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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1989

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Red Pedersen): Orders of the day for Thursday, March 16th, 1989. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Allooloo.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 31-89(1): Inuit Art Collection

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to provide Members of this Legislative Assembly with further information about the agreement which the Inuit regional councils and the Inuit Cultural Institute signed with Indian and Northern Affairs concerning the transfer of the Inuit art collection.

The agreement was signed in Iqaluit on March 13, 1989. Of the 3300 sculptures, prints, drawings, wall hangings and crafts collected in the Northwest Territories by Indian and Northern Affairs over the past 35 years, 1653 are to be given to the Inuit Cultural Institute. The Inuit Cultural Institute has been entrusted with this collection by the regional councils, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and Tungavik Federation of Nunavut. The agreement also calls for a museum training program for Inuit to be developed co-operatively by the National Gallery of Canada, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. Each of the southern museums and galleries has promised to undertake special exhibitions on Inuit art with the remaining pieces of the collection.

The selection of the 1653 objects will be made in Ottawa by representatives of the Inuit Cultural Institute in April. Once the selection is made, the northern part will be shipped to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre to be documented and conserved prior to being transferred to the Eastern Arctic. I am very pleased with the result of this agreement and would like to thank the Members for their strong support of this initiative during the last two sessions. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Ministers' Statement 32-89(1): Inuit Women's Association Meeting

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased earlier this week, Mr. Speaker, to hear my colleague, Mr. Ernerk, welcome the delegates to the Inuit Women's Association to Yellowknife. On behalf of this government, I too would like to extend a welcome to them. They have been meeting here all week as poor weather prevented them from holding their meeting in Rankin Inlet as initially planned.

I will be spending some time with the delegates today at lunch and will be most interested in hearing how their meetings are going and what resolutions are being discussed. In particular, I know that they are holding workshops on two issues of particular importance to women and to all NWT residents. These are family violence and child care, and I will be looking forward to getting further input and comment from the delegates on these very important concerns.

I would like to make an observation, Mr. Speaker, which I believe is a positive comment on relations between our government and organizations such as the Inuit Women's Association. A number of officials from several of our government's departments are assisting and participating in this meeting. They have also provided assistance with last minute arrangements required because of the change of location. I am pleased to see this kind of co-operation and feel that it reflects a growing sense of partnership between government and non-government organizations. I believe that this is a step forward in reaching our common goal, in this case the improved status of women in the NWT, and encourage everyone involved to continue in this direction. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a statement respecting the appointment of the deputy minister of Culture and Communications, which I regret was not filed within the proper time, so I would like to make it on an emergency basis, with your agreement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. If there are no objections by the House. Mr. Patterson, proceed.

Ministers' Statement 33-89(1): Appointment Of Deputy Minister Of Culture And Communications

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to announce that Ms Gina Blondin has been appointed to the position of deputy minister of Culture and Communications. Ms Blondin was born in Fort Franklin, has a masters degree, with first class honours, in education administration from the University of British Columbia and a baccalaureate degree in education from the University of Alberta.

Ms Blondin's work history is extensive in the Northwest Territories with our government and native organizations, as well as with the private sector. She has been involved in various programs and projects related to education, training and human resource development. Most recently she has served in an advisory capacity to the Minister and deputy minister of Education.

As well, Ms Blondin has been actively involved in community activities within the NWT with northern cultural events including serving as a board member with the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre, the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre and the Folk on the Rocks festival. In addition, she participated in a variety of forums relating to topical northern cultural issues both in the NWT and on a national level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Study On C And W Music And Alcohol

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this day and age we are bombarded by a good number of studies, on just about everything under the sun. Well, Mr. Speaker, today I want to use my allotted time to bring to your attention a very important study undertaken by Dr. James Shaefer of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. The study of which I speak, Mr. Speaker, was undertaken by a team of anthropologists over a 10 year period of time showing a correlation between country and western music and the amount a person tends to drink. The most dangerous country and western songs, says Dr. Shaefer, are those slow, lonesome blues ballads

of heartbreak and loss. The report says that if the song is close to the painful life that the individual is leading he may feel, hey, they are singing my song. The sadder the song, the report goes on to say, the longer and the stronger the tug on the mug.

--- Laughter

It is a very subtle thing, Mr. Speaker, unlike loud rock music which tends to excite the listener and gets them up to move about, and it puzzles the anthropologists as to why. But the warning flags, sir, are out. The report points the finger at the most insidious category; Kenny Rogers' "Lucille", Crystal Gale's "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue"...

--- Laughter

...are slated as the worst offenders. Even our own country and western singers like Hank Snow are mentioned in this as heart-tugger muggers. I, myself, Mr. Speaker, used to occasionally enjoy a hurtin', drinkin', truck drivin' and mom song, but no more. From now on it is Bach, Brahms and Beethoven for me, sir. The good news, however, Mr. Speaker, is that the country and western music industry has reacted and they have warned parents, "Mamas, don't let your babies grow up to be anthropologists". Thank you.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Whitford. It is a shame you could not put your statement to music. Members' statements. Ms Cournoyea.

Member's Statement On Focus North Program Of March 13, 1989

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a couple of comments in regard to a program that was aired over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Focus North, Monday night, March 13, 1989. When this program was aired there were several of my constituents from Tuktoyaktuk who phoned and were very disappointed because they had worked with the crew co-operatively to talk about the situation around alcohol. Mr. Speaker, it was with great dismay that the people of Tuk felt again, once more, that the CBC purposely took a one-sided, one view and one approach to make everything look bleak and as though almost everyone in the community had a problem.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to this Legislative Assembly there are very many people in Tuk who do not drink, who are responsible for their children, for their family. There are many people who have risen to the challenges that the oil and gas industry brought to that community. And, Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of hard work by that community to resolve their problems, and I believe that the community is quite open in discussing and wanting to resolve the problems they do have. Mr. Speaker, in the documentary segment that was on Focus North it was indicated very hushedly that they were only talking about 25 per cent of the people, but even so the people of Tuk would like in the future if these crews are going to come into the community, to know what their theme is, because if the community had known their theme was a one-sided, one-track approach to make everything and everyone look as though they were not in control of their lives, they would not have been welcome. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Tuberculosis In Repulse Bay

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Keewatin Regional Health Board and Jack Anawak, our MP for Nunatsiaq, I would like to read the following letter to the Government Leader.

"A state of emergency now exists in Repulse Bay. The tuberculosis epidemic has exceeded all earlier estimates and now the number is at least 50 confirmed and suspected cases. Health board

and the Department of Health staff are doing what can be done to treat the sick and prevent the spread of the disease. Neither our board nor the people of Repulse Bay can deal with the problem alone. We need the help of the GNWT if we are to deal with the overall socio-economic issues which lead to the conditions which cause the disease.

"New initiatives are needed in the area of housing, sanitation and economic development if we are to provide a healthy environment in which the people of Repulse Bay can live and raise healthy children. The Keewatin Regional Health Board urges you to strike a task force to work with the community of Repulse to plan and implement new programs to improve the quality of life in the community and thereby eliminate the causes of the disease. Mike Vaydik, chairman". Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about this particular problem because I was born and raised in Repulse Bay. Government, please help us.

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

Member's Statement On Permanent Building For Legislative Assembly

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I noted the other day, Mr. Speaker, that the majority of people in this House now make Yellowknife their home. By my count there are 13 of our 25 who actually live in this fair city which I am very, very pleased about. Twenty-four, I am sorry. Thank you, Mr. Pollard. So...

AN HON. MEMBER: ...you do not speak for us though.

MR. LEWIS: However...

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

MR. LEWIS: You are using up my two minutes.

---Laughter

The point I am making, Mr. Speaker, is that many people in this House have loved to hate this city. They have spent many years in fact trying to point out that this was the worst of all possible worlds but now that they are forced to live here I hope that there will be kinder treatment for this fair city.

Since so many people are now making their permanent home here, I would hope that some consideration be given in future to having a more permanent home for this Assembly. Since so many people want to live here then it would seem to make sense to me that we do some thinking about making a more permanent place to do our business as well as having our domiciles here. So, Mr. Speaker, all I wanted to do today was to point that fact out to Members that there are a large number of people that now live here and who enjoy working here and were not as nasty perhaps as they used to be toward this city, and now we should give some thinking toward making a permanent home for at least this part of our history. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Repatriation Of Inuit Art Collection

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would simply like to add some comments further to those made by my colleague, the Minister of Culture and Communications, concerning the important agreement reached in my constituency several days ago concerning the repatriation of the substantial portion of the Inuit art collection collected by Indian and Northern Affairs over a number of years.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a triumph for the people of the NWT and particularly the Inuit and the organizations that represented them in these very difficult negotiations. I would like to observe

that we have been successful in moving the federal government's rather intransigent position to one which will give people of the NWT a substantial part of this collection and, most importantly, first choice on the 1650 objects which will be made available to us. I would like to particularly pay tribute, Mr. Speaker, if I may, to the role played by deputy commissioner, Ann Hanson, in chairing these negotiations. I understand that she was very successful in turning around the entire character of the meeting and helping to win major concessions from the federal government. I think that this House will be very pleased to add its particular congratulations to her in that important role of chairing these very sensitive negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of these questions I have responded to during discussion of my budget, but according to the Rules I will make them here formally. The first one was asked by Mr. Ernerk concerning the Christian counselling service.

Further Return To Question O217-89(1): Pamphlets Alarming To Communities

The RCMP have discovered no basis for the laying of charges as a result of the activities of Reverend Caulfield of the Christian counselling service in the Keewatin. However, I might say that the best defence in this sort of activity is to bring it under the glare of public scrutiny, and I think the fact that Mr. Ernerk brought it to this House, and it was aired through the media, has made the community aware, and that is probably the most effective way to deal with this sort of thing. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O348-89(1): Spreading Of Tuberculosis

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ernerk on March 9, 1989, regarding the topic and letter that he referred to today in his Member's statement concerning the outbreak of tuberculosis in Repulse Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the TB epidemic in Repulse Bay is now probably under control. The total number of identified cases is 35. Of these, three were identified as the initial source cases, 10 were identified from the routine follow-up of those three, and 22 further cases have been identified through the survey conducted during January 1989. Aggressive case finding measures have been implemented to screen, investigate, identify and treat infected individuals. When aggressive case finding strategies are used, it is important to remember that statistics will fluctuate. Sometimes numbers will include individuals who have tested positive and who later turn out to be only reactors or contacts.

The workload for the staff of the Repulse Bay health centre will continue to be heavy, and to ease the load the Keewatin Health Board has hired an additional nurse and a community worker to do specimen collection, testing, teaching and recording of tuberculosis follow-up. Sixty-nine residents are presently on preventive therapy. It is possible that by the end of 1989, 150 residents could be on anti-tuberculosis therapy. Mr. Speaker, the department will continue to give priority to the control of this or any other outbreak of tuberculosis.

Further Return To Question O43-89(1): Hiring Of Architect To Design Schools

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Pudluk on February 10, 1989, regarding the Arctic Bay school costs. The honourable Member had originally questioned the cost of construction and consulting fees for the new school in Arctic Bay. In fact, this project included renovations to the old six classroom school to create four new classrooms, as well as an addition consisting of eight new classrooms. The community is now served by a 12 classroom facility.

Also, a separate project for the construction of the multipurpose hall which adjoins the school was completed in 1985.

The addition to the Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay was completed in 1986 at a cost of \$2.1 million. This included \$488,000 for renovations to the old school. The government paid consulting fees, including architectural, structural, electrical, mechanical, and geotechnical services, totalling \$114,575. This represents 5.5 per cent of the cost of construction and is consistent with consulting fees for other similar projects.

Mr. Speaker, since the completion of this school in 1986, the Departments of Public Works and Education have worked together to produce a standardized approach to planning, design and construction of new and replacement schools. The new standardized school concept is designed to allow for easier expansion in the future. The standard design can be expanded from a minimum of eight classrooms to a maximum of 18 classrooms, depending upon the needs of the community. As well, a gymnasium can be added when required without extensive changes to the school.

