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Speaker: The Hon. Red Pedersen, M.L.A.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Speaker

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

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

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

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

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

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

McLaughlin, Mr. Bruce, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9
(403) 873-7999 (Office)
(403) 873-6220 (Home)
(403) 874-2884 (Hay River)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Officers

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1989

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Crow, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Gargan, Mr. Lewis, Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Morin, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Whitford, Hon. Gordon Wray, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen): Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 15th, 1989. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 30-89(1): Special Constables

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice is working with the RCMP to encourage more native Northerners to join the police force. Last year, as a result of our discussions, the RCMP implemented two policy changes aimed at making enlistment in the RCMP more attractive to Northerners. Formerly, recruits were required to sign a form saying that they would be willing to serve anywhere in Canada. Now that requirement has been waived so that those recruited from the NWT can return to work in the NWT. Northern recruits can also spend a few months working with detachments in the North before commencing their formal training. This gives them an opportunity to gain some experience in the force while they are still in a familiar setting.

On February 13, eight special constables from the NWT began training at the RCMP Academy in Regina. The eight are: Charlotte Balsillie from Fort Resolution, Simeonie Samok from Rankin Inlet, Julia Crapeau from the Yellowknife area, Paulina Tetso from Fort Franklin, Donald Arey from Aklavik, Fred Norris from Inuvik, Inuk Pauloosie from Gjoa Haven and Alma Sanderson from Fort Smith.

These individuals, four men and four women, all obtained work experience first at local detachments in the Northwest Territories. When they return to the NWT in June, 1989, it will be important for them to have the support of the communities where they are posted, to encourage them in their challenging work.

We congratulate these young people in having chosen a career which will allow them to make an important contribution to community life in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

---Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Appreciation Of Ann Taylor

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, for the record, I rise today to show my appreciation for the work of one of our dedicated and hard working Legislative Assembly staff members. Until very recently, Ann Taylor was the Legislative Assembly public affairs officer. She had held the position for almost four years meeting the demands of the Members, the media and the public. Mr. Speaker, Ann Taylor was always very helpful to myself and to other Members, making sure that Members' statements and constituency newsletters were prepared in a prompt and professional manner.

Ann has now left the Northwest Territories and after a brief stay in British Columbia, she and her husband will head to Ghana, Africa to work on a water utilization project. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that all Members will join me in expressing thanks to Ann for the help she has given and wishing her the best of luck in her new venture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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

Member's Statement On Special Committee On The Northern Economy Meeting, Rae

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I rise to inform the House that our committee went to Rae last night to meet with Rae-Lac la Martre representatives and to listen to people who are interested in presenting economic development in their region. There were several leaders that spoke to us eloquently. I am pleased to report that we understood two main subjects in regard to airports and runways in Rae. They want to learn more and have more training and establish a training centre in their region. That was eloquently stated, as well as a request for more work and employment to be provided in their region of Rae-Lac la Martre. It is the least developed of regions in the NWT. I am pleased and I would like to thank the Rae-Lac la Martre people for welcoming us and also thanks to Henry Zoe, who is a Member of our Legislative Assembly.

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

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr Sibbeston.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O390-89(1): No Recruits From Fort Simpson Area

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the statement of the Minister with regard to special constables. While I appreciate that there are a number of people from various parts of the North that have been recruited to train as special constables, I wonder if the Minister of Justice could find out why it is that there is nobody from my area, the Fort Simpson area and further down the river. I notice there is someone from, the closest spot would be Fort Franklin, but other than that there is really nobody from the Fort Simpson area. I would like to determine why this is.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O390-89(1): No Recruits From Fort Simpson Area

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Certainly we are encouraging young people to join the police from across the Territories, and I would definitely be prepared to work with the Member to find out exactly why we do not have people from his region. I would also suggest that we have our summer student program, which I hope to double this year, to get students involved in the RCMP. I would be very happy to work with the Member to try to encourage some young people in his

region to get into the student program. I would look forward to working with him on this. Thank you.

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

Question O391-89(1): Tuberculosis Cases In Repulse Bay

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader, in the absence of the Minister of Health. I spoke to the mayor of Repulse Bay this morning, and he indicates to me that there are now 40 confirmed cases of tuberculosis. This concerns me and the people of Repulse Bay very much. Mr. Speaker, my question is this, in order to get to the roots of the problem, should we not be treating this as an emergency case now?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O391-89(1): Tuberculosis Cases In Repulse Bay

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I do agree that the situation is very alarming, that there would be that number of cases in such a small community. I am not sure what the honourable Member means by an emergency, but I do believe that the Department of Health is taking the situation very seriously and doing whatever is humanly possible to ensure that proper treatment is given to those who have TB, and that measures are being taken to prevent the spread of the disease. I agree that priority action is required, and I believe that the Department of Health is treating the matter very seriously. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question O392-89(1): Autopsies Performed In The South

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, in Fort Simpson in the last few months there have been quite a number of deaths; there have been five by fire, one by freezing, one by vehicle accident during the summer and this fall three in a plane crash. In all instances, the coroner sent the bodies south for autopsies. The bodies are often returned on the day of the funeral. There is no opportunity for the families to be with their dead relatives and no opportunities for wakes or for the grieving process to occur.

In looking into the matter, I find that it is the coroner in the community who decides whether an autopsy should be held, undoubtedly on the advice of the RCMP. The practice seems to be that at the least little bit of suspicion of any foul play or any uncertainty as to how the person has died, the whole body is sent out for an autopsy. Would the Minister of Justice review the practice with a view to seeing that, in the training that the coroners get, whether there could be better communications between the coroner and the families? Secondly, could the autopsies be done locally? I understand that in the past in some of the larger communities autopsies were often done locally. Thirdly, is there some alternative to the bodies being sent out, such as taking fluids, bloods, and so forth, so that the bodies do not have to be sent out?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. We will note in the record that is three separate questions. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O392-89(1): Autopsies Performed In The South

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the subject which has been brought up is one that has given coroners some problems over the years. They have a tough job. Their responsibility is, if there is any doubt, to ensure that an autopsy is performed. I think we owe a lot to the coroners of the Territories for undertaking that tough job. I am prepared to look at some of the proposals made by the Member and there might indeed be ways to accommodate the sensitivity in the communities. I know it is a real tough one in the community. People are grieving and the body is not there. It is hard on families so I am more than prepared to review

our procedures with a view to seeing if we can come up with perhaps a bit more sensitive way of approaching it.

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

Question O393-89(1): Status Of Proposed Rental Scale

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. In regard to the new rental scale, to this day my constituents are still suspicious about the proposed rent scale. They have been presenting to me several petitions in regard to this. I am asking the Minister, as soon as they are through with the budget, is this rental scale going to be implemented after the budget session? What is the status of the proposed rent scale? I understand personally that they do not affect me as much but we have not voted on this rent scale. I will not be able to support it when my constituents are not supporting the rental scale. When are you going to implement this rental scale and if so, how? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Return To Question O393-89(1): Status Of Proposed Rental Scale

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for High Arctic asked me a similar question six days ago and at that time I indicated that to my knowledge there was no date set for implementation. I think Members will recall that when I placed the document before the House last year, I made a commitment to Members that I would be tabling it before this House for examination before implementation.

In response to the Member's request as to what progress has been made, there had been two consultations up until the time we discussed it here last year. There has now been a third consultation with many amendments and changes recommended by the communities now included in the new proposed scale. So the corporation believes that it is a much more equitable scale than probably the first cut. I do not have an implementation date. I will probably be tabling the proposed scale when the House returns and I hope at that time to also table the material that Mr. Morin wanted on the amendments to the HAP program because the two are associated and related.

As the Member knows, one of the reasons for assessing high rents at the top end of the scale is to encourage those tenants to move to home-ownership. So the two proposals and programs are related and will be tabled together.

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

Supplementary To Question O393-89(1): Status Of Proposed Rental Scale

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has been rejected by my constituents. The document is okay. Some part of it is okay but the main concern that they have right now is the head of the household will not be the only one that will be paying rent. All the people within the house have to be paying too. So this has been the concern of my constituency. If the head of the household is going to be the only one that is paying rent, I think this would be supported a bit more by my communities. That is the reason why the people are rejecting this proposed rent scale...

MR. SPEAKER: Attention please, we are into debate.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am asking the Minister if he could send one of his staff to these communities and try to explain about the rent scale proposal. I think if you could send one of your staff and inform the people of this proposed rent scale that they would be supporting it. I would like this to go ahead. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O393-89(1): Status Of Proposed Rental Scale

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I thank the Member for his suggestion and I will do as he requests. Thank you.

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

Question O394-89(1): Trapping Season On Lynx And Marten

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. Yesterday evening at the SCONE meeting in Rae, an elderly gentleman, 78 years old, a trapper all of his life, wondered why the hunting season or the trapping season on lynx and marten were closing this time of the year, so soon. He says that the fur is at its best at this point in the year and he wonders why the lynx and marten season is closing today, the 15th, the ides of March.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question under advisement.

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

Question O395-89(1): Effect Of Release Of Reserve Fund

MR. WHITFORD: This is another question, Mr. Speaker, and it is directed to the Minister responsible for Social Services, on child care. Some time ago I asked the Minister a question concerning the releasing of the two million dollar reserve that is being held as a negotiating position. The question I have is in what way exactly will the releasing of this two million dollars for child care affect the negotiations with the federal government?

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Return To Question O395-89(1): Effect Of Release Of Reserve Fund

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I indicated to the Members that I was very reluctant to allow the use of the supp fund of two million because I sincerely believe that it will weaken our position to negotiate. I did indicate also to the Members that this program is an interim program until the federal Child Care Act is passed. I certainly do not want to make it difficult for our officials to go and negotiate with federal officials, basically with the position that we have a lot of funding, indicating to the federal government that we are capable of delivering our own program. I sincerely feel that it was the federal government's first initial step in bringing forth the child care program and I think it is totally unfair to any jurisdiction across Canada that they allow us to carry out the program without indicating how much support they are going to give us. With that, when they sit down at the table to negotiate and it is indicated by this government that they have four million dollars to deliver a program, the possibility is there that the cost-sharing basis may not be on the percentage that we are trying to get. It certainly would cause concern to this government if we cannot cost share at as high a percentage rate as we want to cost share.

I recognize that, as a government, we are taking some responsibility and certainly feel that it is our responsibility to bring out a program but we must keep in mind that it was the federal government that initially announced such a big day-care program in December of 1987. With that I hope this clears up or attempts to answer some of the Members' concerns on our negotiating position when we sit down with the feds if we have four million to negotiate with as opposed to two million. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O395-89(1): Effect Of Release Of Reserve Fund

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard what the Minister has to say but I am still not clear on exactly how this is going to be a detriment. If you go to the federal government and you have two million dollars sitting on the table, they are going to say you have a lot of money and it may hamper the position. I still do not quite follow what the Minister has said as far as answering the question. She said that it may help but let me put it this way, are they going to match dollar for dollar what you have?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question O395-89(1): Effect Of Release Of Reserve Fund

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, that is, specifically I guess, the purpose of negotiating. We are going to try to get as much money as we can. Currently the feds are adamant they will match us 50 cents per dollar and I think it is to our advantage to try to get as much as we can per dollar. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

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

Question O396-89(1): Economic Potential Of Ram Concrete. Fort Smith

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Economic Development. My question is this. I know he is very, very good at keeping figures in his mind, so I do not feel embarrassed about asking the Minister this kind of detailed question and I would not expect that he would take it as notice. Mr. Speaker, my question is...

---Laughter

HON. GORDON WRAY: There is a set up for you.

MR. LEWIS: There is a company in Fort Smith, Mr. Speaker, which the special committee on the northern economy looked at and believe that of all the companies that existed south of the lake, this was one that seemed to have considerable economic potential. It is called Ram Concrete. My question to the Minister is, does he have an idea of how many jobs would be created if this business were to get off the ground and really get moving to fulfil the plans that it has presented to this Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O396-89(1): Economic Potential Of Ram Concrete, Fort Smith

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the figures mentioned are somewhere in the neighbourhood of 20 to 30 jobs.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O396-89(1): Economic Potential Of Ram Concrete, Fort Smith

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary then is this. This company, in order to fulfil its plans to develop a business in the Fort Smith area, requested assistance from the territorial government. Could the Minister indicate to us what kind of assistance this company asked for from the Department of Economic Development and Tourism?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Further Return To Question O396-89(1): Economic Potential Of Ram Concrete, Fort Smith

HON. GORDON WRAY: As are 99 per cent of the requests, cash.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O396-89(1): Economic Potential Of Ram Concrete, Fort Smith

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, when a company requests financial assistance, it is usually on some basis. On what basis did this company ask for the cash that it needed to make its company operational? In other words, did it just want a loan, or what exactly, a grant? What kind of assistance and to what amount?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Further Return To Question O396-89(1): Economic Potential Of Ram Concrete, Fort Smith

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to be extremely careful here because the propriety of releasing figures on a client relationship such as we have with Economic Development is not that clearly defined so I am hesitant to respond with figures. But the fact is that the company came to us and was experiencing some cash flow problems and asked us for assistance. They did not specifically lay out what kind of assistance. They said, "We could talk to you about what kind of assistance you can offer us, whether it be cash, whether it is facilitating another company to help buy in with us." There were a number of areas, but they did not have a specific request, other than the fact they had cash flow problems, and wanted us to figure out some way to help them.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O396-89(1): Economic Potential Of Ram Concrete, Fort Smith

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since whatever proposal the Government of the Northwest Territories made to this company was obviously unacceptable, since they now plan to relocate in southern Canada, what is this Minister doing to try to keep this viable company, that can provide 20 to 30 jobs, in the NWT and in a community, which is at the moment undergoing considerable economic depression.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Further Return To Question O396-89(1): Economic Potential Of Ram Concrete, Fort Smith

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department's role in this is at an end, unless the company seeks to change its negotiating position. The terms under which it wanted to negotiate were unacceptable to us, given the extremely high level of funding that was required. They are seeking funding elsewhere. I am always open to negotiation, and I have informed the principals that if indeed they wish to reopen negotiations or come back with another proposal, I am more than willing to accept it.

For Members' information, the deposit of material that would be used is in Alberta. However, the bulk of the jobs, perhaps, would have accrued to Fort Smith. That was unclear. It was our hope that with assistance and proper conditions, that the bulk of those jobs would go to Fort Smith, but it takes two parties to negotiate, and one party has decided that it no longer wants to negotiate. As far as I am concerned, the matter is at an end.

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

Question O397-89(1): Responsibility For Snowdrift Housing

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Housing. Mr. Minister, in a recent visit in early February to Snowdrift, the community requested you to look at relocating Snowdrift to the Hay River region so that it could be serviced better. How is that request coming?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Return To Question O397-89(1): Responsibility For Snowdrift Housing

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to discuss that matter with Mr. Beaulieu and Mr. Heron some 10 days ago when we were in Fort Providence and Kakisa. My understanding was that Mr. Beaulieu was happy to accept that responsibility, and I indicated to him that he should write letters to the Snowdrift people and indicate that in the future they would come under his district office.

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

Question O398-89(1): Electrical Repairs For Snowdrift Housing

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the same visit, a different question. There was quite a concern expressed by yourself about the electrical conditions of the rental units in Snowdrift, as well as private homes. You had indicated a concern and that possibly you would send a safety inspector in there, or an electrician to rectify the problem. Have you done anything to rectify that problem?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Return To Question O398-89(1): Electrical Repairs For Snowdrift Housing

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I did experience a concern on the trip to Snowdrift. I have discussed it recently with Mr. Heron. We were not looking at sending in an inspector. I think it was quite obvious that what is required is repair not inspection. I do believe that what Mr. Heron was looking at was developing a small contract for a local electrician to go there and spend time in the community and do the work. Where it is at the present time I do not know but that certainly was the intent. I can try and find out and advise the Member of progress.

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

Question O399-89(1): Improvement To Campground, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Mr. Speaker, I have here a letter dated July 29, in which a tender was supposed to have gone out toward the improvements of the campground in Fort Providence and that is to have a new entrance and to install a new outdoor wood, garbage relocation, water -- all this has been included on this I guess, improvement to the existing campground in Fort Providence. I also understand now that some work has been done but it has not been completed. I would like to ask the Minister if and when this improvement is going to be completed.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question under notice.

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

Question O400-89(1): Development Of Airstrip In Rae

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, when the special committee on the northern economy meets in the constituencies, we always ask the question, if there were one thing that were done in this community that would really make the difference that could help this place to take off; and last night we asked the question at Rae and we were told that what would make the difference here is an airstrip. So I would like to ask the Minister, with all the difficulties of negotiations and so on with the federal government, is there any way at all that this government itself could begin making some moves to develop an airstrip in Rae so that it could become more of a centre for the Dogrib empire than it is right now?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O400-89(1): Development Of Airstrip In Rae

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. Everything is possible but I think there are a number of factors that we have to take into account. First of all, it is not one airstrip that is needed, it is 11. So if you build one you have to build 11. There are others with a higher priority than Rae. Secondly, airstrips are the legal responsibility of the federal government, not just legally but politically. It is their mandate. It is their legislation. They are legally and financially responsible for airports. If the government is to assume responsibility out of desperation then where does that leave us? Does it mean that we now have to take what would probably be in the neighbourhood of \$15 to \$25 million a year out of our already small capital budget and allocate it to spend on airstrips which is a federal responsibility. Where is the money going to come from?

The Members are sitting here going through a budget. You gave the government priorities in education, in housing. You know the problems that we have in Municipal and Community Affairs with recreation. The money would have to come from there so something would have to be cut. Housing would have to be cut. Social programs would have to be cut. Education facilities would have to be cut. Recreation facilities would have to be cut. Something would have to go, all to fulfil a federal responsibility. I guess my problem is that this is a federal tactic. They have used it on us before where they just refuse to acknowledge their responsibilities hoping out of sheer desperation that we will take it over and do it.

Well in this case, I am not prepared to, because the problem is of a magnitude that this government could not afford to take it over without the necessary funding. If it was \$50,000 for some lights or beacons which we do, then that is one thing. But when you get into airports you are talking about mega dollars. You are talking about, just for the 11 airports alone, somewhere between \$35 and \$50 million and for the improvements -- that bill could be as high as \$100 to \$150 million. And we just do not have the financial capacity to take up such a large federal responsibility.

As I stated earlier, Rae is the priority when it comes to the priority list that has been established. There are other communities with higher priorities but no, it is not a responsibility that we can take over. It is too big for us.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O400-89(1): Development Of Airstrip In Rae

MR. LEWIS: We had all kinds of arguments last night why in fact Rae should be a priority and they were compelling arguments in terms of its role as a community that serves the rest of the Dogrib communities. Yellowknife is the centre for the Dogrib communities and they would like to change that. So my question to the Minister is, why is Rae so low on the list of priorities among all these 11 that do not have airstrips?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Further Return To Question O400-89(1): Development Of Airstrip In Rae

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. The first assessment of priority is based on safety and the fact is that in those 11 communities there are some with airstrips but they are unsafe. Paulatuk is the number one priority in the NWT. It has an extremely poor airstrip but it is also a very dangerous airstrip. There have already been fatalities in Paulatuk because of the location of the runway.

I cannot quite remember the list but I think Rae shows up around fourth or fifth but when you are assessing Rae, part of the assessment is that Rae is connected by highway. There are other communities that have no highway connection whatsoever. There are winter roads into Lac la Martre from Rae so they have some access. But we have communities that have no highways, no access whatsoever but by air and those are the ones that must take first priority. But Rae, as I said I cannot remember, but I think Rae is fourth or fifth on the list. I think Rae Lakes is even a higher priority than Rae itself. But safety and access are the first two criteria.

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

Question O401-89(1): Child Care Support For Aboriginal People

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services for the child care program. The federal government, if and when they do implement the Child Care Act and the money that goes along with it, has a certain amount of dollars that are designated for First Nations, for the reserves. I understand the territorial government is not going to be getting that portion of the money but I would like to ask the Minister whether or not she intends to pursue getting portions of that money designated specifically for aboriginal people and whether or not she would also ask the Department of Indian Affairs if she might be able to get support from the Minister in assuring the territorial government gets money designated specifically for aboriginal people.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Return To Question O401-89(1): Child Care Support For Aboriginal People

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is correct. The federal government did allocate \$60 million toward child care specifically for native people on reserves. Initially when this program was going to come out, the federal Minister at that time did indicate to me that we may be allowed to have access to those funds. Unfortunately, once the program was out it was specifically indicated that it was for reserves only. Having one reserve in the Territories, we are probably going to be allotted a certain amount of funds for that particular reserve in the NWT.

I have written numerous letters to the previous Minister. It is a concern with other Ministers across the country and we plan to hold a meeting with the new Minister sometime in the new fiscal year to try to get not only this particular issue cleared up but to see if we could find out when the Child Care Act will be passed by the federal government. But there have been many attempts, I can assure the Member, to try to get some of the funding that was initially intended for reserves and I do intend to keep continuing to pursue the matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, supplementary.

Question O402-89(1): Priorities For Child Care Funds

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I understand now that there are \$2.2 million that has been approved in this House specifically geared toward child care programs. Has the Minister come up with a priority on who will be getting the moneys and on what basis; on how these moneys are going to be allocated; whether or not first preference will be given to existing child care facilities and then, depending on the amounts left over whether it will go to new projects or has there been other progress related to the child care program? Does she have a priority list on that?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister. We will take that as a new question.

Return To Question O402-89(1): Priorities For Child Care Funds

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, in regard to the funding on the \$2.2 million, I indicated yesterday when my budget came through, if we go into the contributions of our budget, there is no specific priority to indicate who will be getting that money. We have not prioritized the funding. However, as I had stated in my Ministers' statement, we hope to create 180 new child care spaces.

We will be providing subsidies directly to the child care users -- meaning the parents. We will be providing support to child care providers -- meaning the day-care centres and the day-care homes. We will, hopefully, be attempting to subsidize their operational costs. However, within our funding there are different amounts of the \$2.2 million that would be allocated to these specific groups. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O402-89(1): Priorities For Child Care Funds

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's last statement, she did indicate that the \$2.2 million would be allocated to these different groups. Who is she referring to?

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Further Return To Question O402-89(1): Priorities For Child Care Funds

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I was referring to parents, referring to day-care centres, referring to day-care centres that want to start up, referring to individuals that want to start up day-care centres in their homes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Ernerk was next.

Question O403-89(1): Fall Supp For Child Care Spaces

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to Mr. Gargan's question. In the child care program interim funding, the Minister of Social Services announced that there will be an additional 180 child care spaces that will be created as a result of this program. She further indicated, however, that there is an immediate need for approximately 400 spaces across the NWT. My question to the Minister of Social Services, Mr. Speaker, is this, is the government considering bringing to this Legislative Assembly in October, 1989, supplementary funding in order to be able to meet these additional 400 spaces in the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O403-89(1): Fall Supp For Child Care Spaces

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, that is very difficult to assess at this point. However, I would hope that with our initial funding of \$2.2 million we certainly will be able to indicate how many new spaces we can create. We hope, by October, it might be possible that the Child Care Act may be passed. We hope that we may be sitting down, or at least negotiating, with the federal government, and we may be in a better position to determine whether or not additional funding will be allocated to create additional spaces in excess of the 180 that we announced. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. Oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question O404-89(1): Airport Proposals, Lake Harbour And Pangnirtung

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs concerning airports. There are no highways in the Eastern Arctic whatsoever. You were talking about the priorities that you were going to make for the Paulatuk area. But we from the Eastern Arctic, since there are no highways to travel on, and our airport is not good at all, I would like to find out what you propose to do with the airports in the Eastern Arctic. What you said earlier about the Western -- I think you are forgetting about the people in the Eastern Arctic. I think it should be prioritized, especially in Lake Harbour.

We were also in Rae that day, and they would like to get an airport and be prioritized; but they have highway access and they are very close to Yellowknife. I do not think it would be quicker, even if they do get an airport. I would like to find out what you are proposing to do with the Lake Harbour airport, and Pangnirtung.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O404-89(1): Airport Proposals, Lake Harbour And Pangnirtung

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not propose to do anything. The responsibility for airports is not my responsibility. I do not plan capital infrastructure, I do not lay out the criteria. That is all done by Transport Canada. As far as Transport Canada is concerned, and according to their standards of arctic B and C airports, all communities in the Eastern Arctic have adequate airports. That is the bottom line, as far as Transport Canada is concerned. We are even advised by industry -- for example Lake Harbour -- that even if we had a bigger airport in Lake Harbour they would not use the Hawker-Siddeley because they say there is not enough traffic. That is what industry tell us.

I think the Member misunderstands, or maybe he does not, but the fact is that the territorial government is not responsible for capital planning for airports in the NWT. That is the responsibility of Transport Canada, Quebec region, for Baffin. We work with them and we tell them what we think they should be doing, but the bottom line is that in the Quebec MOT office, in the Winnipeg MOT office and in the Edmonton MOT office, that is where the decisions are made on what goes into the North and what does not go in.

The priority, as I said earlier, for our governments is first of all to put airports into communities that have no other access, and then to improve airports that are in communities with no other access, that may be dangerous -- for example, Paulatuk is dangerous, people have been killed on the Paulatuk airstrip, because the airstrip is built the wrong way, and it is very subject to wind sheer. The next priority is then to construct airports in communities that have none. I know that communities like Arctic Red River and Lac la Martre have, say, a winter road or are connected by highway, but the fact is that, for medical emergencies, Arctic Red River has to go to Inuvik which is a long way away and it is important to make sure that they have that ability, particularly for medical emergencies, to get people to Inuvik. Some of the communities in the Dogrib area are only connected in the wintertime by winter road and in the summer they are limited to float plane. So that is why we are trying to get small airports in there.

When all that is done, then we will go back and start to look at airports once again, not only in the Eastern Arctic but in the Western Arctic, because times have changed. We have heard around this room, already, people complaining about the airstrips now inhibiting the growth of the community and some of those airstrips were only completed half a dozen years ago and now people want us to build new airports again.

I do not think people appreciate the cost of an airport. An airport is not like a community hall. An airport is not like a reservoir. When you go to build an airport, you are looking at major dollars. Now the best estimates that we have for Lake Harbour that were given to us by MOT is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$25 million. Now, how can you justify spending \$25 million when industry say they do not need a longer runway; when Transport Canada says Lake Harbour

meets all of our standards? Where is the justification for spending that money? More importantly, where is the justification for trying to get that money from Transport Canada? They will not give us the money.

So what I have proposed in Lake Harbour and I told the community and the Member was there and I have told him earlier on in this session is that we are running out of land in Lake Harbour. I have some money set aside for land development -- as well as the Housing Corporation. What we are going to do is take a look at another area where it may be cheaper to put a runway in and use the existing runway for land development and if we can do that with the limited amount of dollars that I have available I will do it. I appreciate that the airstrip in Lake Harbour is not in the best location. I appreciate that there is a severe dip in it and there could be a better airstrip there but I simply do not have the mandate, either politically or legally or financially, to put money into that airport. So I have to look for other alternatives. My alternative right now is to look at utilizing some land development money and turning their present airport into the new subdivision for the community.

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

Supplementary To Question O404-89(1): Airport Proposals, Lake Harbour And Pangnirtung

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your answer. It is obvious now that Lake Harbour will never get an airport according to my understanding listening to you. Who would I contact concerning our airport in Lake Harbour? I think it is obvious that I would have to talk to somebody else and it is obvious the Minister of MACA does not want to have anything to do with Lake Harbour concerning the airstrip. I will have to go back to my constituents and say the Minister is not concerned about Lake Harbour's airport and has completely said no to our request and they will not be getting an airport in Lake Harbour. I will have to go back and maybe consult with somebody else who is responsible for the airport. I thank you for your answer and I will go back and tell my people in Lake Harbour of your refusal. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Further Return To Question O404-89(1): Airport Proposals, Lake Harbour And Pangnirtung

HON. GORDON WRAY: I do not know if the Member is deliberately misinterpreting my words but...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. GORDON WRAY: ...the fact is that he can go to the federal government just like I go to the federal government and he will get the same answer as I get. I did not say that I am not concerned about the airport. In fact, I am trying to move mountains with land development money. I have told him that I will try and take what little money I have in land development and look at whether it is possible to put another airstrip in and use the existing airstrip for land. That is all I can do. That is all I have the power to do. I do not have the power to do anything else. So the Member can go back to his constituency and tell them what he wants but he can go to Mr. Bouchard the way I go to Mr. Bouchard.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. A new question, Mr. Arlooktoo?

