revenues, recoveries, I have looked through that and I did not see any forecasts for the amount of dollars that would be recovered from the sale of books such as this little gem here. Is there somewhere that you account for that?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Culture and Communications.

MR. WHITFORD: So you do not get the money?

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

MR. MORIN: Just one question. On the last page I guess, Mr. Minister, do you see any of this department that could be up for decentralization out of Yellowknife?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think like other government departments, I have asked my officials to look at it and as you can see, of the new PYs, we have a couple going into Rankin Inlet. What I have asked for is a rational approach to it and there definitely might be the possibility of some positions going out in the field. What I am trying to do and what other departments are trying to do is to find a rational way of doing it and I think with those two positions in Rankin, that was a good start. We are looking at the possibility of moving a mine inspector to Baffin, for instance. So that is the way we are looking at doing it, in a rational, reasonable way where the position can be of most use to the community. So we are not opposed to it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Are there any further questions on this information item? Mr. Zoe.

Moving Various Inspectors To Area Offices

MR. ZOE: Before we conclude the main estimates. Similar to Mr. Morin's questioning. Is the department considering moving various positions, especially electrical inspectors and those types of inspectors that do a lot of inspections? Because with a lot of units that are being constructed across the Territories, because of the number of inspectors that we have, they hold up construction. Is the department considering moving various inspectors to the area office that the government has established?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Since I have been Minister we have already done a fair amount of it. We have inspectors in Iqaluit. We have inspectors in Inuvik. We have electrical gas inspectors. As I said, what we are trying to do where it is functional and there is some support staff is try to get the inspectors in areas where they work. That has been the philosophy of the department. We are definitely trying to do that, where it makes sense. I think that is what, to me, decentralization is all about. Moving it where it makes sense. We are definitely trying to do that and since I have been Minister, my staff have been under instruction to identify logical and reasonable movements so we get the best service at the regional level. Because the Member is right. If the service is performed there then it makes sense to have people there. So we have had no problem with that philosophy in this department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Are there any further general comments on the information item? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, just one concern that I have and that is in regard to HAP units in the communities, where the electrical is put in but not installed. So you run into the difficulty of construction during the winter months. Even though a person has the ability to complete the

houses, because they do not have the necessary power to complete it, you end up that you have to wait for a time frame, for warmer weather to do that when in fact if you do have your furnace running and electrical power inside the house it would eliminate some of that problem. Right now in Providence for example, you run power from a neighbour's outlet. To do that you require about 300 feet of extension cord to do that sort of thing.

See if there might be a way around it. We seem to be having difficulty with housing and completion of housing but if some of the restrictions were lifted then I could see people doing their houses during the wintertime when the furnace is operating and they have the power inside to do work at night, or when the days are still dark, and be able to -- I guess there is that safety factor that has to be realized but also you have to realize that you do have, sometimes, 24 hour night up here in the wintertime. I would like to see if the Minister might be able to find a way that would accommodate HAP clients.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, I will certainly research that and get back to the Member on that.

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Any further general comments on the information item? Program summary, total O and M, \$4,848,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Does the committee agree that the Department of Safety and Public Services is concluded? Oh, O and M only. Now we go to capital.

Safety And Public Services

Safety And Fire Safety, Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

Page 9.07. Department of Safety and Public Services. Capital. Safety and fire safety. Equipment acquisition, total headquarters, \$25,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total equipment acquisition, \$25,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Safety And Fire Safety, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total safety and fire safety, \$25,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Mining Inspection Services, Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Mining inspection services. Equipment acquisition, total headquarters, \$44,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total equipment acquisition, \$44,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Mining Inspection Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total mining inspection services, \$44,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total capital expenditures, \$69,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Does the committee agree that the Department of Safety and Public Services is concluded? Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Just to make one comment to clarify one thing. The commitment of the government is to have the same Minister responsible for WCB as for the Department of Safety, but the commitment I am making is that it will happen by the end of the year. The Government Leader and the Ministers will have to look at the operational requirements, so by December 31 if not before, both of them will be under the same Minister. If it does not happen by March 31, it is not because we are not committed to it. It is because the Government Leader has to work out how it is all going to fit together. So the commitment is that by the end of the year it will be under the same Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I think since the committee agreed that this is concluded, we thank the Minister and his witnesses. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Does the committee agree that we go to the Workers' Compensation Board? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: What page?