During 1988, schools using this standard design were completed in Fort Liard, Pond Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Arviat, Rankin Inlet and Gjoa Haven. This same design is being used for the schools now under construction in Pangnirtung, Tuktoyaktuk, Iqaluit and Repulse Bay and those under design in Paulatuk, Broughton Island and Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three. I will do the three if that is all right with you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Question O205-89(1): Service To MLAs In Legal Aid Services Mandate

This is a return to a question asked by Mr. Sibbeston dealing with legal aid for MLAs. It is not within the mandate of the Legal Services Board to provide legal aid services to MLAs in connection with their work as MLAs. Legal aid in the Northwest Territories is provided under the terms of the Legal Services Act and the federal-territorial agreement for cost sharing of legal aid. It is for representation of individuals charged with the more serious criminal offences as well as those involved in certain civil disputes in the courts. It is intended for those who might not be able to afford a lawyer otherwise, and therefore certain financial eligibility criteria must be met.

Return To Question O214-89(1): Review Of Custom Adoption

This is one that I answered yesterday when I did my department but I will put it on the record. This is a return to Question O214-89(1), asked by Mr. Gargan on February 24, 1989 regarding a review of custom adoption.

The members of the family law review working group are: Cheryl Walker, Marie Uviluq, Sue Heron-Herbert, Elaine Bengts, Shelley Howell, Bronwyn Watters and Roberta Bulmer. These members were appointed on the recommendations of the Department of Justice, the Department of Social Services, the Inuit Women's Association, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the Dene Nation, the Metis Association, the Law Society of the Northwest Territories, the NWT Mediation Association, and the NWT Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Vince Steen, who had been recommended by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, has resigned from the working group and he will be replaced.

The terms of reference of the family law review were developed by an ad hoc working group and submitted to me last year in a letter dated January 29, 1989. I am circulating a copy to Members. These same terms still apply although the scheduling has been revised. Phase one, the research and the preparation of the report, is to be completed by December 1, 1989. Phase two, the drafting of legislative amendments and new legislation, is to be completed by March 31, 1990,

although it is not anticipated that the legislation would be in final form for introduction in the Legislative Assembly until the fall 1990 session.

Return To Question O169-89(1): Treatment Of Common-Law Relationships Compared With That In Other Jurisdictions; And Question O245-89(1): Response To Question O169-89(1) Requested

This is a return to a question asked by Mr. Zoe on February 24, 1989. The terms "wife" and "husband" are used in the Fatal Accidents Act and are not defined in that statute. While there have been no NWT cases interpreting the meaning of these words in the Fatal Accidents Act, judicial decisions elsewhere have treated common-law spouses differently from legally married husbands and wives, where there was no definition specifically including the common-law spouses within the meaning of the words "husband" and "wife".

The Northwest Territories Fatal Accidents Act is similar to the legislation in some other provinces, such as Alberta. In other provinces, such as Ontario, family law reform legislation has brought in a much broader definition of "spouse" to include men and women who are not legally married but who have cohabited continuously for a period of not less than three years or are in a relationship of some permanence where they are the natural or adoptive parents of a child.

This is one of the areas of family law reform which will be considered by the family law review. I look forward to receiving the advice of this broadly based working group as to what the appropriate definition of "spouse" is in the Northwest Territories. The specific concern raised by your question has been brought to the attention of the family law review. I have asked the family law review working group to advise me of its view of how the word "spouse" should be defined in the Fatal Accidents Act and other comparable legislation, early enough for me to bring forward amendments in the fall session of the Legislative Assembly, if appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question O240-89(1): Review Of Chronic Care Illness Assistance Program

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Whitford on February 28, 1989, regarding assistance for chronic care illnesses. Mr. Speaker, the costs incurred in cases of chronic illnesses can cause real hardship for individuals and their families. Because of this, the GNWT has made provision to assist non-native and Metis residents with the cost associated with chronic illness. Under the seniors extended medical benefits plan, assistance for any chronic disease is now available for non-native and Metis seniors aged 60 and over, providing they have been medically assessed and referred and are not eligible for any other assistance.

For residents under the age of 60 there are presently 14 diseases which qualify for assistance and there are plans to extend these benefits to cover additional illnesses. The decision of which diseases to add to the list is not an easy one and at a time of escalating health costs we must take care to identify the diseases which produce the most pressing need. The department is conducting a review at present and I cannot give you the estimated date of completion. However, Mr. Speaker, I wish to assure the Member, as I indicated in my earlier response to this question, that in the interim the department will look at special cases on an individual basis.

Further Return To Question O253-89(1): Local Transportation To Nursing Stations

Mr. Speaker, I have another return to an oral question asked by Mr. Angottitauruq on March 1, regarding taxi fares for patients within the Kitikmeot. I am aware that some residents of Spence Bay, Gjoa Haven and Pelly Bay experience difficulty getting to the health centre or airport. Additional funding for taxi fares within the community is a decision which the regional health board will make.

I am informed that the Kitikmeot Health Board is taking steps to settle this problem. A final recommendation should be made at the next board meeting with the expectation that any decision will be in place by April 1. I understand that the board is trying to get working contracts drawn up with local taxi companies to provide service for the transportation of patients to and from airports. Transportation of the elderly or very sick will also be considered, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Butters, did you have one?

Further Return To Question O180-89(1): Discrepancies In Information Re Transfers

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, in response to a question that the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre asked, with regard to difference in the information received from Air Canada and from NWT Air with regard to the relocation of personnel to Edmonton from Yellowknife, I am pleased to provide my interpretation of the events.

When I telephoned Mr. Engle on February 16, my call was put through to his boardroom on a speaker system, as he was meeting with his board of directors. My understanding is that Mr. Engle was unable to confirm at that time any personnel moves to Edmonton as the board of directors had not concluded the reorganization process and a decision on the relocation of personnel was still under discussion. In response to my direct question regarding the rumoured relocation of 100 Northwest Territorial Airways personnel, Mr. Engle responded to me, as I advised the House, "that it was absolutely without any foundation whatsoever". He said there may be some reason for the rumour to be started because the company with its two aircraft has now consolidated the maintenance for those aircraft in Edmonton. Hitherto for they were maintained in Calgary and Edmonton, so the maintenance base has been consolidated in Edmonton.

When officials from my department spoke with Mr. Bill Rowe, senior vice-president of Air Canada, he provided them with information on the move of six personnel to Edmonton and the next day a decision taken by the board between the time I raised the question and the relocation, was examined by board members. Mr. Rowe confirmed what I had been told Monday morning, that NWT Air would be consolidating its heavy Electra and 737 maintenance in Edmonton from Calgary. The consolidation requires the relocation of two positions from Yellowknife to Edmonton, the manager of stores and the manager of purchasing, and four clerical positions. The incumbents of these positions are to be given several choices including relocation in the North, moving to Edmonton, or a lateral move within Yellowknife.

NWT Air will be providing technical upgrading courses for eight mechanics which provides the company with the capability of line maintenance for their Boeing 737. This service will allow for the overnighing of NWT Air's 737 in either Yellowknife or Inuvik.

Mr. Rowe advised our officials that over the last six months, NWT Air has created eight new positions in their Yellowknife operations. These include one senior executive position, four managerial positions in flight operations and three clerical positions. Even with the consolidation of maintenance operations in Edmonton, there will still be a net increase of two positions in Yellowknife.

Further Return To Question O388-89(1): Postal And Banking Services In Communities

Recently too, I think it was yesterday, the Member asked me about a response I had made or action I had taken to the post office. I incorrectly said that I had sent a letter on that particular recommendation. I thought I had sent a letter, or I did send a letter previously to the recommendation, which included all the discussion of the debate in this House, but I had not personally acted on that recommendation. However, on January 24th a meeting did occur in Yellowknife with Canada Post at which a representative of the special committee on the northern economy was present, Mr. Nerysoo, and in the discussion that was carried on with regard to banking services being provided by the post office, the post office indicated it was not interested in providing this kind of service. They suggested that possibly the government should look at

banking services. I will be writing a letter shortly to the president of Canada Post to follow up on that and also involve my colleague, the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, in that initiative.

Return To Question O319-89(1): Excessive Increase In Cost Of Licence Plates

Mr. Speaker, I have another response relative to a question again made by the Member for Yellowknife Centre on the fee schedule for vehicle and trailer registrations. Mr. Lewis inquired how the government arrived at the fee schedule for vehicle and trailer registrations.

In January 1988, a study was undertaken to compare our fees with those of other jurisdictions. As a result of this study, a new fee schedule was compiled which generally reflects current national values. After consulting with affected government departments and the NWT trucking industry, a final schedule was developed for review and approval by the Financial Management Board. Regulations were drafted and a fee schedule came into effect on September 1, 1988. The previous fee regulations had been in existence since January of 1986.

With respect to the specific fees questioned by Mr. Lewis, the annual registration fee for a utility trailer is \$20. Trailer fees in the provinces currently vary from \$10 to \$34 annually. The annual registration fee for a passenger vehicle is \$50. Provincial fees vary from \$34 to \$114 annually. Attached to the return, Mr. Speaker, I am including the fee schedule for the various provinces for those particular vehicles.

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

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I have one return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ernerk on March 15, regarding advertising of the position for deputy minister and the assistant deputy minister, Department of Culture and Communications. The position of deputy minister of Culture and Communications was advertised in the Nunatsiaq News on December 16, 1988. The position was also advertised in News North, The Hub, The Drum, the Slave River Journal, the Mackenzie Times and the Yellowknifer. We had also requested that this position be advertised in the Native Press. However the Native Press advised that they were closed for the rest of the year and that they would be issuing no further publications until the new year.

The position of assistant deputy minister was not advertised. This was to allow the new deputy minister's input into the selection of the incumbent for the position of assistant deputy minister. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. You have another one.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three more pertaining to Social Services.

Return To Question O215-89(1): Review Of Scale For Social Services Payments

I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Morin on February 24, 1989, with regard to the social assistance review committee. The review committee have submitted their recommendations for changes to the social assistance regulations. The cost implications have also been provided and are being reviewed in light of the budget considerations and the deficit position projected at year end.

An initial draft of the changes was sent to the Department of Justice in July 1988, for their preliminary review and comment. Once all changes are approved, a final draft will be resubmitted to the Department of Justice for their legal wording. I anticipate that this task will be accomplished so that the regulation changes can be tabled during the fall session of the Legislature.

Return To Question O202-89(1): Recommendations From Internal Review Committee

I have one asked by Mr. Zoe on February 24, 1989, regarding the review of the food scales. A food cost survey was completed in October 1987 and published in June 1988. The results of that survey have been used in reviewing the adequacy of the food allowance for social assistance recipients and the location of each community on the 10 scales. The results of the analysis have recently been approved pending minor changes, and the recommendations will be submitted to cabinet in the very near future. A revised food scale reflecting price changes should be implemented by June 1989.

Further Return To Question O311-89(1): Review Of Decision On Day-Care Funding

I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Nerysoo on March 3, 1989, regarding the status of the federal Child Care Act. Bill C-144, the federal Child Care Act, died when Parliament was dissolved for the November federal election. Child care legislation was not introduced at the brief parliamentary session in December. It is anticipated that child care legislation may be part of the federal government's agenda when Parliament reconvenes in April. The federal government has not given any indication as to the timing or direction any child care initiative may take. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O282-89(1): Air Monitoring System For Garbage Dump Smoke

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Whitford on March 2, 1989, regarding the city of Yellowknife air quality monitoring. The air quality monitoring by this government is the responsibility of the Department of Renewable Resources. Renewable Resources advise that a program to monitor emissions from the dump could be designed and undertaken; however there would be several difficulties inherent in the monitoring of such a source. Among the difficulties are: the potential abundance of hazardous chemicals within the smoke; the complexity of the sampling requirements; the difficulty of establishing a receptor-source link between the air sampled and the dump; the difficulty of establishing a relationship between the chemicals identified and threats to human health. Mr. Speaker, costs for such a short-term monitoring program are estimated to be in excess of \$100,000.

It has already been accepted by the City of Yellowknife and the Department of Health that smoke from the dump is a problem. Discussions have been instituted among the Department of Health, the Mackenzie Regional Health Services, the Department of Renewable Resources and the City of Yellowknife, to resolve this issue. An order has been issued under authority of the Public Health Act which restricts burning to when the wind is blowing away from the city.