Question O405-89(1): Government Leader's Opinion Re Lake Harbour Airport

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not trying to argue with the Minister but I am thankful for your answers and for the clarification. Maybe perhaps the Government Leader does not care about Lake Harbour also. I would like to ask him that because Gordon Wray just refused to do anything about Lake Harbour. What does the Government Leader think about the situation in Lake Harbour concerning the airport?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O405-89(1): Government Leader's Opinion Re Lake Harbour Airport

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think we have to be honest and realistic in the replies we give to Members in this Legislature. Now Mr. Wray could have said, "I will look into the matter and it has merit and we will review it and we will get back." He did not say that. He gave the Member an honest, direct answer which respectfully suggests that the concerns of the people of Lake Harbour, and I have landed on that airstrip a few times myself and I know that it is not the best situation in the world, but the concerns of the people of Lake Harbour have to be put in the context of the needs across the Northwest Territories and they have to be put in the context of costs.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister has provided a direct answer to the Member and an honest answer to the Member about what is realistic and what is not. I wish we had \$25 million that we could spend to do the enormous amount of blasting work that would be required to provide a 5000 foot strip if that is what the Member and the community wants. I wish we had that kind of money. We do not have that kind of money nor, as the Minister has very clearly explained, do we have the legal responsibility. So, Mr. Speaker, we have tried very hard to negotiate terms by which we would receive adequate funds so that we could take on that responsibility without setting ourselves up for impossible expectations.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am fully aware of the situation. I endorse the comments made by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I would point out in addition that the Minister went out of his way in last year's capital plan to provide funds to reduce the grade at the end of the airstrip. I think he is doing the very best he can within the resources that are available to him.

I want to assure the honourable Member that I am concerned about that situation but I think we have to get realistic and we have to be realistic with the people of Lake Harbour about what is possible and what is not possible. I think the sooner that people in Lake Harbour understand the realities, the easier it will be for them to accept that our government is doing what we humanly can within the resources available to us. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

Question O406-89(1): Airstrips Built By Private Business

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, several of us had the opportunity to visit the site of Colomac Mine and it seems that when a company wants to develop something they just put an airstrip in. It does not seem to take them that long and they get very good airstrips. It probably could be an example for the public airstrips that are built by the federal government. My question is this. Would it be possible for a private airstrip to be built anywhere in the NWT and operated in the way that mining companies develop airstrips?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O406-89(1): Airstrips Built By Private Business

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, it is possible. The problem though is that if the airstrip is developed for public use and for scheduled flights then it has to be built to Transport Canada specifications and regulations. That is the difference. A company can go in -- I have built airstrips myself when I was in private business. You can go in and build an airstrip and put in a very quick set of lights and a cheap beacon and it will do but if you want that strip to be able to take scheduled airlines then it has to be built to Transport Canada specifications and regulations and that is a whole different ball game than a private airstrip.

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

Question O407-89(1): Deputy Ministers' Positions

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. Mr. Government Leader, those two positions that appeared in News North advertisements two weeks ago, deputy ministers' positions, are those positions put on hold?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O407-89(1): Deputy Ministers' Positions

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, no. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Supplementary.

Question O408-89(1): Government Advertising In Native Press

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the Government Leader. I have a letter here from the Native Press about advertisements. This is supplementary to Mr. Butters I guess. The Native Press has been trying to chase government advertisement contracts. Whenever they see them in the News North they wonder why it is not in the Native Press. When they inquired about those two deputy ministers' positions they were informed by your department that these positions were put on hold and that is why they would not be advertising them in the Native Press.

I am just wondering who is telling the truth here and why does not the department use the Native Press for more advertisement? Why is it only the News North? Is it because the Native Press services the small Dene/Metis communities and you do not think there are people qualified in those communities to apply for those jobs? Do you have a government policy that is treating all newspapers fairly? When will you be taking a look at that, so all newspapers will be treated fairly?

MR. SPEAKER: We will take that as a new question. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Return To Question O408-89(1): Government Advertising In Native Press

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the liberty of attempting to answer the Member's question because the advertising for the positions comes under my responsibility for the Department of Personnel. I am not aware of those positions being on hold. However I will take that under advisement and advise the Member in the immediate future.

In regard to his concerns on advertising for public service positions. As I had indicated earlier in this House, we basically have no policy currently on advertising positions in any paper and it has been a concern to me as a Minister. I did give assurance to the previous Member that questioned me on formulating a policy and I did advise him that a policy is currently being formulated. I have recently been advised that the policy would be ready for draft review by the end of April. So I can assure the Member that I do have the Department of Personnel diligently working on this concern. I too, am concerned at the amount of money that we spend on advertising and I want to ensure that we have some equitable system to address this need. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Morin.

Supplementary To Question O408-89(1): Government Advertising In Native Press

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Madam Minister, will you assure me that the Native Press will have equal opportunity to carry all the government advertising in our region here? As well, will you look at the possibility of giving some advertising to the Mackenzie Times in Fort Simpson, Mr. Joe Mercredi, so that his paper could survive? At the present time the amount of advertising

he gets from the government does not help his paper at all. It is close to be going down the tubes.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Further Return To Question O408-89(1): Government Advertising In Native Press

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I really am reluctant to give the Member assurance indicating equal opportunity for advertisement for all the papers. I must take into consideration the amount of circulation for each paper, and we also have to take into consideration the advertising rate that each paper charges. I have information that indicates to me the various rates of papers, which can come in at a low of 90 cents per line, in comparison to a high of \$2.51 per line. So all these types of elements have to be taken into consideration. However, I can assure the Member that I am consciously aware of this acute problem of advertising, and I certainly have requested the Department of Personnel to formulate a policy to address it. I will ensure though, when the policy is developed, that it does give a fair and equitable distribution to all business people who do advertisements. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. The time allocation for question period has now run out. Item 6, written questions. Point of order, Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to extend question period.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford, you cannot gain the floor on a point of order to extend. We are on Item 6. I have called. If you wish to go back to the item you may request unanimous consent for that.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, unanimous consent to return to question period, Item 5.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Member is requesting unanimous consent to return to Item 5, oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Whitford, proceed. Mr. Lewis.

Question O409-89(1): Road To Lake Harbour

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, since the Lake Harbour airstrip is always a subject of discussion, it seems, and since there can be no solution to it, on the basis of our experience last night at Rae and the problems they have in getting their airport, would the Minister then consider building a road from Iqaluit to Lake Harbour so that there would be, in fact, a way for people to get out? If the whole community has to be evacuated for some reason, is there a possibility of building a road from Iqaluit to Lake Harbour using the same logic that denies Rae-Edzo from having its airport?

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O409-89(1): Road To Lake Harbour

HON. GORDON WRAY: What has to be understood is, first of all, according to industry and according to Transport Canada, the airport in Lake Harbour is sufficient for their needs and meets all standards. Now that is the problem. I went to Transport Canada. What they have said is, no, their standards say that Lake Harbour has a sufficient airport and that they will never consider funding. That is why I have initiated, on my own behalf and on the Department of MACA's behalf, a study to take land development money between Housing and MACA and look at using that money to build a new airstrip so that we can then use the existing airstrip to expand the community.

Transport Canada will not even talk to me about funding Lake Harbour because according to their standards, it has a sufficient airport to meet that community's needs. We went to the airlines, to First Air and said, "Look, if we build a longer runway, will that improve air service?" They said, "No, it will not improve the air service because with the size of Lake Harbour we would still continue to service it with a Twin Otter even if we had a longer runway." So, I cannot get any support from other than the community to put an airport into Lake Harbour.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Ernerk was next, then Mr. Zoe, then Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question O410-89(1): Positions Advertised In Nunavut Newspapers

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Personnel, and it is with regard to the deputy minister and assistant deputy minister positions in Culture and Communications. Were these positions advertised in Nunavut newspapers, such as Nunatsiaq News?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that under advisement. I do not read all the papers all the time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. The question is taken as notice. Mr. Zoe.

Question O411-89(1): Officials Negotiating Airports

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Government Leader. Could the Government Leader inform the House as to the officials that are negotiating the airports issue with the federal government? Could he name the officials? I assume there is someone from the office of devolution, and I assume there must be somebody from Mr. Wray's office that is involved in the negotiations with the federal government. Could he name the officials for the House?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O411-89(1): Officials Negotiating Airports

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: The officials involved in these discussions are the deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Al Menard, and the director of airports, Mr. Doug Howard. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo was next.

Question O412-89(1): Decision Requested In Writing

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the Lake Harbour airport, we are always discussing this problem. As Mr. Wray stated earlier, since he is not going to be supporting our concern, I would like it in writing, as well as the Lake Harbour hamlet council, saying that he is not supporting my concern. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O412-89(1): Decision Requested In Writing

HON. GORDON WRAY: There must be a problem in translation because I have never said I do not support Lake Harbour in their attempts to get a better runway. What I have said is that, while I support it, there is nothing I can do about it. What I can do, is what I am doing, and that is trying to find alternative funding to put an alternative airport in under a different umbrella. So, the Member is wrong.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Supplementary, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Supplementary To Question O412-89(1): Decision Requested In Writing

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The way I understood it, I was not supported by the people of Lake Harbour, and this is what I heard through the translation; that the community of Lake Harbour was not supporting this. It was mentioned that I am the only one that is trying to improve the airstrip in Lake Harbour. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Further Return To Question O412-89(1): Decision Requested In Writing

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. Then obviously it is a translation problem, because I did not say that the community of Lake Harbour does not support the airport. What I said was exactly the opposite. The only support for an airport in Lake Harbour is coming from the community. I cannot get the support of Transport Canada, or the airlines. That is what I said earlier. I said the only support for the airport is coming from the community. It had to be a translation problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will check the Hansard. New question, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question O413-89(1): Amendments To Budget

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. The budget we are dealing with right now, I wonder if I could make some amendments to this budget which has been dealt with already, the budget for my constituency. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, I am not precisely clear on what it is the Member is referring to. Is he asking whether changes can be made to portions of the budget that have already been approved by this Legislature? Could I get some clarification before I try to answer? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Arlooktoo, could you clarify please?

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I am talking about the ones that we have not dealt with regarding Housing. That is the question I have. I would like to make some amendments to this budget for Housing.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O413-89(1): Amendments To Budget

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the budget of the Housing Corporation is on the orders of the day, and it should come up today or tomorrow. I would suggest that the Member would have full opportunity to discuss his concerns, and the Minister responsible for Housing would be prepared to deal with each concern that he has at that time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Arlooktoo.

Supplementary To Question O413-89(1): Amendments To Budget

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am asking, before we deal with this department, I wanted to make some amendments. I know that we could deal with it when it comes up, but I am just wondering if I could change some of the written material, and that is the question I am asking. Can I do that or not? That is what I want to know.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Further Return To Question O413-89(1): Amendments To Budget

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member undoubtedly knows that the committee of the whole has the power to delete items from the budget document. If the Member wishes to have an item deleted, then he certainly has the power to make such a motion. However, as the honourable Member knows, the budget is a financial bill introduced by the government; and only the government, for better or for worse, has the power to amend the budget. If Mr. Arlooktoo wishes to have that power, then he should join the cabinet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs with regard to airports. I am just seeking information at this time. Since the Minister stated that there are priorities from one to 11, I wonder if he could table in this House which communities are on the priority list from number one to 11, and how much the estimated cost is of number one to 11 to complete the runways. Also, a third question in the same line, for what reason, from number one to number 11, are these the priorities in the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. That should properly be a written question. Oral questions. Mr. Ernerk was next.

Question O414-89(1): Grants To Reflect Local Costs

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to Tabled Document 70-89(1), tabled on March 14, 1989, the interim child care program includes a start-up grant of \$1200 per space for child care centres and \$750 per space for day homes. Mr. Speaker, my question will be to the Minister of Social Services. This is a flat rate across the NWT and yet what you can buy from Yellowknife for \$1200 will probably cost you three times as much in small communities, say in Spence Bay. My question is this, will the government consider adjusting the \$1200 start-up grants to reflect local costs?

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Return To Question O414-89(1): Grants To Reflect Local Costs

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I recognize the concern that the Member has expressed and it is a valid concern. I will take it up on another review and see what we can come up with. I basically have been indicating to my department to try and ensure an equitable system is in place and probably in thinking "equitable", they came up with an equal amount for everybody. However, I can understand that you cannot buy as much in some of the remote communities in comparison to some of the larger communities. I will take it under advisement and advise the Member accordingly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

Question O415-89(1): Trips To Ottawa To Deal With Arctic Airports

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs in regard to airports again. Could the Minister inform the House as to the number of times the two officials that were named by the Government Leader have gone to Ottawa to deal with the federal government on the matter of arctic airports for the last year or so? And if I can also ask the Minister if he can also answer Mr. Angottitauruq's question that he asked. I think he has got it on the tip of his tongue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O415-89(1): Trips To Ottawa To Deal With Arctic Airports

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I will get the information for the Member but I think it is not just going to Ottawa. The fact is that the federal officials come here as well, so I will get the number of meetings that have taken place, probably over a two year period which is a more accurate reflection. With regard to Mr. Angottitauruq's question, the arctic air facilities policy was put in place in 1974. It is a federal policy and its purpose was to encourage safe, regular and reliable air service by providing airport facilities and services in eligible communities in the Northwest Territories and in the Yukon. The policy expired on March 31st, 1983. When the policy expired there were 11 communities that were still awaiting airport construction or redevelopment. Those communities, in the order of priority, were -- now this is priority laid out by Transport Canada: Paulatuk, Rae Lakes, Snowdrift, Lac la Martre, Fort Good Hope, Pelly Bay, Arctic Red River, Fort Franklin, Rae-Edzo, and Fort Providence. Those are the 11 airports that remained unfinished. Transport Canada estimated that the cost to finish these airports and do the redevelopment was in the neighbourhood of \$55 million for all 11 airports. I had negotiated the capital turnover to our government of \$35 million because by combining our airport work with our other gravel work, with site development work, there was an economy of scale that we could reach, so we had agreed on a capital turnover of \$35 million in October of 1987, and we signed an agreement to that effect under which the Government of the Northwest Territories would then take over responsibility for the development of those airports. Transport Canada, I believe on the instructions of Treasury Board, broke the agreement in May of 1988, and said it could no longer live with the agreement that it had signed with us. That is why we ended up back at the negotiating table. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. So much for the Speaker's trying to determine which may reasonably be assumed to be within the present knowledge of the Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question O416-89(1): Role Of MLA In Considering Budget

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on the question that was made by Mr. Arlooktoo to the Government Leader, because that question, in my view, goes to the fundamental function and existence of government -- the question of the role of an MLA in considering a department budget, whether an MLA can in effect change the things that are at present in the budget. The Government Leader answered correctly to an extent, saying that the power of an MLA is to delete; but he said also the other alternative was to join cabinet. In my view, I think what Mr. Arlooktoo is referring to is not something as dramatic, as revolutionary or as chaotic as that. I think he was simply asking the question, really, can an MLA and can the Assembly at this late stage in considering a department and budget, can he effect real change apart from deleting? The question, I think, comes down to, in the event that an MLA can get the support of the committee of the whole to make certain changes in the budget in a department, would the government be receptive to making changes almost immediately or after some consideration? I think that is the essential question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O416-89(1): Role Of MLA In Considering Budget

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, perhaps my answer was a bit flippant in suggesting that the cabinet is the only vehicle for changing the budget. Mr. Speaker, I can think of many instances where MLAs with the support of their colleagues have, in fact, effected changes in the budget either at the committee stage, and I can think of examples where changes, many examples where changes have been negotiated or worked out at the committee stage on finance bills, particularly with reference to tax measures. I know that there have been times when the standing committee on finance has made recommendations to the government

which have been accepted and have resulted in changes and I believe that in the particular budget in question, Mr. Ballantyne, in discussing certain tax measures with the committee has considered and implemented some changes.

As well, Mr. Speaker, this can happen on the floor of the House. I will cite two examples that come to mind. I recall the honourable Member for Nahendeh, himself, basically forcing a change in the Education capital estimates when I was Education Minister, to put planning money into the school in Fort Liard. There was a commitment made on the floor of the Legislature to make that addition. As well, Mr. Speaker, we had a very dramatic example during the presentation of the main estimates for Education last year when the committee of the whole said, "Restore the pupil/teacher ratio to 19 to one or we will not pass your budget." After due and careful deliberation the government did that.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are certainly powers residing in a backbencher, provided there is support of colleagues to make changes to the budget. I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that I think these are powers that are far greater than the powers of backbenchers anywhere else in this country. So, while there may be some frustrations on the part of ordinary MLAs, I think that in this Legislature, and there are concrete examples to prove it, I think that in this Legislature an MLA who can secure support of colleagues can actually make changes. That is the consensus system. I will finally answer the Member's question by saying that within the limits of the fiscal framework I think our government does indeed try to respond to reasonable requests from the committee of the whole. That is how the consensus system works. So we are open to recommendations and advice.

The budget may not be perfect in every tiny detail. I hope that if there are concerns, if they are not worked out at the committee stage where it would be the most appropriate stage, then we can deal with them during the consideration of the estimates in the committee of the whole. Thank you.

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

Question O417-89(1): Use Of Term "Backbenchers"

MR. SIBBESTON: Well just a little question arising out of the Minister's response, that of referring to us as "backbenchers". That is kind of a new term. We have always known ourselves as ordinary MLAs, and extraordinary Members, to the point of being cabinet Ministers, but out of somewhere the idea and the term backbencher is a term which is more associated with political parties and other Assemblies in the South.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SIBBESTON: So I wonder if the Government Leader could explain that.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O417-89(1): Use Of Term "Backbencher"

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will look forward to reviewing the Hansard. I thought I used the invidious term backbenchers referring to those other legislatures in the rest of Canada, which are victims of the party system where there is no real power on the part of an ordinary Member of a legislature. Mr. Speaker, if that is not the case then I repent. It is not an appropriate term to use...

---Laughter

...for Members of this Legislature. They have certainly more powers and more dignity and may I say, more respect from those of us on this side of the House than the term backbenchers connotes. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would go so far as to say that we should look for something a

little more dignified than "ordinary Members". That too, is a rather plebian word. Maybe we can come up with something that reflects their importance in the process of consensus government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Perhaps we could try "extraordinary Members". Mr. Morin was next.

Question O418-89(1): Advertising Of Deputy Ministers' Positions

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for newspaper advertisements. Madam Minister, since you have been made aware that there is a concern to Members that advertisements are not being put into all newspapers equally, will you reconsider your decision to advertise the deputy ministers' positions only in the News North and advertise them in other newspapers as well?

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Return To Question O418-89(1): Advertising Of Deputy Ministers' Positions

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I never ever made a decision that the deputy ministers' positions only go in News North and not in all newspapers. I sincerely feel that deputy ministers' positions are quite important positions and should be advertised in many papers as possible. I will review that and I apologize on the department's behalf for such an oversight and will ensure that deputy ministers' positions are advertised in all the papers. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O418-89(1): Advertising Of Deputy Ministers' Positions

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. Madam Minister, if you are not aware of it I will make you aware that the News North in their last issue had nine pages of advertisements. The Native Press had three. Could you review this and check it out with your department to see if you can equal it out a little bit? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Further Return To Question O418-89(1): Advertising Of Deputy Ministers' Positions

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am fully aware of the different amount of advertising we do in different papers and it has caused me concern. That is why I have asked my department to develop policy to address it. I have asked my department to give me a listing of the amount that we have expended to every paper we have advertised in since the beginning of April 1st, 1988, up until the end of January. Prior to this I had asked for a listing from January to the end of November. I recognize from the initial list that we did have problems. There was not an equitable system in place. In recognizing there was not a policy in place, I am taking measures to address it. I can assure the Member that once the policy is developed, I will direct the department to ensure an equitable system among newspapers and that people who do have newspapers across the Territories are given a fair chance on advertising for positions. Thank you.

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

Question O419-89(1): Funding To Member For Presentation In Ottawa

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. He indicated that if I want to make a presentation I can go to Ottawa. I would be happy to go to Ottawa but in regard to transportation I do not have any funding and there is no more in my constituency allowance. If you can assist me in transportation and accommodation, and I would want my assistant to come with me, so I am asking the Minister

of MACA if he can support me in funding so I, myself, can give a presentation in Ottawa. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O419-89(1): Funding To Member For Presentation In Ottawa

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well the Member does get new money on April 1st and this is a constituency issue. If I was to pay for the Member to go to Ottawa to meet with Mr. Bouchard, then I would have to do the same thing for Mr. Zoe and Mr. Morin and Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Angottitauruq, all of whom have major airport problems in their constituencies and Mr. Gargan. So we could always take the whole Legislature and meet with Mr. Bouchard, I guess, and impress upon him the problems we have with airports. But I can assure the Member that I will provide him with whatever moral support he wants and I can use my offices to try and set up a meeting for him but I think, given that it is a constituency issue, the funding really should come out of his constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford was next.

Question O420-89(1): Tenders For Demolition, Pine Point

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Last year your department tendered for the demolition of some buildings in Pine Point, but as I understand it, Mr. Speaker, the tender was pulled at the last minute in order to allow some salvaging of the materials. The question to the Minister is, will these tenders be called again, or for the people that had already submitted tenders to that, will the tender be revived?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to take the question under notice because I do not know if it was MACA that tendered it. It may have been the town of Pine Point or DPW. But I will take the Member's question under notice and whoever did it, I will get back to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question is taken as notice. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question O421-89(1): Delegation Of MLAs To Meet With Minister Of Transport

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a question to Mr. Gordon Wray, on the question of airports. I truly do believe the Minister when he says he has tried to do something about airports in the North and has made frequent trips to Ottawa. He, himself and his officials have really tried. I am just wondering if it is a situation that requires perhaps a little bit more action; a little bit more activity from the Assembly with respect to this matter.

There have been times in the past when the Assembly or Members of the Assembly have gone to Ottawa to deal with a very difficult matter. I can remember the issue of aboriginal rights a number of years ago when the whole Assembly went. In this case, in the matter of airports, I do not think it requires a whole Assembly but there are obviously some MLAs that are very concerned about airports. To an extent they are barking up the wrong tree trying to get airports out of Mr. Wray because he does not have the money or the jurisdiction. But is it not a situation where the Minister could consider asking a number of MLAs who are very concerned about the airports and taking them with him to Ottawa to meet the federal Minister so that these MLAs can see for themselves the difficulty? And it may just make an impression on the Minister in Ottawa. In this way, you will not have the constant day after day barraging of the Minister over the airport issue. Just a good suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O421-89(1): Delegation Of MLAs To Meet With Minister Of Transport

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be more than willing to lead a delegation of MLAs to Ottawa to meet with the federal Minister of Transport because the moral support...

---Applause

...any moral support I can get I would appreciate because I have never had to deal with such a frustrating experience in all my life, than to deal with Transport Canada. I said it on the radio yesterday and I repeat it in this House, every time I sit down with them the distinct impression I get is that they do not give a damn. They just do not care.

We have escalated the negotiations to the Prime Minister's level. When the Prime Minister came before the election it was one of the top priorities that was brought up by the Government Leader at the breakfast he had with the Prime Minister. I brought it up. My cabinet colleagues are sick of me bringing it up every time we meet with federal Ministers because it is something that I continually hammer home. So I would have no problem taking a delegation to Ottawa.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Zoe was next.

Question O422-89(1): Report On Social Assistance Review

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. Since her budget was weaselled through the Assembly very quickly yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, what is happening with the report that the department was undertaking? At one time it went to Justice and then it was going to go to Finance to see how much financial implication there was and where does that whole report stand at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Return To Question O422-89(1): Report On Social Assistance Review

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I appreciate the Member's words that my budget was "weaselled" through the Assembly. I think I diligently presented my budget.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: However, if it is an MLA's priority not to be in here when our budget is being presented, it is beyond my control.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, in regard to the concern that the Member has brought forward, indeed I did get the social assistance regulations reviewed. They were sent to Justice last July for drafting. They have been reviewed by the department one more time. They are now in the process of being forwarded to Justice for the legal wording. I will be presenting the review to cabinet. However, I will indicate to the Member that in the near future I will be presenting to cabinet the request to review the recommendations that have come out of the review for the food allowances for social assistance, although all other elements will be reviewed at a later date. I do plan to present it for legislation in the fall session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Ernerk.

Question O423-89(1): Applications For Culture And Communications Positions

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of Culture and Communications concerning the deputy minister and assistant deputy minister positions. Has he received any applications from the northern communities in the NWT for these positions?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I will take that question under advisement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question is taken as notice. Mr. Zoe was next.

Question O424-89(1): Minister's Intention Re Food Allowance

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services again. I would like to ask the Minister, she indicated in the response I got that the recommendations coming from the report will be brought forward at a later date. She specifically mentioned that the food allowance is going to be dealt with, hopefully within a few weeks, so that it can be retroactive to April 1st. Is that what the Minister's intention is?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O424-89(1): Minister's Intention Re Food Allowance

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, maybe I did not explain it correctly. The social assistance review committee reviewed all the regulations pertaining to social assistance, which includes food allowances and all other types of subsidies that fall under social assistance. However, the regulations as a whole will be, once Justice is finished placing their legal terms in them, going to cabinet for approval, denial or further review. However, I recognize the need to increase our rates for the food allowance and, therefore, I am willing to fast-track that aspect of the social assistance regulations and bring that forward to cabinet for consideration. This will be done in the immediate future. I do not know if it will be done effective April 1. I feel that is a very difficult time frame to meet, but immediately thereafter. Thank you.

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

Question O425-89(1): Applicants For Deputy Minister's Position

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture and Communications. Could I ask the Minister how many applicants there were from the Western Arctic for the deputy minister's position?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: I will take that under advisement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The question is taken as notice. New question, Mr. Zoe.

Question O426-89(1): Applicants From Southern Canada For Deputy Minister's Position

MR. ZOE: A new question to the same Minister. Could I ask the Minister with regard to the deputy minister's position again, how many applicants there were from southern Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: I will take the question under notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is taken as notice. Mr. Ernerk.

Question O427-89(1): Readvertising Deputy Minister Positions

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the answer to the deputy minister position as well as the assistant deputy minister position with regard to Culture and Communications. The ad ran once, December 16th, 1988. My supplementary question to the Minister of Culture and Communications is this, could the government consider readvertising these two positions of deputy minister as well as assistant deputy minister in Nunavut newspapers such as Nunatsiaq News?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O427-89(1): Readvertising Deputy Minister Positions

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I thought last week the ordinary Members were pressuring us to fill the positions as soon as we can. We have been working very hard to fill the positions and are hoping that within the next couple of days the Government Leader will be making an announcement on the topic. As far as reopening the positions for the sake of advertising them in Nunavut, at this point I am not willing to do that. We have been reviewing the applicants and hoping to make the announcement in a couple of days. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Gargan, last question before lunch break.

Question O428-89(1): Consultation Re Appointments To Denendeh Conservation Board

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. With regard to the appointments to the Denendeh Conservation Board, the recommendations are given by the joint Dene/Metis leadership on five members, but the Minister himself selects five other members. I would like to ask the Minister why in this case that, similar to other appointments, Members here are not consulted with regard to who they could have appointed to the board? Why is it, in this case, this arrangement?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, in order to give a proper answer I need the proper background and I will get back to the Member tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question is taken as notice. Are there any further oral questions? The House will recess for lunch and will be back at 1:30 p.m. sharp.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: We are on Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question O429-89(1): Distribution Of Main Estimates

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am directing this question to the Government Leader. Is this budget and main estimates confidential or are they within just the Legislative Assembly or have you distributed them throughout the communities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O429-89(1): Distribution Of Main Estimates

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the main estimates, once they are tabled in the Legislature, are public documents. We have not made efforts to distribute them to the communities but they are public information and could be distributed by any Member if they wish. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I am asking this question is that some of the budget was leaked before we had discussed it within the Legislative Assembly, especially the NWT Housing Corporation budget. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Arlooktoo, what was the question in that, please?