Workers' Compensation Board

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): I believe it is on page 2.22. Opening remarks, Madam Minister.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Workers' Compensation Board is unique among the boards and agencies created by territorial legislation. It has exclusive jurisdiction in all matters affecting compensation for workers injured on the job. Compensation includes the payment of medical expenses and the provision of medical and vocational rehabilitation. It also includes payment for loss of wages resulting from injury or occupational disease, pensions for workers who suffer permanent disability, and pensions for the dependants of workers who lose their lives in accidents.

The money for all this comes from employers who carry on a business or industry in the Northwest Territories. Workers are guaranteed compensation for their injuries without regard to cause or fault, and without having to go to court. In return, employers are protected from legal action by their own workers in the event of an accident.

The board is appointed by the Legislative Assembly and reports to the Assembly through the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. There are 11 part-time board members in addition to the chairman. All the regions are represented on the board; two of the members represent labour and five are employers or managers. A staff of 44 and two affirmative action trainees act on behalf of the board in adjudicating claims, administering pensions, arranging rehabilitation and collecting assessments from the employers.

The board has trustee responsibility for the accident fund from which all compensation and administrative costs are paid. Established in 1977 with less than one million dollars, the fund now has assets totalling \$100 million. Liabilities for pensions and claims were forecast to be \$90 million at the end of 1988 and will continue to increase.

Although the board operates at arm's length from the government, and is not dependent on government for its financing, a summary forecast of its operations is included as an information item in the main estimates. Mr. Chairman, if Members have any questions about the information item, I would be pleased to have the chairman, Mike Moore, come to the witness table to join me on behalf of the board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Does the committee agree that we invite the Minister's witness into committee of the whole? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Does the standing committee on finance have any comments with regard to the Workers' Compensation Board? Mr. Lewis.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the standing committee on finance review of this Workers' Compensation Board, the issues and concerns. The first one was consultation in major decisions. The committee reviewed with the Minister and the chairman the reasons behind the 1989 rate increases, and the lease arrangements for a new location for the board. Following this review, the committee's major concern was not with the decisions made, but with how these decisions were communicated to the public.

On the arm's length relationship, the committee recognizes the arm's length relationship between the government and the Workers' Compensation Board. Therefore, the responsibility for ensuring that the board is accountable to its clients lies not only with the government, but with all NWT employers.

There was one recommendation by the standing committee on finance, recommendation 25, which reads: "The committee recommends that the Workers' Compensation Board make greater use of public consultation and information when making major decisions." That is the review of the standing committee on finance, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. General comments on the Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the Workers' Compensation Board is striving to represent the public and protect the workers and administer its mandate to the government and to the people of the NWT but there are some things that are occurring there that are causing a little concern. There have been a number of layoffs here recently, quite radical ones. I wonder if there is an explanation for that. I know of three particular positions here and I will read some dates here: a secretary of some years with the WCB; and there has been an accountant with some years with WCB whose position has been eliminated. I wonder if this department can continue to function, Mr. Chairman, without these key people and still provide the service. Are there more layoffs to come in the future? Is there a general shake-up around there that maybe we ought to know about instead of hearing it from the constituents that are laid off and reading about them in the paper. People wonder. Is there something we should know about the thinning or paring down of the staff there?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: In regard to the specific questions that were asked, but in the overall assessment, I would like to make one comment and this regards almost everything the government does. There is a severe criticism outside that the government is always top-heavy, has too many employees, it does not operate efficiently. Certainly, because the WCB program is covered by the workers' money, the employers' money, there is a great deal more pressure to have it run in an efficient business-like manner and from time to time realign and readjust their personnel or their organizational charts to better serve the public. I believe that one thing we should look at, not only in the WCB but any facet of government is that to deliver a service efficiently is important and from time to time we do have to readjust and reorganize. I realize that there may be concern on the specifics but I feel that the reorganization that the WCB went through at this particular time was one that was looked at over a period of time. Certainly, if you look at some of the criticism over this last period of time, there was criticism that other workers' compensation boards were serving a certain number of people and did not have as many employees but the services were still carried out. Certainly, in the overall, the board did look very conscientiously at whether the realignment and reorganization would take away from the delivery of service to clientele. I feel confident that that decision was made in the right way and the right manner. Mr. Moore can more specifically deal with the individual or more specific nature of that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Moore.