In response to public demand, the City of Yellowknife is taking steps to improve the immediate situation. A locked gate and some fencing have been installed to reduce access to the dump. Hours have been restricted and the dump is now open between 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. A large receptacle for garbage is located outside the gate for use when the dump is closed. Through such actions of the city, present and past problems associated with the dump are being examined and a final solution is anticipated sometime this year.

Based upon the foregoing factors, the Minister of Renewable Resources and I concur that the installation and operation of an air monitoring system in the area of the hospital is not warranted at this time.

Return To Question O283-89(1): Research Of Contaminants In Garbage Dump Smoke

I have a further reply to an oral question on the same subject asked by Mr. Nerysoo on March 2, 1989. Mr. Speaker, in order to conduct a research study of contaminants found in smoke emissions from the dump, it would be necessary to first develop an air monitoring program. The Minister of Renewable Resources and myself do not consider that the installation and operation

of an air monitoring system is warranted. Our reasons for this are based on the considerations outlined in the answer that I just delivered to the Assembly a few seconds ago. In the answer I described the short-term measures that have already been undertaken to reduce smoke from the dump, and indicated that a final permanent solution is anticipated sometime this year.

Further Return To Question O354-89(1): Doctor's Hours At Stanton Yellowknife Hospital

Mr. Speaker, if I may proceed with the reply to another question asked by Mr. Whitford on March 9, 1989, regarding emergency services at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. The Stanton Yellowknife Hospital has a doctor on standby on a 24 hour basis. Active members of the hospital's medical staff take their turn to ensure 24 hour medical coverage. "Standby" means that the physician is "on call"; that is, he or she could be reached at any time by telephone and pocket pager, and would be available at the hospital whenever he or she was needed for a case. Thank you.

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

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Whitford on March 15, 1989, concerning the closing of the trapping season for lynx and marten. The trapping season for lynx and marten closed on March 15. This has been the closing date for lynx and marten in zone E3 since at least 1980. The breeding season for lynx begins in mid March and female marten begin to give birth to their young at the same time.

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

Return To Question O122-89(1): Aboriginal Rights

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, this is a response to a question asked by Mr. Morin on February 17, 1989, with regard to aboriginal hunting rights. This is an extremely complicated area of the law and this response is limited to a summary of the main issues.

Hunting by aboriginal people in the NWT essentially falls into three categories: hunting rights as incidents of unextinguished aboriginal title over lands traditionally used and occupied; treaty rights; under statutory schemes.

Treaties 8 and 11 are the source of hunting rights for the Dene in the Western NWT in those treaty areas. It has been argued that Metis hunting rights exist as incidents of aboriginal title, but to date there is no clear legal authority on this point.

Upon completion of the Dene/Metis final agreement, which will be considered as a modern treaty, their rights will be as defined in that agreement. Dene and Metis will have preferential hunting rights in the settlement area and exclusive hunting rights on Dene/Metis lands and will be subject to territorial legislation which is not inconsistent with the agreement.

Inuvialuit hunting rights are governed by the Inuvialuit final agreement, which also sets out certain preferential and exclusive hunting and trapping rights. Again, these are subject to territorial jurisdiction to pass legislation in respect to game management which is not inconsistent with the agreement.

Inuit of the Eastern Arctic have claimed their hunting rights derive from their unextinguished aboriginal title. Once again, once their final agreement has been reached, it will be the source of their hunting rights as specified in the agreement, with those rights being structured in a manner similar to those of the Inuvialuit and the Dene/Metis.

Originally, the jurisdiction to legislate in respect of aboriginal hunting rights was federal, under section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867. However, that jurisdiction was devolved in part to the NWT by sections 16 and 18 of the NWT Act, which recognize the special hunting rights of

Indians and Inuit but gives the territorial government the power to pass wildlife laws for the preservation of game which apply to Indians and Inuit. Territorial wildlife laws cannot, however, restrict Indians and Inuit hunting game for food on unoccupied crown lands unless the game is declared in danger of becoming extinct.

Pursuant to its devolved jurisdiction, the NWT has passed the Wildlife Act and regulations which establish a licensing system applicable to everyone in the NWT, including resident aboriginal peoples and non-resident aboriginal peoples exercising a treaty or aboriginal hunting right in the NWT. The territorial jurisdiction does not totally exclude the jurisdiction of Parliament which continues to legislate in respect of certain species such as marine mammals. Thank you.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O434-89(1): Job Descriptions In Braille

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two simple requests for the Minister of Personnel. Could the Minister provide me, in braille, a job description for government liaison officer and also social worker? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Crow. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Return To Question O434-89(1): Job Descriptions In Braille

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, yes, I will.

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

Question O435-89(1): Transportation Of Housing Materials

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, back in 1921 when the treaty party had arrived at Fort Simpson in an attempt to make a deal or a treaty with the Dene people there, apparently negotiations took place for a number of days but things were not going too well. Finally, in an attempt by the treaty party to secure a deal, they apparently promised to some of the Dene leaders that if they signed the treaty the next summer they would provide stoves and some grub and federal officials would carry the stove and grub to wherever these people lived out in the bush.

I am not going to ask Mr. Patterson to carry a stove since his government has now supplanted the federal government, but I am going to ask Mr. Butters, in the event that all of the housing materials do not get to the communities on the winter road, whether he or his officials will be prepared to carry on their backs the stoves and the materials that are supposed to be in the communities very cheaply on the winter road?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

Return To Question O435-89(1): Transportation Of Housing Materials

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I guess that is a serious question and possibly we could take it by canoe in the canoe race down the river in June with Mr. Gargan's group.

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

Question O436-89(1): Closing Date For Winter Roads

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, it is somewhat related. I was going to ask the Minister of Public Works, what is the closing date for the winter roads this spring? Generally, usually it is set and I think we are all finding that March has been a very cold month so if it keeps up at this rate, I do not know whether the ice will be melted by the time Mr. Gargan's canoe race begins in July...

--- Laughter

...but has the government set a closing date for the winter roads?

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

Return To Question O436-89(1): Closing Date For Winter Roads

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the policy is that there is a date certain set for the various winter roads. For example, in Fort Good Hope the date set for closing is March 20. However, there are always, prior to the closing date, one or two days when, if people request that we re-evaluate it and the weather is colder and the road inspector deems that the road is still safe, they generally do make extensions on request, depending on the conditions of the road. But by general policy we have to notify ahead of time what that closing date is going to be. However, it is not hard and fast, given particular conditions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Ernerk.

Question O437-89(1): Employment In Repulse Bay

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my Member's statement this morning, I indicated on behalf of the Keewatin Regional Health Board that new initiatives are needed in the areas of housing, sanitation and economic development. My question is to the Government Leader. In light of the reintroduction of the STEP program, could the government consider providing funds as of April 1, 1989, funds for the people of Repulse Bay just so that employment opportunities might be found in that community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O437-89(1): Employment In Repulse Bay

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is, yes. Perhaps the Member would permit me to go a little further and say that we have had a chance to look further into this situation raised by the Keewatin Regional Health Board in their letter to myself dated yesterday which the Member quoted from in the House this morning.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the Member that in addition to looking at the possible use of STEP funds to improve the employment situation in Repulse Bay, which we can deduce contributes to the fundamental causes of tuberculosis, I have asked the regional director to establish immediately a working group composed of the departments of Economic Development, the Housing Corporation, Municipal and Community Affairs, a representative from the regional health board or the Department of Health, Social Services, and a representative from the hamlet of Repulse Bay to immediately look into the problems raised in the letter and see what solutions we can come up with.

Mr. Speaker, I would note that I am informed that Economic Development and Tourism does have plans to place an area economic development officer in Repulse Bay within the next month or so, which should also assist in developing some kind of an economic plan. There are plans for sewage and solid waste disposal in the coming years. A new water supply system was constructed last summer and there are some plans under way in the housing area but we need

to examine what we are doing and examine what, in addition, we can do and STEP is certainly one of many possibilities we will be examining shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to another Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: New question to another Minister, Mr. Ernerk.

Question O438-89(1): Minister's Visit To Repulse Bay

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. Is the Minister planning to visit the community of Repulse Bay within the next short while?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O438-89(1): Minister's Visit To Repulse Bay

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, it was my intention, even before the escalating results from the tuberculosis outbreak, to go to Repulse Bay. Certainly, I have always been interested in how we deal with education toward good health. Certainly there are some areas that I believe that may have been able to stimulate people's interest in how they combat tuberculosis many years ago, and I feel they are still relevant and, rather than reinventing the wheel, what I had hoped to do in working with the department was to see if we could bring forward the educational programs that National Health and Welfare have done way back in the 1960s and early 1970s that were very effective in explaining to people responsibilities and good health care. So I had intended to travel to Repulse Bay, mainly because of the particular area of concern. It probably will be after the April session has concluded. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ernerk, supplementary.

Question O439-89(1): Spread Of Tuberculosis In Classrooms

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I should have thanked the Government Leader for his answer first. My supplementary question is to the Minister of Health. I understand that children with tuberculosis are in school. Does TB spread in the classrooms?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O439-89(1): Spread Of Tuberculosis In Classrooms

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, from my limited understanding of the spreading of tuberculosis, it would depend upon the particular case. Some people's stages of tuberculosis lends to further spreading. Others do not. I am sure that the Department of Health, with the extra resources that have been given to Repulse Bay, are probably evaluating this but I can get back to you with specifics on that.

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

Question O440-89(1): Legal Advice For MLAs

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice earlier today indicated that the present legal aid agreement does not really provide for the lawyers involved in that to give advice to MLAs. The initial question arose out of a concern Mr. Crow had, living in Sanikiluaq. How do you get legal advice on issues that occasionally arise? So it is a very serious matter. That being the case, then what would the Minister suggest an MLA do in terms of legal advice?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O440-89(1): Legal Advice For MLAs

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. The question is a good one and I thought about it before I gave the response. It seems to me clearly that legal advice to MLAs is the responsibility of the Law Clerk here in the Assembly. It would seem to me that perhaps this is something to be brought to caucus as how can that advice, what sort of communication system, or is there a way to get a law clerk or people from the law firm the Law Clerk belongs to, to the communities. I do not know another answer because we definitely cannot do it under the legal aid agreement. Because the Law Clerk is given that responsibility to provide legal advice to Members, it seems to me that is the area we should probably explore, if there is an imaginative way to expand the services of the Law Clerk to Members.

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

Question O441-89(1): Kiggavik Project

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have already asked the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources about the Kiggavik project. My question was, is it the intention that the FEARO review process be used to determine whether mining should go on or not, or to determine the conditions under which mining can be developed in that community? We have uranium mines all over the place. We know that they can exist. I want to know the answer to that question because in response to my previous question the Minister said I would just have to look at the terms of reference. The terms of reference do not provide me with that answer, Mr. Speaker, so I would like the government response, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O441-89(1): Kiggavik Project

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the reason I referred the Member to the terms of reference on the review of the Kiggavik mine is that the whole exercise, Mr. Speaker, is to look at what the operator intends to do, look at the environmental conditions that they propose to do the operation in, and look at the general conditions. If specific questions cannot be answered, in particular on the environment, the panel would not approve the operation and the setting up of a mine. Perhaps I can provide further information from the panel on exactly what areas they intend to examine. But in those areas which affect the environment, if the company cannot answer to the satisfaction of the panel that they are going to operate in safe environmental conditions, my understanding is that this is a prerequisite to granting them a permit to proceed with any mine, or the Kiggavik project.

Specifically the terms of reference indicate that the panel has to be satisfactorily confident that the mine can operate and can proceed under safe conditions. So those are the questions that would be examined, like any other activity. Mr. Speaker, if the Member wants more specifics on exactly what will be examined, I can pull that further reference out for him.