Supplementary To Question O429-89(1): Distribution Of Main Estimates

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NWT Housing Corporation budget has already been distributed throughout the communities. Is it allowed that it should be public knowledge way before it had been discussed in the House?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Further Return To Question O429-89(1): Distribution Of Main Estimates

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I think it is well known to Members of this Legislature that there are instances where information is provided to communities in advance of the presentation of the budget. One example that I can think of is that, in order to try to ensure that northern companies have notice of opportunities for participation in capital projects, we have as a practice been advertising intended capital projects in newspapers before the budget session. There is a qualification on those ads which says that this is subject to approval of the Legislature, however. That would be one example where budget information is provided in advance on capital projects.

Mr. Speaker, similarly and I would have to provide more details if the Member wants more details, but similarly I believe that housing authorities and housing associations are informed of the proposed numbers of units in their community following needs studies and the like, and the housing associations and authorities are invited to make recommendations, I believe, on the recommended mix of rental housing and home-ownership housing units in a community. So I think if that is what the Member is referring to, indeed, it would be an example of a situation where for certain special reasons information might be released in advance. I think that, again, that information would be released on the condition that it is made clear that this is subject to final approval by this Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O430-89(1): Expectations Raised In Communities

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Government Leader. Would the Government Leader not agree, Mr. Speaker, that releasing information prior to discussion in this chamber raises the expectations of communities who are going to receive housing units and also that it would make it very difficult for this Legislative Assembly to suggest changes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O430-89(1): Expectations Raised In Communities

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable Member who is chairman of the standing committee on finance would agree that there are some capital projects where there would really be no secret about their delivery. For example, when we approve planning money for a building, the public can naturally infer that once the building is planned and designed that there will be a building in the future fiscal years. Similarly, Mr. Speaker, with housing, in most of our communities we have to prepare lots and land, so I would say, similarly, that in the case of housing allocations, communities would already have a pretty good idea of what the corporation is planning because the corporation has been requesting the local government to prepare building lots.

I suppose it is fair to say, Mr. Speaker, that expectations are raised but I would think that in most cases communities would not be saying, you have planned too many houses for our community, we want less. So I would think that the Housing Corporation would be safe in indicating a number of units for a community, given that communities would very rarely be demanding less units than that number allocated. So I think there would be a danger, if it was possible, that the units could be reduced, Mr. Speaker, that expectations would be raised and dashed but that would very rarely be the case, in my view, Mr. Speaker. I would think in most cases the communities would be wanting more than what is allocated, rather than less than what is indicated. I do not think it is a harmful practice, and I would think, Mr. Speaker, that if we were not to provide information in advance, and instead, release it in certain cases when the budget session begins in February or March, we would be receiving a lot of requests from housing authorities that we were not doing a proper job of consulting them and allowing them to plan their own community needs. That is a situation where I think, on balance, the interests of the public are served by some measure of advance consultation and disclosure. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Ernerk.

Question O431-89(1): Establishment Of RCMP Training Centre

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to the Minister of Justice, responsible for the RCMP. The Minister, this morning, made a statement regarding special constables and he indicated that the Department of Justice has been working with the RCMP to encourage more native Northerners to join the police force. I welcome that very much, Mr. Speaker. Last year, during the winter session of the Legislative Assembly, a committee motion was passed calling upon the Government of the Northwest Territories to establish a training centre for the RCMP. What is his department's reaction to this particular motion?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne.

Return To Question O431-89(1): Establishment Of RCMP Training Centre

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. We have been working in this area. I do not remember when the motion was made, last fall I think. I have had a discussion with the Commissioner of the RCMP, and my officials have met with senior officials of the RCMP. They are looking at it --

actually I was surprised -- quite favourably. We have also had meetings with the staff of the solicitor general of Ontario, who are also interested in possibly utilizing such a facility. Work is being done on that. Right now we are trying to firm it up. One suggestion was that we incorporate that in our demands for the new police contract, if we decide to use the RCMP again. Another possibility is, in the next couple of years, to come to some arrangement with the RCMP whereby they will train people here. Their problem, according to the commissioner, is that Regina right now is the guts of the RCMP training program, and they are a little bit worried about taking things away from Regina. Our point is that we think there are some very specific things that could be done here. We are working very hard on that. I hope to have a report in the fall session. I am quite optimistic that at some point in time, in the next two or three years, we have a good chance of getting a training centre here.

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

Question O432-89(1): Manufacture Of Beer In NWT

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note in the government's economic plan, "Direction for the 1990s", that import substitution is very high on the list of things that we should address ourselves to. I note, Mr. Speaker, that I can get a permit to brew my own beer, if I want; and I note that millions of gallons of this stuff has come into the Territories over the last 20 years.

My question to the Government Leader is, does the government have any position on the manufacture of this commodity in the NWT, since it could take advantage of our good water and provide many many jobs?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O432-89(1): Manufacture Of Beer In NWT

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the position of this government is that we should seek every opportunity that we can to replace imports through the creation of local jobs and local economic opportunities in the NWT. I would respond to the Member that this and many other opportunities would be supported by our government, where they would provide an opportunity to create local jobs that would otherwise be created in Alberta or other southern jurisdictions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Ernerk again.

Question O433-89(1): Vacant Position In Rankin Inlet

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. Could the Government Leader tell this House as to when he plans to fill the vacant position of assistant regional director in Rankin Inlet?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return to Question O433-89(1): Vacant Position In Rankin Inlet

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: As soon as possible, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions.

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, return to Question W3-89(1), asked by Mr. Lewis to the Minister of Renewable Resources on polar bear survey tenders to northern air

carriers; return to Question W20-89(1), asked by Mr. Sibbeston to the Minister of Personnel on employee housing allowance withdrawal.

Return To Question W3-89(1): Polar Bear Survey Tenders To Northern Air Carriers

Hon. Titus Alloo's return to Question W3-89(1), asked by Mr. Lewis on February 13, 1989, regarding polar bear survey tenders to northern air carriers. The polar continental shelf project, PCSP, is a mission-oriented federal government program. It provides a comprehensive logistics network, transportation services and communications. Air services are provided through three contracts, all currently held by air carriers, qualified under the northern business preference policy. The three companies are Aklak Air, Bradley Air Services and Okanagan Helicopters. The special committee on the northern economy should be aware that all PCSP air contracts are currently serviced by northern carriers. Your comment that no northern company is large enough to provide aircraft for PCSP is therefore incorrect.

Aerial survey is indeed an area where the Northwest Territories could and does play a leadership role. Survey work from the Department of Renewable Resources represents only a very small percentage of the total survey work being conducted in the Northwest Territories. The greatest centre of expertise for aerial survey work in Canada is the polar continental shelf project. This program has been actively involved in survey work for more than 30 years. Through long-term chartering of aircraft from northern air carriers, experienced pilots are available. Because PCSP is dedicated to scientific research, it gains survey experience at a rate not achievable by small companies for whom the majority of flying is of the non-survey type. Northerners can indeed be proud of the expertise of several northern carriers in conducting survey work.

There will be no additional changes in the 1989 field season. The question of departmental use of charter services will be further reviewed over the next eight months, to determine if policy changes are required. The department will also review any changes to PCSP tendering practice resulting from meetings scheduled between the director of the polar continental shelf project and the Northern Air Transport Association.

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

Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell's return to Question W20-89(1), asked by Mr. Sibbeston on March 7, 1989, regarding employee housing allowance withdrawal. Since the announcement of the withdrawal of standard accommodation allowances was made in April of 1988, 41 Yellowknife employees have moved from staff accommodation and into private accommodation. In April of 1988, a total of 319 accommodation units were occupied by GNWT staff. At the present time, there are 317 units occupied by our personnel. Sixty-five of those employees have occupied staff accommodation for less than the allowable 12 months.

Forty-four employees have had their accommodation allowances reduced. Of the 44 employees, 33 employees have been reduced by \$200 per month and 11 employees by \$100 per month. All 44 employees continue to occupy staff accommodation. As these employees move from staff accommodation, their accommodation allowances are reinstated to the full \$450 per month.

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

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I was going to make my reply but because we are running out of time today, I wonder if I could ask for unanimous consent to go back to Members' statements.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being sought to return to Item 3, Members' statements. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Wray.

REVERT TO ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Uranium Mining, Baker Lake

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I will try and do this in two minutes. The subject of uranium mining has been a hot topic for the last little while and it all revolves around my home community, Baker Lake. We have heard how people are going to be born deformed; we have heard how the animals are going to be made sick; we have heard how people are going to have cancer; we have heard how the material is going to be used to kill millions. On the other side we have heard how it is going to bring us all kinds of economic prosperity and how many jobs we are going to get and how everybody is going to be rich.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, while many of the comments that have been made by people like Mr. Curley and Ecology North and that, are well intentioned, the fact is the community of Baker Lake does not need advice from anybody on what position to take with regard to uranium mining. No other community in the Eastern Arctic has had more experience in dealing with mining companies than Baker Lake. We have fought them and dealt with them for 15 years and we are quite capable of making up our own minds.

To that end, Mr. Speaker, the hamlet council and myself have decided that within a very short time after the FEARO inquiry has closed, a plebiscite will be called in the community of Baker Lake. That plebiscite will be comprised of two parts: one for those over the age of 19; and one for the children age 11 to 19, simply because whether the mines goes or not, it is their future that we are dealing with. So we will call a plebiscite in the community and the decision of the community and the actions of the community with regard to that uranium mine will be dictated by the results of the plebiscite. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. We are on Members' statements. We return to orders of the day, Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to petitions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being sought to return to Item 9, petitions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Arlooktoo, proceed.

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have signed Petition 13-89(1), from Lake Harbour in regard to the proposed housing rental scale. Perhaps I should read this petition. "We, being at least 18 years of age and residing in Lake Harbour, NWT, have here signed," because they do not agree with the Housing Corporation rent scale. There are 38 signatures from Inuit of Lake Harbour. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Item 9, petitions. We were on Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 75-89(1), a newspaper article in The Hub. I just want to table the newspaper itself. It does have a story in there about an apology to yourself, Mr. Speaker, on your committing suicide. But most importantly there was guide training done in Fort Providence, pages 20 and 21, which refers to 12 people that took the

training. There is also a picture of a bison which measures 10 feet in length and there are about nine people in the back, and it is still short for some people to be in it.

Mr. Speaker, thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. That is one way to increase circulation of a paper. Tabling of documents. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 76-89(1), A Discussion Paper Prepared by the Government of the Northwest Territories on Political and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories, November 4, 1988, in English and Inuktitut. Thank you.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 77-89(1), The Northwest Territories Team 1988, Arctic Winter Games, Fairbanks, Alaska.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 78-89(1), a letter which was written to MACA re the ladies sewing centre in Cape Dorset. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 16-89(1): Tabled Document 76-89(1) To Committee Of The Whole

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, March 17th, 1989, I will move the following motion: I move that Tabled Document 76-89(1), entitled "Political and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories" be moved into committee of the whole for discussion as the first item of business on Thursday, April 6th, 1989.

And if I may, Mr. Speaker, I have another one.

Notice Of Motion 17-89(1): Members Of The Constitutional Alliance To Appear Before Committee Of The Whole

I wish to give notice that on Friday, March 17th, 1989, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that the Legislative Assembly invite a representative from each member of the Constitutional Alliance to appear as witnesses in committee of the whole on April 6, 1989, during discussion of the paper on political and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Gargan.

Notice Of Motion 18-89(1): Federal Funding For Child Care On Reserves

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on Friday, March 17, 1989, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that this Legislative Assembly recommends to the Minister of Social Services and the Executive Council that they immediately negotiate with the federal government for funds from the \$60 million designated to develop child care services on reserves for aboriginal child care in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to proceed with the motions I gave notice of earlier today?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the motion to refer Tabled Document 76-89(1) to committee of the whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Minister, proceed.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 16-89(1): Tabled Document 76-89(1) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Tabled Document 76-89(1), entitled "Political and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories", be moved into committee of the whole for discussion as the first item of business on Thursday, April 6, 1989.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Patterson, do you wish to speak to the motion, as the mover?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker. This paper had been tabled in the previous session of this Legislature last fall. I think at that time Members agreed that we should proceed with a delay in discussing it in order to allow further public consultation. It has been agreed that we would proceed with the paper this session, and I think it would be appropriate that we set a date now to allow Members to prepare for that important debate. Mr. Speaker, I may say that I think it is important, given the critical issues facing the NWT these days, including issues of political development that would impact on the land claims discussions, that we begin discussion of these issues in our Legislature. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. The seconder of the motion, do you wish to speak? To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Before we call the question, the mover of the motion, you have an opportunity to close. Question is being called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Tabled Document 76-89(1) will be moved into committee of the whole. Item 14, motions. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would also seek unanimous consent to move the motion concerning members of the Constitutional Alliance appearing as witnesses during that political and constitutional development debate. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the motion inviting members of the Constitutional Alliance into the committee of the whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Patterson, proceed.

Motion 17-89(1): Members Of The Constitutional Alliance To Appear Before Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

WHEREAS the paper entitled "Political and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories" was tabled during the last session and again at this session;

AND WHEREAS discussion on this paper is scheduled to commence in committee of the whole on April 6, 1989;

AND WHEREAS it would be of benefit to hear from the members of the Constitutional Alliance on this matter;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that the Legislative Assembly invite a representative from each member of the Constitutional Alliance to appear as witnesses in committee of the whole on April 6, 1989, during the discussion of the paper on political and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. The motion is in order. To the motion. The seconder of the motion, do you wish to speak? To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 14, motions.

Item 15, first reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1-89(1), CR 1-89(1), Tabled Document 58-89(1), Tabled Document 59-89(1), Bill 3-89(1) and Bill 10-89(1) 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 COMMITTEE REPORT 1-89(1), REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 1989-90 MAIN ESTIMATES; BILL 1-89(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1989-90

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order. Mr. Ballantyne, do you have any orders that you would like to turn over today?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government is prepared to proceed with the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree to proceed with the Housing Corporation? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Butters, would you like to make your opening statement?

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

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, at the conclusion of my remarks and when I move to the witness table, I would like to have invited, Jim Pratt, the vice-president of the corporation for finance to join me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Yes, go ahead, Mr. Butters. Can we have some order in the House please? Mr. Whitford, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Ernerk. Thank you. Mr. Butters, go ahead. Your mike, please.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. TOM BUTTERS: It was working a few minutes ago. This government views the provision of affordable housing to residents in need as one of its fundamental priorities. That task, this year and in the coming years will not be easily accomplished. Recent surveys indicate that almost 3000 housing units are currently needed to relieve overcrowding and replace inadequate housing. The population of the NWT continues to grow at a rate unsurpassed in Canada with a birth rate of 28.9 live births per 1000 population, almost double the national average. The Territories' need for new social housing units is increasing by 150 units each year, largely due to our population growth.

The NWT Housing Corporation in co-operation with CMHC is able to add some 300 new units annually to the social housing stock at present funding levels. This means that if the current population growth and household formation trends continue, it could take some 25 years to eliminate the backlog of our housing need.

When I speak of housing need, it is important to realize that the need for adequate, suitable and affordable housing is in fact experienced by a broad spectrum of territorial residents and that our people often have very different types of housing requirements. We cannot speak of a housing need as if it were a single phenomenon. Accordingly, the NWT Housing Corporation will continue to provide diverse housing programs designed to meet the broad range of housing needs that exist in the Territories.

Continuing in the belief that individual and community self-reliance must provide the cornerstones for building our housing future, this government remains committed to promoting home-ownership for residents who can afford the ongoing operating costs.

Home-ownership Assistance Program

As my colleague, the Minister of Finance told you during his opening address, delivery of the home-ownership assistance program will benefit through the infusion of an extra two million dollars in the coming fiscal year. In response to the wishes of this Assembly, these additional funds are being made available from the GNWT budgetary surplus that was identified during the fall session of the House. Another two million is also being allocated to the Housing Corporation for other housing programs.

Members of the Assembly have expressed a desire to have the home-ownership assistance program made accessible to families whose incomes fall above and below the income levels currently allowed in the program. As will be indicated in the document that I intend to table for you before this session concludes, officials in the Housing Corporation are actively trying to devise ways to broaden the availability of the program.

In our discussions on this issue, we must remember that CMHC shares with us the cost of our home-ownership assistance program on a 50-50 basis. If we deliver HAP or some other form of home-ownership assistance to residents who earn more than the income ceilings negotiated with CMHC, then owing to our global agreement with CMHC, we must be prepared to fund this

assistance unilaterally. If we allocate HAP units to residents who earn too little to pay for ongoing maintenance and utilities costs, we will create an additional housing problem for low income earners. This lapse could result in dependence on government assistance for some residents rather than encouraging self-reliance through home-ownership. The home-ownership assistance program will continue to be enhanced through the provision of support funding for HAP clients, to complete trades requirements for electrical wiring, plumbing, drywalling and furnace installation. It will also provide opportunities for training in the building trades at the community level.

Access Program

During the coming year I will be directing the Housing Corporation in the development of a new program, the access program, as it will be known. It is designed to provide housing assistance to residents earning more than the income ceilings allowed under federal social housing eligibility criteria, but that nevertheless require some form of assistance to enable them to become home-owners. As many potential clients for the access program currently reside in public rental housing, the introduction of this program should help us to free up rental housing to accommodate families most in need.

Even with these varied types of home-ownership programs, limited funds make it essential to continue targeting housing assistance to households that need it the most. Many NWT residents cannot afford the ongoing costs of home-ownership, such as utilities and maintenance costs. To meet the housing needs of this segment of our population, the Housing Corporation will continue to provide public rental housing programs across the Territories.

Northern Rental Replacement

The Minister of Finance in his budget address noted that some of the existing rental housing stock, such as the northern rental units, were built in the 1960s and 70s and were constructed to lower standards than is housing today. These northern rental units are deteriorating rapidly and the corporation has embarked on a program to replace them with new houses. In 1988-89, 38 northern rental units were replaced. This year, 100 more will be replaced by new energy efficient units.

This initiative will both increase our stock of safe and affordable rental shelter and lead to significant savings for the GNWT. The operating and maintenance costs of northern rental housing were borne and are borne solely by the GNWT, but in the case of the replacement units, CMHC will contribute 75 per cent of the operating and maintenance costs.

Rent Scale

As Members of this Assembly are aware, officials in the Housing Corporation are developing a new rent scale for our rental housing units. A fair and equitable rent scale is an important way of targeting housing assistance and will help us to ensure that rents match people's ability to pay. Extensive community consultations on the new rent scale have taken place. Later in this session it is my expectation to table a document providing the elements of the proposed rent scale.

Once details of the new rent scale have been approved, the scale will be implemented complementing the introduction of the new access program and amendments to the HAP program. These alternatives are required to ensure that viable home-ownership alternatives exist for higher income earners.

Senior Citizens

The needs of elders in the NWT are generally very different from the housing requirements of much of our population. I have encouraged the Housing Corporation to assist elders wherever possible to achieve the highest level of independence and self-sufficiency attainable.

New funding arrangements with the federal government for the provision of housing and care for elders have recently come into effect. As well, officials from the Housing Corporation, the Priorities and Planning Secretariat, and the Departments of Social Services and Health, are working closely to develop a comprehensive government policy that will help us ensure that our elders and others with special needs receive assistance in accordance with those needs.

Policy Initiatives

Community Development Strategy

In keeping with this government's priority for shaping public government, and following the direction established by the 10th Assembly's special committee on housing, the Housing Corporation is continuing to examine ways and means of devolving decision-making capabilities to the community level. The Housing Corporation's community development strategy and the government's prime public authority initiative will provide guidance for our attempts to foster self-reliance and community development.

Through the community development strategy we will seek to set up more block funding arrangements and agreements with communities for the delivery of our housing programs. Likewise, we will be encouraging increased involvement of communities in social housing delivery and program management.

A new community consultation process for the selection of HAP clients will become fully operational in all communities during the coming year. The consultation process aims to ensure that all interested organizations within communities have equal opportunity to take part in the allocation process. Accordingly, the successful recipients of HAP houses will be selected from a list of eligible clients and recommended to the Housing Corporation by a committee comprised of local representatives.

Social Housing Policy

Housing Corporation officials will be commencing work on a social housing policy which will outline a government commitment to the people of the Territories for the provision of social housing, and move to integrate fully all social housing programs.

Rural And Native Housing Program Evaluation

A major evaluation of recent rural and native housing programs is under way. The evaluation is being conducted jointly with CMHC and is slated for completion later this year. Both our home assistance program and rental housing programs are being considered in the evaluation process.

Budget Details

Operational Expenditures

The Housing Corporation budget for operations and maintenance in 1989-90 is \$94.158 million. Of this: \$8.632 million, or nine per cent, is rent revenue collected by housing associations and authorities from tenants; \$33.364 million, or 36 per cent, will be provided by CMHC; \$50.208 million, or 53 per cent, is being funded by the GNWT; \$1.954 million, or two per cent, is miscellaneous revenue such as mortgage and investment interest.

\$56.315 million of the O and M budget is allocated to the local housing associations and housing authorities that manage the social housing rental stock. \$13.323 million will be used to repay loans for older public housing units constructed under section 43 of the National Housing Act in the 1970s.

Capital Expenditures

The Housing Corporation's total capital budget for the coming fiscal year is \$69.344 million. CHMC's share is \$39.808 million, or 57.4 per cent, and this government's contribution is \$29.536 million, or 42.6 per cent. CMHC's share in the capital budget has increased over 35 per cent from 1988-89, mainly due to the inclusion of the 100 northern rental replacement units in this year's budget.

In total, funding for the 300 new units of social housing is being provided in 1989-90, including 127 units of public rental housing, and 173 HAP units. Thirty-nine Webber rental housing units will be retrofitted. This budget also includes over two million dollars in funding for the repair of privately owned housing through the home improvement program and senior citizens home repair program. In total, the expenditures on housing in 1989-90 are: O and M, \$94.158 million; capital, \$69.344 million; for a total of \$163.502 million.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, while this budget allots significant funding to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation for the coming fiscal year, regrettably it will only provide for 300 new houses out of a total of 3000 that are presently needed.

We must continue to seek innovative and affordable housing solutions in order to meet the diverse social housing needs of territorial residents. This objective will require our continuing to deliver a full range of housing programs, both home-ownership and rental, designed to address the social housing needs of all segments of our population. Building on the foundation of increased self-reliance, the Housing Corporation will strive to help Northerners house themselves whenever possible, and assist NWT residents in need to gain access to adequate, suitable and affordable shelter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: When I used to be Minister, there were three things that I was particularly involved in, and things that I had initiated, or had something to do with. One was, not so much my taking the initiative as the board of directors at the time taking the initiative, to deal with the fact that...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Sibbeston, I would like to ask the committee to invite the witness in first, and then I would also like to get the statement from the chairman of the standing committee on finance on it. Does the committee agree that we bring in the witness. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Butters, you may bring in your witness, and then I will turn the mike over to the chairman of the finance committee, Mr. Pollard, to make his opening statement on behalf of the committee before we go into general comments. Before Mr. Pollard takes the mike, I would like to ask the Minister if he would introduce his witness. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Jim Pratt, on my right is the vice-president responsible for financial management in the corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pollard.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on finance recognizes the urgent need for housing in the Northwest Territories. Issues and concerns that

we discussed during the SCOF meetings included GNWT staff in public housing. With both the overwhelming demand for public housing and the Department of Personnel trying to determine the requirements for staff housing, the committee is concerned with apparent cases of GNWT staff living in public housing. This does not allow the government to get a true picture of how many staff and public housing units are required. The Minister has indicated to Members that this is an area that he expects to receive a report on in the near future. The committee looks forward to receiving this information from the Minister.

With regard to the allocation of public units, the allocation of public units per community is based upon needs studies completed at the community level. Therefore, if there are inconsistencies or errors in the needs studies submitted to the corporation, allocations may be inappropriate.

While the committee understands that the current system is an attempt to provide equitable housing distribution across the Northwest Territories, it believes that there are possible weaknesses in the system. Recommendation 16 then, Mr. Chairman, would be that the committee recommends that the NWT Housing Corporation undertake a complete review of the public housing unit allocation process.

With regard to rural and remote programs, Members indicated to the Minister that there are major flaws in the support provided by the rural and remote programs. There are difficulties with supplies, completion and repairs for homes built under these programs. While the committee recognizes that other governments and agencies are involved in these programs, it accepts the Minister's offer to attempt to address the problem and looks forward to a report on the matter.

The committee also reaffirms its support for the Legislative Assembly motion made during the fall 1988 session, which indicated that potential surplus funds should be allocated in part to addressing housing needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pollard. General comments. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: One of the things that I noticed when I became Minister of Housing was that I noticed that there was a board of directors that was responsible to the Housing Corporation or responsible for the general management of the Housing Corporation. At the same time, I, as Minister, recognized that I was responsible for the Housing Corporation for the Assembly, so I did notice that there was a problem, in that you have a board of directors and you also have a Minister, who certainly during my time became much more involved in the corporation, I am told anyway, than other Ministers had been.

Resolution Of Issue Of Responsibility

As I understand it, the board of directors had initiated a review of their structure, of their function and was in the process of making recommendations. One possibility as I saw it, was for the Minister to be the chairman of the board. It was my feeling that there was a need to consolidate amalgamation, as it were, of authority of the Housing Corporation because you did have a situation where the corporation had been used to the board of directors setting policy and being generally responsible, and then a Minister of government also being responsible, so there was some conflict or some question as to who was really in charge. So I know that, as I said, the board of directors had taken initiative to resolve the matter and I would be curious to know whether the board of directors have made the recommendation and where things stand now with respect to that issue. I would be interested to see what the Minister knows or feels about that matter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member and I are, to a large extent, responsible for the current situation with regard to the board because it was during our term of office between 1971 and 1975 that we established the corporation as it currently exists today and approved the legislation which has developed the situation and condition described by the Member.

At that time, as the Member will recall, I know that I and I believe he, as well, wished to get delivery service on a program as important as housing as far away from the bureaucracy as possible. Since that time the power of the bureaucracy has diminished, and we have seen ministerial government take over, the ministerial government that through consensus is responsible to this House.

The short answer to his question is that the board's motion is still operative. Mr. Jaeb has been commissioned by the board of directors to examine the various situations that exist in other jurisdictions and I believe that he and the president of the corporation, Mr. Heron, have visited two or three such jurisdictions to examine how things are done in other places. I do not know when the board will be examining Mr. Jaeb's recommendations but I would expect within 60 days, so I would assume that we would be having some recommendation or position from the NWT Housing Corporation board of directors by June when it meets in Fort Simpson.

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

Appropriate Foundations For Housing In The West

MR. SIBBESTON: The second general issue is that of building Housing Corporation houses, any duplexes, four-plexes, or any public housing they build, on proper foundations. It has been an issue with me ever since I was a territorial Council Member back in 1970. Over the course of years through advice or suggestions or criticism, the public houses have been placed on better foundations as the years go by, to the point where now I think they have begun building some on proper, either cement foundations in the West where there is appropriate ground or in some instances they have put in full basements. I know there is a case this spring when the Housing Corporation was going to put a number of duplexes in Providence and Hay River on building blocks and my intervention instructed them to build full basements. They have done so. I have recently gone to Providence and looked at one of the four-plexes there, built on a basement, and I cannot help but think that really that is the answer and that is the proper way to go. I guess everybody does it and the Housing Corporation is the only one, the only outfit or the only entity or body that builds houses on building blocks here in the West still, in a few instances.