MR. MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Chairman, I cannot help but comment that last year at this time in this House I was asked why the board could not reduce its staff. This year I am being asked why we did. Mr. Chairman, the staff has been reduced by four positions: a director position, a manager position, a secretarial position and one assessment officer position. We have achieved that with two layoffs, one retirement and one has been done by attrition.

The board is quite confident, Mr. Chairman, that the effect on the service that the board provides will be a positive effect and not a negative effect. We are very concerned about the service to the workers who are injured and to the employers who contribute to the scheme. It was not done lightly, Mr. Chairman, and the layoffs in particular were agonized over. I can promise you, though, that the layoffs have been done on very generous terms and one of the two layoffs is already reemployed within the public service. The other one has excellent prospects.

The effect incidentally, Mr. Chairman, is that the WCB which in 1985 had 55 people working for it now has 43. The Minister said 44 and in fact because of the attrition it will be 43. That is about an 18 per cent reduction I think, Mr. Chairman. I believe we can say with some confidence that the board is more efficient now. It is better organized and is providing a better service in 1989 than it did 1985. To some extent, Mr. Chairman, that is because of computerization and I think we are beginning to see the benefits of it. I should just say to you though, and this is the last thing, that the two layoffs, the resignation and the attrition are going to save the board and therefore save the employers well over \$200,000 in this next year, Mr. Chairman. We believe that is the right way to approach the way we are running the board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford, any further questions?

MR. WHITFORD: No, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): General comments. Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

Authority Of ABC Committee To Examine Work Of WCB

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, as the chairman of the agencies, boards and commissions standing committee of this House, we have been looking at various agencies of government that would fall within the mandate of what we call the ABC committee. It is my understanding that the Minister is undertaking a review of the WCB. I would like to ask her how she would characterize this review? Is it like an operational review? Is it just to know how things are working there or is it an overall review or is it a review to see what kind of plans are being made for long-term operation of the board? We do have a standing committee of our House that looks at the various agencies throughout the NWT. I was wondering whether this board would in fact be one that our ABC committee could look at since in a sense it is not an agency of our government. It seems to be something separate. I really do not have a good feel for how our agencies, boards and commissions committee could ever become interested in this particular board. It certainly is on our list of all the things that we could look at, but I am just wondering whether, technically, this committee of this House would have the authority to examine the work of this particular board, as it would for all the other agencies, boards and commissions of the government. It may be that the Minister does not have the answer either, but I would like to see if she could try to make a response to that.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say right off the top, I could probably not give the honourable Member the legal advice that would be necessary to say unequivocally that any assessment or review from the ABC committee would fit under any legal parameters, so I cannot answer that question. I know that the Workers' Compensation Board had anticipated that the ABC committee would in some way be looking at the board, but the legal part of it, I do not know.

In terms of the review that is going on now, it is fairly broad ranging, trying to catch up from 1986, trying to feed into the changes to the legislation that will be forthcoming this fall. It is broad, but I would term it more as an assessment, rather than a review or fact-finding; to really try to get some points together from the 1986 review to today, including some of the issues that were raised when the communication fell apart in announcing the rates and the workings of the Workers' Compensation Board a few months ago. I would say it is more of an assessment and a pulling-together to assure the general public and the residents of the NWT that the Workers' Compensation Board is working in their best interests.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. By way of a question to the Minister, under this program, is an accident covered such as an individual being mauled by a polar bear?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, recently the hunters and trappers were brought under the Workers' Compensation Board, and I would assume if he was in the hunting and trapping activity at the time that that would be considered by the Workers' Compensation Board.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should explain it this way to the Minister and Mr. Moore. The Minister will recall last year Lucien Taparti, while escorting some members of the RCMP to Cape Fullerton, was mauled by a polar bear. As a result, he had to be evacuated to Churchill and was hospitalized for quite a while. He lost quite a bit of time as a result of the accident. Could I serve notice, on behalf of Mr. Taparti, for the Workers' Compensation Board to look into this? They were travelling by snowmobile with the RCMP, so in a sense he was employed by the RCMP to take them up to Cape Fullerton. Cape Fullerton is an old RCMP station from years ago. I would like to give that notice on behalf of Mr. Taparti under this particular program.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that the Member has suggested that we take notice, particularly not knowing entirely the specifics. We would be very happy to look into the matter to see how we can aid the individual.