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

Supplementary To Question O441-89(1): Kiggavik Project

MR. LEWIS: I would not want to put words in the Minister's mouth, Mr. Speaker, but is the Minister saying, then, that this process is there to determine the conditions under which mining can proceed, and that once those conditions are met the government would be happy to see that mine proceed? That is what I seem to hear her saying.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question O441-89(1): Kiggavik Project

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I hope that I will take the honourable Member's statement that he does not wish to put words in the government's mouth. Mr. Speaker, the panel was set up as an independent panel to hear the views of the people and to examine the project as it is being proposed. The panel will look at the proposal put forward by Kiggavik. They are an independent panel. The government and I do not take a position on whether we are approving or not approving. This process is outside and in the realm of the panel consideration. Those considerations are independent of this government.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this is particularly the reason I would like to see the panel appear in the committee of the whole so that there can be a clear understanding on exactly what that process is. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O441-89(1): Kiggavik Project

MR. LEWIS: Again, Mr. Speaker, supplementary. Would it be true to say, then, that as a result of this process the government will have a position on uranium mining? Is that what we would expect to get out of this particular hearing even though it is independent of government? Will the government be affected by it in taking its position on uranium mining in the Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question O441-89(1): Kiggavik Project

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the panel's findings are independent of any position a government may or may not take.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Is this a supplementary, Mr. Lewis? Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question O442-89(1): Correct Information On Lake Harbour Airstrip

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to bring up the issue of airstrips again. I would like to direct this question to the Government Leader regarding the answer I received yesterday from the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs as to whether his quotations were correct, or is there some information there that was wrong regarding Lake Harbour? Who is right? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O442-89(1): Correct Information On Lake Harbour Airstrip

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I think that the Member has had discussions with Inuktitut speakers who are bilingual, who informed him and informed us that there were some errors of communication in the heated exchange that took place in the question period yesterday. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that although the Member may not be perfectly satisfied with everything that Mr. Wray said, or myself for that matter, there was one exchange where Mr. Wray stated that the community is in support of airstrip improvements, and a new airstrip, and I believe that Mr. Arlooktoo felt that Mr. Wray had been saying that there was a lack of community support. I believe this error caused some confusion at that time. I trust that Mr. Wray's subsequent clarification of his position, which is that he acknowledges the strong support of the community of the Member for substantial airstrip improvements, has clarified that particular point. That was the one area, Mr. Speaker, where I felt there was some imperfect communication due to the language barrier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Supplementary, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Supplementary To Question O442-89(1): Correct Information On Lake Harbour Airstrip

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I am asking for is that he said that First Air does not support Lake Harbour in wanting a new airstrip. What I am asking is that this air carrier is a public transport, and he said that First Air does not support Lake Harbour residents in wanting a new airstrip. Is that correct?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Further Return To Question O442-89(1): Correct Information On Lake Harbour Airstrip

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, as Members know, unfortunately Mr. Wray is travelling on government business today. However, with regard to the position of First Air, Mr. Wray did have an opportunity later yesterday, through his staff, to speak to a senior executive of First Air on the question of whether First Air supported a longer airstrip. Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the position of First Air is that if there were a longer airstrip, the company might well be willing or able to put on larger aircraft to Lake Harbour, namely the 748 aircraft. To that extent, Mr. Speaker, I believe that Mr. Wray had informed Mr. Arlooktoo that indeed his statement on the position of First Air might not have been completely accurate.

However, Mr. Speaker, it should also be pointed out that First Air also stated that, yes they might be willing to put 748 aircraft into Lake Harbour. However, there would not be four 748 aircraft flights into Lake Harbour per week, matching the present Twin Otter schedule, which is four times per week. So, in fact, there might be quite a reduction in frequency of flights if the larger aircraft could land in Lake Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Mr. Wray has clarified that position to the Member, and I believe as well that it is a modification from positions that First Air has taken in the past, which was that they would not consider a larger aircraft, even if the airstrip were extended. I trust that these comments, Mr. Speaker, will clarify the position of First Air as we received them from First Air late yesterday. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Further supplementary, Mr. Arlooktoo.

Supplementary To Question O442-89(1): Correct Information On Lake Harbour Airstrip

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I was getting unsatisfactory responses yesterday, I would like to get an apology from the Minister for saying that I was wrong, and there was one attitude that said they did not care about Lake Harbour. So I am asking for an apology for incorrect quotations yesterday. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Further Return To Question O442-89(1): Correct Information On Lake Harbour Airstrip

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I do believe that there was an error of communication on whether or not the people of Lake Harbour care; we know very much that they do care. In order to respond to the Member's concern, I certainly, on behalf of Mr. Wray, and this government for that matter, I would be quite willing to apologize for errors of fact that may have been inadvertently provided about the position of First Air. I acknowledge that Mr. Wray's statements were not quite accurate and should have been clarified, and I believe that is why Mr. Wray spoke to the honourable Member yesterday. I will apologize for those errors and hope that in future we can continue to have a constructive discussion on this very pressing matter.

I would also say again, Mr. Speaker, that we welcome the support of Mr. Arlooktoo and other MLAs for dealing with what I hope Members will agree is at least not solely a territorial problem; it is substantially a problem to do with the federal government and I am pleased that we now have a

new strategy of getting MLAs' support for the work that we have been rather frustrated in trying to do on your behalf. We look forward to having a strong delegation go there, and hopefully it will make the impact that we have not been able to make to date with the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Question O443-89(1): Repairs To Deh Cho Hall, Fort Simpson

MR. SIBBESTON: A question to the Minister of Education. Apparently his officials were in Fort Simpson some time back and indicated to a number of people who were interested in using the Deh Cho hall there that repairs would be made to the place sometime this winter. I received some representation from the women involved in the day-care association there who want to use part of the Deh Cho hall as a day-care centre. They are wondering when the repairs will be done.

They are also very concerned that because of the delay that any funding which they may be able to receive from Social Services not be jeopardized, inasmuch as their application is not in, and it is not their fault, it is simply that the space they had hoped to use is not ready. Could the Minister indicate when some repairs might be done? Also is the Minister of Social Services conscious of the interest of the day-care people in Fort Simpson.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had answered that question earlier this session. If I could get back to the Member because I am not fully aware of what the situation is right now. Thank you.

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

Question O444-89(1): Extent Of Problem In Education

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education. This morning I listened to Mr. Ken Malanchuk, the principal of the high school in Fort Smith. What he indicated, Mr. Speaker, was that half the kids in that school failed their exams and in his discussion of this problem he indicated that this was not an isolated thing in Fort Smith, that in his conversations with other people he suspected it was a widespread problem, that there was something wrong in the sense that kids are really not interested, they do not care very much.

So my question to the Minister, is this in fact true that it is a widespread issue that kids are really not doing very well in school, that they are not interested and is it the fault of the system or is it the fault of the kids?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O444-89(1): Extent Of Problem In Education

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, it is an impression I have been receiving in talking to people from Fort Smith and people within the department as well, that there is a lot of concern about the morale and the quality of work being carried out by some of the staff, the teachers, in Fort Smith, not only in the school itself but also in the level of interest and enthusiasm given by the community to the education society. This has been recognized as a problem for a number of years.

So my staff, the deputy minister of Education, travelled down to Fort Smith yesterday to talk to a number of people in the community and within the school to give me some advice on what we should do to help the people that are responsible for the school, the teachers that are teaching

at the school and some of the parents that have identified problems that they perceive with the system and with some of the staff within the school. So some work is being done right now to try to address the concern or the problem that you have identified. Something will be done in the course of the spring to decide how we are going to address that overall problem. Thank you.

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

Question O445-89(1): Response Requested Prior To Recess

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, the Minister took my previous question under advisement and I was wondering if the Minister could reply prior to us recessing for three weeks? The reason I am asking is that two weeks from today the divisional board is going to be meeting and there were five outstanding issues that they want to clear up.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question O445-89(1): Response Requested Prior To Recess

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, my staff have not given me an update yet on the current discussions but even if the session ends and I do not have a response for the Member, I can meet with him privately or pass on the information and the response that he has requested.

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

Question O446-89(1): Equal Employment In Higher Level Positions

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Government Leader. I commend him and the Minister responsible for Culture and Communications for hiring such a person as Gina Blondin. I am advised that the competition for the job brought out of the woodwork, as it were, quite a number of good native people who are interested in a job such as that. Would the Government Leader take the initiative to pursue some of these good native people to see if they can be given jobs in the high levels of government with a view to making the higher levels of government also representative of the general population of the North?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O446-89(1): Equal Employment In Higher Level Positions

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I regret to inform the honourable Member that in fact that was not the case. In fact, unfortunately, there was not a great deal. There did not seem to be a great number of applicants for this interesting job and I would say that there was a distinct paucity of the sort of native northern applicants that we would have hoped to have seen. So, unfortunately, that was not the case, Mr. Speaker, and we will have to look at ways in which we can attract such people both from within and from without the public service because unfortunately they simply did not emerge during this competition. I thank the honourable Member for his comments on the appointment. Thank you.

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

Question O447-89(1): Priorities For Road Construction

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago priorities were set on road construction based on traffic flow. It has now changed to priorities being based on the amount of investment put on roads, and this is the third kind of priority being made on the priorities for roads and that is with regard to the assessment of geometric safety related factors. I would like to ask the Minister what that means

and I also would like to ask the Minister whether she has got the list of roads and their priorities that she has set?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister for Transportation.

Return To Question O447-89(1): Priorities For Road Construction

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, geometric safety factors are the areas where there are considerable, perhaps vision impairments in the structure of the road or it could mean that there is an area that really should be realigned to make safer driving. We have many roads which have been built and sometimes a road is on the wrong balance and when turning a corner it has been found that it has to be relevelled to a different angle. These types of things are geometric safety factors; vision, quick turns, turns that were put in place when the road was first built that probably should be straightened out. That is the relatively simple explanation to geometric safety factors.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I did table during the budget session two possibilities if the transfer was concluded on a number of programs from the federal to the territorial government. There would be a readjustment of priorities on which roads would be done according to the Northwest Territories requirements. Right now, at this specific time, there are territorial priorities set on the funding that we are totally responsible for. The other funding which we have done in the past and up to today, which we call a vote 4/5, which is being done on behalf of the federal government and the priorities are set by the federal government. I believe that the document that will transfer these previously vote 4/5 funds to the territorial government is now being prepared. I believe this was supposed to be faxed yesterday but these are being concluded. There are two priority lists which I can provide to the Member as we did previously. These are not hard and fast at this time. So, Mr. Speaker, I can provide again the priorities and if the Member wishes to discuss again when we come back in April on further details on this, we will be pleased to do so. Thank you.

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

Question O448-89(1): Role Of Regional Director

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government Leader about the role of regional directors. I understand there is some reorganization and that there is now a clearer role for the regional director in our system. Could he tell us what that role is as he sees it?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O448-89(1): Role Of Regional Director

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what reorganization the honourable Member is referring to although of course there was reorganization that took place in the Fort Smith Region which is still being fine tuned at this moment. But apart from that there has been no other reorganization at the regional level. Mr. Speaker, I would summarize the role of the regional directors simply as one of co-ordinating the work of departments and to a lesser extent, agencies of the government at the regional level to ensure that regional priorities and the character of regions are reflected in the manner in which government programs are delivered and the priorities that are set.

Now clearly superintendents of departments have a reporting relationship to the deputy ministers and sometimes the assistant deputy ministers of those departments. However, there is a strong need I believe for co-ordination at the regional level. A very simple example would be to make sure that everybody does not go on holidays all at once. That is a simple example but there are other instances in daily work where I think a strong co-ordinating hand is required.

Mr. Speaker, there is a document which has been arrived at as a result of work from the senior management committee which includes deputy ministers and regional directors, that lays out in

more detail the roles of regional directors in such matters as approvals of leave, hiring, financial approvals and the limits of financial authorities and those kinds of measures. I would make that document available to the Member if he wishes more detail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O448-89(1): Role Of Regional Director

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The example the Government Leader gave of the kind of authority that a regional director has would be to look after holiday schedules which is really a very low level clerical job. Would the regional director have any say about hiring? Suppose the superintendent wanted to hire somebody that the regional director did not want to see hired by our government. Could he overrule that superintendent for the hiring of an individual in that jurisdiction? As he has pointed out, the regional director is responsible for that region and making sure that the region reflects government policy. Could he overrule a regional superintendent on a hiring issue?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Further Return To Question O448-89(1): Role Of Regional Director

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the role of the regional director in hiring is to be involved in the senior appointments within departments so in most cases, Mr. Speaker, there would not be a situation of having a regional director overruling or in conflict with a regional superintendent. The way the process works is the regional superintendent would be involved in senior appointments within a department within a region, and would take a role and would be part of a consensual decision on who should or should not be hired. It would never come to the stage where there would be the opportunity for that kind of overruling. The decision is made collectively by the interview team which would of course include the Department of Personnel. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O448-89(1): Role Of Regional Director

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That has helped a little bit but it does not indicate which value prevails. In other words, if the regional superintendent wants to have somebody on his staff or her staff and the regional director does not agree, then what happens?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O448-89(1): Role Of Regional Director

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Well I think, Mr. Speaker, that I have indicated that I do not think this situation would ever occur when you have an interview team composed of representatives of the department, the regional director's office and the Department of Personnel. However, if the interview team clearly was paralysed, which I think would be the exception, then it would ultimately be the responsibility of the department to resolve that conflict and the decision I would expect would be taken by the appropriate deputy minister of the appropriate department. But I would think that would be an extremely rare situation, Mr. Speaker, for the reasons indicated.