I am just wondering if the Minister could state his commitment or his thoughts on the subject, because to me it is pretty basic and pretty fundamental that in order to have a proper house, you have to build it on a proper foundation. Whereas I think the corporation has taken an overall view the last few years of trying to design one system for foundations. Building blocks are simply not appropriate for the West where there is good ground to build on. I am just wondering if the Minister has the same feelings or same determination as I had in trying to get the Housing Corporation to build houses and get HAP houses and public houses to be built on proper foundations in the West here in particular.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Initiatives Of Former Minister

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the Member will be pleased to know that his initiatives in the corporation are alive and well. The matter of cement basements, which I know that he encouraged, has resulted I believe, in a changed design in our public housing units which will allow us obviously to put more utilities in the basement area and get better value for money. So, as the Member says, where the subsoil permits the corporation is looking at constructing basements.

With regard to the cement foundations I am not quite sure how far along the corporation might have taken that idea. When I travelled with Mr. Sibbeston's colleague, Mr. Ernerk, in his constituency, we heard in a number of the communities the desire of builders and the community planners for the cement foundation construction, either that or building right on the rock itself. I was impressed by the numbers of such recommendations that were made to me and have

attempted to encourage the corporation to look into using the cement foundation wherever and whenever possible.

I would also add that I referred to a couple of other initiatives. I believe Mr. Sibbeston was very active in pushing what was then called "special projects" and is now called "other projects". That initiative is alive and if I have my way I would like to increase funding for that initiative as surplus moneys might become available. Obviously, it is not a program that is cost shared with CMHC in the funding process, but it is an excellent program and one which I will continue to support.

The other initiative that Mr. Sibbeston began in his short tenure was to move actively to encourage the people who have been allocated HAP homes to complete those homes. In his visits to the communities where such incompleting units existed, I know Mr. Sibbeston encouraged the people there to get at it and complete those units. I think the Member will be pleased to know that he has left his mark on the corporation.

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

Houses Occupied By Spirits

MR. SIBBESTON: A final matter of a general nature is this. When I was Minister and travelled to a number of communities, it was brought to my attention that in a number of communities there were some houses that sit vacant because local people experience ghosts or spirits, some unnatural things, and it is really a significant factor in the sense that in many communities there are one or two houses that sit vacant because of this. In Rankin Inlet, it was told to me that there was one particular house that had been vacant and has a long history of whoever lived in there seeing or hearing or experiencing unnatural things. There were sightings of little polar bears and fires and all sorts of noises that had occurred, to the point where people had to vacate the house.

There are people that worked in the Housing Corporation in the Keewatin who will know that there are stories -- I believe it is Whale Cove, but it could be Chesterfield Inlet -- where there were also instances of ghosts in vacant houses.

In the West here, in Rae, there is a situation where there is a HAP house that has just been finished, where the would-be occupants have been advised not to move into the house because the house is located either on graves or in an area where historically people that have lived there have died unnatural deaths, as it were. The old people in the community have advised a certain person not to move into the house; and if they did their children would eventually die. So, the couple to date have not moved into their new HAP house, and it is a situation where I think the house would have to be moved.

I would call it either a ghost or a spirit factor that the Housing Corporation must deal with. They either have to hire an exorcist, or else just provide more moneys for some of these houses to be dealt with. How is the Minister going to deal with this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it is easy to smile when you are sitting under a fluorescent light and in the daylight, but in the dark in those types of situations the smile comes off your face pretty fast. I was aware of the situation that the Member described with regard to the house at Fort Rae. In fact, his colleague, Mr. Zoe, has discussed it with me. As yet, I have not been approached by either the members of the association there, or Mr. Zoe, or the owner himself, with regard to that particular situation. However, I do share the Member's belief that those concerns are very real and they cannot be brushed aside as some foolish or silly superstition. I think they are very real and they have to be addressed in the light of day and in the light of the community culture ethos. I would be very sympathetic to an approach made to me by people who have concerns on grounds such as the Member described.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Continuing on from Mr. Sibbeston's remarks with regard to two things. I have talked to people in Chesterfield Inlet and Repulse Bay who were telling me the same thing about different houses. When it comes to the issue of what we call tuunnaq, bad spirit, it is not at all a laughing matter to me. It is something very real, it is something that is very intimidating, it is something that is difficult to deal with. I have talked to a number of people who have told me of such stories in the communities. I am very pleased that the Minister shares these concerns because they are very serious situations.

Steel Foundations

One thing I wanted to talk about was this business of foundations. Mr. Butters, when he was visiting the Aivilik communities a couple of months back, heard that steel foundations do not work very well. I really believe that the Housing Corporation should take a look at this business of foundation padding very seriously. In all of the communities like Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet, everybody was complaining about the steel foundations because of the permafrost. They melt and they freeze; especially when they melt in the spring, the water goes into the steel foundation system and moves the building so much that the building begins to fall apart.

What I want to tie in with that comment is the issue of workmanship, quality workmanship, by the contractors in the communities. Mr. Chairman, the Minister will recall that in Chesterfield Inlet, during the public meeting there, when a newly constructed fourplex cracked so much because the steel foundation moved, you could put a pencil through a crack from neighbour to neighbour. Talk about the quality or good workmanship, it just does not seem to be there. I think the Housing Corporation should have more of a monitoring program. Either that, or let the communities themselves decide more as to where these houses should be built. I understand that housing associations do have a recommendation say, but they do not have enough say in terms of where the houses should be built. As long as that is the case, you will have a continuing problem with regard to foundation systems.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I guess two comments. One, I understand that corrective action has been taken in the case of the fourplex. I do believe, and I informed the Member in a response to an oral question, that an inspector had gone into Chesterfield Inlet and examined the structure and as a result of that examination I think three piles which had popped or had become unserviceable had to be either removed or cut down or corrected.

On the other item of using cement piles, I did approach the corporation's engineers and builders on my return from the trip to the Member for Aivilik's riding, inquiring regarding the experience that had resulted in the use of piles throughout the Territories. I understand that the corporation does keep a plot record of every pile that is put in the ground. The results to date have indicated that failure has been minimal. However, I am continuing to examine the particular comparison between the cement foundation supports and the steel pilings to see if we can come up with any decision or determination on it.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I just used that fourplex in Chesterfield Inlet as an example because I have seen a number of other houses where there have been some cracks in different houses. I wanted to hear the Minister say, "I am very much aware of the problem. This is a common problem throughout the NWT. We will take a look at it and see if we can find some solutions to the problems of this nature." I am pleased, however, that he has taken some corrective action with regard to this house in Chesterfield Inlet but I used it as an example because it is a very common problem across the NWT.

Hiring Of Local People

First of all, I am pleased to hear the Minister talk about drywalling of different homes. I think that is a very good move and it is a move in the right direction. The other thing that the Minister heard when he was visiting the communities in my riding was this issue of construction companies coming into the communities to build houses. They are from outside of the Keewatin and their hiring practices of local people is very poor. I think it is in Rankin Inlet, when the Minister and his officials were there, they were told by Keith Sharpe, the deputy mayor of Rankin Inlet, that hiring practices of local people is getting worse. It used to be better before but now it is not as good as it used to be. That sort of comment was made to the Minister when he was visiting the communities.

The other thing that was mentioned was that there was a need to establish small building contractors in each community where these contractors from the communities will be able to hire more local people to construct these houses that are coming in to the communities. Mr. Chairman, can I get some reaction first from the Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I think Members will know that Mr. Heron and I have travelled as much as we have been able over the last four months. I regret to say that in the majority of the communities we have visited, the complaint that has just been voiced by the Member has also been voiced by the people in the housing associations and other community residents. I got the same complaint in Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour, in Repulse and Coral and Snowdrift and Providence.

It is a major problem. It is a major problem because the bulk of our housing, our social housing, is found in the small communities. We need to develop the skills and the professional abilities in those communities to do the electrical work, to do the drywalling, the plumbing, the furnace installation and at the present time we are not accomplishing that objective very well in the Territories as a whole. I cannot give the Member any confidence that I will be able to address it in the immediate future. I am aware of the need and I am aware of the lack, as is Mr. Heron. We will do what is humanly possible to try and address that imbalance and improve the conditions in the communities for enhancing the human resources they have in those communities and doing a lot more of the work locally.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This problem -- I guess I should say that I have heard this same answer since 1971 when the honourable Minister was a Member of this Legislative Assembly. I sat right behind here when I was with Information Services and I keep hearing the same answers given then, to date. Mr. Pearson was very heroic in this particular situation when he talked about more native people should be hired in the communities in all areas of work. What they are saying, I am saying, is not new. It has been said before. How do we make the government listen to us that we need to provide more employment opportunities for the local people?

Training For Technical Positions

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if he has ever taken a look around to see how many qualified carpenters he might find. Have you ever taken a look around to see how many drywallers you might be able to find? I agree with the fact that there is a lack of electricians, oil burner mechanics and perhaps plumbers. Having seen the problem, then, the government should be able to do something about providing more training opportunities. Perhaps an Arctic College.

If I was this government, and having heard so much about the lack -- I will use the words of Mr. Butters -- of professional abilities, that is the first thing I would be taking a look at, to see if we could establish training opportunities for these technical positions. Technical training

opportunities, electricians, plumbers, oil burner mechanics. Those are the kinds of things that people have said to me every time I visit the communities in my riding. The Minister heard these comments as well, and his officials, when he was visiting the communities. Why do we not start to move in that direction?

When I was with the Inuit non-profit housing corporation, a guy named Peter Goering, who operates an architectural organization in Toronto, dealt so much with communities in Nunavut. One of his priorities was to try and introduce this issue of training and designing, architectural training to Inuit of Nunavut, Northern Quebec as well as Labrador. That is what he wanted to do. This government is way behind and it is time that they should start to move in the direction where the direction should be and that is training.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Not all is bleak and dark in responding to the Member. I just indicated to him that I had found the same concerns expressed in the communities that I named as he has expressed here. He referred to some years ago when we sat in this House, and there have been major steps taken since that date. At that time the building, the construction was almost totally done by outside companies. The Housing Corporation in the last five or six years has instituted a program called "ship and erect" which has divided the contracts between the shipper and the local contractor with the result, I think, that most of the construction now being done in the North is being done by northern contractors, the bulk of it. I think 90 per cent of our contracts are being done by northern contractors, resident contractors. The problem we find is encouraging our northern resident contractors to utilize the human resources they find in the communities.

As of a year ago, the Housing Corporation has instituted a program which requires three meetings between the successful contractor, the village council, the housing association and the corporation. These four elements attend these meetings. One meeting takes place before the construction goes ahead so that there can be understanding of what local resources exist in the community, the type of skills inventory the contractor may avail himself of, and so that he can be advised by the knowledgeable people and agencies in the community of just what resources will be available during the time that he will have to construct the particular facility. They meet again half way through the program to ensure that the contractor is carrying out the commitments that he has made to the community; that he is employing the people that he indicated he would be requiring from the community. The third time they meet is at the conclusion of the project, to do a post-mortem on what did happen and how well the contractor met the obligations that he had made earlier on in the process. Now that might not be the total answer but at least it is an answer and a move toward addressing the problem that the Member has so eloquently described.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Butters.

Arctic College Involvement

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, when I was in the East I did hear of the need for such training and the corporation is in contact with a senior official of Arctic College, Mark Cleveland, advise of programs that the corporation believes would be necessary to improve the human resource situation in the communities are made known to them. Arctic College has assisted the corporation in developing and training the people needed in its maintenance program and I think you are all aware that probably the maintenance program that has been developed by the Housing Corporation in the last three or four years is second to none. It has been recognized as a model across Canada as an excellent program of maintenance work using local human resources. This was observed on by the Auditor General when he did his report on the Northwest Territories housing situation. I think there are many things to be pleased with about the current progress.

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

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I will stop here for now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question. Maybe I will make some comments first. With regard to the foundation of the houses, we had some problems this last summer. The person was trying to get a metal foundation because he did not have enough money to buy some non-metal foundation but there was a problem in getting the funds because his request was not approved by the Housing Corporation. He wanted to get some wood to make the foundation so it was not approved; therefore, he could not build his house. The problem was just the cost. In my constituency the prices increased so rapidly and that was the problem that we had for the person who was trying to build his own house.

Regarding the HAP houses, for those who are trying to get their own place, a lot of times the materials arrive in the community but they cannot start on building their houses. This has happened in Lake Harbour. The material came in in 1987 and the house has not been built yet. It is not very good when you cannot build your house right away because we are short of houses in the community. Perhaps people that are not qualified were hired. This has been a problem in the communities that I represent. Some of them build houses very quickly. In Cape Dorset, in the summertime, for those who had HAP houses, they started very well and they started right away as soon as they received the materials. On the other hand, there are a lot of houses that are at a standstill. There are a lot of people that have applied for HAP houses who work for the government and who do not get approved. This is one of the problems that we face, and this has been a problem within my constituency.

Duplex Apartments For Lake Harbour

I have a question I would like to put forward with respect to housing. We had a petition from Lake Harbour because we wanted duplex apartments. We had signed this petition. The people of Lake Harbour wanted some duplexes but in this budget there is nothing indicated that they will be getting any duplexes. I think perhaps there was a mistake. They just put it into Cape Dorset. My community had signed a petition when they wanted row housing. There were two separate petitions and Lake Harbour is the only one that will not be receiving any houses at all in Baffin. They think it is Apex, maybe they made a mistake. They probably brought it to Hall Beach or Apex, I do not know. We are talking about Lake Harbour having signed a petition. I want to know why this has happened. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the matter of the duplex at Lake Harbour revolves around the difficulty experienced in obtaining suitable land. During question period, the Government Leader indicated that a lot of preplanning has to go into the building of houses, and in the case of any community, an approach has to be made to the local government body, the hamlet or that, about the availability of land. It has to be made to the regional office of Municipal and Community Affairs to ensure that suitable land is available to place the buildings on. We are aware that the few lots that are available in Lake Harbour are very small in area. As I understand it, the size of the lots militated against the corporation putting into place the original housing design. I think the house had to be redesigned to fit the lot that was available. The result of that is, as Mr. Arlooktoo indicates, the provision of a house this year is going to be affected. The program note I have is that Lake Harbour was to receive one two-bedroom duplex in the 1989-90 northern replacement program allocation. Two lots that are currently available in the community are restricted by municipal by-law which governs the style of construction. Present NWT Housing Corporation designs do not meet any of the by-laws of the community. So we just did not have time to do in-house drawings to be ready for building this year.

I am just advised by the vice president that the design-build proposal for Lake Harbour closes on April 30 and the corporation feels that redesigned duplex will be put in place. But it is not the corporation's fault, Mr. Chairman. It is dealing with by-laws in the community and we have to deal with the many other restrictions besides design and services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will take a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will now come back to order. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just before you recognize somebody else, Mr. Chairman, to just clarify on the duplex for Lake Harbour. The community has approved construction of the duplex unit, as long as it is being designed to the site on which it is to be placed. That approval has been obtained and, as I mentioned earlier, it will go ahead this year.

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

Housing Shortage, Lake Harbour

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the lots in Lake Harbour. You indicated that there were no lots for duplexes, but apparently there are some lots in Lake Harbour that are designed for duplexes. I just wanted to clarify that to the Minister. There is one building on one of the lots and I think they are going to start constructing houses on the lots, HAP houses. I just wanted to tell the Minister that there are some lots available in Lake Harbour.

The people of Lake Harbour requested duplexes, but as of today there are no duplexes and there are duplexes in Cape Dorset -- there are only two duplexes there, but there is housing available there. I am wondering if they could transfer a duplex from Cape Dorset to Lake Harbour. There is a very serious housing shortage in Lake Harbour. There were some people from Lake Harbour who transferred to Pangnirtung due to housing shortages. They were not in Lake Harbour for very long. There is a family in Lake Harbour which does not have housing at all. There are a lot of people who have requested housing. The main problem is that big families do not have decent housing. Perhaps those houses that have been planned for Cape Dorset could be transferred to Lake Harbour. Because Lake Harbour is the only community that is not getting any housing at all and it is not very fair for them. Also the population is increasing slightly in Lake Harbour. So I feel we should be getting more housing due to the population increase.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the allocation of housing is not developed by myself or by the district office officials. It is determined as a result of needs studies. The quality of the study was referred to by the standing committee chairman in his opening remarks and I am aware that obviously the validity of the allocation depends on the accuracy and the objectiveness of the needs study that is carried out.

The needs study that has been carried out in Lake Harbour indicates the need to be very much lower than the one determined in Cape Dorset. In fact, based on the needs study that we received from Lake Harbour, if we were to provide housing there this year, we would be only providing one unit. It has not been the policy of the corporation to provide one unit. What usually occurs is that in the succeeding year, the community's requirement is doubled. So while Lake Harbour's allocation has been determined through its needs study to be say, 1.5 for this year, it has been doubled so that three houses will go into the unit in 1990-91.

In Cape Dorset, which is a larger community, the need has been determined to be some 96 units. By rough arithmetic, dividing that by 10, we get nine-plus units. So Cape Dorset will still have, according to the needs study, a very grievous housing situation, even after the nine units are provided this year.

So we have to go on the basis of the need presented to us and we are advised that the need in Cape Dorset is very much greater than in Lake Harbour. Also in commenting about the allocation, Lake Harbour last year, although its need was 1.2 or 1.4, got two new housing units in 1988-89,

and while there are no new units planned for the current year, there are three units planned for 1990-91. Other communities experiencing the same delivery patterns because of the economies of scale that are achieved through building more than one unit are: Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Red River, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour and Whale Cove.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand what the Minister is saying. I know that you go by the needs study. I know that for a fact but I, being from Lake Harbour, when I am in Lake Harbour I often have discussions with the local people and I often visit the housing office in Lake Harbour. There are a lot applicants who have been requesting housing in Lake Harbour.

As far as I know, I feel that they really do need housing in Lake Harbour and I think if you Housing Corporation people could allocate a house from Apex area or at least allocate one duplex to Lake Harbour, I think that would be appropriate. I often read the Nunatsiaq News from Iqaluit and there are always empty houses in Apex or in Iqaluit and they often advertise that there is an empty house available in Iqaluit. Perhaps there are some empty houses just sitting in some communities. Perhaps if you could just transfer an empty house from another community to Lake Harbour I think that would be appropriate too. There used to be houses that were meant for Lake Harbour just being sent to Iqaluit. That was the case before. Perhaps this is the case today too. Perhaps those houses that were allocated to Lake Harbour have been sent to Apex. Because seeing the Nunatsiaq News advertisements there are no shortages in Iqaluit at all and there are just some empty houses sitting there deteriorating. If you could look into this I would be very appreciative.

Following the petitions that have been sent from Lake Harbour, perhaps you could go by the petitions and look into this matter. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I will be happy to look into the situation described by the honourable Member. It is difficult, in that the housing need in Apex is not separated from Iqaluit. The housing needs survey from Iqaluit indicates that they have a need for 120 units which includes the needs of Apex as well. But I will look into the situation described by the Member and see if there are empty units not being utilized there.

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

Needs Studies Do Not Reflect True Situation

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are on the Housing Corporation, I may have a few questions and comments. First of all, maybe I will make a statement on the needs studies in the communities. I have a difficult time with the result of the needs study that goes into the budget. When you visit the communities, all the communities say they lack housing.

In particular, talking about Pelly Bay, just this winter they stopped using some of these old houses that were built by the mission in the 1960s. I believe, in the communities I represent, when I get to Pelly Bay they have the poorest housing. According to the district office and the budget that we have in front of us, there is unsatisfactory condition but when you go around to the community, not just visiting the community for hours, but when you spend a few days and visit most of the buildings, they are in very poor shape and there are large families in one small house. For that reason I have a difficulty with the needs study that is given to the regional headquarters and from it the houses are allocated to the communities. Five years ago, and it still happens today, this winter, when you go to the community and you visit some houses you cannot even take your skidoo boots off because it is so cold. And there you still have little kids running around barefooted inside the house. I visited a few houses with extra beds in the living room, two or three beds, because they have a large family. Now if the needs study was proper I think that

community would get more houses than it is getting. At the same time that the public requires housing they have at this time, this year, two staff houses, brand new staff houses, vacant and they have teacher assistants who are paid by the government who could fill those houses. They even have government staff that are in the public housing. It makes me wonder why these beautiful houses are vacant when all the rest of the public is so short of housing. I know it is not in the Minister's department when it comes to staff housing.

The community of Pelly Bay told me last year that their needs study in some way was not accurate, was spoiled in a way. This fall they even wrote me a letter from that small community of just a little over 300: "The winter is coming on and we have one homeless person in the community which nobody wants to take." I found it very hard to believe. That person had uncles, aunts and a grandmother in that community. Nobody would take him, so they classify him as homeless. They used that person to show their need, and they told me to bring it to the Legislative Assembly. They said that is how short of housing they are in this community. In a way I agreed with it.

During the Minister's visit to that community, during the public meeting I still remember the Minister said that since your needs study was not accurate last year since you have not an updated one, from that indication we will give you one extra house. Does that still stand, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, we did discuss the needs study when we were in Pelly Bay. There was a belief that the 1987 needs study was deficient as evidenced that the new needs study of 1988 was almost double. I do not know whether that indicated that there would be an additional house or not. But it would certainly seem that the new study would indicate an increased demand in that community so I cannot tell you right now whether the corporation has moved to up the allocation for Pelly Bay or not. But I will check that out.

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

Housing For Elders

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I will try and be a little more pleasant the second time around. I do not know whether I was unpleasant or not but I thought I was. But anyhow, Mr. Chairman, the housing need in all communities will always be the problem. In my Member's reply yesterday, I mentioned about old age, old folks. In talking about old folks, all the three communities Pelly Bay, Spence Bay and Gjoa Haven, have stated that they require an old folks home. To me, as their representative I find it hard because they are battling among themselves each one by saying "I should get one first. I should get the old folks home first before you do." I know that is the way to do it but then again it would make the government stir up their mind about which of the communities they were going to put it in. As I indicated that I would be satisfied with one central location. Since the two other communities state that they require it, I have been talking to the communities. We talked about being always short of public housing and of having the old folks who require a home that is suitable for them, where they can be close together because a lot of times these old folks, old people, elderly, they would like to visit each other and they are scattered all over; so row housing instead of an old folks home is believed to be a suitable thing. But this row housing would be issued by the NWT Housing Corporation which means that if you cannot fill it with old folks you can still actually use it for the public since it will be owned by the Housing Corporation.

Say if in the community you have row housing with eight different rooms, maybe two beds in each room and then in one year you can only fill it with three people, what are you going to do with the five other rooms? And what if it was an old folks home and it was only filled with three tenants and you have five rooms. If it is an old folks home you cannot put young people in there. But if it is owned by the NWT Housing Corporation and you have five vacancies you can actually just get the public to move in there with small families. The communities are interested in that idea. Is

there any possibility for the Housing Corporation to supply these types of houses for that purpose?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, before I respond to that question I was trying to pick up on the Member's previous question on the allocation of housing for Pelly Bay. I believe the new 1988 needs survey has identified a need in Pelly Bay of some 42 units. If we arrive at our allocation by the arithmetic process of dividing that allocation by 10, which will give you a rough figure, I believe we would see allocated to Pelly Bay this year, three home assistance program units and two public housing units which is five, so the allocation would be slightly more than the 1988 housing needs study would call for.

With regard to the question on the housing of people with special needs, the need identified for housing the elderly and the handicapped and the young people has been recognized by the GNWT as a situation that must be addressed. However, because the need in the case of senior citizens is funded by the Department of Social Services, other government departments are involved in addressing this problem. The GNWT has recently formed an interdepartmental committee to develop a draft policy on the provision of services and shelter to people with special needs. The committee, while it is chaired by the Priorities and Planning Secretariat, has representation from the Housing Corporation, Department of Social Services and obviously the Department of Health.

The specific need of the elderly is identified and determined by Mrs. Marie-Jewell's department. The corporation builds the accommodation when that need has been identified and determined.

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

Possibility Of Building By Private Sector

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess since housing is always lacking in the communities, I am wondering at this time whether for the record I guess I would need an answer, yes or no. In some communities, especially the small ones, the only housing available is through the Housing Corporation, and it makes some people wonder why there are no apartments. I guess the big question is that there are some teachers or government staff that live in three bedroom houses that are single. They may have two cats and each cat has a room of their own, while the community is lacking housing. However, if there were some apartments available, probably these houses would be used by the larger families rather than just the single people. For the record, I am asking, can the private business people in the communities, or any interested groups, build apartments if they want to? Is there any conflict between these private groups and the Housing Corporation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The answer from my point of view would be no, but the Member has put his finger on one of the extremely difficult problems that is faced by the NWT. This was observed by the Auditor General, as well as the Member. I was very pleased to hear the Member, in his opening remarks, indicate that possibly there may be some way in which the private sector could assist us to alleviate housing in the smaller communities. Interestingly enough, the Auditor General, in his comprehensive audit of 1987, pointed out that almost 53 per cent of the occupied dwelling units in the NWT are owned by the two governments, compared with only about five per cent in a major Canadian province. This is one of the difficulties that adds to the severity of the housing affordability and supply problem in the NWT. The responsibility for providing housing falls on governments, not in the private sector. The Auditor General, too, at that time recognizing that governments do have these responsibilities, recommended that the Government of the Northwest Territories should review appropriate measures to co-ordinate all policies and programs of the territorial and federal governments that impact on housing in the Northwest

Territories, which is an observation we would like to move on, to attempt to reduce the percentage of housing which is owned and managed by government in the NWT.

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

Two Most Underdeveloped Areas Of NWT

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As one knows, housing across the NWT is a major problem, but I would like to point out to the Minister, that when the special committee on the northern economy visited my area statistics showed that there are two particular areas in the NWT that were the most underdeveloped areas; one being in the East, in Mr. Angottitauruq's riding, and in the Western Arctic, in my riding. The committee was presented with statistics showing that these two areas are the most underdeveloped in all aspects, and housing happens to be one of them.

I realize that the Minister is always referring back to the community needs study that the communities themselves conducted. I have a problem in the study itself. It is hard for me to see if the work of the study was carried out effectively, so I sometimes question the study itself. As the Minister knows -- I do not have to elaborate on my area -- the Minister has seen for himself the condition of the houses in my riding. It is deplorable, especially in the rural communities. I am not sure how the Housing Corporation is going to prioritize their capital funding for the Territories, but if they are continuing to go in the same pattern as they have been in the past, the underdeveloped areas will never catch up with the rest.

Mr. Chairman, I realize that it is a task within itself to try to resolve all the problems in the Territories, but I think with respect to housing the government as a whole has to concentrate more in the areas that are underdeveloped so that we can enhance the community infrastructure and so forth. I would encourage the Minister to pursue with the federal government, or any other agencies that are willing to help, to try to resolve the serious problem that we have up here with housing.

It is difficult to always harp on the issue of housing, but one has no choice, because the level of housing is not adequate. The allocation of capital, in my view, Mr. Chairman, I do not think it is fairly distributed. For instance, let me use this example here -- the Minister will probably defend it -- the Hay River district that is comprised of about 12 or 13 communities. Their allocation for this year is 64 units. In the Yellowknife district they are getting an allocation of 43 units. In terms of population and so forth the Yellowknife district has almost the same population or more than the Hay River district which is receiving more units. So the distribution and the community needs study -- I always question it. I do not know how one is going to resolve it unless you are there to see that it is carried out effectively.

Mr. Chairman, last night when we were in Rae at the special committee on the northern economy hearing, while I was there for only a few hours, I was already approached by a number of my constituents on the housing issue. It never fails, every time I visit my communities, housing is always mentioned. Being an underdeveloped area, I can see why these concerns are raised, because we are not up to par with the other areas in the Territories.

No Incentive In Current Rent Scale

In terms of the housing rent scale. I realize that the Minister is currently reviewing it and hopefully in the near future he will be coming back to the Assembly with a new rent scale, which I hope will be fair in terms of private home-owners, people getting into home-ownership, and people living off welfare. For instance, last night one of the presenters indicated that there is no incentive for an individual to seek employment when he is paying \$32 a month in rent. Once he gets a job, his rent eats up most of the income that he takes home. So they end up quitting their job and getting social assistance. So there is no incentive in the rent scale that we currently have. I commend the Minister for reviewing this whole issue of rent scale.