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

MR. ERNERK: I know that for some years these kinds of incidents were not covered under workers' compensation, but if you are out on the land -- it does not necessarily have to be with the RCMP -- with Renewable Resources, with Fisheries and Oceans, and you happen to have an accident, although not directly employed by these organizations, you should be able to claim certain amounts of compensation from it. I guess that is the direction that I am recommending or offering to the Minister and WCB of the NWT. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I believe that this Legislative Assembly over a great number of years has been pressured by different Members from various areas of the NWT to have hunters and trappers compensation coverage. This was implemented recently and we are still evaluating what the total cost is going to be but a number of hunters and trappers have been able to receive compensation where they did not before. We will look into this particular situation. I know that many of the hunters and trappers who have had no recourse before are very appreciative of the coverage that has been offered to them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Pine Point.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question a little bit relevant to what Mr. Ernerk just asked but I will ask one closer to his first because it is my understanding that federal civil servants are not covered by WCB because they are covered under a federal plan. Does that also apply to RCMP officers? Are they covered by the federal plan or WCB?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, the RCMP are covered by a federal plan.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: What about civilians employed by the RCMP? Full time employees, I imagine, are not covered by workers' compensation but what about employees if they are hired for a casual situation like the one just described? Would they be covered by the federal plan?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I do not specifically know. However if the RCMP is covered by a federal plan, I would assume that the casual employees and the people working for them would be covered by that same plan. But I am not 100 per cent sure about that. I can report back.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: The reason I asked that is because if any person, and that includes a company, in the NWT hires casual employees on an hourly or daily basis, they are obligated to cover the person if he is not covered otherwise. So if a casual employee with the RCMP or a contract employee with the RCMP is not covered by the federal plan the onus might have been on the RCMP to actually apply for workers' compensation to cover that employee.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That is why it is difficult when an individual brings a specific incident forward. It is often the case that we have to investigate and find out exactly what form of employment that person has with an agency. So oftentimes it is difficult from this table to answer individual requests for answers on specific incidents. Certainly with Lucien Taparti, we will look at the incident as it happened, where it happened and what his options are.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Any further general comments. If not, does the committee agree that this information item, WCB, is concluded. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and your witness for appearing before our committee. Acting House Leader, Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Two of us needed to accommodate Ballantyne. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, if the committee is in agreement we would like to go ahead with Bills 11-89(1) and 12-89(1).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree with the suggestion by the Acting Government House Leader? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 11-89(1): Loan Authorization Act, 1989-90

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Okay, then in your binders we will go to Bill 11-89(1), Loan Authorization Act, 1989-90. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Commissioner, or the Minister acting on his behalf, to make loans to municipalities for municipal purposes not to exceed \$25 million for the fiscal year 1989-90.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Deputy chairman of the standing committee on finance, do you have any comments on the Loan Authorization Act? Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: I hesitate to use the word "housekeeping" when we talk about \$25 million, Mr. Chairman, but this is something that we are required to do in order to cover all the requirements. I have no impressive comments to make on this particular bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments on the Loan Authorization Act. Does the committee agree that we go into detail of Bill 11-89(1), clause by clause. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 1, interpretation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Clause 2, application. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 3, authority to make loans. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 4, monetary limit. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 5, authority to disburse from consolidated revenue fund. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 6, lapse of authority. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 7, agreements. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 8, security of loans. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 9, power to fulfil obligations and enforce rights. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 10, delegation to Minister. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 11, regulations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 12, coming into force. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 11-89(1), Loan Authorization Act, 1989-90, is now ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 12-89(1): Student Financial Assistance Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The committee will now deal with Bill 12-89(1), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act. Mr. Minister, would you like to introduce the bill? Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the bill is to amend the schedule to the Student Financial Assistance Act to establish for the 1989-90 and subsequent fiscal years the maximum amount of principal that may be outstanding in respect of all loans made under the act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Deputy chairman of the standing committee on finance, do you have any comments with regard to Bill 12-89(1)? Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, this is similar to the other bill that we have just dealt with, and is of a housekeeping nature. It simply raises the amount to nine million dollars from \$8.5 million and will cover the outstanding amount of money on the basis of the number of students that we have commitments to. Again, Mr. Chairman, it is of a housekeeping nature. We simply have to raise the amount of money because of the number of students receiving loans. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 1. Schedule, \$9,000,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree that Bill 12-89(1), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, is now ready for third reading. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. What is the committee's wish at this time? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that you report progress at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