There has to be a co-operative relationship at the regional level and we have encouraged all our regional directors to seek positive working relations with deputy ministers and headquarters people and the superintendents that they work with on a daily basis. So I really think it is a hypothetical question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O448-89(1): Role of Regional Director

MR. LEWIS: Okay, my final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Government Leader. Who does the regional director actually report to for his work? Who is the line person to whom the regional directors report?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O448-89(1): Role Of Regional Director

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, regional directors report to the Government Leader. Thank you.

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

Question O449-89(1): Return Of Inuit Art

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Minister's statements this morning, the Minister of Culture and Communications stated of those 3300 Inuit art and prints and other items, 1653 of those Inuit art items would be given back to the North. I would like to say to the Minister, I do not think that is quite enough. It is just over half of those Inuit art. Was the Canadian government only able to give that amount?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O449-89(1): Return Of Inuit Art

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, the ICI and the regional councils who had negotiated with the government, and ITC and TFN, along with Ann Hanson, the Deputy Commissioner, had tried to get the 3300 Inuit art. When they started discussing with the Canadian government, it was almost impossible to try and get all these. Ann Hanson was able to help in the process, so that the amount of Inuit art given back to the North was 1653 of them. The negotiators really pushed hard to try and get the Inuit art back. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O449-89(1): Return Of Inuit Art

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, in his statement the Minister says... (Translation ends) "...shipped to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre to be documented and conserved prior to being transferred to the Eastern Arctic." (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Culture and Communications which part of the Eastern Arctic will they be transferred to?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O449-89(1): Return Of Inuit Art

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, these 1653 will have to be selected first by the organizations who had dealt with these and they will be sent to the museum first so they can be documented as to what items they are. They will be sent to the Eastern Arctic. We are trying to get a cultural centre first. For example in the Baffin Region they are trying to get a cultural centre, and ICI and the Keewatin are also trying to get a building. As soon as we have these centres in place, we can then transfer these 1653 Inuit art to those centres. I think we will be hearing from the different organizations who had negotiated on this art and we will have to find out exactly where they are going to be sending this art to.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

Question O450-89(1): Effect Of Smoke From City Dump

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health. I very much appreciated her replies to some of my previous questions this morning, at least on one of them. I want to ask the Minister if she is satisfied that there is nothing in the smoke from the dump that will permanently affect or harm people in the city of Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question O450-89(1): Effect Of Smoke From City Dump

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I believe I indicated that the measures that were proposed in attempting to deal with the problem are under way. However, I do not have the statistics or the knowledge to say that there is nothing that will permanently damage an individual inhaling the debris from the outfall of the dump. I cannot say that. Thank you.

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

Question O451-89(1): Government's Position Re Uranium Mine, Baker Lake

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question is a new one and it is directed to the Government Leader. Yesterday, in a Member's statement Mr. Wray indicated that Baker Lake did not need anybody's advice as to what it will be doing about the uranium mine close by, that they can take care of themselves. Is this the government's position as well?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O451-89(1): Government's Position Re Uranium Mine, Baker Lake

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the honourable Member noted that Mr. Wray's comments, which he had made in a Member's statement, in lieu of a reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address, were made in his capacity as MLA. Mr. Speaker, I believe that Mr. Wray was expressing some concern that there have been interest groups established in the Keewatin who have, in his view, caused some undue alarm and put the debate and the issues in quite an exaggerated and overstated context. I believe that Mr. Wray was speaking as an MLA and reflecting the concern of the hamlet council of Baker Lake in those statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am not exactly certain how I should go about this at this point in time, because we are running out of time in question period and I would like it extended.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford, you do have the floor and you may ask to extend it, but if you extend question period you extend it only to deal with the matter at hand, which would be your question. Oral questions. Mr. Ernerk.

Question Period Extended

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that question period be extended.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ernerk, are you requesting unanimous consent to waive the Rules?

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive the Rules and extend question period for today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Question period for today will be extended. Mr. Ernerk, you have the floor now, you have the question.

Question O452-89(1): Consequences Of Bowhead Whale Hunting

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. This morning we listened to the news on CBC. The Keewatin Inuit Association president stated that this summer they will be hunting bowhead whales for the first time. After they had gotten bowhead whales, what kind of consequences would they be studying? What kind of studies are you going to be conducting? (Translation ends)

My question to the Minister is this. Could the Minister of Renewable Resources tell this House what sort of consequences there would be, or there might be after the bowhead hunt takes place in the Keewatin Region?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O452-89(1): Consequences Of Bowhead Whale Hunting

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I do not know precisely what the consequences might be but I know it is against the law of Canada to hunt or harvest bowhead whales without a permit given by the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans. If I may, if you allow me, Mr. Speaker, to look into the possibilities of the consequences that might be derived from their actions. Since we might not be meeting tomorrow, I will try to get back to the Member today on the possible consequences. This government will not support a group who will be hunting species that are endangered without proper permits.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: I will attempt to make contact with this group. I have mentioned in this House before that I have not received the detailed recommendation or their application to the Fisheries and Oceans. I still do not have that information available to me. I will try to get back to the Member today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ernerk.

Supplementary To Question O452-89(1): Consequences Of Bowhead Whale Hunting

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary question to the Minister. When you speak to the Keewatin Inuit Association, what would you say to them?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O452-89(1): Consequences Of Bowhead Whale Hunting

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, their application for a permit to hunt, I have not received it as yet, and I am not knowledgeable of how they are going to hunt this summer. They have not told me about it as yet. At first I would like to know whether it is true or not, whether whale hunting will happen or not. That is the question I would place to them. Thank you.

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

Question O453-89(1): Government Intervention In Baker Lake Mine

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Government Leader. It is concerning the uranium mining in the Baker Lake area. Although I can appreciate that fact that it may not be everybody's business if something does take place in one part of the country

but in the eyes of the world, it will affect the NWT. Is the government prepared to intervene if a convincing argument can be made toward the negative effects of uranium mining in this area?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader. Another borderline hypothetical question.

Return To Question O453-89(1): Government Intervention In Baker Lake Mine

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I think the position of the GNWT on this very significant project, which does present us with a number of causes for concern in a number of areas, environment, health, occupational safety, has been that we support the fullest possible discussion of these issues through an environmental assessment review process. We have had careful input into the terms of reference and the composition of the panel in order that there be the fullest discussion.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources indicated earlier today, our government certainly would be prepared to take a position once the views of the people and once the results of the FEARO inquiry have been reached and realized. So we are certainly prepared to take a position and state our concern once the facts emerge. Thank you.

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

Question O454-89(1): Inuit Regional Councils

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Government Leader. In his statement this morning, the Minister of Culture and Communications referred to the term Inuit regional councils. Mr. Speaker, I have never heard of Inuit regional councils. Is this a new organization or are these new organizations?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O454-89(1): Inuit Regional Councils

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, that is a good question. I would say that in view of the strong positions our government has taken about proliferation of regional bodies we certainly did not intend nor do we need to create yet another regional body. Mr. Speaker, the reference was intended to refer to regional councils. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. The clock being 12:00 p.m. the House will take a lunch break until 1:30 p.m.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O455-89(1): Decisions Re Appointment Of Deputy Ministers

MR. LEWIS: My question is to the Deputy Government Leader, Mr. Speaker. This morning I asked about decisions at the regional level. When there is a difference of opinion between a regional director and one of his superintendents, who decides? My question is this, when there is a difference of opinion between the Government Leader and a Minister about who should be administering their department, then does the Minister get the kind of individual that they want in order to fulfil the functions of their department? There is a parallel, Mr. Speaker, between the situation I raised this morning and the one I am raising now.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Deputy Government Leader, that question is being directed at you. Take the question as having been deferred to you, Mr. Government Leader. Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O455-89(1): Decisions Re Appointment Of Deputy Ministers

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been making appointments of deputy ministers in consultation with the Ministers of the appropriate departments. Apart from that, the decisions about senior management positions are taken in the normal process through involvement by the Department of Personnel and departmental officials. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lewis.

Supplementary To Question O455-89(1): Decisions Re Appointment Of Deputy Ministers

MR. LEWIS: My question to the Government Leader then, Mr. Speaker, is this. A hypothetical question again, a matter of policy now. When there is a difference of opinion about which would be the best individual to run a department, whose opinion prevails as to who that person should be; the Minister responsible, who was at the interviews and who interviews all the candidates, or the Government Leader, who may or may not be at all the interviews? I am talking about those senior positions, deputy minister positions.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O455-89(1): Decisions Re Appointment Of Deputy Ministers

MR. PATTERSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have taken upon myself the ultimate authority for making those decisions but I can assure the Member that I think, once again, that what he is suggesting is hypothetical. The reality is that I have been involved in all the deputy minister interviews and I will continue to be involved in them all. It has been my experience so far that there has been no conflict between myself and the appropriate Minister about what course should be taken once those interviews are complete. Thank you.

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

Question O456-89(1): Regional Staff In Eastern Kitikmeot

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Government Leader and it is in regard to the decentralization. When the decentralization was first introduced to the Northwest Territories, my communities thought they were going to benefit because the government jobs are the main job opportunities in the communities. In my area there was just one person from the regional office that was moved to the eastern part of the Kitikmeot and the rest went to the other major, larger community. I am wondering if there is going to be more personnel from the regional office through decentralization moving on, getting positions in Spence, Pelly or Gjoa? Is there any other staff that are going to be moved to these other communities through decentralization in the future?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O456-89(1): Regional Staff In Eastern Kitikmeot

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we could in fact locate additional government personnel in those eastern Kitikmeot communities. I cannot tell the Member that we have any specific plans in that regard today. However, I can assure him that we will be looking for every opportunity to create additional government jobs in those communities within the guidelines and policy that has been tabled in this Legislature. Thank you.

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

Question O457-89(1): TB Outbreak In Repulse Bay

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health. The epidemic that is happening in Repulse Bay, with regard to TB, has there been a number of individuals that were quarantined and where are they being treated?

MR. SPEAKER: Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, because I do not know the answer to that specific question, I will take it under advisement.

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

Question O458-89(1): Assistant Regional Director, Keewatin Region

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. With regard to the position of assistant regional director for the Keewatin Region, has this position been advertised throughout the Northwest Territories through newspapers?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O458-89(1): Assistant Regional Director, Keewatin Region

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have talked with the honourable Member about the desirability of using the vacancy that is in place for the assistant regional director as an opportunity to train and prepare a northern resident, preferably a long-term Keewatin resident, and preferably an Inuk, to take over the regional director's position within a reasonable period of time. So, Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of that plan I have asked the present regional director to work on identifying potential candidates for the assistant regional director position, who would be willing and have the potential training for a period of time to take over the regional director's position. I have asked him to undertake an informal search within the public service and outside the public service with a view to identifying the appropriate candidate with those particular qualifications.

Mr. Speaker, to date there has not been a competition but I can assure the Member that the search is on and under way and depending on the results of that search, we may or may not have need for competition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O459-89(1): Power Line With Alternative Nesting Areas

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, the Minister announced a few days ago a tender for the construction of a power line from Snare to Yellowknife; a much improved one over the old power

line. In the past there have been a number of accidents resulting from birds nesting on the power poles. They short out the wires and such things as that. The question is, has the department in its design, built in things that would prevent accidents from happening like they have in the past, shorting out the lines and things? But even more than that, Mr. Speaker, would the Minister be able to tell me whether or not they have built in things that would assist nesting birds, eagles and ravens, that use these high vantage points as nesting sites? Build platforms or something for them to safely build their nests and prevent any outages here. A little ecology question.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O459-89(1): Power Line With Alternative Nesting Areas

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, certainly the Member's concern has been discussed and the Power Corporation is fully aware of the environmental involvement of man-made support systems being built in an environment normally treasured by wildlife resources. It is anticipated that the steel power construction will be less attractive to nesting birds but I could be more specific on that, whether it was really designed to detract. But I am quite sure that there is nothing built into the structure of the line to assist birds to nest in alternative areas or away from the line. However, if there is anything that I am not aware of I can assure the Member that the concerns he raises and the awareness of that particular problem was discussed in designing the power line. I think there is a limitation to what you can do. The Power Corporation was aware of that situation. Thank you.