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to reiterate what I said earlier; that the government as a whole, including the Housing Corporation, has to put more emphasis on these two underdeveloped areas, being the Rae area in the West and Kitikmeot West, Mr. Angottitauruq's riding. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would agree with the Member that any allocation, to be equitable and fair, must be based on an objective needs survey. The Housing Corporation, which has had its needs survey in place for four years now, believes that the needs survey that is carried out is fair and that the allocations stemming from that survey are likewise fair in consideration of the resources that we have to spend.

I have always been shocked when I have heard the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs indicate that for his communities to operate adequately and with full services, our government would be required to spend some \$300 million in capital moneys. Not next year or 10 years from now, but now. The horrendous fact is that if we could provide adequate and affordable and safe housing to everybody in the Territories that needs it today, yesterday, we are going to require the same amount of money, \$300 million. And to even address the need that we determine is in place now, we are looking at 25 years down the road.

So I would welcome from the House, a motion that the number one priority, as Minister of Housing I would welcome, that the number one priority of this government is housing.

AN HON. MEMBER: I will second it.

---Laughter

Needs Survey Led To A Sophisticated Analysis

HON. TOM BUTTERS: It was airstrips two hours ago. Looking at the needs survey, I go back to this comprehensive audit of the NWT Housing Corporation done by the Auditor General. It is the best piece of work I have seen produced with regard to any objective of this government. I guess I have to give credit to the special committee on housing for making this recommendation. But the Auditor General, speaking with regard to the allocation of the corporation's capital budget, said he found, "That senior management in the corporation had a very sophisticated housing needs analysis system that allowed the generation of a five year capital plan. This plan displayed an explicit community allocation of capital resources for the construction of new public housing on the basis of locally measured need. Our overall conclusion was that the corporation had a capital budget process that was dealing effectively with a very difficult problem."

Now the Auditor General made that statement in 1987. I agree that it is a statement that has to be continually monitored to ensure that the needs survey and study that is carried out is fair. I realize that two Members of this House, Mr. Arlooktoo and Mr. Nerysoo have pointed out that in conducting a needs survey of communities in their constituency, we do not take into account the people that have moved from that settlement to somewhere else, who may like to come back and whose needs should be included in any needs accounting of that community. I agree those are very fair statements.

Rent Subsidies In Yellowknife

The Member indicated that he felt that Yellowknife or the Yellowknife district was not receiving its full entitlement or allocation. In Yellowknife itself there is a service and a support element that is not included in our budget. That is the rent supplement program, where rents are subsidized if people so require. In Yellowknife at present there are 71 households who are receiving rent supplement assistance and this budget will allow for six more. So there will be a total of 77 households in Yellowknife which will be receiving that supplement.

On the rent scale. It is not going to be easy because I know that the people at the high end of the scale who will probably be receiving a greatly increased assessments will resist this new proposal, but I think it is important. If we are to have our HAP program work and encourage people that are currently occupying space in public housing to get out of those units and build for themselves then we need to give them some kind of incentive. And while this may be a negative incentive, at least it is encouraging them to take this step to develop their own equity in their own home. While it is negative in one way, it is positive in another.

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

High Priority For Underdeveloped Areas

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I suggested in my last couple of sentences was that the government as a whole, including the Housing Corporation, has to put more emphasis in these two areas. One is the Rae-Lac la Martre area in the Western Arctic and the other is Kitikmeot East because these two areas are the worst underdeveloped areas in the NWT according to the statistics that were provided to the special committee on the northern economy. That is what I indicated in my last two sentences. They should prioritize on those bases. These two specific areas should be on their high priority list. That is what I indicated but the Minister did not comment on that portion of my statement that I made.

But moving away from that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to touch on another issue; the issue of decentralization. As you know, of all regions, I guess headquarters, all the district offices are out in the field and there is one district office that is in the same location as headquarters. The program deliverers are in the district office. In my view, this particular organization should be out in the field catering to the needs of the people and not situated where the headquarters people are. I would like to get a comment from the Minister on the issue of decentralizing the district office out of Yellowknife.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the Member indicated that he would like a comment on his previous statement with regard to depressed communities. Well, I think the action was louder than words when we travelled with Mr. Zoe to Rae Lakes. We agreed to spend money in there and going in there on the winter road I think is some \$180,000 to \$190,000 worth of supplies. As I say, action speaks louder than words. We did that on the basis of the need we saw there. Now it is just a drop in the bucket, possibly, but it is a lot more than was there before we visited. So I would hope that Mr. Zoe could recognize that fact, that something did occur as a result of our visit.

The second thing I would say, and Mr. Wray and I have been attempting to address the situation that Mr. Angottitauruq raised in his Member's comments, and also attempting to answer the question that Mr. Pollard posed during the standing committee on finance meeting at which I was present, with regard to finding other financing outside of the government processes. We are trying to do that. We are trying to see what can be done to encourage the financing of more housing in non-market communities. It is tough sledding, as Mr. Wray will tell you.

On the matter of decentralization, I committed to the Member that I would examine the nine positions, that are currently in the head office, I realize that with space available and the housing available that a degree of decentralization could occur and should occur and will occur. A little applause, please.

---Applause

---Laughter

Thanks fellahs. I have also indicated to my colleague -- because I believe that if you can decentralize these units to operate effectively in the field, let us do it. I have indicated to my

colleague from Sahtu that I will look at decentralization movement from the Inuvik office to the Norman Wells office; I have indicated to my colleague from Baffin North that we would look at doing some kind of decentralization into the High Arctic area. So yes, I am all for it.

One thing the Member must remember is that just because we get a number of people into Rae-Edzo does not mean they are going to serve the outlying communities in his constituency any better because, as was pointed out earlier today, the airstrip is not there. They have got to come into Yellowknife and fly out from here anyway.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, just a few brief comments on the topic of housing. I share the opinion of many of my colleagues that next to employment, housing is the number one economic problem in the North. I guess across the North there are no choices in some communities. There is just no housing available and no means of getting it. But here in Yellowknife, I get the impression from talking to people that many communities look at us as being fairly well-to-do, fairly affluent. We have got everything.

High Cost Of Housing In Yellowknife

We have got everything all right. But boy, does it ever cost money! In Yellowknife we are no better off than a lot of communities. A lot of people living in this city are sharing accommodations, Mr. Chairman, because they have no choice. There are places that people are living two or three families to a home. There are numbers of examples I can cite of young people having to pool their resources and rent one unit and five or six of them live in there because there is not anything available. We have a lot of people here and we have a shortage of housing. There is a big demand. You take a look in the paper. For a city this size there are not that many units available and what is available is out of the price range of the average individual: \$199,500 for a house, \$195,000, \$275,000, another one here. I could go on. We are no better off. We need housing the same as other communities.

I look in the budget book here and I see that in the area of Dettah and the area of Latham Island, there are a few units going in there but not in Yellowknife proper. I find that there are a lot of people here that live in the city that are not big wage earners. They do not make \$50,000 a year. They do not make \$40,000 a year. And they try to live and they try to find a place to stay. You take a look at the rent for a single room, renting in a trailer unit. Someone in Northland Trailer Court advertises a room in a trailer for \$450; just the room, if you can get it. It goes up \$500 to \$600. You go to rent a house, if you can get it, for up to \$2000 a month.

I think that what we do need here, Mr. Chairman, is a certain amount more involvement by the NWT Housing Corporation for those low income earners that live in the city that have no choice -- this is where their jobs are -- so that more units that are more affordable, more high density housing are available. Co-operative type perhaps, but more in the apartment type units that are suitable for the starting families; suitable for the average income family. A lot of people would not mind living in an apartment unit if it were available and available at an affordable price, in order to get started. We have it pretty rough here when you consider the amount of land that is available for development and the cost of developing land here in the city. We are no better off than those communities. As a matter of fact, I would not mind being in a community. You have a lot of land available. But there is no employment in some areas, and the programs are there that are not available here in Yellowknife to the average individual.

I refer to HAP, as an example. There are no HAP units in the city of Yellowknife, and yet there are low income people -- there are a lot of native people living in the city of Yellowknife, Mr. Chairman, that if they were in a community they would be eligible for HAP units. I wonder why there is a discrepancy here. I would like to see the NWT Housing Corporation take another look at that.

Need For Refurbishing Yellowknife Units

All in all, I appreciate the amount of involvement that the department is doing in trying to come to grips with this matter. They do have some units here that are currently available, I assume, to persons in certain income levels. I want to bring to the attention of the corporation that in the area I live near, Bigelow Crescent, they call them low cost housing units, these units are in pretty bad shape. I wonder if the Minister is aware of the condition of these buildings and if they are taking a look at refurbishing these buildings. They are situated in a high density area among relatively new buildings, the Borealis Co-op on one side, and private apartments on the other. They appear to be out of place there. By the looks of them they are in a sad state of disrepair, and I wonder if the NWT Housing Corporation is going to look at them and see if they can do some upgrading on them and put them back into shape, so that the people do have a certain amount of pride in living in a unit in that area rather than in a building that sometimes looks like a slum, because of weathering and lack of maintenance and so forth.

There is also in that same area a burned unit. I do not know whether that has been repaired yet, and I wonder if the corporation is going to do anything with it to put it back to its original condition. I understand it was a day-care centre at one time, and I wonder if it is going to be restored to a day-care centre.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Mr. Butters.

Yellowknife Housing Situation Severe

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct. The housing situation in Yellowknife is extremely severe. Probably I would not be incorrect in saying that we have less accurate knowledge of the needs in Yellowknife than in the other communities. I know we have had some criticism of the needs study, but it has been recognized that there is a need for a more accurate housing needs study in Yellowknife itself. The corporation has not been very pleased with the results that we have been able to obtain from past surveys, so it could be that the problem is even more severe than the Member has described for us.

We know that there is a waiting list for people who want to get into public housing, and there is a need for more public housing. I have instructed the corporation to work extremely closely with the mayor to see what could be done in some of these non-profit housing areas, in co-op housing, to see whether a co-operative planning approach could be done between the corporation and the City of Yellowknife to help the community resolve its housing problem.

The Member is also correct when he indicates that the HAP program is not offered in Yellowknife, and it is not offered in Yellowknife because it is a program costshared with CMHC, through the rural and native housing programs. Those programs are available to communities that have a much smaller population than has Yellowknife, and therefore population numbers has excluded Yellowknife from taking advantage of the home-ownership assistance program.

Yellowknife does have a major advantage, though. It is demonstrably a market community and it certainly would appear to be a seller's market community. There should be, from the supply and demand forces, good encouragement for the private developer to work in this community and put accommodation in place that will allow him to obtain his return on his investment and the investment later on.

With regard to Bigelow Crescent, I understand that there were some burned units in that particular complex of 52 public housing units. I believe those units will be ready for occupancy on April 1st. They are awaiting the city inspector to inspect the repaired units and approve them.

The condition of the apartments, as described by the Member, is also correct. The units were originally constructed by a private developer as a condominium complex. Due to legislative problems, this was not possible, and the Housing Corporation inherited these units as public

housing. Unfortunately, the houses were poorly constructed and are now showing signs of deterioration. All houses are in need of a major upgrade of the exterior insulation and siding, as well as needing new windows. However, it was estimated that this work would cost some \$900,000 to complete. It has not been possible for the Housing Corporation to do this through its O and M budget, or through its modernization and home improvement program. A report is being compiled on the cost effectiveness of the work required. I am hoping that CMHC would agree to include this project in its capital projects for the coming year.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the needs study that is being contemplated is going to materialize in the near future. I did not want to see an innovative item like that go by without following it up. It is needed, and I think...

MR. LEWIS: Point of order, please. We do not have a government.

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

MR. ZOE: Point of order, we do not have a quorum, Mr. Chairman, and the government is not in the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): It has been brought to the Chair's attention that we have no quorum. Mr. Clerk, would you please ring the bell?

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

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I got caught up here in my emotional speech on housing in Yellowknife and I did not recognize that the House was emptying faster than we had anticipated.

--Laughter

A Needs Study For City Of Yellowknife

I am glad to see that the Housing Corporation is contemplating a needs study, and I hope it goes through to fruition. A needs study for the city of Yellowknife, if done in co-operation with the City of Yellowknife, will probably have good results. The City is going to be doing the census shortly, so there may be a possibility that you could tie these two things together and be able to come up with some accurate estimates on what is needed.

It still does not answer our problem though. We do have a lot of people here that do need low cost housing and I do not understand, to this day, why the contractors and the investors do not take advantage of the market. The Minister has said that there is enough need that the private investor should be able to realize a fair return on his money by building. It is true that this could happen, but somehow or other it does not happen. There is something missing. The private developer does build units, but the rent scales that are applied to these new units are not within the income of the average individual, it seems. They are up in the area of \$2000 or \$2200 a month, \$1800 if you can get it. The free market does not seem to take care of the people that are not of high incomes and cannot afford that kind of money. There are not enough units in this city to look after people on average incomes. I am not talking \$50,000 averages. I am talking far less than that. Single parents who have small families and who cannot afford to keep working. I know secretaries working for the territorial government that are making in the area of \$35,000 a year and they are expected to pay upwards of \$1200 to \$1300 for a place to stay. It is almost impossible.

I was suggesting in my earlier remarks that we do need more housing like that on Bigelow Crescent; we need more Lanky Court types of units. Not in those conditions, Mr. Minister, do not get me wrong. I can fully appreciate the fact that they were built in haste at a time when the

conditions were right for that. We did need housing then, as we do now. The standards were different those days. I know that building a house in the 70s did not require the same level of insulation, the same types of windows, because you did not have them available, perhaps, the good quality, triple pane windows and R60s and R40 walls that we require now and have designs for. We did not have those in those days. But we do have them now.

Units Need Not Be Luxurious

We need more of those units. They do not have to be luxurious inside. They have to be plain, affordable and something that a person would call home for a few years until they can save enough money to put a down payment on another unit and maybe get out of there and make room for somebody else. But we need them in Yellowknife the same as we need them in other communities.

The private market does not seem to want to respond to that. So maybe this is where the government has to take the initiative, as well. I do not say that the government should get into everything. We must not forget the city of Yellowknife simply because we do have a population of 15,000 people. We cannot fault them for that reason. There are people here who are the same people who live in the communities, with the same problems, housing being one of them.

As far as upgrading the existing units, it costs \$900,000 this year. It is going to cost \$1.1 million next year and \$1.5 million the year after. We have to do it at some point. We have to bite the bullet. I will use another example here. Back about 10 years ago we had one of the busiest airports in all of the NWT and we were cheek by jowl there, trying to get our baggage out. Things have slowed down now, so what do they do? They build a great big terminal. It is the same with housing. We need the housing now. We do not need it 10 years from now. We need to upgrade these units that are in sad need of repair. It is going to cost more next year. Instead of spending \$900,000 to do the whole thing, let us spend whatever we can, proportionately to other parts of the Territories, on the city of Yellowknife, on the units that the Housing Corporation owns here and upgrade these units to livable standards, a little bit at a time. If we wait until we have all the money, we may never have it. Let us do what we can afford this year and do what we can afford next year, but meet these needs that are here now. We are no different than any other community. We need.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I recognize, Mr. Chairman, with Members of this House, that Yellowknife contains 25 per cent or more of our population and that there is a severe housing shortage in this community. I certainly will take the Member's eloquent comments and study them to see if we can work with the mayor and her council to improve conditions for the residents of Yellowknife.

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

Proposed Housing Program, Hay River Reserve

MR. GARGAN: With regard to the Hay River Reserve, I am just wondering what the status is with regard to the proposed non-profit housing program that they have requested and whether or not there was any assurance on getting a guarantee. The other thing is with regard to Kakisa which is not getting any units this year, although most of the units built were in 1959-60 and they are not being replaced. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not there are going to be any allocations for Kakisa.

Also, with regard to the board of directors. The Minister did write me a letter with regard to that and as far as the termination date of the person that was from Providence on that board of directors, his termination was the end of December. I believe that the person has not been replaced. How soon will this position be filled?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, with regard to filling the vacancy on the board, I would hope that we might be able to have that done by the time the board of directors meets in Fort Simpson in June. The Member has provided me with one name to fill the vacancy, because as you know, those vacancies are filled by Commissioner-in-Council; that is, this House. I have been in contact with Mr. Sibbeston, who also represents a riding that is covered by that particular board member, and Mr. Sibbeston will be providing me with names that I can put before the caucus. I have also approached the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, because she soundly, roundly, stomped me over when I named three males to the NWT Housing Corporation three months ago, and rightly so. We lost one woman and we put on three men. So I heard about that from the Minister for the Status of Women. I hope, Mr. Chairman, that the vacancy will be filled with a proficient and able board member before the June meeting.

With regard to Kakisa, when Mr. Heron and I were in Kakisa some two weeks ago with the honourable Member, we were very kindly taken about the community by the chief, Margaret Leishman, and we observed and examined the houses in the community, the HAP houses that required completion and saw why they required completion and we observed a number of houses which will be requiring major repairs. Mr. Heron and I discussed the situation and I think that, rather than putting more housing into the community at the present time, we would like to address the shortcomings of the units that are there and complete units that are there and develop some arrangement of professional assistance to the community so that they can go ahead on their own and make the repairs that are necessary. I believe the honourable Member, during that discussion, agreed that was a reasonable and sensible approach and that still is the approach that Mr. Heron and I are contemplating.

Housing For Hay River Reserve

With regard to the Hay River Reserve, Mr. Heron and I were down to the reserve some two months ago, again with Mr. Gargan; and the chief, Mr. Fabien, indicated that they would like to use the non-profit housing association approach to develop 20 units, which would be outside of our global allocation. We would have been able to go ahead on that if the reserve had been located 150 miles to the South. It is just outside of the border. Had that been the case, the Minister of Indian Affairs would have immediately signed their guarantee and those units would have been delivered.

I indicated to Mr. Fabien that I would raise the matter with our Executive. I would also raise the matter with the new Minister of Housing and the new Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Cadieux, and indicate to them both that I would like to see the chief's objective of 20 houses being developed through that non-profit approach for the coming year. And as recently as three hours ago I phoned the Minister's office, Mr. Cadieux's office, to determine if there had been any slippage on that particular request as yet, because one of the last things that Mr. Cadieux's special assistant, Jim Allen, indicated to me when I left his office last week was that he would get on to that matter immediately and see whether he could resolve it.

I phoned him yesterday. I phoned the day before and I phoned him today and have not been able to catch him in his office as yet. I will continue to pursue that matter, as I promised Chief Fabien I would.

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

Two Year Waiting Period

MR. GARGAN: Just one final concern. The Minister is aware of it and it is with regard to the two year requirement for when there is an allocation of HAP units. I feel that in some certain cases it certainly is required, especially if the material is being delivered late in the fall. In the case of the Western Arctic, for example, where there is heavy emphasis on doing cement basements and cement foundations, there is no requirement for a gravel pad. So it would just mean that it does not take long to build the cement foundations and the cement basements and be able to do the

house that same summer, to at least have it covered before winter or you might run into having snow in the basement in the springtime and even on the foundations that are being built. So I have a concern on that. Perhaps in some cases the two year waiting period is essential but in some other cases it is not.

Also, again with regard to the HAP clients, the Minister did go into my constituency -- and I appreciate that, Tom -- and he also saw some houses that were built two years ago, three years ago, that are not completed. In most cases, the power has not been hooked up to the houses yet. Now during the time that I built my house, I was working but I did have time during the evenings. My house was hooked up before I actually completed the building but that gave me an opportunity to work after supper to late at night and early in the morning during the wintertime, and also have the furnace going at the same time. I was able to complete my house by the springtime and was able to move in during the summertime. This is the difficulty that a lot of the units that the Minister visited are having. They are not allowed to get power hookup, meters put in, so that at least their furnace and some of their plug-ins are working and some of their lighting is working and so that a person could go in during the wintertime and do it, considering that we do have short daylight hours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, both Mr. Heron and I are determined to visit as many constituencies and communities as we can in the weeks and months ahead. We both believe that the place to find out whether the programs are working or not is where they are being delivered, and that is in the communities. Regrettably, some of our visits have been a little too short, but it is better to visit, I guess, than to remain on the sixth floor of the Laing Building.

I was not aware of the situation that Mr. Gargan is describing until I saw it for myself two weeks ago. I cannot understand why we would not attempt to remove that difficulty from the prospective home builder. He has enough problems as it is with the dark and the cold, without having to deal with the non-supply of electricity. I have written to the Minister of Justice -- I think I have anyway -- asking if there is any problem with regard to our own regulations that would prevent such a temporary hookup from being fed to the building property. I have also written to the president of the NWT Power Corporation to inquire of Mr. Jim Robertson whether there is any problem in providing power to these building sites. I agree with the Member, it would reduce labour and provide a comfortable environment in which to carry out the work on the house.

With regard to the two year program, the program is two years only for those people that require a two year program. I recognize what the Member says is true. Those people who have the skills, have the time, and have the financial resources, can conclude their contract in one calendar year. In some cases it could be that it may take three calendar years. At the present time, as I say, there are 56 per cent of our applicants in default of their original contract. I for one -- and I must thank my predecessor, Mr. Sibbeston, for this initiative because it was at his urging that the corporation must get at the matter of the incompleated HAP units and get them completed. I intend, with Mr. Heron, to do everything possible to see these units completed, including the 10 units or so -- there are a number of units I know in Mr. Gargan's constituency -- including the ones in his constituency.

There is no hard two year rule. Some people are going to need the planning time too, the preparation time, for the building. Some people are not that skilled. The two year program is more than just providing the pad time to settle and the material time to arrive.

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

Information Lacking On Construction Of Log Houses

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, another difficulty with the housing program with regard to construction is that the blueprints that were provided by his department for the construction of the log houses were three pages long. There were no details on partitions or where the

bathrooms are, or where the utilities should be, so that when you start building those units you do not know where to put your sewage tank, etc. That caused a lot of difficulty for the people in Fort Providence that started on the \$178,000 log housing units, in meeting their targets. I cannot blame the community for that. I find it very unfortunate that these people have to be put on hold, mainly because of the lack of information to complete those units.

Mr. Chairman, during the standing committee on finance meeting, there was some priority put on housing, and I also believe there was some kind of information that the unfinished units for the past few years would be completed by this summer. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not it is still the intention to try to complete all the unfinished units in the North, so that at least we have those out of the way; then we might be able to start concentrating more on making sure that future delivery of the HAP program is there from start to finish within the specified time.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I do not recall making a commitment to see that the unfinished home assistance program units would be completed by a deadline, or by this summer specifically. I must admit that during the standing committee on finance meeting I was shocked into the realization that there were a large number of unfinished units out there, but I must admit I did not know the magnitude of the problem at the time. I have indicated I think to Members that Mr. Heron early on in his tenure as president of the Housing Corporation required and requested a region by region report on each of the unfinished home assistance program units so that we could determine the exact reason that work stopped. I would agree with the Member, in the case of those seven log units in Fort Providence, that they stopped because of lacks the Member has described to the committee.

Mr. Heron and I, once the session is over, when we get some time to sit down, will look at those units and try and address them as best we can. In one case in Snowdrift it would appear that just simple assistance to the individual to obtain a small loan would be extremely helpful.

Each of the unfinished units will be addressed on its own merits and brought up to satisfactory standards for occupation as soon as possible, but I do not want to make a commitment on a date, because I know I cannot do it. From what I have seen in the communities to date, I cannot do it. But I will address it.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last Wednesday I was in Fort Providence to review the rent scale, and most of the people that were there agreed with the direction this new scale is going to be working in. I certainly have no difficulty with regard to the implementation of that rent scale. The housing authority boards were also there and they find no difficulty in supporting such a program. I would also encourage the Minister, at least in the Western Arctic, to start implementing more cement base foundations or cement basements.

The Minister, in his opening statement, said that he is going to be looking at other alternatives because of the restrictions of CMHC with regard to people being eligible for HAP units, other alternatives for people that are making higher wages that would make them not eligible to be under the HAP units. Also the communities that are outside major centres do have that difficulty of getting bank loans. So I encourage the Minister in supporting it and resolving that particular area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I thank the Member for his encouragement. As I committed to the Member for Tu Nede, I do have a proposed amendment to improve access to the home-ownership assistance program, both on the upper end of the scale and the lower end. One thing we learned, Mr. Heron and I, when we travelled with Mr. Zoe to his constituency is that in the Mackenzie communities where wood is readily available, we believe that we can lower the lower end of the

scale and find more applicants out there who will be able to operate and maintain their own homes on wood-fuel. So we think we can enlarge it on both ends and we will move to do that. The requirement for providing those criteria really do not impinge on us until August or September when the application selection is made. The Executive Council will examine it soon and I hope that I can get some feedback from the corporation, the board of directors, also from CMHC, before I table that document when we return in April. I will put the document before Members and at the same time put before Members the proposed rental scale.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier the Minister was suggesting motions and asking for applause and I should have known that when I saw him come in with that jacket on today that he was here to entertain.

---Laughter

So I would like the Minister to entertain the House right now and tell us the theory behind delivering part of a HAP house this year and part of a HAP house next year, if they are still going to continue in that vein.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The reason I wore this jacket, like the bloody British in New Orleans, so you can see me coming before you see the whites of my eyes.

---Laughter

Two Year Completion Program More Realistic

There is a number of reasons why the two year program has been put forward. First of all, basically it is good building technique in the North, that where a foundation is necessary or a pad is necessary then there is an opportunity for it to settle and the piling to freeze in. It is good building practice. The experience that moved me, to a large extent, was when I sat in the standing committee on finance meeting which was chaired by the honourable Member and we discussed the non-completion of the HAP units. Also at that meeting I remember the Member for the High Arctic recommended that there should be a two year program for such buildings because of the late arrival of the building materials in those remote communities, since you could not expect to put it together for one year.

During that meeting of the standing committee on finance, I remember recommendations made by the Members with regard to the HAP program and -- regrettably Mr. Nerysoo is not here today -- but he did point out at that time that he was very concerned that if we did not move to address the non-completions that we might lose federal participation. He said, "It is a shame. I have to agree with Mr. Whitford, because you are wasting money. And we have to deal with that situation, we cannot be wasting money. The federal government if they in any way find that, in the next couple of years we are abusing their contribution, my feeling is that they will not continue to participate. For all of us, as Members of the Legislative Assembly and our Minister, we have to impress upon the people in the communities that they have to get the work done." That commitment then was a one year commitment. That was one of the comments and moments that I recollect. Here we had an excellent program in place and yet 56 per cent of the units we had put into the communities were uncompleted for one reason or another.

Part of the problem is in the selection. Maybe we were expecting too much of our applicants. Maybe we were expecting that they would be able to, in one year, put together a very sophisticated structure, with a furnace and ducting and electrical wiring and drywall and plumbing. Maybe we were expecting a little too much from people that were used to logs and two small bedrooms and maybe an outdoor biffy, to construct such a unit in one year. The corporation now believes that there can be a much greater degree of client consultation over the

time, working with them as they acquire and develop the property, prepare it for construction, ensure that they are able to handle the problems that are faced by any prospective builder, and at the same time provide for them, at the critical times, the expert assistance needed in the areas of electrical, plumbing and heating.

I think I have covered the basic things on the list, at least the ones that most impressed me. I would point out too that it was an initiative that I picked up on; it was begun by my predecessor who shared the same concern as I did and wanted to ensure that the HAP program did not fail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: In the blue book that was provided by the Minister, it indicates that there are 173 HAP units this year. Am I correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: That is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could tell us the districts that are affected by the two year building and how many of the 173 units will only be partially completed this year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the communities that we have targeted for two year programs to begin with -- I think there are some 33 or 36 houses out of the 173. And already I have accepted a number of units where I have been assured by the prospective owner that they can complete their contract in the year's time. The ones targeted are Igloolik, Providence, Resolution, Arctic Red River, McPherson, Norman Wells, Tuktoyaktuk, Latham Island, Rae-Edzo, Snare Lakes and Snowdrift. In some of these communities I have already, on the basis of communication I received from the communities or applicants, excepted a number of units.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One final question and that is, did the board of the Housing Corporation agree with this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Regrettably, the president of the Housing Corporation has been called away to attend the funeral of a close relative and he could not reply to that. I do not sit on the board either and I am not privy to their minute record. I am not sure whether Mr. Pratt could answer that question. I would have to ask Mr. Pratt whether he may know of his knowledge of these meetings, what discussion may have occurred at the board of directors level.