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

REVERT TO ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF COMMITTEE REPORT 1-89(1), REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 1989-90 MAIN ESTIMATES; BILL 1-89(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1989-90; BILL 9-89(1), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 3, 1988-89; BILL 11-89(1), LOAN AUTHORIZATION ACT, 1989-90; BILL 12-89(1), STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1-89(1), Bill 9-89(1), Bill 11-89(1) and Bill 12-89(1), and CR 1-89(1), and wishes to report that Bill 9-89(1), Bill 11-89(1) and Bill 12-89(1) are now ready for third reading. I wish to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. The House has heard the report of the chairman of committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: The House is agreed.

Speaker's Ruling

For the information of the House I promised a ruling on the challenge today. On the challenge by Mr. Ballantyne in the matter of whether a precedent is set when a motion is ruled in order and then subsequently immediately withdrawn, I have reviewed the transcript and rule that in the circumstances that were before the committee, the chairman ruling that the motion was in order, which was subsequently immediately withdrawn, does not set a precedent. All motions that come before the House stand to be ruled on their own individual merits. All chairman's rulings can be challenged, except in the circumstances when a motion is withdrawn prior to the challenge. In such cases, the chairman's ruling does not set a precedent.

We are on item 19, third reading of bills. Ms Cournoyea.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Third Reading Of Bill 8-89(1): Public Utilities Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 8-89(1), Public Utilities Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 8-89(1) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

Third Reading Of Bill 11-89(1): Loan Authorization Act, 1989-90

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 11-89(1), Loan Authorization Act, 1989-90, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 11-89(1) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Allooloo.

Third Reading Of Bill 12-89(1): Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 12-89(1), An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To the motion. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 12-89(1) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

Third Reading Of Bill 2-89(1): Electoral District Boundaries Commission Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 2-89(1), Electoral District Boundaries Commission Act, be read for the third time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 2-89(1) has had third reading. Mr. Wray.

Third Reading Of Bill 9-89(1): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No.3, 1988-89

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 9-89(1), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No.3, 1988-89, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. The motion is in order. 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

Bill 9-89(1) has had third reading. Mr. Wray.

Third Reading Of Bill 5-89(1): Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 5-89(1), An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the third time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 5-89(1) has had third reading. Mr. Wray.

Third Reading Of Bill 6-89(1): Motor Vehicles Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 6-89(1), An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, be read for the third time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 6-89(1) has had third reading.

HON. GORDON WRAY: What about Bill 1-89(1), while we are in this mood?

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Third reading of bills. Item 20, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day. Point of order, Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation ends) I have the highest regard for the Rules of this House and I noticed that one of the honourable Members of this Legislative Assembly is not...

---Laughter

I am speaking of the dress code of the Legislative Assembly during the formal sitting of this House. I would like to do my duty at this point in time to recognize the fact that one of the honourable Members was not wearing his jacket, as required by the Rules of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk for doing your duty. Point of order, Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, according to the Rules, should a Member have his tie done up as well in formal sitting?

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray, this has been a long, hard day. I do not see any ties not done up.

---Laughter

Item 20, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

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

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 8th.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion
13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Consideration of the Matter of Suicide; CR 1-89(1); Bill 1-89(1); Tabled Documents 23-89(1), 24-89(1), 25-89(1), 26-89(1), 58-89(1), 59-89(1); Ministers' Statement 15-89(1)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills

20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 8th, at 1:00 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT

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