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

Question O460-89(1): Government Policy On Uranium Mining

MR. LEWIS: My question is to the Government Leader again, Mr. Speaker. But it relates to a statement that was made as a Member's statement by Mr. Wray when he said, "The subject of uranium mining has been a hot topic for the past little while and it all revolves around my home community, Baker Lake."

Mr. Speaker, I have several letters on my desk, one of them from a Mr. Duchesne. There is a meeting on the ecology of Nuclear Free North this evening, where Members have been invited to attend to discuss the whole issue of uranium mining. Is Mr. Wray, when he makes the statement that this is only a matter for the local community, making a statement on government policy? Because it seems to me that what the Member has done here is that he has indicated that communities, basically, will more or less have the say in what goes on in the area. For example, Mr. Speaker, if I may carry on, as a supplementary to this, and to enlarge on the point, there are many, many people that depend on caribou that go through that whole area. It is not just the people of Baker Lake that will decide or determine what the future developments of this government will be, or the position of this government, on uranium mining. Was Mr. Wray making a point that relates to government policy, on the issue of uranium mining, in his Member's statement?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, the Minister may, under our Rules, under Rule 23(4), make a statement under Members' statements that must not, must not, refer to his responsibility as a Minister. Having put that straight, perhaps the Government Leader does have some comments to the question.

Return To Question O460-89(1): Government Policy On Uranium Mining

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member was making a Member's statement, not a Ministers' statement. He was talking about events that had taken place in his community whereby there had been agreement by the hamlet to conduct a poll in the community to express residents' views on this issue. He was not articulating government policy, Mr. Speaker. That would have been done through a Ministers' statement by the Minister responsible, who is Ms Cournoyea. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, supplementary.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Was not the Minister then using his Member's statement to, in fact, make a policy statement? My understanding is this government has got no...

Question Ruled Out Of Order

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, you are out of order with that question. The rule quite clearly states, as I said, that a Minister may make a statement under Member's statements under the rule I quoted, but he must, and the word is must, stick to constituency concerns and not make statements on behalf of either the cabinet or the department he is responsible for. Mr. Pudluk.

Question O461-89(1): Visits By Housing Corporation Staff

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I received the reply from the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation yesterday. Mr. Arlooktoo asked a supplementary on Question O393-89(1), page 2308, asking if he could send one of his staff to the community to explain about the proposed rent scale. The Minister answered that. Your staff has been into the communities, but they are so rushed that they spend about a couple of hours in the communities trying to explain to the people of the settlement. I wonder if the Minister could, when he is sending his staff to the community -- I wonder if they could spend more than a couple of hours in the communities to explain the proposal? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O461-89(1): Visits By Housing Corporation Staff

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I agree that a proposal as extensive and important as this one requires much more than just two hours in the community. I have instructed my staff from the district office to go into the community. I had assumed they would take as much time as they needed to consult and work with the people in the communities.

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

Supplementary To Question O461-89(1): Visits By Housing Corporation Staff

MR. PUDLUK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I had a phone call on Monday or Tuesday from Grise Fiord. One of his staff went to Grise Fiord to try and explain that proposal and I think he went there only for a day and then he wanted to leave on the same day or the next day. The settlement of Grise Fiord was not satisfied. They said they do not get enough information or explanation on the proposal. That is my reason and I wonder if the Minister could look into this subject further.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O461-89(1): Visits By Housing Corporation Staff

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for his information and his advice and, yes, I will indicate to the staff in all the regions that when discussing this proposal that they take sufficient time to ensure that everybody is well aware of its implications and the meanings that it will have for people in the future.

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

Supplementary To Question O461-89(1): Visits By Housing Corporation Staff

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister, when he is sending his staff to the community -- it is very hard to hold a public meeting on that day. I wonder if your staff would be willing to talk on the radio in the communities?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question O461-89(1): Visits By Housing Corporation Staff

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, that sounds like an excellent suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Whitford.

Question O462-89(1): Native Employees In Department Of Justice

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Justice was before the House in the committee of the whole yesterday discussing his department and I had asked him a question then about affirmative action and I promised him I would get back to him with another question. My question today, sir, is, in order that I have information from which I can form a baseline to see just how progressive the department is over the next year, can the Minister give me the numbers and the levels of the native employees within his department? He has 100 or so person years. How many native people work for your department, and at what levels?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Justice critic is doing his job, I see here. I am more than prepared, Mr. Speaker, to make that information available to him. I would like to read a quotation, Mr. Speaker, from the Equal Employment Directorate and their review of our affirmative action policy last month -- and I want to emphasize this -- "Based on its recent work, the department appears to have found its stride in terms of affirmative action and is moving ahead well in planning for future years." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Supplementary.

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Minister answered my question.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I said, yes.

AN HON. MEMBER: Try again.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Whitford, I should have mentioned that the Minister took your question as notice. He said he would get back to you. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I will repeat it. If you check Hansard, I said yes, I will make the information available, and then I read the quote. I will not read the quote again because I know the Member has heard it twice and he knows it by heart. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The question was taken as notice.

---Laughter

Mr. Crow.

Question O463-89(1): Communication Problem

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Government Leader, and I thank him very much for taking me to my seat. My question is, is there a communication problem or lack of communication between executive assistants to the Ministers, or is there a lack of communication between Ministers and deputy ministers? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O463-89(1): Communication Problem

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, Ministers have been spending an awful lot of time in the Legislature these days, and I am afraid that our contact with our personal staff and our deputy ministers has definitely suffered as a result of that. Of course, we enjoy every minute that we spend in the Legislature.

---Applause

We enjoy every minute of question period, but I think that recently our departmental work has had to take second priority to being in this Legislature. Apart from that, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any communication problems, except the usual problem of a lack of time to spend as much time as we would like with departments and with our own personal staff, in view of the heavy workload that the cabinet imposes on us. I am not aware of any problems. We are managing under the constraints that we have to live with as well as can be expected, I believe. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O463-89(1): Communication Problem

MR. CROW: (Translation) I talked to the executive assistant to the Government Leader and I know how busy that person is. When the Government Leader went to Ottawa, I had asked your assistant to relay my question. In 1953, 1954 and 1955 the Port Harrison people were relocated to Resolute Bay and the Grise Fiord area. In Sanikiluaq we have some people that were relocated and they returned on their own to Port Harrison, Inukjuak, in 1975. They spent some time in Inukjuak. When they could not find any housing, they relocated again to Sanikiluaq in 1976. A woman's husband passed away in Resolute Bay around 1971, so she wanted to return to her original home. They spent very little time in Inukjuak. I think the federal government has assisted the relocated people in moving back and that person wanted me to ask if she was eligible to get assistance also.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O463-89(1): Communication Problem

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to assure the honourable Member that my executive assistant did pass that request on to me and I was aware of the concern of the Member's constituent. Mr. Speaker, the relocation that has taken place recently involving people from Grise Fiord was an initiative of Makivik Corporation with the federal government that was specifically related to the Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay people who were resettled from Northern Quebec in 1953. Unfortunately, it did not cover other Northern Quebec people who were relocated. So there is no apparent way in which the Sanikiluaq residents that the Member refers to could be helped through the Makivik initiative.

However, Mr. Speaker, our Department of Social Services in certain circumstances may be able to help people to relocate where their personal and financial and family circumstances dictate. So I had passed the concern on to the Department of Social Services at the community level with the request that they seek out the particular person and see what, if anything, might be done

given that particular case. I am not aware of what has happened in that regard yet, Mr. Speaker, but that was the action that I took. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Further supplementary. A new question, Mr. Crow.

Question O464-89(1): Restoration Of Radio Service, Sanikiluaq

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A new question to the Minister of the Department of Public Works. On March 7, 1989 I discussed a problem with the deputy minister, Larry Elkin, concerning our co-op store that burned last November. The co-op has been very busy trying to build a new co-op store but apparently they are lacking some power outlets. Therefore they had to try to plug their electrical tools into the nearest building. The nearest building was our TV and radio shop in Sanikiluaq. Unfortunately our local radio station and CBC were knocked off the air due to these powerful tools. It was almost a week that people from Sanikiluaq did not have any communication from outside or in Sanikiluaq. I have expressed this to the deputy minister of DPW. I wonder if the problem has been rectified. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer that question but perhaps in the next hour and a half I can see what the department has done about it and if question period is over by that time, I will come to speak to Mr. Crow myself and bring him an update on that particular problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Crow.

Question O465-89(1): Conference On Spousal Assault

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. New question to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. In the couple of weeks I have been trying to get some information from the Minister regarding a large conference last year held here in Yellowknife from, I guess, the first week of March. The conference was about spousal assault. The person who attended this conference from Sanikiluaq has been asking me if there is going to be another conference like that in the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Return To Question O465-89(1): Conference On Spousal Assault

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I recall Mr. Crow asking me that specific question and did indicate to him at that time that there are no follow-up conferences that I am aware of being planned in the near future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. 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 W19-89(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo to the Minister of Health on the use of DDT in the NWT.

Return To Question W19-89(1): Use Of DDT In The NWT

Hon. Nellie Cournoyea's return to Question W19-89(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on March 2, 1989, regarding the use of DDT in the NWT.

I have been requested for specific information about the use of DDT in the NWT and in particular in the Mackenzie Delta area. Unfortunately, the extent of DDT use in the North is impossible to estimate with accuracy. No central depository for records exists, and since in earlier years the chemical use was not considered harmful, it was not thought necessary to monitor the quantity or location of its use. The use of pesticides was not regulated in the North until 1984. Prior to that time no authority was required in order to use DDT. Individual departments of the federal government, including Transport, the Department of National Defence and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs used the pesticide, often using local residents to do the spraying.

DDT is probably the most widely used insecticide in the world because it is both very effective and very economical to use. Since its introduction, DDT is credited with saving many millions of lives around the world by reducing or eliminating disease-carrying pests. DDT has been instrumental in controlling malaria, typhus and bubonic plague in various parts of the world. Also, DDT has been used in water supplies and even in paint applied to private homes to control insect populations. During World War II it was sprayed extensively on the uniforms of soldiers to prevent infestations. Domestic formulations, sold in stores in small quantities, were widely available to the public throughout Canada, including the NWT. Its use was prohibited in the USA in 1973 and in Canada in 1978.

Due to its widespread use and its persistence in the environment, DDT residue is now found throughout the world in rainwater, air, deserts and even Antarctica. Because the chemical does not break down very readily, higher concentrations are found in animals further up the food chain. DDT is stored in fat cells, and can now be found in virtually every living organism on earth. Since man is found at the end of all food chains, and eats a wide variety of contaminated foods, the concentration in man tends to be higher than those found in other animals.

The evidence for toxic effects on wildlife, in particular birds of prey and fish, is overwhelming. While there is a buildup of DDT in humans, there is no conclusive evidence that present levels of exposure cause any long-term harm to man. The lethal dose to man is not known. In a test, 20 grams in a single dose proved dangerous but not fatal. The American Public Health Service has studied the effects of smaller doses of DDT taken over a long time. After directly feeding DDT to human subjects, no indication of toxicity was found. Similar studies on workers in plants manufacturing DDT were found to have no illnesses attributable to the chemical.

Much of the requested material is simply not available without an exhaustive and time-consuming search of records from individual departments of the federal government. The scientists currently conducting research into contaminants in the food chain have recorded the levels of DDT present in wildlife and humans in the North. On completion of their study, a report will be made available.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Gargan): Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 79-89(1), AIDS Update, from the NWT AIDS Program, in English and Inuktitut.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 80-89(1), Report on Health Conditions in the NWT, 1987. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Crow.