MR. PRATT: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Mr. Chairman, there was discussion with the chairman and other directors regarding the two year HAP cycle.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to find out if the board agreed. I am quite sure they talked about it. I wanted to know if they were in accord with the Minister's initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: As I say, the minutes of the corporation are hidden behind the corporate veil and I am not sure what occurred. I do not know. I have not seen such a motion and I do not see such motions. I do not know whether Mr. Pratt as a member of that board can respond. I have not seen any motion from the board of directors of that nature.

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

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister's lack of knowledge of the board's opinion on this matter is of concern to me because this is a major thing for people to go over two years instead of one year. Are we to understand that the board of directors, who presumably run the Housing Corporation, have been by-passed and a decision has been made that presumably they have not -- in the Minister's knowledge anyway -- any knowledge of?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated to you the president of the corporation who is privy to such information is not present nor available and I cannot answer with regard to the board's decision or the board's examination.

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

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, then I would ask the Minister, who runs the Housing Corporation? Is it the Minister and the Executive Council or is it the board of directors that is appointed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The approach that I have used, I do not know what the practice has been in the past, is to work as closely as I can with the president and his board of directors and attend meetings as I am able to determine their particular position. Running the corporation on a day-to-day basis is the responsibility of the president. The president is in the position of having to take direction and advice from the chairman and his board and this problem was developed earlier by the Member for Nahendeh. The president has that responsibility and he also receives advice and direction from myself, the Executive Council through our budgetary process, and even CMHC board of directors too.

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

MR. POLLARD: I sympathize with Mr. Heron if he has that many bosses, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could table in the House or supply to Members, the terms of reference of the board members of the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I assume that should be no problem, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Second time around. In the objectives for 1989-90, under construction development, this objective I would just like to read it to the Minister and ask a question. "To design and build public housing below the tree line with full basements". What about north of the tree line, is there a problem in building houses with full basements?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the direction with regard to basements even below the tree line only is carried out in those communities in which the subsoil lends itself to creating a basement. Not all communities would have houses or public houses built with basements. Above the tree line we are looking at a permafrost zone which is very difficult to deal with because of

the uneven melting on the southern side of buildings so that buildings designed for construction north of the tree line usually sit on pilings which provide an opportunity for air to circulate below the house.

There is another difference in design above and below the tree line and that is with regard to the vented attic spaces. The units below the tree line are designed to contain vented attic spaces while units built above the tree line do not have such attic spaces because of snow infiltration. They are usually equipped with a cathedral type ceiling.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware of two houses built in Rankin Inlet built on the ground and the owners are Peter Tatty, a businessman, and the other owner is Ray Mercer of MOT. They built their houses with a full basement. I have not heard either of them complain about the problems that the Minister describes when it comes to building houses with full basements above the tree line. Maybe this is something that the Minister's officials could take a look at, and ask some questions about a house with a full basement in a place like Rankin Inlet. Since private citizens could do it, I am sure the Housing Corporation of the NWT could benefit from it.

Secondly, I would like to ask the Minister if there is a policy on renovating a housing association or Housing Corporation house. The reason I am asking this -- renovations on a housing association house by a tenant -- is that house 211 in Rankin Inlet was being renovated by the tenants themselves. This was very refreshing to me because there was a tenant who was willing to make the house looking nice because he and his family are going to live there for a period of time. It is something that I was very proud of. I do not see it very often. I have seen houses in the NWT that are in very poor condition, but one family was willing to break the rules. That did not bother me, but the fact that they were quite willing to renovate, and they did, and it was quite refreshing that a tenant was willing to make some renovations to the house. So could I have a reply from the Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

Alternations By Tenant To Public Housing

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I expect that Mr. Heron and I and possibly Mr. Ridgely, our vice-president for construction, could be in Rankin in the next five months and at that time maybe we could see Mr. Mercer's or Mr. Tatty's house. I would be interested myself and if the Member would arrange that, I think we would be happy to go there.

On the occupant of public house 211 in Rankin Inlet, I thank the Member for giving me notice of that question and I did have a voluminous piece of research done on it. There is a requirement that any tenant who wishes to carry out renovations or painting or something inside the house, has to get prior authorization from the district office, I believe, or the housing association official, before the repairs or improvements are carried out. In the particular case, as I understand it, the occupant was not aware of that policy and had moved to make some internal changes to the house. I think a wall had been removed and in the removal of the wall, the wiring fixtures that had been in the wall were sort of strung along and nailed to the floor. So there was a concern that while the desire of the tenant to fix the place up may be admirable, the activity had created a hazard to the individual's person and the building.

So there is a requirement that a tenant signs, I believe, on occupancy that they will not make amendments unless they have prior approval. I do believe that whole matter that the Member raised has now been resolved. I think it was to be resolved yesterday. I believe the tenant was to occupy the building and I am informed that approval had been given to the tenant to make certain improvements in the house, painting and maybe minor fixings. So I think it has been resolved now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: I thank the Minister for that answer. If a tenant got permission from the district manager to renovate the house that he or she is going to occupy, if they decide to leave the house, do they have to put it back the way it was?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I really do not know. I would assume that if the tenant were authorized to carry out certain enhancements or improvements, then the association would accept that as being the standard at which the tenant found it on occupancy. I do not know, but I will find out and advise the Member by letter in answer to his question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments. Does the committee agree that we go to detail? Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really do not have too much to say now, but I wish to make a motion, if you do not mind, with regard to the statements that I made earlier concerning Lake Harbour's request for housing. I would like to make a motion on this issue at this time.

Motion To Recommend Reallocation Of Multiplex Unit From Cape Dorset To Lake Harbour

I will read the motion. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee of the whole recommends that the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation and the Executive Council consider that one of three multiplexes that are being allocated to Cape Dorset, be transferred to Lake Harbour. This is in the 1989-90 capital estimates on page 3.18. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I will read Mr. Arlooktoo's motion. I move that this committee requests the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, and the Executive Council, to consider reallocating one of the three multiplex units currently allocated to Cape Dorset to Lake Harbour, as detailed on page 3.18 of the main estimates under Baffin district, community and program services. To the motion. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pretty satisfied with the wording here, and I think it is self-explanatory. I wish you would call for a vote.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to be voting on the motion, and I am going to be voting in support of the motion. I think that the people who live in the area, who have had an opportunity of observing the conditions under which the people are living here, are probably the best to advise. I think I see this as good sound advice to the Housing Corporation, and advice that they should consider more often.

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

Authority Could Be Undermined

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, although the motion seems innocent enough, and I do not dispute Mr. Arlooktoo's right to talk on behalf of communities within his constituency, I wonder if this could be seen as political interference in a system whereby right now units are allocated to particular communities by a needs survey. I wonder if the motion passes, if a precedent is going to be set whereby if communities are unhappy with the allocation put out by either the Housing Corporation or the local housing authorities, if they can then say -- particularly if the Minister agrees, or the Executive Council agrees and makes the change -- that they can now by-pass those local housing authorities and come straight to the Legislative Assembly to get what they want.

I am going to be abstaining from the motion because, although it seems innocent enough right now, I think it could set a precedent whereby, politically, we may be undermining the authority of the Housing Corporation and local housing authorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): To the motion. Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make a brief comment in supporting the motion which Mr. Arlooktoo put out. I understand the situation and it says to the Minister to consider reallocating and also to the Executive Council. He had asked that although those three units were allocated to Cape Dorset, which the Housing Corporation has set out, they will be allocated to Lake Harbour. He was saying that he wants the Minister to consider reallocating the three units from Cape Dorset to Lake Harbour. The local housing association has considered this because it states to "consider reallocating one of the three units". So I will be supporting Mr. Arlooktoo's motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Is committee ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the motion itself I have no difficulty with supporting it, mainly because it is within his own constituency that he is making the reallocation. But a good point is with regard to what is meant by political interference. I could say it has a political interference if it was from a different constituency to a different constituency. I do not see any difficulty where the Member is speaking on behalf of his constituency with regard to reallocation. So I will be supporting the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. To the motion. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I support the motion in principle in part because of the system that we are involved in, the Assembly. It is becoming obvious and clear to me that MLAs do not have a tremendous amount of power in the sense that they can only make recommendations and make suggestions, but ultimately it is the Executive or the cabinet that has final decision. In the matter of housing, a lot of the decision-making power was passed on to housing authorities and so forth. So when an MLA wants to effect something, what power, what influence does he have?

To me there has to be some role and some influence that an MLA has and if he cannot make changes like this in the Assembly then really what purpose is there in being an MLA. I do not think you can hide behind the guise or hide behind the needs study, as it being so perfect and being so objective. I recognize the merit of these housing needs studies and so forth but they are not perfect. Particularly in a situation like this where an MLA is prepared to stand up in the Assembly and say that one community needs housing more than the other, and is prepared to suffer the political consequences of it, then I think we should let him. If he wants to, let him. And let him either rise or fall on that. It just seems that there is so little opportunity for a MLA to use his influence and power, as it were. So every little opportunity there is, I think we should support that. So on that basis and part on principle, I support Mr. Arlooktoo's motion.

Motion To Recommend Reallocation Of Multiplex Unit From Cape Dorset To Lake Harbour, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): To the motion. Is the committee ready for the question? Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Abstentions? The motion is carried.

---Carried

General comments. Is the committee ready to get into details of the Housing Corporation, O and M? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Page 3.12, information item. This is not a voting item. Any questions on the overall summary? Information item, Executive, page 3.13. Information item, human resources, page 3.14. Information item, community and program services. Finance and corporate services. Construction/development. District operations. Housing Associations. Any questions? Information item on income, page 3.20.

NWT Housing Corporation, Total O And M, Agreed

Page 3.10, NWT Housing Corporation, total O and M, \$50,208,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): That concludes the main estimates, O and M, NWT Housing Corporation. Thank you.

We will move on to capital. Page 3.12. Information item, community and program services. Information item, finance and corporate services. District operations. Notes to detail of capital. Any questions? Detail of capital, pages 3.17, 3.18, 3.20, 3.21, 3.22, 3.23, 3.24, 3.25; information items.

Contributions

Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

Housing Corporation, contributions, total headquarters, \$10,205,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Fort Smith, total Fort Smith, \$3,170,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Inuvik, total Inuvik, \$4,422,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Baffin, total Baffin, \$5,920,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Keewatin, total Keewatin, \$3,205,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Kitikmeot, total Kitikmeot, \$2,614,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Contributions, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Total NWT Housing Corporation, contributions, \$29,536,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): That concludes the total capital expenditure for the NWT Housing Corporation. Does the committee agree that the NWT Housing Corporation is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I would like to thank the Minister and the witness for appearing before our committee. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I am prepared to get into the Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Committee will take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): We are dealing with the Department of Justice. Mr. Ballantyne, are you prepared to make your opening statement?

Department Of Justice

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Assembly, today I will present to you the budget of the Department of Justice for your approval. While the Department of Justice has a new structure for 1989-90, its budget contains few major changes. This budget limits overall increases to only four per cent, of which 3.5 per cent is forced growth.

We feel that reorganization has made the Department of Justice a more effective department. With the creation of the new Department of Safety and Public Services, the safety, mining safety, fire marshal, labour standards, and consumers' affairs functions are moving out of the Department of Justice. In addition, the Liquor Licensing Board is moving over to the Department of Government Services, so that it will report to the same Minister as the Liquor Commission.

Streamlining of the Department of Justice has been under way over the past several years. The department formerly included libraries, motor vehicles and museums. The new structure emphasizes the justice functions of the department. This focus in the justice area is seen as an important prerequisite for the eventual transfer of responsibility for prosecutions from the Government of Canada to the Northwest Territories.

The following points are ones which I believe will be of particular interest to you in reviewing the Department of Justice estimates.

Law Reform

The family law review, which began this year, will continue throughout 1989-90. The review is funded co-operatively by the Department of Justice, the Department of Social Services, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the NWT Law Foundation. This project is especially exciting because it involves representatives of aboriginal groups and regional researchers in a study examining aboriginal custom law, as well as modern family law. The final phase of the project will be the development of new legislation based on the working group's recommendations.

The law reform committee, established in 1986, will continue the work it has begun in the area of company law. Late last year several new members were appointed to replace those who had resigned and to give the committee a broader representation. The new members appointed in 1988 are Richard Hardy, Laura Nelson, Sue Heron-Herbert, Richard Spaulding, and Desmond Brice-Bennett of Pond Inlet.

The Minister's advisory committee on aboriginal justice is a separate committee set up to provide advice to me on justice matters of particular interest to native people. Sue Heron-Herbert chairs the committee, and the other members are Rick Hardy and Eric Joamie of Pangnirtung.

Victims Of Crime

A forced growth increase related to victims of crime is shown in the court services portion of the budget. This \$50,000 amount is fully cost recoverable from the federal government, pursuant to an agreement that I signed last summer. These new funds will be used to support programs for the assistance of victims of crime in the Northwest Territories.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

The increased spending for criminal injuries compensation reflects a broader interpretation of the statute, based on a judicial decision earlier this year which extended payments to orphaned

children of murder victims. An increase for the current fiscal year, based on actual increased payments, was granted by the Financial Management Board and has come to the Legislative Assembly as a request for supplementary funding. That was passed by the Assembly already. Expenditures for criminal injuries compensation payments are partially cost recoverable from the federal government, according to a sliding scale formula.

Policing

The contract with the RCMP provides for an increase of two per cent each year in the amount of the GNWT share of policing costs. In 1989-90 the share we will pay is 68 per cent.

We have been working actively with the RCMP in placing increased emphasis on the recruitment of native people to the force. Following representations from our department -- as I said in my announcement today the RCMP has modified their recruiting policy -- last year the RCMP employed 16 native young people in detachments across the Territories in its native special constable summer student program. This program introduced native students to policing in the communities and was very successful for the students, the communities they served in, and for the RCMP. This program will be broadened and offered again this summer. These efforts, as I said already today, are already producing results. Eight recruits from the NWT commenced training in Regina.

The RCMP public complaints commission was established this year to ensure that concerns which members of the public have about police activities are investigated thoroughly. This is a national board. The two representatives from the NWT on the board are John Bayly, Q.C. of Yellowknife, and Lazarus Arreak of Iqaluit.

Meech Lake Accord

My department has been active in the past year advising the government on strategy to deal with the Meech Lake Accord. Efforts are continuing to discourage adoption of the accord by the two remaining legislatures, New Brunswick and Manitoba, and the department will continue to provide supporting arguments on this important issue.

Justices Of The Peace And Coroners

In the coming year we will be acting on the recommendations contained in the justices of the peace task force report. I have given instructions to have amendments to the Justice of the Peace Act prepared, as recommended. A justice of the peace administrator, who will report to the Chief Judge of the Territorial Court, is expected to be appointed during the current year.

In the shorter term -- and this is because of advice I got from Mr. Whitford, which was quite useful -- we hired a contractor with extensive experience in training justices of the peace to conduct three day JP training sessions which will be offered through the winter and spring. The training manual for JPs will be revised and expanded. This expanded training program will be developed and implemented next year.

Improved training programs for coroners were commenced this year and will be continued in the new fiscal year, also within existing funding levels.

Judicial Council

I am very pleased to say that Jim Antoine of Fort Simpson has recently accepted an appointment to the judicial council. Mr. Antoine fills the opening created by the amendment to the Territorial Courts Act to add a non-lawyer member of the public to this body. The judicial council has responsibilities under the act in matters relating to the appointment and discipline of territorial court judges.

Maintenance Enforcement

Improved enforcement of family maintenance orders will be provided to the public through the Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act, proclaimed on December 31, 1988. This function will be carried out by the maintenance enforcement officer who was appointed this year.

Aboriginal Languages

A co-ordinator of legal interpreting has been hired to plan and implement legal interpreter training to follow up on the successful six week course held in Yellowknife this summer. Skills upgrading and terminology workshops will be offered on a regional basis, after the end of this session of the Legislative Assembly. This is to be paid for out of the vote 4-5 funding available under the Canada-NWT agreement on contributions for aboriginal languages.

Legal Aid

I signed a new legal aid agreement with the federal Minister last March. It provides for a continuing cost sharing of legal aid over the three years ending in 1989-90. At a meeting in Rankin Inlet in September, the legal services board approved the establishment of a law centre in the Keewatin Region. This centre, projected to open within the 1989-90 fiscal year, will employ one lawyer in addition to the existing courtworker position in the region.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that summarizes the highlights of my budget. If I could ask for my witness to enter the House.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Proceed. Mr. Pollard, chairman of the standing committee on finance. Does the committee have any comments on the Department of Justice main estimates?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a short report for a long Minister. We discussed with the Minister: the separation of justice and safety/public service functions; the continuing family law review; the increases in criminal injuries compensation; the department's role in the Meech Lake Accord challenge; improving training programs for coroners; and the new legal aid agreement signed with the federal government. We have no recommendations to make with regard to the Justice Department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Minister, would you kindly introduce your witness for the record?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Mr. Geoff Bickert, the deputy minister of the Department of Justice.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to provide some encouragement to the Minister with regard to his announcement this morning and subsequently my question with regard to the police services in the NWT. I feel it is an important aspect of life to establish an NWT police force, especially from the point of view of aboriginal people that we represent. I really think that this is a step in the right direction and I want to encourage the Minister to do more.

I guess what I am saying to him is I am depending upon his department to do more of this; to look into it more and to hopefully come up with a good training centre some day in the NWT. I will just stop there for now on that particular issue.

I would also like to make mention of the Legal Services Board's decision to establish a Keewatin legal aid service, as well as the department's feedback to this particular resolution on the establishment of the Keewatin legal aid service. I see that the department is going to be looking for a new lawyer and I am very pleased about that because it is a very much needed service and I think it will provide the kinds of services that are needed in the Keewatin Region by the people. So I just wanted to make mention of those two for beginners, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Any comments. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No. I thank the Member for his kind words.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just overall, I wanted to make a couple of comments on the general direction that the department is going. Overall it appears that things are well in hand there, on the surface. I am very reassured to see that the Department of Justice has split and separated the safety section from the department. Perhaps for the time being, as I understand it, the manager will still be looking after the department and I hope they move very quickly to make that a completely independent section.

Recruitment Of Mining Inspectors

The other thing I am greatly reassured by is that the department is moving quickly to recruit adequate mining inspectors. When I spoke to the Minister some time ago, I was under the impression that they were already there. But I learned that they are not there and they will not be there for a little while, a full complement of mining inspectors. Correct me if I am wrong. I hope that this is not delayed in Personnel, or in the department, and that they move very quickly to get people, suitable and qualified people, to be mining inspectors. I think it is a very important area. The majority of our serious accidents were in that area and I think this is something that needs to be addressed and the Minister is making efforts to do that.

Another comment, of course, will be with the justices of the peace and the coroners programs. I would encourage the Minister to continue the movement that they are making toward implementation of the report of the task force on justices of the peace and coroners and the recommendations. To move very quickly to implement that in its entirety or as much as is feasible this year. I am pleased that the department has hired the services of a trainer who will develop a training package for the next year or so, somebody that has been in the business for a while. I certainly hope that he does not let us down and delivers what he says he is going to deliver.

The other thing that I hope the department will do, as far as the justices of the peace are concerned, is to take on somebody to look after them in the interim. I do not know what progress is being made there.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I thank the Member for his observations and suggestions. I must say that Mr. Whitford is a very experienced JP and coroner himself and he has been very useful to me in making suggestions. I hope I can count on his expertise as we move into implementing the recommendations of the task force, of which Mr. Whitford was a member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: I would like to ask the Minister with regard to this work on family law review, which is to report by March 31st of 1990.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

Family Law Review

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, a number of groups and our department and the Department of Social Services realize, as we tried to tackle the area of family law in a piecemeal fashion, that it was just not going to give us the results we wanted. Major concern has been shown by aboriginal groups about what we are doing in the area of aboriginal custom law. Family law, as we know it, is quite complex, as is the area of matrimonial law and child welfare law, etc. We thought the only way to approach it is to use a total approach. We put together a working committee with representatives that were appointed on the recommendations of our department, the Department of Social Services, the Inuit Women's Association, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, Dene Nation, Metis Association, Law Society of the NWT, the NWT Mediation Association and the NWT Advisory Council on the Status of Women. We feel that that group covers pretty well all the bases. We gave them a fairly significant budget and what I will expect from them and what the Minister of Social Services will expect, is a comprehensive list of recommendations of directions we can take in legislation in the area of family law.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, did the Minister indicate one of the items in this family law review is custom adoption? What is this particular organization doing in terms of custom adoption? Are they looking at making some changes to the native custom adoption law?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: We are not prejudging at all what the committee will come up with. There has been some concern expressed. The committee after consulting with communities and with organizations and with leaders in regions might suggest some changes, or they might suggest we keep it the way it is. I really do not know right now. What I really wanted was people who are more knowledgeable in the area than I am to make recommendations to us.

Equal Opportunities Policy Not Evident In Department Of Justice

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

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a couple of questions that I wanted to leave until a more appropriate time and I guess this is about the best time to do it. The Department of Justice is a fairly large department. It has a lot of bodies. A lot of people, most of them lawyers and well-trained people. But my observations, Mr. Chairman, is that there are very few native people in that whole department. I cannot right off the top of my head recall one native person that works in the Department of Justice in Yellowknife. Now correct me if I am wrong but I think the last person left sometime in the fall. This government does have a native employment policy, an equal opportunities policy, and it seems that department is lacking there. I wonder if the Minister is aware of that and I wonder if the Minister would let this House know what plans they have for increasing representation of native people in the Department of Justice. Surely there must be some areas that native people can be attracted to and encouraged to enter.

I know that in the court services, they just hired not too long ago, a person who had been in the Territories less than a year to work in court services. I am sure there must be native people around here -- raid the other departments if you have to. But get somebody in there to at least put up a showing there. Could the Minister maybe give me some advice on that and see if I am correct so far?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you, Mr. Whitford. Good question. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. No, it is a good question and it is a question that since I have been Minister has given me some concern. The way the PYs are evaluated for the

Department of Justice, we are not able to count the number of native JPs and native coroners and the number of native RCMP special constables. If we counted those, our record is a little better.

The problem that we have had is because of the specific educational skills required. I have made it a major priority of the department to increase the number of aboriginal people we have working for the department. The Member is right, I think it is eight per cent in headquarters right now are aboriginal people. Our targets are 12 per cent at the end of this year, 15 per cent at the end of next year. So we hope to double it in two years.

More importantly than that, the justice system in the NWT will not be totally accepted by aboriginal people, unless aboriginal people play important roles in that system; as lawyers, as prosecutors, policemen, and judges. Right now I am actively encouraging aboriginal people to go to law school, as Mr. Whitford knows. Right at the moment we have Jack Williams completing third year, Roy Erasmus is in first year and Lawrence Norbert is a paralegal. A couple of other people we are looking at, we are actively pursuing them. If you know of people who are interested in that, tell me. We are doing it in career days, we are asking for names of people who would like to go to law school. I am 100 per cent in support of that and at times I find it sad that we have so few aboriginal lawyers working in our department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Whitford.

Opportunities For Support Staff Should Be Created

MR. WHITFORD: I was not only referring to lawyers. You must forgive me, but there are other positions in the Department of Justice. They have headquarters here in Yellowknife and they also have judges in Hay River, Iqaluit and Inuvik. Now there is support staff as well. I fully appreciate the fact that the department is sponsoring three northern people to law school, but I am talking about support staff. I think if the department continues to maintain that they have to be a lawyer in order to work there, no native people will work there. I am talking about support staff of all sorts. You have a finance department, registrar, all kinds of things where people are daily meeting the public. Do not ask me to suggest names. I think the department itself has to come up with some kind of a strategy that would attract the people to the department and make it a nice place to go to work.

Court workers are an area that is aside from that. Justices of the peace and coroners are not directly attached to that. It is true there are a number of native people in there, but that is not really what I am getting at. I am talking about bona fide employees of the Department of Justice. Every judge has two or three people working with that person. It should be an area that native people can be attracted to, northern people, so that they will get an idea of what it is like and then be able to encourage other people to participate in this important area. Maybe native people fear justice because they are not represented there.

I am not saying that they all have to be legally trained. There are jobs that can be done in there where they do not have to be legally trained. I know of a number of them. That is what I am getting at, Mr. Chairman. I know what the law program is about, and I think it should be encouraged, and we must find more native people to take part in that, and have a place for them to come to work. Every northern person that trains as a lawyer should be working for the Department of Justice first. They should be actively sought before they leave the law school. Every effort should be made to have them work there.

I know of instances where northern people that are legally trained have applied and never got a job there. Every effort should have been made to get that person in there first. The department spent the money on them, the department has a responsibility. That is just one area, so I think if they were to actively get out and have a recruitment program that would make that department much more attractive to northern people, they would find northern people. That is what I am getting at, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to go on and on, but it is so noticeable. When you walk into the courthouse, there are no native people there at all.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, I appreciate the Member's comments, and we are actively and aggressively trying to increase the number of native people that work for the Department of Justice at all levels. We are working in conjunction with Arctic College to help develop a paralegal course which we hope will start to stream into the system. We have a video now which is shown across the Territories that shows the law as a career, all aspects of law. I agree we can do better, and I give my assurance that we are improving and will continue to improve. I fully share the Member's feelings about this subject. Thank you.

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

Tougher Sentencing Is Needed

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to touch upon a number of things that are in my mind, of very much concern to me, and I also know that they are of great concern to many many people that I represent. If I am off the subject, Mr. Chairman, please rule me out. If not, let me continue.

One thing that I am concerned about, and it has been mentioned to me in most of the communities, is the issue of the sentencing of offenders by the justice system. The people are very concerned about people who are sentenced for sexual assault, especially of young people, young women. In the area of spousal assault and things like drugs, abuse of people in general, child neglect, the sentences that are provided to the wrongdoers are often very short, very small, especially for the repeaters. What it does, especially to women, is it leaves a scar for a long period of time when society allows the wrongdoers to walk down the streets freely. These have been my concerns and I know they have been many people's concerns for a long, long time.

To me, nobody in this society should be neglected, should be beaten, should be assaulted and yet the wrongdoers seem to get more rights than those victims.

So I guess, Mr. Chairman, I am asking the Minister of Justice and the department to take a look at this very closely and some time down the road come up with some recommendations. Recommendations that will deal with people who break the law in these very important areas of life.

I have seen it and I have heard about what is happening in the communities, not so much in my region but in every region of the NWT. So I guess what I am saying is the court system has to get tougher because I think if we are not acting responsibly then we are not doing good service to the wrongdoers. I would like to be able to see that the victims of a society are given their rights to be able to walk freely and not be intimidated by society. So I would be very pleased to see something on paper from the GNWT on these very important issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The concerns put forward by Mr. Ernerk are concerns right now that more and more we are hearing right across the country. People in communities across the country are very concerned about the same sort of thing. I think what has happened in the last five or 10 years is that society has changed. People are more and more aware of sexual abuse of children, more and more aware of spousal assault, and society is getting very worried about how we are handling these problems.

The issue of judges giving sentences is on the agenda of every Minister of Justice conference that I have attended. Other Ministers of Justice have the same concerns. They are saying that for serious offenders, although in some cases maybe it is not right because every case is different, but generally, I think, a lot of people feel we should be tougher on violent offenders. The federal government is putting together a report and all of us in other jurisdictions will have input into that report. Hopefully at some point there will be some changes to the Criminal Code

of Canada. Because as Mr. Ernerk knows, I, as Minister of Justice in the Territories, have no responsibility in Criminal Code matters. But I do, as a Minister of Justice, have some influence on the federal Minister and I will continue to press the federal Minister with the very valid concerns that you brought forward here today.

Victims Of Crime

In the area of victims of crime. We are a leader in the country in the area of victims of crime. The legislation that we brought in, the programs in the next year which I hope to develop, will demonstrate here in the North and across Canada that we think that victims should have as much, if not more, rights than a criminal. I think this government has, in the last couple of years, demonstrated that with the legislation we have brought in. I hope we will be able to develop some innovative programs to assist victims. Because I very well understand the Member's concern that if somebody is attacked, or is hurt, very possibly they will have psychological or physical problems and then they are forgotten. But the person who is sentenced to jail -- he has all the rights in the world and everybody is looking after him. A lot of people are frustrated with the problem.

I cannot promise here that we can tomorrow change the Criminal Code. But what I can say is that discussions like this in the Legislative Assembly, in communities, to make everybody aware of the problem, make the judiciary aware of the problem and gives me a lot more support when I go down south to state our case. I really welcome these sorts of comments because that gives me ammunition when I am dealing with Ottawa. I think it makes everybody in the justice system aware of the real concerns that people here have about how the justice system is operating. So I give the Member my assurance that we will do everything possible to bring to the attention of the federal government, to bring to the attention of our justice system, his concerns and concerns, I am sure, of other MLAs and of communities across the North.

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

Drugs Entering Communities

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for his complete reply. The other thing that I am concerned about, and I know it is the concern of many people in my riding as well as in many parts of the NWT, and that is the issue of drugs. I have noticed in my community that drugs seem to have increased. I know it is not grown in Rankin Inlet and I know it is not grown in the communities, so it has to come from somewhere. Naturally, it comes from southern Canada. It is quite easy to get drugs into communities from the South, to a place like Rankin Inlet. People have easy access in bringing those drugs to the community. We have direct flights from Ottawa and Winnipeg and Yellowknife. I am not exactly sure how much is distributed, and I am not sure how it is being done, but I know there are drugs in the communities. I am not sure how it is there but there is enough for people to worry about. So my question to the Minister is, what sorts of procedures do you follow in order to try to control the drugs from coming into a community? I guess my question is really directed to the Minister and to the RCMP, but do you have some answers?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: In the RCMP agreement, I can set out, as Minister of Justice, priorities for the RCMP and the priorities that I set out for this year were involvement of aboriginal people in all aspects of policing as special constables and regular constables.

RCMP Need Community Support

Family violence, as the Member has already referred to; alcohol-related infractions and other drugs and solvents. The problem in the Territories is difficult because alcohol is still probably the most dangerous drug. So the police are attempting to focus on alcohol. There are drugs. There is no doubt about that. There are hard drugs getting into communities. The police have

some problem in a small community doing an undercover operation just because everybody knows everybody and it is difficult. They have had some success but they really need the co-operation of the community or they really cannot do a lot.

If the community leaders know who might be distributing drugs, it helps the police immensely if people in a community will support the police and help the police apprehend those sorts of people. Solvents for instance, gasoline and other solvents, are really difficult because everybody has access to gasoline. Right now my department is looking at bringing in some legislation to deal with solvent abuse. But it is a tough one and the one warning that I have got from policemen and people in the field is that there is no point in bringing in useless legislation that cannot be enforced. We think there may be some possibility to give the police at least a bit of power in a situation when they run across young people using solvents.

I keep impressing upon the police to be fully supportive. We will combat alcohol and drug abuse every way we can and we will use whatever power the police have at their disposal to do it. But ultimately that in itself, and the police themselves, cannot be the single answer. What the police are doing now in some communities is working with hamlet councils to put together education programs for young people.

I guess the answer is, and I will keep impressing upon the police that we want them to lay charges and arrest people for illegal distribution of drugs or for alcohol and drug related offences, but I will also ask Members here to work with their councils to put together a co-operative approach that deals with education and with the policing aspect of it and with possible health implications. But I think the only way that we are ever going to get a real handle on drugs and alcohol is the community and community leadership have to work very closely with the police. One thing I will do, if in your communities for whatever reason the police are not doing their job, let me know and I will make sure the word gets back.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just moving on to another subject of court services here. One of the things that I have noticed up until the past while is the court services in the communities where -- and I want to mention this but I know that the government is doing something about this through the court interpreters program. I am also aware that the Minister received a letter from the hamlet of Coral Harbour with regard to interpreting services by the courts. At one point the letter indicates that the courts just pick interpreters from among the public audience and ask them to interpret for court services. I am wondering if there is any move to avoid that kind of situation. I am wondering if there has been any improvement in court translation services in particular, Mr. Chairman.

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

Court Interpreters

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: In the whole area of court interpreters, we are by far the leader in the country, and we are having comments right across the country about the programs that we are putting on. We are, though, having some growing pains. It is a very new program and we have had some problem with co-ordination with the courts, with our department, and with interpreters in the communities. I think the Member's point is a good one, because we have had other complaints along the same line.

We are developing the interpreters program and as we go along we are also going to improve on that co-ordination. I think we really have come a long way in the last couple of years, and we are getting inquiries from right across the country to send observers up to see how we are doing this. I am sorry if we are making some mistakes and not co-ordinating as well as we should, but I can assure the Member that I am aware of the problems and we definitely will improve on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Mr. Gargan.

Report Of Canadian Bar Association

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year I made a Member's statement with regard to a report done by the Canadian Bar Association. The report was published on August 26, 1988, and it is called "Locking Up Natives In Canada". In that report, the association's findings concerning the treatment of native people by the judicial system have been called just short of appalling. Seventy per cent of native people going to court will end up in jail before the age of 25, while for non-native people the figure is seven per cent.

I would like to ask the Minister if he has had the opportunity to actually read this report and what his feeling is with regard to that report, bearing in mind that in the NWT the crime rate up here is five times higher than the national average. I would presume that here in Yellowknife and other cases where there are correctional facilities, it is probably going to be around 90 or 99 per cent native. What are the statistics with regard to native people being locked up; what is the percentage up here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think it is not just those two reports, but there are some pretty shocking things coming out of the inquiry in Manitoba, for instance, and things that happened in the Nova Scotia justice system. I think the Canadian justice establishment, which normally moves very slowly, is waking up to a large problem in the country. I do not think the problem here is as bad as it is in the South, but one thing I have told my department -- on April 1st, once the safety functions are taken away from Justice -- we are making it our number one priority to be the innovators in the country in this whole area and to come up with programs so that aboriginal people, who are the majority here in the NWT, really feel ownership of the justice system and do not feel victimized by the justice system.

We have a long way to go. I am not saying by any means that we are there. The two reports that you referred to, I have referred them to my aboriginal advisory committee. They are reviewing them now, and I will be making some recommendations about those particular reports. We are working with the Department of Social Services in corrections just to get a firm handle on the statistics here in the Territories. The statistics in southern Canada are really appalling because aboriginal people make up such a small percentage of the total population. It is amazing how many of them are in jail.

Statistics From North Not Included

My understanding was that statistics from the North were not included in those studies, but that does not give me or the department any cause to feel self-satisfied because I know, here in the Territories, as well as definitely in southern Canada, there is frustration, especially among aboriginal people, with the justice system. I see it as our responsibility, with our department to work with aboriginal people to make the justice system here one that is accepted and that native people will feel proud of.

So I am very aware of the concerns. Once the aboriginal justice committee has had its chance to make some recommendations to me, I would be more than prepared to share those recommendations in the House. But the major priority of our department in the coming year is just that: to see where we can improve the justice system. I think we have made a lot of strides in the last few years in policing and the committees we have set up and some of the appointments we have made. So we are getting there. I hope people can be a little patient and bear with me for a while because I really want to make fairly large strides if I still have this portfolio over the next couple of years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister did indicate that they are making some strides, but the only way to justify that is through statistics. What are the statistics up here with regard to the number of inmates in the corrections in the NWT, and what is the percentage that are natives?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I do not have those statistics. The corrections department might have them and I will try to get them for the Member if they exist.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I was going to ask about parole. Am I in the right place? No. Okay I will go to a different subject. With regard to the decision that was made in Alberta concerning seat belts. This is a legal question. The intention of this government is to implement seat belt legislation effective April 1st -- April Fools' Day. I believe that any decision that is within the courts for decision, cannot be applied while there is doubt. This again I am referring to the judiciary convention. This is where I pick this stuff up from. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not he still intends to implement the seat belt legislation while there are doubts in the court of law with regard to this specific concern.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

Implementation Of Seat Belt Legislation

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I want to make it clear -- Mr. Butters is implementing it. It is his responsibility. But there is no legal impediment to Mr. Butters and our government to implement the legislation. So the government intends to implement the legislation. The court ruling does not affect us. Their law is different than ours. The judgment is under appeal and I suppose at some point in time, if it works its way up through the system to the Supreme Court of Canada, at that point somebody might challenge our law. But that could be two or three years away and the Alberta decision does not have any impact on our decision to proceed with the legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: But if there is a case brought up here in the courts, then it does have an effect on that particular area. If I was driving between here and Fort Providence and was not using my seat belt and I got charged for it there cannot be too much the courts can do if my lawyer refers to that particular section, right? Am I correct on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: That is really hypothetical. Any one of our laws can be challenged, but because a law is challenged in the court we do not withdraw use of that law. If though, somebody won a case -- this is all hypothetical -- and if we decided for some reason we did not want to appeal the case, then at that point I suppose the government would as an option look at changing the law or withdrawing it. But as a matter of course, nothing has happened up until now that would lead this government to change their mind on the decision. What happens in the future, as to possible challenges, the government will have to deal with those eventualities in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

Appropriate Department For Corrections

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just again with regard to the Department of Justice, I feel the whole area with regard to corrections and parole is part of the judicial system. My feeling is that and it should be part of your department. I would hope that if and

when there is a cabinet shuffle or something like that, that they reshuffle some of these departments so that they go into the appropriate department. I feel that corrections and parole are areas that should be in your department or else it makes it just that much more difficult for me.

We did talk about Social Services, which has been dealt with already. But corrections was never addressed. In fact, none of the Members addressed it or the area of parole, because the impression by Members in this House is that I would have to deal with it when I got to your department, but unfortunately that is not the case. I thought I will bring that up. I have got nothing else to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Justice Minister, do you have any comments?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Only to say I am sorry Members did not recognize this as the other department's responsibility. One of the underlying philosophies of why it is not a Department of Justice responsibility is because the government has felt that most of the crimes in the NWT, as I think Mr. Morin was getting the statistics to prove, are alcohol related. As far as our correctional institutes, most of the people in our correctional institutions probably should be dealing with social workers. It is not heavy duty criminal activity. So the feeling is that it is better to deal with it in the Department of Social Services where we can look at rehabilitation and look at training and look at treatment, rather than in the Department of Justice.

Most of the parole responsibility lies with the federal government parole board and I do not have enough detailed knowledge of that because it is a Department of Social Services function. The interaction is between the Department of Social Services, corrections, and the federal government when you are dealing with parole and generally the Department of Justice does not have any role to play in the corrections system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): General comments. Department of Justice. Members agree we go clause by clause through the Department of Justice then?

Directorate, Total O And M

Main estimates book, page 8.10, directorate, \$1,488,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: With regard to the policing, in local detachments in the communities, is there anything in the budget with regard to support staff, specifically for secretarial? Or is this pretty well up to the local RCMP to do their own secretarial work as well as enforcing law?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Within the RCMP budget there are provisions for some support staff. The RCMP have their own guidelines for the number of secretaries for members, etc., but I have heard complaints from detachments who say they spend a lot of time doing paper work rather than police work. I guess ultimately it comes down to a question of cost. But as we are getting into negotiations for a possible renewal of the RCMP contract, it is something we are going to be looking at and if we decide to renew the RCMP contract, which ends March 31, 1991, what we will look at is that there is an appropriate mix of policemen and support staff.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: The Minister made a statement with regard to eight people who are going to be on the special constables training program. How are they going to be implemented? Do we place them with the regular members?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

Special Constables

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: What we have had in the past, and I think I have been to every detachment in the Territories and I have asked the same questions of every detachment, we have had some problems recruiting special constables for a number of reasons. That is why we have adopted a much more aggressive approach. I think we and the RCMP are being quite successful. The hope is to, first of all, fill up all our vacant positions with special constables. Out of that group of specials there will be those who have been a constable for some time and who decide they want to make a life in the police force and want to be regular constables. That is what we hope to do; to fill up the number of specials and they become a talent pool. From that talent pool we can encourage more to become regular constables.

I have, in the past a couple of times, told the RCMP that I wanted to replace a regular position with a specials position. But my aim and the RCMP's aim, ultimately, is to get as many native regular RCMP members in the force as we can. It was not working by getting people directly from the community to apply as a regular. But the way we are doing it now, with student programs and a special constable program, we are going to have a lot more success. I am quite optimistic that we will end up with more and more regulars as the years go by.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Directorate, \$1,488,000. Mr. Crow.

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have a concern on the support staff for RCMP. For instance in Sanikiluaq I know a lot of times when you try to call the detachment there is an answering machine. I have run into that a few times when I tried to call the detachment in Sanikiluaq. The reason I have a concern about that is that the RCMP are supposed to be protecting people. For instance, a couple of years ago, before I became an MLA, I was working on the local radio station there, and somebody tried to shoot herself. I had to call the RCMP, luckily there was a person there then, not an answering machine. I also have a concern about that because the RCMP are supposed to protect everyone in all sorts of ways. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ballantyne.

Good Communications System Improves Service

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Mr. Crow's concerns have also been expressed to me by other Members. When we had the RCMP in for lunch at caucus last week, they gave a fairly detailed report of what they are trying to do to improve the communications system in the North.

I have acknowledged, and they have acknowledged, that we have had some problems with the system. There are a number of approaches that the RCMP are taking. The technical quality of the system has to be improved. What they are looking at here in the Western Arctic, to start off with -- in the long term there is a possibility of having one emergency number, 911. If you have any emergency such as fire, ambulance, police, in your community, you can dial the one number and bingo, it automatically goes to whatever professional expertise you need. That is for the long term and that is going to take some time.

In the shorter term, they are looking at having better trained operators in central locations and plugging into a direct line from, for instance, Fort Rae to Yellowknife. The problem right now is that the line is not a dedicated line, so what happens, people have either got recordings or have got a busy signal, and it has been extremely frustrating. What they are going to be doing also is getting these better trained operators in central locations out to the communities they are going to be serving, so that they get to know the people, and they have an idea of where the fire hall is, where the police station is, what have you. If you have a good communications system, the police have found in other parts of Canada it is better to go to a regional centre rather than to have a less trained person in the detachment, because they can react immediately. If you have a good communications system they know exactly what you need and know how to get it. It might be a policeman from another community even, or what have you. They are quite optimistic, and as I say, it has worked very well in other parts of Canada.

They are trying now in the Keewatin a system for a small community where you only have two policemen, and one is on holidays and the other one is out patrolling in his vehicle. They are setting up mobile systems now on an experimental basis so that when you phone, if the person is not in their office or in their home, the call automatically goes to their vehicle. So I think the police have been made very aware of your concern. We think that once we iron out some of the bugs in some of these systems we are going to have a much, much better communication system than we have now. A lot of the concern should be, I hope, alleviated.

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Anything further, Mr. Crow. Directorate, \$1,488,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Police Services Agreement, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Police Services Agreement, total O and M, \$18,822,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, with regard to this particular department, there are no PYs in this being identified. Also one of the concerns I have is with regard to this whole business of phoning. Because I am a Member, a lot of times I am requested to make phone calls when there are concerns that require the attention of the RCMP. But again, you do get the Yellowknife G Division station. I asked them, "I have a concern from this individual", and they asked me, "I am sorry, but what is your name?" I said, "I do not have a concern myself, I am calling on behalf of...". They say, "I am sorry, what is your name?" And this goes on until you actually say your name. I do not know what that does as far as trying to help people out there in the communities. Perhaps it is best to try to remain anonymous. But when you get a person from Yellowknife answering the phone and saying, "I am sorry you have to give me your name before...". It is crazy. I do not know why a person is required to do that unless I am the one that is filing the complaint. But if I am doing that as a favour I do not think I should be asked that question. I thought maybe I would just bring that up. My concern is about the PYs, Mr. Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: This is made in the form of the agreement and what is included in here is 201 regular members; there are four native regular members; and there are 29 special constables. So that is the number of people we are talking about here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Gargan has asked if you could give him the numbers again. He did not get them written done.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: There are 201 regular members; four native regular members; and there are 29 special constables.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Does this also reflect the civilian staff?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I do not have the numbers here for the civilian staff but I can get it for you. I think this is the actual police staff. I do not have the number for the civilians.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Police Services Agreement, total O and M, \$18,822,000. Agreed? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a plan to place an RCMP officer in Repulse Bay?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, there is and offhand I do not remember what year, but it is definitely part of our plan and I will get to the Member exactly what year we are going to do it.

Police Services Agreement, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Police Services Agreement, total O and M, \$18,822,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Legal Aid, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Legal aid, total O and M, \$3,286,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: This also refers to court workers, and the implementation of the aboriginal languages program; legal aid is where translation is required. Would this be part of their qualifications rather than going through the whole process of translation? What is happening with regard to legal aid and translation being provided? Also people who do not speak the English language, how effective is it when you serve on a jury if you do not speak the English language?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Again, we are the only jurisdiction in the country that is doing this. I brought in amendments to the Jury Act which, for the first time in Canada, allows for unilingual aboriginal people to sit on a jury. This also means that we obviously have to provide interpreters. That is the course I was talking about last summer and the department is having a follow-up course that will be happening very soon. So the hope is, and we are well on our way toward it, that we will be providing translation in courts. So there is going to be an advantage not just to somebody sitting on a jury who is unilingual, but to the accused, and to people in the community who come in to listen to a trial to see what is happening with somebody they know. So again we are making major improvements in this one and we are leading the country.

So the aim, at some time once we iron out all the bugs, is that you will be able to hear a trial in your own language in courts in the Territories. The next logical step after that, the time will come, I hope in our lifetime, where you can have an aboriginal judge, an aboriginal prosecutor, an aboriginal defence lawyer, and the whole trial could conceivably take place in an aboriginal language. That will take some time, but I think that is the ultimate objective.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Legal aid, total O and M, \$3,286,000. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you still contracting with the Keewatin Inuit Association to carry out legal services for the Keewatin Region?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, but they are going to be rolled in to that new society we are going to be setting up to run the centre.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: So this new society will be totally separate from the Keewatin Inuit Association? Yes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: It is normal practice that it is separate and independent but we have made an arrangement with KRC and KIA that for a three year period we would allow those two organizations to put members on a board of the society to give it some time to get off the ground.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$155,000 will provide hiring of a lawyer as well as an existing court worker in the community of Rankin Inlet. Are they planning to place court workers in some of the communities in the Keewatin Region out of this funding?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, it was not envisioned in this budget but as I said before, in the following year we are looking at putting at least part-time workers in all the communities in the region, so as I said before, we are going to gradually evolve to it so you have proper representation in all your communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there training provided for the present court worker in Rankin?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: My understanding is that Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik is prepared to do some training and they might have already done some. The problem has been that because there has not been an umbrella organization in the Keewatin there has not been good capacity for training. Once your society is set up we will be able to build in some resources for training within this society but I think Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik is responsible for doing training.

Legal Aid, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Legal aid, total O and M, \$3,286,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Lawyer Support Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Lawyer support services, total O and M, \$2,143,000. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under lawyer support services I was going to ask why are we supporting lawyers but the serious question I do have is dealing with the public trustee's office, Mr. Chairman. I have had a number of inquiries about the role of the public trustee. I understand what the person does, but people do not understand why it takes so long. A person dies without a will and it goes on and on for years at a time, almost, before any kind of settlement is made of the estate. People really do not understand that, so the question that I have would be, is this section adequately staffed? Do you need more people there to look after these types of public services that are necessary and in pretty troubled times as well? Do you have enough people to handle those kinds of affairs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: We added an extra PY last year and another PY in this year's budget, so we think that will help a fair amount. One of the problems we have had, and there were questions in the fall session in this House, was that a lot of people did not understand what the public trustee is all about. We have produced a brochure in aboriginal languages and distributed it widely through the North. There are radio spots. With the extra resources and with the education that we are doing, we hope those problems that you are talking about and those log jams and the things that seem to drag on for a long time, we hope to see them improve considerably.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So with the additional people this should clear up some of the backlog that is there. At a later date perhaps, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister's staff would provide me with some statistics on the thing that I am speaking of here, I would be interested in knowing the number of cases that they would do in a year, and the average length of time it takes to do a normal one. I realize, of course, they vary in circumstances -- but let us see what this thing looks like on paper. Would that be possible?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Sure, I will provide that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Lawyer support services, total O and M, \$2,143,000. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The lawyer support services, how is this division involved in constitutional matters, including aboriginal claims, as well as the division?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Just as legal advisers. We are involved in so much that our government, for instance, has the representative that sits at the table in the TFN claim, the Dene/Metis claim, in our discussions with the Dene/Metis or the TFN, to look at legal implications of decisions that are made. It is generally just in a support role, nothing more than that.

Lawyer Support Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Lawyer support services, \$2,143,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Court Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Court services, total O and M, \$5,243,000. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has advised this House that they recently acquired a trainer to do training courses for coroners and justices of the peace. Is his budget going to be adequate to take in these courses? Because there are a lot of travel and people involved. Over the last couple of years there has not been any training done. So this budget, I hope, reflects the added emphasis that his department will take to bring training to both these services. Is it adequate?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: We think it is adequate. I recall a meeting with the JP task force saying what I intend to do. We have enough to make a good start. If we build credibility into the system, in future years, if it is worthwhile, I will have to make my case to the FMB, Executive

Council, and to the Assembly about getting more resources. But we hope we have enough to make a good start.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the procedure for placing judges in the regions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The last judge we placed in the region was in Iqaluit and the chief judge, Judge Slaven, has been a part-time resident judge in Inuvik. Basically, it is based on case load. In the next six months we are doing an evaluation of needs, as to whether or not there is justification for extra judges, and at that time, if it is felt that there is, then it would be my responsibility to bring forward to the FMB and to this Legislative Assembly a request for the resources to pay for a judge and support staff.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you refer to administration of the gun control program in the NWT, are you talking about the gun control program in Canada, the legislation? Or do we have our own gun control program in the NWT?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, this is bad wording and I asked them to change the wording because it is misleading. These are firearm permits.

Court Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Court services, total O and M, \$5,243,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Legal Registries, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Legal registries, total O and M, \$485,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Grants And Contributions

Grants, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Detail of grants and contributions. Grants, total grants, \$10,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Contributions, total contributions, \$1,555,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Grants And Contributions, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total grants and contributions, \$1,565,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): There is information item on page 8.18, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Any questions? That continues on to page 8.19. No questions. It also continues on to page 8.20. No questions. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I just back up to page 8.18, estates clerk. "On behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, administer estates of native persons. One person year is required for this program." The \$55,000, is this just salary dollars, and does this person work for the department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: It is salary dollars and it is a clerk that does that. We do it on behalf of the federal government. Under the Indian Act they are responsible for this; and we do it for them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, \$55,000 is a pretty good chunk of money for one person. I wonder how busy this person would be, and does this person do anything else but look after late native affairs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: What I want to emphasize is that it is totally paid for by the federal government, and the \$55,000 is not just salary; it is salary and a little bit of other O and M. I think they basically spend their time doing this and that is definitely what we tell the federal government they are funding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, just one concern I have with regard to unemployment insurance. When an individual is having difficulties in that area, mainly because of the Unemployment Insurance Act, when people are given a letter of refusal, those people applying for UIC do not have law libraries to refer to. I want to ask the Minister, how can a person address that difficulty they run into when they have to refer to certain sections of the Unemployment Insurance Act?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think I have responded to this in the House. As the Member knows, it is a federal act, but I have asked that public legal education people put together a package of information to get out to people to give them some tips on how to deal with the act. We will do our part, even though it is not our responsibility. I think people are frustrated, so definitely we will try to address the problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Any other questions? If not, then we will go to the program summary of this department.

Total O And M, Agreed

Total O and M, \$31,467,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Are Members then prepared to go on to the capital budget of this department? Sorry, Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister this question. I want to explain what I am talking about first just so the Minister understands. When I visit communities in the NWT, the question often asked of me is with regard to trapping being recognized as a full-time job. The Government of Canada does not recognize trapping as a full-time occupation and as a result there are no unemployment insurance benefits. The question that I would like to ask of the Minister is, does your department do research into something like this and if they do, is it possible for your department to come up with recommendations of your findings?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, we have not done any work in that but what I will do is I will look into it and get back to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties.

Total O And M, Agreed

Department of Justice, total O and M, \$31,467,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Members agree then that we move on to the capital budget for the Department of Justice. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Court Services, Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): In the capital estimates. It is on page 8.09. Detail of capital. Court services. Buildings and works. Baffin total, \$279,000. Agreed? Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I notice lack of any references to the buildings in Yellowknife. They are doing a lot of renovations and work. Will they finish this in last year's budget or is there any other area that the money is coming out of?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. The work that is being done now is in the present year's budget and a supp from the present year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total buildings and works, \$279,000. Agreed? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I cannot let this opportunity go by without asking a question. In all of the capital budgets that we debated so far, a lot of things are going to Iqaluit and very little to other regions. Why is this? Is it because the Government Leader is from Iqaluit?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hey, come on!

MR. ERNERK: Well that is a legitimate question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, this decision was not the Government Leader's decision. The fact is we put a judge and support staff in the Baffin two or three years ago. There is now a Crown prosecutor in the Baffin. It is right, and it is my recommendation. It had nothing to do with the Government Leader. It is only right that now, because the total picture has been looked after in the Baffin Region as far as a judge and prosecutor and support staff, they should have a proper courthouse in the Baffin. It made sense to put it there. In future I can tell Mr. Ernerk that as we achieve that in other regions, that is the next logical step in other regions. So this is just following in the logical way.

Court Services, Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Thank you. Total capital expenditures, Department of Justice. Total court services, \$279,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total capital expenditures for the Department of Justice, \$279,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Does the committee agree that we have now concluded the Department of Justice?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): I would like to thank the Minister and his witness. I would like to ask the committee what their desire is.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Does the committee agree that I report progress? Would somebody propose a motion? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan has made a motion to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Mr. Government House Leader, do you have any proposals as to where we should go from here?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I am impressed with the stamina of the honourable Members here. If the committee would go along with it, the Minister responsible for the Women's Secretariat is prepared to deal with that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Are Members agreed that we go with the Women's Secretariat?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister, would you like to make a presentation or would you like to have your witnesses in first? This is under the Executive, page 2.15. Madam Minister, do you have any opening comments?

Executive

Women's Secretariat

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Members, for allowing me to present my budget on the Women's Secretariat for 1989-90. The budget for this session covers the combined costs for the functioning of both the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the Women's Secretariat, and includes five person years. It remains unchanged from 1988-89. The advisory council advises this government on the concerns of women throughout the NWT and lobbies at the territorial and federal levels for changes in legislation, policies and programs that are of concern to women. The Women's Secretariat serves as a focal point of contact within the territorial government on issues of concern to women. It researches and identifies programs, policies and legislation that will enhance the economic independence of women and increase their participation in public life. It monitors the five year action plan on equality for women and the three year action plan on spousal assault. It also operates the talent bank for women and works closely with women's groups throughout the NWT. My activities with federal/provincial/territorial Ministers responsible for the Status of Women are also co-ordinated by the secretariat.

O and M funds this past year have been used for travel, contract services, purchased services, fees and payments, and materials and supplies. O and M funds also cover the costs of the advisory council meetings and research services.

Major activities during the past year have included: research on women and arts and crafts; collaboration with the Department of Social Services on child care policy development; collaboration with the Department of Economic Development on a report on entrepreneurial opportunities for women; collaboration with the Native Women's Association and other groups to organize a conference on child sexual abuse. It also included a public education campaign on child care, including the release of a position paper by the advisory council; participation by the advisory council in the affirmative action advisory committee and the family law working group; and co-sponsor of the "Women Managing for Success" conference.

Community liaison activities over the last year involved travel to communities throughout the NWT and contacts with many community groups. The community worker assists women's groups and communities in identifying problems and encourages them to take an active role in resolving local problems. The main issues raised are family violence, child care and self-esteem. Groups are provided with resource materials and referred to funding sources.