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 81-89(1), a letter to myself from our Sanikiluaq Mayor Peter Kattuk regarding lack of co-operation. It refers to why our community radio station was off the air almost a week because there was a lack of co-operation from DPW in Sanikiluaq. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Crow. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 82-89(1), a response to Petition 3-89(1); a petition by Mr. Arlooktoo to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

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

Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 15-89(1), Appointment to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 15-89(1): Appointments To The Standing Committee On Public Accounts, Carried

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move the following motion:

WHEREAS there are vacancies on the standing committee on public accounts;

AND WHEREAS these vacancies should be filled;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, that the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Sibbeston, be appointed as a permanent Member, and Mr. Gargan, the Member for Deh Cho, be appointed as an alternate Member to the standing committee on public accounts.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

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 59-89(1), Bill 3-89(1) and Bill 10-89(1), with Mr. Zoe in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER COMMITTEE REPORT 1-89(1), REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 1989-90 MAIN ESTIMATES; BILL 1-89(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1989-90; BILL 10-89(1), TOBACCO TAX ACT

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Will the committee come to order? We are dealing with Bill 1-89(1). We will be dealing with the Department of Personnel. Madam Minister, are you prepared? Mr. Ballantyne.

Department Of Personnel

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: If I could just, Mr. Chairman, make the committee aware of an error. I would like to advise Members that we detected an error in one of the information items in the main estimates in the Department of Personnel. The error was in several amounts presented in the projects on behalf of third parties information item relative to Arctic College on page 7.17. I have advised the chairman of the standing committee on finance of this error and a corrected page 7.17 has been placed in Members' books, as has a corrected revenue and expenditure summary page. This correction does not affect the department's voted appropriations. As we made the error, I apologize for any inconvenience that this may have caused Members.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. We are dealing with the Department of Personnel. Madam Minister, are you prepared to give your opening statement?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present to you the Department of Personnel's main and capital estimates for 1989-90.

The Department of Personnel is a service department whose mandate is to serve the departments, boards and agencies of the GNWT in their efforts to recruit, develop and maintain the people they require to carry out the work of government and to ensure fair and equitable treatment of employees.

The department achieved some major accomplishments during the past year. The human resource planning division worked with all departments to assist in the development of human resource plans. The division established access to resources through printed material and link-ups by computer to continent-wide information networks. Projects undertaken include a review of existing systems and procedures in the area of performance planning and review, secondment, employee rewards and new hire orientations. The design and implementation of the human resource information system, HRIS, a computerized employee information system, is a major undertaking expected to be completed and fully functional by June, 1989.

The staffing and classification division has completed procedures for implementing criminal checks to screen potential employees to be hired into positions of trust such as teachers, psychologists and child care workers. The division has also performed ongoing functions such as classification of jobs, creation of job standards and the provision of staffing policy. A major project completed by the division was classification work for the health transfer. In the new fiscal year, the division plans to review the classification systems and staffing procedures in general.

In 1988, the staff relations division, through regional offices, continued to provide specialized advice, assistance and guidance to management and employees in the area of labour relations, dispute resolution, contract administration, as well as the administration of pay and benefits, insurance and pensions, staff housing and removals. The division participated in several federal program transfers in 1988. The transfer of the entire Northern Canada Power Commission to territorial government jurisdiction and the transfer of programs from Health and Welfare Canada and the Northern Scientific Resource Centre saw the territorial government gain 886 person years. These transfers required the negotiation of three separate bridging agreements to effect the carriage of benefits for transferring employees, as well as individual calculations of each employee's salary, allowances and benefits.

The operational arm of the department, the regional offices, provided day-to-day service to management and employees in the provision of recruitment, pay and benefit administration, and employee relations assistance.

Funding requirements for the Personnel department are to a large extent contingent upon the growth or reduction in the public service because the responsibility of providing personnel

services such as recruitment, removals, vacation and medical travel assistance, and other negotiated benefits, falls upon the department. Accordingly, the devolution to education boards in the Keewatin and Kitikmeot Regions, as well as the transfer of the health program, has impacted upon the department's funding for 1989-90.

In addition to the funding required for ongoing operations, the department received new funding and person years to provide enhanced personnel services to employees and management. There will be an emphasis upon training for management, with boards and agencies the major target areas. Training initiatives will highlight the functions of staffing, classification and labour relations. Contemporary personnel issues such as classification, compensation packages and human resource planning will be focussed on in the new fiscal year.

The Department of Personnel's mandate also covers the provision of staff housing to employees. Initiatives in the area of capital include retrofit projects to current staff housing units to enhance their life expectancy and their energy efficiency. In addition, several units which were destroyed by fire in previous fiscal years will be replaced.

The budget I am presenting for 1989-90 includes \$24.13 million in O and M and \$2.845 million in capital expenditures. Revenue in the amount of \$898,000 has been budgeted. A total of 102 person years is included in the 1989-90 estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are my opening remarks for the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Pollard, any comments from your standing committee on finance?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with regard to Personnel, yesterday during the Housing Corporation we discussed staff housing and it is a concern here too, Mr. Chairman. With 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.

This brings me to recommendation 17, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on finance recommends that the Minister of Personnel, along with the Minister for the NWT Housing Corporation, determine if there is a problem with GNWT staff living in public housing, how great the problem is and what can be done to resolve the situation.

With regard to recruitment of Northerners, the department indicated to the committee that there has been no substantial progress in increasing the percentage of Northerners in the public service. The difficulty faced by Personnel, acting as representative for all departments in the hiring process, is that there are not enough qualified Northerners with sufficient training, education or experience available to fill many of the positions. The committee feels that this lack of qualified Northerners is a major obstacle to the ongoing development of the NWT and suggests that the government must address this problem with a government-wide approach. I think we also handled that during Education, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Before I get into general comments, Madam Minister, would you be bringing in any witnesses?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Yes, if I may be allowed to bring in the assistant deputy minister, Mr. Brian Mader and the director of finance, Sue Cunningham.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Please proceed. General comments on the Department of Personnel. Are there any general comments? Mr. Ernerk.

Training Required For Government Positions

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to comment on the Minister's statement with regard to not enough trained Northerners. I think she uses some words indicating that there are not enough trained Northerners to be hired for technical positions. I think that was the intent of the Ministers' statement. I guess this is where we parents, we education societies and responsible organizations in the communities continue to encourage our children to get a good education as much as possible. Once they get a good education, in other words complete their high school education, then we ask them to join the Government of the Northwest Territories and begin to train them from there. Training is something that is very important to me because I heard it said quite a lot during the SCONE meeting in Rae the other night, by all of the speakers who appeared before us. They were talking about the establishment of a training centre in Rae.

The other thing that I want to mention is the importance of adult education programs in the communities. For years the government shied away from carrying out adult education in the communities. Now that it is back, I think we should make sure that we encourage our people to take on adult education programs and at the same time ask government, encourage the government and support the government to introduce more and more training opportunities where these training opportunities reflect local needs.

I would like to talk about technical training positions, like nursing training, medical training, financial analysts as well as training to become a lawyer. That is why we made that motion in the committee during the committee of the whole discussion -- the establishment of a native law centre in the Northwest Territories is very important to me -- the motion that we take a look at something like this through Arctic College. The other thing that I have noticed and I am not sure whether it fits within the Department of Personnel, is training opportunities that are lacking in the communities. I have heard about them so much. There is a need for tradespersons training in the fields of electrical, oil burner mechanics and plumbers. These are the kinds of training opportunities that I heard about two months ago when I accompanied the Minister of Housing in my constituency. In order to meet the needs of the local people, I think the government should be moving more quickly in that direction. I will stop here for now, Mr. Chairman, and ask for reaction from the Minister. Thank you.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the area of training, the funding for training, the responsibility and mandate lies under the Department of Education. However, where we can identify a requirement for training, that is the department's responsibility to request, from Education, to allow us to access the funds to initiate training programs. I believe what is going to probably have to happen is a closer working relationship between the Departments of Personnel and Education to identify certain areas which may be filled and training enhanced, and then work it from that.

Education has all the funding for training. If we request it, and if we can get access to it, then we can make use of the funding that was identified for training. Personnel currently has no training dollars to speak of in the department's budget. Thank you.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the department responsible for retraining of public servants?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: That is the department where the employee is working, that is their responsibility. However, they probably access the funding through the Department of Education as well.

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

Mentor Program

MR. ERNERK: Maybe I should ask for clarification with regard to human resource planning which is, "to research and report on the feasibility of a mentor program which assists new hires and junior employees in the development of their careers within the public service." Exactly, what does that mean, Mr. Chairman?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Basically, in speaking of a mentor program, it is taking in a new public service employee, identifying a career path for them, with a senior employee, and being able to indicate to them the progressive steps needed to achieve a certain level within the government. There has been very little career counselling through the department, which has resulted in some employees not being able to progressively step up in different departments.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I will just try and clarify my question. In the past several years I have seen some employees of the Department of Personnel who have gone out of the NWT to attend short courses, whether it was in management of budget or whether it was in the supervisory area. That was what I meant when I asked about providing training for present employees of the Government of the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: No. I guess I should clarify, Mr. Minister. Maybe I did not explain in trying to indicate the process. Each department identifies a certain amount of money within their department for such things as workshops or short-term training opportunities. For any long-term training opportunities, these funds are allocated in the Department of Education's budget. It is the department's responsibility to access the Department of Education's funding to allow employees long-term training opportunities. However, for short-term training opportunities such as workshops and short training courses, funding is identified initially in each department's budget.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one concern I want to raise and get some clarification on. A number of people have talked to me about some departments hiring term people for a couple of years. They will bring them in -- and these are from the South -- for a term of two years. The way I understand it, the departments pay their way in and they give them housing. They stay in housing for two years and they either have an option of getting on full time or else, in a lot of cases, they extend their term. If they extend their term, they continue to live in government housing, and it certainly deprives those people that are here, hardworking and living in the city, from the same advantages. Under normal conditions, I understand they are out in a year's time. Is this seen as being a problem because of the costs of bringing in people, keeping them here for a couple of years, sending them back, bag and baggage? We are trying to establish permanency in the North, and a lot of us do it. We pay the penalty. I wonder if that is a large problem, as large as it is made out to be?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that is a large problem. I think, however, sometimes we are required to assist employees for the short term, but once their term is up, as far as I am aware, then if they are no longer employees then it is not our responsibility to ensure they have accommodation. But I do not feel this particular problem is acute as a problem. There may be a few but not to the point where I feel it is being abused.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments. Are there further general comments? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the first few weeks of this session we passed a formal motion calling on the Government of the Northwest Territories to consider allocating sufficient funding for on-the-job training so that when a government position is filled by a Southerner it be only on a term position and that a northern trainee be hired to train for the position until the end of the term. Will the Minister's department be one that will be looking into this as to whether or not it is workable?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, yes, where it can be made applicable we certainly will be discussing this issue with the departments further and will try to fulfil the request that was brought forth by the Assembly.

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

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, what is the department's immediate reaction to this motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I do not recall any particular surprise. The reaction, basically is trying to deal with it in a positive manner and indicating that it is a possibility that could be fulfilled. However, it will take time to identify where it can be applicable. Thank you.

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

Native Hiring In Entry Positions

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular letter was brought to my attention some time ago and I have some concerns about it because I like to bring out this issue of native hiring, Inuit hiring, to the fullest extent. I am not going to mention who it is but I would like to read the letter. This person indicates to me that he has noticed that the Department of Public Works has always hired white people for the job entry positions. Senior management responsibilities need to be straightened out. You should take a look at this. You should take a look at where the Department of Public Works and Highways is compared to all other departments for support staff. I am not going to name which particular department he is talking about in this last paragraph -- 100 per cent of such and such a department's clerical staff is Inuit. What seems to be the problem with DPW? Well, I am concerned about it, Mr. Chairman. Is there enough effort in terms of even trying to look for local people to fill job entry positions, including clerical staff, and upper level positions by this particular department?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to recall how DPW's statistics are in hiring of native people. I think actually they are one of the better departments in hiring, particularly the trades area and what not. However, when hiring practices come up or whenever the procedure of hiring comes up, it is a decision made by the employing department with the assistance of Personnel. Personnel facilitates and supports the department in whatever way they can to try to hire the most qualified individual. At the same time, if the department, in the event, feels that employing departments are not adhering to the policies we have in front of us, that is indicated to the employing department and also to me as a Minister.