Contributions made out of the women's initiatives grants program this past year included support for a women's evening program, research done on victims of violence and on maternal health

workshops on women and drugs, and an NWT women's conference to be held in March in Hay River. Contributions were also made to the annual meetings of the Native Women's Association and the Inuit Women's Association.

Initiatives For 1989-90

Plans for initiatives for 1989-90 are well under way and include: women in business conferences in Inuvik and Yellowknife; follow-up on child sexual abuse issues; review of progress to date on family violence and improved co-operation between non-governmental organizations and the Government of the NWT; follow-up on midwifery and maternal health issues with women's groups and the Department of Health; participation in the annual meeting of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women scheduled for Yellowknife in November; production of handbooks on maternity leave; and funding sources for women's projects.

In passing the five year plan on equality for women in 1985, this government made a serious commitment to women in the NWT. The most recent progress report was tabled in the last session. The plan expires in 1990 and we hope to be able to report even more success by that date.

I believe every Member in this House is aware and concerned about the status of women in his or her constituency and will continue to support this government's goal in moving toward greater equality for women. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister, do you have any witnesses to bring in?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have the acting director, Kate Irving.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Members agree that the witness is to be brought in. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Women's Secretariat. Mr. Pollard.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on finance looked at the use of grants and contributions in the secretariat. The details of the grants and contributions provided to NWT groups by the secretariat were given to the committee. The committee was pleased to note the secretariat seems to be doing a good job of distributing the limited available funding to a variety of worthy recipients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Women's Secretariat. General comments. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just briefly. The majority of Members, I am sure, have been in some way or another connected with the secretariat over the past few months, with the activities taking place directed to child care and other important areas dealing with women. I just had one question for you other than to say that the activities they are undertaking are greatly appreciated. They enhance the status of women in the NWT in areas that have in the past not really been represented. Women have not always been allowed to be as public. Now with more information and more awareness given toward women, a lot of the problems that have been kept dormant because of culture or fear are now coming out in the open and we are now able to deal with them a little bit more. This will go a long way to enhance the quality of life not only for women, but also for children and all of society of the NWT. But I guess the secretariat is not without its problems.

The question I would like to ask deals with a report that was done for the secretariat some time ago. Is this going to be made public? Is this report something that is an internal document, or is there something we should know about the Women's Secretariat that will help us as legislators to be able to understand a little bit better the dilemmas that the secretariat is going through, like the quality of service that the secretariat is delivering to the women of the NWT? Is it something that we will be informed of in the near future?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I indicated previously that I decided not to make the document that I got done, on the review of the Women's Secretariat and the Status of Women, a public document. I had many concerns about allowing it to be a public document, mainly because of the fact that people who were interviewed and asked to participate in trying to get the review done were asked to be very candid and told that their viewpoints would be respected. With that in mind, it is difficult to allow such a document to become public. However, I would like to indicate to the Member, as a result of that document it did show and indicate that it is very difficult for the Women's Secretariat to have two masters, one to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women and one to the president of the Status of Women Advisory Council.

I am pleased to advise Members that a decision paper was formulated and submitted to cabinet and cabinet agreed to the principle of allowing me as the Minister to separate the two groups and to consider the Status of Women as an independent body and the Women's Secretariat as serving the government to work on women's issues. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Women's Secretariat. Mr. Whitford.

Value In Making Document Public

MR. WHITFORD: Would it not be in the public interest to maybe have that report -- I hate to use the word "rewritten", but written in such a way that it would disguise, perhaps, individuals who may have contributed to this report, so that they are not identified and made public should that be embarrassing, or for fear of some criticism that may come about? But would it not better serve the secretariat to have this made public if they had some dilemmas in the past, difficulties in the past -- made public so that it is no longer a titillating document? Something that the public will keep asking for, if it is hidden away? No secretariat, I am sure, of such a high profile is without its areas of public concerns and scrutiny. I am wondering if the Minister would look at that again and just consider that. I will drop the question after her answer for the time being, anyway.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if I would want to consider making the report a public document. However I will advise the Member that I did send a copy of the report to the advisory council, to the president. I did discuss the contents of the report and did indicate to the president that I would be willing to allow her to discuss it with the council in detail. I asked them to keep the comments in the strictest of confidence and she respected that. I do not know what the need is for the public to want to see a report that the council is going to be reviewing and I, as Minister, am going to be reviewing and basically looking at the report that focuses on these two areas.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question from a native Inuit point of view. Do Inuit women obtain general hunting licences that are provided to Inuit men?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I would take it that aboriginal people who are eligible, like myself, if we apply for it, should be given consideration for the benefit of holding a general hunting licence.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: The only reason I asked is because when it came to the issue of hunting polar bears, especially polar bears, I remember a number of meetings that took place in Nunavut communities where Inuit men disagreed with women hunting polar bears and the fact is that some felt that general hunting licences only belonged to men. But as an aboriginal person, I have always felt that all those rights should be enjoyed by all aboriginal people, men and women. So that is why I asked that question. Hunting polar bears may be important to men, but also there are some Inuit women who want to hunt polar bears. I make that comment because I remember when it was taking place in one or two of the communities that I visited some years ago.

With regard to spousal assault, is the secretariat making any progress in the communities? The reason I ask that question again is because for quite a few years now, whether I lived here in Yellowknife or Rankin Inlet, we have had a number of women running over to our place in the middle of the night. I am just using myself as an example because there are women who run away from home because they get scared of their spouses and they have no place to run to, especially in the middle of the night. I am just wondering if in this particular issue you are making some headway or progress since you have established safe houses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To clarify the first issue on women being allowed to hunt polar bears, I have been advised that the community HTAs determine who should hunt polar bears because of the polar bears being in the quota system. Basically because polar bears are in the quota system it is up to the HTA whether or not women should be eligible for that particular privilege of hunting polar bears.

On the other issue of spousal assault the implementation of safe houses is the responsibility of Social Services. However, the Women's Secretariat assists different communities by initiating workshops such as self-esteem and how women cope with spousal assault and so on. The Women's Secretariat played an important role in developing "Choices", which was a three year action plan on spousal assault. I feel that they have done a tremendous job because the Department of Social Services now recognizes that the problem cannot be handled in a short term and has placed that particular funding, as a commitment from this government, into its base funding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: I do not want to debate the issue of my first question and your first reply. I disagree to some extent with the hunters and trappers organizations. The hunting of polar bear should belong to anyone. There are Inuit women who have lived off the land for many, many years and many of them are still doing it and some of them still hunt by dog teams, so that right also belongs to Inuit women.

Do the witnesses, not the Minister, have any comments to make to the Legislative Assembly?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I always understood that if myself, as Minister, could not respond to specific questions by this House and if I needed the assistance of my witness, I would so call upon her. I do not feel it is necessary at this point. In regard to making responses, I would like to know exactly what type of responses and what type of concerns?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): The Member should realize that witnesses are backup to the Minister when the Minister feels it is necessary. The Minister is correct in that. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I believe this is the third year this department has been in operation and they did have an action plan, a five year action plan when they first started out. Presumably they are about halfway through that action plan. So I would like to ask the Minister about the action plan that is being talked about here and how far are they with regard to this action plan?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe at least half of the recommendations are practically completed. The other half are being actively worked on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: What is the other half?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Basically when you look at the ones that are still being worked on, they are equal pay for work, pay equity, job sharing. I cannot recall exactly what other areas. However, as I indicated, I can assure the Member that they are basically commitments that will take some time to complete.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Women's Secretariat. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: There are two objectives that the Minister has identified. Certainly there must have been a five year objective planned when this secretariat was created. I am interested in finding out what those objectives were. One thing the Minister did indicate was with regard to the territorial and federal levels of changes in legislation, policies and programs that are of concern to women. I would like to ask the Minister if she is aware of any legislation in existence that actually discriminates against women. Or is that more with regard to child care legislation and that sort of thing, rather than dealing with the women specifically?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The progress report on the five year action plan, as I indicated in my opening remarks was tabled in the last session. In regard to the issue of whether or not legislation is going through on any discrimination on women, there is basically none that I am aware. However, recognizing what legislation goes through is mainly in the positive tone to try to attain more equality for women. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister whether or not under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, do you think that is adequate or does the Minister feel there are weak areas in the charter that require that this secretariat should do more on that. I thought this Charter of Rights and Freedoms eliminated those types of discriminations, that any kind of inequalities that women feel they are put into could be addressed within a court of law now. So I question the motive of why such a secretariat needs to be in place, considering that we do have federal laws that specifically do not allow any discrimination based on your sex or your colour. Your sex anyway.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

Promotion Of Positive Changes To Policies And Programs

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that the Member discusses or brings up is the responsibility of the federal government. It is difficult for me as a Minister to change that particular charter. However, the activities within the secretariat, as I had indicated, are primarily to promote positive changes to policies and programs and not just to laws. I think if I could use child care as an example, the Status of Women and the Women's Secretariat basically were involved in helping develop the guidelines and what not, on child care. The other area that they are involved in is family law reform which addresses a number of legal issues. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the secretariat itself, I have no problem, as such. The thing I have a problem with is this is one avenue through which women may express their issues, but they also have to realize that we do have the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which is the law of the land. It applies up here just as much as it does in southern Canada. This is one area too, where through the legal system a woman could challenge if the government is not paying the necessary salaries for work for equal pay. The same thing could apply to the Human Rights Code. Affirmative action is one area where we address human rights. So I see that as maybe a way of bailing out this government from applying equal wages for equal work. I do not know whether or not one of the goals is to tell a woman that you have rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedom and if you feel that those are being violated, then challenge them in court. Or are you telling the women that you are working on it through this secretariat and we hope to keep you happy by going in this direction? That is what I am questioning, whether or not this has ever been challenged. Women challenging their department or bosses because they are not being paid for the same kind of work as men. I would think that is where this secretariat would be gearing toward. We do have the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and if you feel your rights are being violated, by all means we will assist you in challenging them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

Position Of Secretariat On Challenges To Charter

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize what the Member is saying. Not saying that the secretariat does not encourage women to utilize it, I want to indicate that challenging the Charter of Rights is certainly an extremely costly venture, and not only taking into account the time frame that you are going to have to consider when you go through that system. I guess I want to stress is that the secretariat tries to address these issues before they reach that particular stage. However, not saying that the Women's Secretariat discourages women from challenging the charter, but they recognize the cost implications and the time frame. So it is certainly not fully encouraged either.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I am not referring to women challenging the Charter of Rights. These are their rights and they are included in there as human beings, not as male or female. But I feel that it is a good way of bailing out this government from meeting that responsibility for equal wages for equal work.

One area that the women are working on is sexual abuse. I read some articles that were quite disturbing. I do have girls, one is one year old and I do change her diapers. In my own constituency it was never brought to my attention that there was abuse amongst children. I was shocked that this abuse is occurring, but there must be a fine line on what actually this means. Especially for my own benefit, on when you have an expression of love for your child, where do you draw the line on what you mean by an expression of love and where do you draw the line for abuse? I find it disturbing that there is such abuse going on. I do not know what they mean

by that, that is what I have a concern about. What is meant by child sexual abuse? I guess, as a father, when you express your love toward your child, I do not know what is meant by abuse in this case.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, is the Member asking me, or basically advising me, that he does not understand what is meant by child sexual abuse?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

Child Sexual Abuse

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I must say that I find it to be quite surprising, and I guess that is why I am trying to bring this out, not only as the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, but also as Minister responsible for Social Services. If I can be quite frank and quite blunt, when I was able to have the privilege of addressing the Native Women's Association and their delegates when they held the child sexual abuse conference, I basically indicated to them that child sexual abuse was any form of abuse toward a child that either consisted of any fondling, sexual intercourse or any type of sexual activity toward a child. These things happen quite frequently. I think it is quite a serious problem in the North, and I think trying to take it out and trying to deal with it is a responsibility that I know Social Services is taking on; and I think the Women's Secretariat are assisting women's groups wherever they are able to assist them in being able to address it.

There is a difference between showing affection toward a child and showing some type of abuse, whether it is psychological or violent abuse toward a child. In my opinion, child sexual abuse is certainly not showing proper affection.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thanks for that clarification. It does disturb me that these things are going on. Do we actually help in the end? The statistics that would refer to age groups or whether you are aboriginal or non-native -- do you have any statistics on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, no. No specific statistics. I have had discussions with different doctors in the North that have indicated to me the problem. I have seen through the court reports that there are more and more young people that were sexually abused themselves that are starting to go through the courts as abusers to the younger generation. I am aware that a lot of our young offenders are being charged for that particular type of criminal activity. We do not have any particular statistics. We basically know that it is a problem out there that has to be addressed and taken out of the closet and dealt with. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Women's Secretariat. General comments, Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, my question is this. The Women's Secretariat do not have any staff in the communities, do they? They mostly do their co-ordinating work through Social Services. Is that right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, we do not have any staff out in the communities. The Member is correct. We do have five staff within the Women's Secretariat and they assist the communities wherever required; they do have a community worker. However, at the same time they do assist the departments in addressing the concerns of women. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, obviously the Women's Secretariat has a very close working relationship with Paututit and have they provided any financial support for this particular meeting in Yellowknife? This meeting I am talking about is Paututit, the Inuit Women's Association of Canada.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Yes, they have been supportive of that organization along with the other organizations, such as the Native Women's Association and the Hay River women's centre and the Baffin Women's Association. For this particular meeting, because they were required to relocate, the Women's Secretariat assisted in co-ordinating the meeting rooms for them and they also contributed \$12,000 toward their annual assembly, plus the cost of meeting rooms to the tune of \$2000. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): General comments. Mr. Gargan.

Family Disputes

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, just one final concern. With regard to, not family violence, but family dispute. You do have roles that women play traditionally, as well as men. In a case where a dispute that might be that the father goes out hunting and the mother goes to work or something and is told to stay home and care for the children while the husband is out hunting. Has the department come up with any kind of direction with regard to that type of situation, where a woman is forced to choose between a full-time job or housewife? How is this addressed? It is something that is going to have to be addressed. I would like to find out how this is going to be addressed. I have not forced anybody to stay home yet, but I would like to ask the Minister whether the secretariat intends to address this issue, just as the Department of Justice is looking at the aboriginal laws under the judicial system?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: No, the secretariat does not interfere in family units. Whether or not they encourage a woman to stay at home or consider being in the work force -- I certainly would not want to even consider requesting them to do that. However, they do try to promote women in economic equality and allow women to make their choice. I think they are there as a supportive group when women do make their choice. When they require research material or information, the secretariat is there. That is their purpose. It is certainly not to go looking into a family and try to encourage them to go into the work force. I know I would tell them where to get out of my house if they tried to do that with me with my own children at home.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the mandates that the secretariat has is also with regard to non-sexist counselling. I would like to ask the Minister, what is meant by non-sexist counselling?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

Non-Sexist Counselling

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Basically encouraging counselling in the school systems, to encourage girls at a young age to consider non-occupational trades, as I indicated earlier; to consider girls to take employment opportunities in the science fields and all these different fields where we normally do not see women; that is, basically indicating on a non-sexist basis that those particular fields are not only for men. Women can do those types of employment opportunities also. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Just one final comment, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the Women's Secretariat and the NWT Advisory Council on the Status of Women work within your department but I also understand that every time there is an initiative from your department -- in this case I will refer to the child care program -- the secretariat does come up with their own version of what the child care program should look like as opposed to what you think it should look like. How are you guys getting along in this case, with regard to your advisers telling you that maybe this is not the way to go? I notice that you have been talking to each other but how are you guys getting along with regard to that department functioning as well as being a criticizer of your department?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, as I had indicated, that advisory council is a council that does give me advice and as a Minister I consider their advice. In regard to child care, they did give advice as to what they would like to see. I think a lot of their advice was to look at day-care systems and day-care centres. As a Minister, I deliberate whether or not I want to take all their advice or whether or not I want to consider other options.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: One final comment. The Women's Secretariat is not governed by the conflict of interest guidelines is it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the Women's Secretariat is placed in a difficult position many times and that is basically why I got the review done, trying to substantiate a reason for separating the Women's Secretariat away from the Status of Women.

Women's Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Women's Secretariat. General comments. Details. Total O and M, \$508,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Grants, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Page 2,20, detail of grants and contributions. Grants, total grants, \$499,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Details of contributions. Total contributions, \$1,451,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Grants And Contributions, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total grants and contributions, \$1,950,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): The committee should realize that we now have to go to page 2.07 to conclude the total Department of the Executive. On that page, program summary. Total of the Executive. Total operations and maintenance, \$14,648,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total capital, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Department, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total expenditures, \$14,698,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Are committee Members agreed that we have concluded the Department of Executive. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): What is the committee's wish at this stage? Mr. Government House Leader, are you proposing that we go on to Equal Employment now? Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, yes we are ready to go ahead with Equal Employment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): The motion is in order. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. This motion is non-debatable. All those in favour of the motion? Those opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

The committee will continue. Madam Minister, would you like to make your opening comments on the Equal Employment Directorate.

Equal Employment Directorate

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Members, for allowing me to present my budget for the Equal Employment Directorate. The Equal Employment Directorate serves as the focal point within the territorial government for affirmative action planning to promote the employment, training and development of under-represented groups in the public service. As indicated in my statement to the House on the adoption of the new affirmative action policy, this now includes aboriginal indigenous persons, women, disabled and non-native residents born in the NWT.

The directorate's primary role is to co-ordinate, monitor and report progress on government-wide affirmative action planning. They provide guidance to departments and agencies and assist managers in their efforts to implement departmental action plans. These plans are reviewed, modified and updated annually. They advise on special program requirements to provide access and opportunity for target groups in the government. The directorate, working through the Department of Education, provides new and enhanced training programs for native employees, plus a cross cultural orientation program for public servants. The Equal Employment Directorate maintains a public relations campaign promoting the concept of affirmative action and promoting the Government of the NWT as an employer.

The regional operations group provides counselling and other support services to members of target groups. They also maintain a computerized talent banking system to facilitate matching target group applicants to employment opportunities and provide managers with quality referrals.

The Equal Employment Directorate provides administrative and secretarial support to the NWT affirmative action advisory committee, which provides advice to the Minister on matters such as affirmative action planning, development of strategies and policy in the territorial public service for target groups.

The Equal Employment Directorate has 12 permanent person years and one casual person year. Seven positions provide regional program services, while the remaining five positions are located in headquarters.

The total O and M main estimates for 1989-90 is \$1,063,000. The budget has no change from this year and is distributed as follows: headquarters operations require \$554,000; regions operations require \$506,000.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to make my remarks and I would be willing to respond to any questions Members may have on the Equal Employment Directorate's activities or on the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister, do you have any witnesses you would like to bring in at this time?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, may I request the House to allow me to bring in the executive director for equal employment, Mr. Darryl Bohnet? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Are Members agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): The Sergeant-at-Arms could show the witness in. Thank you. Mr. Pollard, as standing committee on finance chairman, do you have any comments at this stage?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is nice to see everybody holding up so well. Mr. Chairman, the mandate of the Equal Employment Directorate appears to be included within the mandate of the Department of Personnel. The standing committee on finance believes the incorporation of the Equal Employment Directorate into Personnel would be a logical development, allowing for better co-ordination between the two organizations. The Minister has concurred, indicating that the directorate would soon become part of the Department of Personnel as had been stated during the 1988-89 budget review. Just in case there is a change in that, the standing committee on finance under recommendation 10 recommends that the Equal Employment Directorate be incorporated into the Department of Personnel within the 1989-90 fiscal year.

This next paragraph may seem redundant. In November or December it was relevant. It is a policy concerning women and the disabled. During both the 1988-89 and 1989-90 budget reviews, the committee was informed that a policy similar to the native employment policy, covering women and the disabled, was being developed. Until such time as this policy is finalized, the government has only native employment plans and programs and should refer to them as such, rather than as affirmative action plan and programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Equal Employment Directorate. General comments. Mr. Whitford.

Development Of Talent Bank

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is good to see the director back from his holiday, well-rested and well-tanned. I guess one has a tendency to want to be critical of the directorate of equal employment when we just had a department in the last couple of hours that is sadly lacking in native people in their employment; when I heard the Minister comment that one of their mandates was to prepare action plans for departments, comprehensive action plans for departments, to incorporate the target groups. It appears, after the Department of Justice was up, that they must have lost their plans. I wonder if the directorate would be so kind as to send them another copy.

The talent bank. As far back as 1976-77 when the office of equal employment was formed, it had set out to build a talent bank, kind of a recall of native people within the government, to do a resume for them, prepare their strong points, education levels and their interest areas and to monitor very carefully where they would like to go, and to see if they could tie this in with the openings that would come into the department through increases in staff, to see where the native people would fit in there. I wonder if this is still part of their activity? There should be lists of names of people and their qualifications, so when we look for a deputy minister of Culture and Communications, all you have to do is go to the file and look for "c" and pull out names of people with the background, the interest area, and submit this to the Government Leader. I wonder if that is what that means, to develop a talent bank? Is that what they do?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the purpose of the talent bank is basically to try to formulate and identify potential candidates that may have the expertise for

positions that may be available, and encourage and assist the department to recognize the new options that they may have in utilizing these individuals. The talent bank is for the purpose of assisting a department in identifying potential candidates that may qualify under the affirmative action policy now. Previous to that it would have been the native employment policy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Are the departments co-operating with the directorate? Does the directorate have a strong mandate, does it have the support of the government, credibility first of all, and the support of the government to enforce any kind of program they might have. I understand they are there to help the departments, but there also has to be a carrot and a stick too and sometimes a fairly large stick. I only refer now to native employment, but there are other areas of equal employment, the audio or visual handicaps, women and others, but I will just use native employment for the time being. Do they, the departments, utilize this directorate? Do they go there as soon as they find a vacancy and find what kind of a talent is available through the directorate?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

Use Of Directorate By Departments

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Equal Employment Directorate supports and facilitates and identifies individuals to be considered when employment opportunities come up. They work along with the department. I guess the person who has the stick and tries to use the stick in ensuring departments are adhering to it is myself, as Minister, at the cabinet level. When I feel that departments are not utilizing native people, or not coming up to their percentage, or coming to the point where they are increasing the participation of public servants in accordance to the native employment policy -- and now will be the affirmative action policy -- I do express concerns to their appropriate Ministers at the cabinet level. But it is not the directorate's responsibility to go around with a stick and threaten departments to hire native people. They facilitate and support and encourage wherever they can. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: But surely, Mr. Chairman, after 12 years. Native people represent, in the NWT, some 50 per cent of the general population. Statistically around 28 or 30 per cent of the territorial government's work force is from either of the native groups. Surely in 12 years that figure could have gone up a little bit. Maybe the Minister does need a little more of a stick. The government has ways of doing things, I guess. But I wonder why that number, that percentage -- I hate percentages but they are necessary sometime -- why it has not gone up more than -- what is it now, 32? Twenty-eight was the last figure that I heard but perhaps the Minister can tell me what it is now and maybe give me some impression as to why it is not increasing proportionately.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Initially when the Equal Employment Directorate was formed it was 25 per cent of native participation in the public service. The goal at that time was I believe, 52 per cent. They currently have achieved 32 per cent and if you take into consideration the permanent seasonal employees that are retained by this government it is at the level of 34 per cent. However, this does not include individuals that work for the hospital boards and the NWT Power Corporation.

Qualified Persons For Technical Positions

Having a higher percentage rate is certainly a goal of this government and I think now with the affirmative action policy in place, we certainly probably would see quicker progress on trying to reach our goal. However, having stated those percentages, why we do not have a higher

percentage is difficult to reply to, because some of the positions as we know, are basically technical positions. For many different reasons a lot of the positions are here in Yellowknife. I do not know if a lot of native people want to move to Yellowknife. I know that some are very reluctant to. There are many different reasons why we have not reached the goal. We certainly want to make sure when we reach the goal that we have qualified people put in those positions. I think trying to reach the goal by putting people in the positions just because they are native would be detrimental, not only to the government but to the native people. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one final comment. I agree with the Minister's last comment. I do not support just dumping people into a job, but I do get some people expressing their concern because they are not moving within the department or within the government, those that live in Yellowknife. Those that are in the department would like to move to some other area or progress up the ladder, but they seem to be missed out on an opportunity or two. A department will go to competition, totally neglecting people within the department for promotions and things. I was always under the impression that the talent bank, the dossier on native people should be more aware of opportunities within this territorial government for promotions, and if they are lacking in some areas, put forth recommendations as to what they can do to get that skill or information necessary to handle a job of greater demand than their present activity.

Development Of Talent Bank

That was just comment I guess, not a question, but it is not an easy job, I am sure, to do and there would be a lot of criticism coming from it. I just wanted to comment to see if that would give any assistance to the directorate to be able to put together and develop better what I consider to be quite an important area, this talent bank, and aiming always to accomplish that objective of equal representation by all underrepresented groups. There are a lot of jobs that women could be in and they are not. I guess we are very fortunate we do not have too many persons with visual or other handicaps that require fair treatment but they seem to have fared a little bit better. So that was just by way of comment, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Equal Employment Directorate. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in 1984 there was a labour force survey done for persons between 15 years and 64 years of age. In the NWT there are 31,163 people between those ages that are eligible for work. When the survey was done, there were 8833 native people that were eligible to work, and 12,476 non-native people. This labour force survey was done in 1984, and now that they do have the transfer of the health programs, as well as forestry, I would like to ask the Minister whether it has made any difference with regard to that affirmative action program, and the target percentage that was supposed to have been reached. In 1985 there were 3660 GNWT employees, and also 2625 federal employees; but with the amount of PYs that have been transferred to the GNWT, I would assume that the percentage of native employment has dropped. Would I be correct in assuming that, Madam Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct by basically saying that with the federal transfers we did lose a bit of ground in trying to achieve a higher percentage rate, because of the amount of people that were in there that were non-native.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Thank you, Madam Minister. General comments on the Equal Employment Directorate. Page 6.08, total O and M, \$1,063,000. Agreed? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, under your main estimates for person year requirements for 1989-90, the total person years is 3593. In 1985 it was 3660. And again, 2226 federal employees. The number of public servants for both the federal and territorial is 6285, but if we look at your main

estimates, it does not reflect the increase with the transfer of health. Does it have any kind of breakdown with regard to the amount of GNWT employees and what percentage of it is natives?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

Statistics On Government Positions

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: As of December 31st the positions we have in the government are 4296. Taking into consideration the permanent and seasonal employees, we are 4470. It did not include the hospital boards and Power Corporation which were federally transferred in the past year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: The main estimates do give you the amount of requirements for each department for person years. I come up with this figure of 3593.4 person years for continuing person year requirements. It does not add up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister. The Member is on page x, in front of the main estimates, where it says total person years 3593.4, and on behalf of others 123.8.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: The numbers I am giving are total number of positions, the number of individuals, and that is where the difference between PYs positions come into effect.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I missed the percentage of natives being employed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Basically 34 per cent.

Equal Employment Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Equal employment directorate, total O and M, \$1,063,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Total department, equal employment directorate, total O and M, \$1,063,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Are Members agreed we have concluded that department?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): I thank the Minister and her witness. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: If I might clarify through you from the Government House Leader. We meet at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, and Personnel and Finance will be handled in committee of the whole, which will of course lead to Bill 1-89(1). The Income Tax Act and the Tobacco Tax Act would conclude the business of committee of the whole, prior to third reading of bills and assent to bills. Am I correct, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): I believe you are. The two departments left are Personnel and Finance and I would imagine that is the order the government intends on dealing with them. I think the agreement was made to deal with Finance last. So that would conclude Bill 1-89(1). Government House Leader, Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The government is prepared to deal with all those issues in that order tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Including the bills as outlined by Mr. Pollard?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The whole batting order, as outlined by Mr. Pollard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that case I would move progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now report progress.

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

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering CR 1-89(1) and Bill 1-89(1) and wishes to report progress.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 19, third reading of bills.

Item 20, assent to bills.

The sitting hours for Thursday, March 16th, will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:30 p.m. until the House reports progress. Item 21, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of ajauqtit at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, March 16th.

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: Bills 1-89(1), 3-89(1), 10-89(1); CR 1-89(1); Tabled Documents 58-89(1), 59-89(1), 76-89(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 Thursday, March 16th, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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