I am aware that the Department of Personnel has met a couple of times with DPW officials, basically ensuring and requesting that they adhere to certain policies that we have before us. So

I hope that this will alleviate and eliminate some of the concerns of hiring without adhering to the policies that we have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Madam Minister. General comments on the Department of Personnel. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Affirmative action plan committee has been in existence now for a few years. Is that a useful organization? Does it meet its purposes?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the affirmative action advisory committee is a body that is made up from all different types of organizations such as the Inuit Women's Association, the Native Women's Association, the Metis Association of the NWT, the Dene Nation, the Council for Disabled, the Status of Women, and I must say that they did play a very important role in helping develop the affirmative action policy that I recently announced. The purpose of that committee is basically to consider and give me advice on affirmative action measures as Minister. In developing the policy it was certainly advice that I had considered. They are basically an advisory body and whether or not I consider their advice is something for myself as a Minister to determine. However, they are, I would say, a very helpful advisory group to indicate what areas could be advised upon to point out and overcome some of the barriers that people may have in dealing with the government, when we are trying to implement our affirmative action measures in the government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Madam Minister. General comments. Department of Personnel. Mr. Gargan.

Role Of Affirmative Action Groups In Hiring Practices

MR. GARGAN: Just maybe one area that I would like to touch on. With regard to the Department of Personnel, the main reason for this department is hiring people and classifying them and putting them into positions but you also have influential groups like the Women's Secretariat and also the committee with regard to affirmative action. I would like to ask the Minister, what kind of roles do these groups play with regard to the hiring practices of this government within Personnel? Do they make recommendations on hiring as well, or do they advise you of who should be hired? I know that the Government Leader made an announcement on Gina Blondin being the new deputy minister for Culture and Communications. Did the affirmative action committee or the Women's Secretariat have anything to do with that type of appointment?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, no. They do not make recommendations as to who should be hired within the government but they certainly assist in clarifying policies to the Department of Personnel.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, just again. The Minister did indicate yesterday that one of the roles of the Women's Secretariat is to lobby for work of equal value to get the same kind of wages and also to put more women in the workplace. I understood that, so I am just asking again whether or not this is the case. If this department is there to hire people I would like to ask again whether or not those other departments have a say in the hiring practices of the Department of Personnel. Or can I say that they go through the process of interviewing people and there is a final selection and then does the affirmative action department or the Women's Secretariat have final say, perhaps, on who should be the candidate who is going to be filling the position?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, no. But I know myself as Minister I keep continually reminding my colleagues to be conscientious in trying to hire women and keep in mind that in trying to hire qualified people it is not up to those committees, particularly the Women's Secretariat, to be part of the hiring committee. However, we certainly play a role in trying to assist by reminding departments as to the number of women they may have employed in the areas of management, or where they basically need to have some improvement. That is probably basically the role that those particular committees play. Thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have got to watch what I am saying here. Mr. Minister, I realize that at some point in time the department may come up with a fair male and female ratio with regard to employment within the government. At what time would you be able to maybe dissolve the Women's Secretariat and establish a men's secretariat?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. You mentioned Mr. Minister. It is Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you. First I think we should allow the women to achieve equality and then we will consider a men's secretariat. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Madam Minister. General comments. I have Mr. Ernerk. Okay, we will have Mr. Zoe first then. Mr. Zoe.

Effect Of Decentralization On Hiring Practices, Fort Smith Region

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister in regard to the government policy on decentralization, specifically to the Fort Smith Region, is the department working with the Government Leader's office? I guess that is, who is undertaking the review of decentralizing the Fort Smith Region? Have they considered any plans as to how their department is going to fit into this whole decentralization of the Fort Smith Region? Let me use an example. Mr. Chairman, a number of positions within my area are sometimes advertised from the Fort Smith or the regional personnel office and then other times they are done out of headquarters. That seems to be creating a problem in my area as to where the service should be coming from. If it is going to be from headquarters, why do they not have all advertisements for positions from my region handled out of Yellowknife and not from Fort Smith regional office? Could I ask the Minister to comment in that area?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to decentralization I am aware that the Department of Personnel has had some discussions and has made some comments to the regional director in the Fort Smith Region. However, in regard to the hiring, all these hiring practices should be done, I agree, on a consistent basis. They really should be done out of the regional office and the department is currently trying to ensure that continuity is in place and that hiring is being practised through the regional office as opposed to headquarters and regional. I am sure it will take some time to clear up that particular process that has been done in an unorganized fashion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Madam Minister. General comments on the Department of Personnel. I believe Mr. Ernerk wanted to make some general comments. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I know that some departments have done quite well in hiring more native people. In Rankin Inlet I have noticed that we had an assistant regional director who was an Inuk in late 1979. That was me, and after that, a few years later, Michael Kusugak was hired as the assistant regional director. I was very pleased to hear the Government Leader indicate to this House that preferably an Inuk will be hired to fill that position again. Other departments, such

as Municipal and Community Affairs, have an Inuk superintendent for the region. As well, Culture and Communications, language bureau, have an Inuk regional manager.

I have talked to a couple of people about this department in the Keewatin Region. Why is it taking so long to place an Inuk in that regional manager position? I always thought that this department's ultimate objective is to encourage other departments in the regions to train and place more Inuit at the top management positions. If that is the case, I fully support that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Qujannamiik, Mr. Ernerk. Madam Minister.

MR. ERNERK: I will clarify my question. Do you have a program, Madam Minister, where one day an Inuk will be regional manager of Personnel in the Keewatin Region?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): (Translation) Madam Minister, would you like to respond?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: (Inaudible. Mike not on) ...completely in place. However, I have recently asked the department to identify superintendent positions that we could consider trying to allow participation of native people at that level. I am aware that the Baffin Region currently has a native person in the regional superintendent's position and so does the Inuvik Region. However, we are short in the Kitikmeot and the Keewatin and the Fort Smith Regions. It is certainly an area that could be addressed, and I am willing to take that as advice and bring that request back to my department to find some mechanism to fulfil the request of the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Madam Minister. General comments. I think we will go through the details when we come back from coffee break. I think that would a good idea.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Before we left for the break we were prepared and ready to go through detail of the Department of Personnel. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Directorate, total O and M, \$655,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Finance And Administration, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Finance and administration, total O and M, \$257,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staffing And Classification, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Staffing and classification, total O and M, \$1,033,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Human Resource Planning, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Human resource planning, total O and M, \$265,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staff Relations, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Staff relations, total O and M, \$4,672,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Okay, for information, if you are struggling to find the page, we are on page 7.12.

---Laughter

Regional Operations, Total O And M, Agreed

We are now moving on to page 7.13. Regional operations, total O and M, \$17,248,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, an information item. Pages 7.14 and 7.15. Any questions on the following pages, 7.16, 7.17, 7.18, 7.19? Going back to 7.07, program summary. Mr. Zoe.

Computerized Data Base

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, before we agree to the O and M part of the budget, I just want to make a few comments, since we whizzed by all activities quite rapidly. In the area of human resource planning, I notice that the department was trying to develop a computerized data base. I have noticed that other departments such as Education, Economic Development, Equal Employment Directorate and a number of other agencies all had all sorts of data. Now is the Department of Personnel also involved in co-ordinating these efforts? I believe it is the Government Leader that indicated that they were trying to pool all the resources, all the data together so that they have a comprehensive data base. Now, I do not know where this data base is going to be placed. I assume that it is going to be in the Department of Personnel or in Education. Could I just ask the Minister for her comments on what I am discussing here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the human resource information system is basically a system to co-ordinate or look at a talent bank, if I may use those terms, on public service employees within the GNWT and their abilities, to be maintained within only the Department of Personnel for employment opportunities.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that the department is going to be participating in an overall data collection that the Government Leader was talking about but what about the other one, the Equal Employment Directorate that involves the public service people too. Are they still going to operate on their own, where they keep their own data, or is it all going to be compiled under Personnel?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the Equal Employment Directorate is going to be set up as a division within the Department of Personnel in the upcoming year and will have access to that particular data bank. However, the Equal Employment Directorate basically emphasizes the qualifications of people who come under the special target group of the affirmative action program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Madam Minister. Are we ready to go to program summary on the Department of Personnel? Mr. Gargan.

Ratio Of Public Servants To Population

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, just one final comment before we conclude this. Yesterday, when we were dealing with the same department, we did go through the numbers on the amount of public service and I was referring to statistics that were done in 1985. I also got numbers for the public service up to June 1988 which was about 4914 public servants and 1589 federal public servants. The ratio of that is for every one public servant there are 10 -- if you base it on 52,000 population. So the ratio has been getting less rather than maybe the numbers going higher and so I would like to ask the Minister of Personnel if the direction the federal government is going is trying to eliminate some of the departments and sort of making them smaller. I also understand

that the Government Leader also made statements that we have to tighten up our belts but I do not see that happening within the public service. We should be reducing rather than growing, so this is a concern.

As far as the Department of Personnel goes, what direction is this government taking with regard to this government tightening up its belt? It seems that it is the communities that are the ones that are told that, but it does not seem to be moving in that direction as far as this government goes. It is a concern of mine. I have expressed that four or five years ago. I am still expressing it now. When is this government going to start tightening up and start reducing that ratio so that it should be maybe one to 30 or one to 40, not one to 10? That is getting less and less all the time. I would like to ask the government, realizing of course that the numbers may be one of the responsibilities of the transfers but I still think that is pretty high.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, as I had indicated in my opening remarks, with the transfer of programs from Health and Welfare Canada and the northern scientific research centre along with the NCPG, the territorial government did gain 686 person years which probably caused some of the substantial increase in the past year. However, looking at the statistical figures it has been recognized that the government has been growing at a fairly rapid pace. It is up to the departments to indicate what their person year requirements are and basically the Department of Personnel does not indicate that they cannot have the person years. They basically facilitate and assist the departments in being able to fulfil the person years they require.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I believe that we as Members of this Assembly do have a role to play with regard to the direction the government is going. I am telling the government that the ratio comparing the population and the civil servants is disturbing. I am trying to make a point that the bureaucracy is flourishing but as far as program delivery, it is not happening. So it is a concern I would like to express. If it goes down to nine to one next year or less, then I will be further disturbed that we are not actually getting services but it looks like the public service is just growing. If we are telling the general public that we have to start tightening up our belts then this government should be taking a lead role in doing that too. That is all I am saying.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

Need For Increasing PYs

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, just for the Department of Personnel last year we did have 96 person years and it has increased to 102. An additional number of six person years basically to help in accommodating the 686 person years that were transferred over from the federal government. So there is an indication of a need of increasing PYs, particularly to service departments, but in overall government it is not the Department of Personnel's responsibility to set a limit of PYs on each particular department. That is the responsibility of each Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not know what the Department of Personnel does with regard to the measures it takes with regard to the amount of PYs that are within this government but I can safely say that as far as the ratios go in southern Canada, that is probably quite substantial, like maybe 200,000 to one. All I am saying is that I do not know what the national average is with regard to public servants and the general population of Canada. But I think it would be interesting to find out what it is and make some comparisons with what we have got up here. I believe that the ratio is substantially lower in southern Canada than it would be up here.

I am no better off than I was in 1985 as far as having 10 people and one civil servant. I do not get much more services in my community or within my region, or within my district. The results of

the program delivery is pretty well still the same except that the numbers have changed. That is about it. Does the Minister know what the ratio is, nationally?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I recognize the concerns that the Member is trying to voice. However, if you look at the ratio, we basically have 52,000 people in the Territories and we have approximately 4000 plus, we will round it off to 5000 civil servants. That is basically one civil servant to every 100 people in the Territories. However, when we take into consideration the demographics of the Territories and the amount of different services that we have to deliver, I really think it is difficult to compare it to the southern standards. When we talk to the federal government and they want to give us the same amount of money, on a per capita basis in comparison to the South, it is unrealistic that we should have to try to compare it to the South. The services are different and the needs are different. The public service in the Territories takes into consideration teachers and doctors as civil servants, and in the South they do not. They are not part of the civil service. It is very difficult to compare an adequate ratio taking into consideration the vast land of the Territories, and taking into consideration the number of different services we give, as a government, to hamlets and communities across the Territories.

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

MR. GARGAN: If we are looking at demographics, then there is a simple solution, and that is that this government should be looking more along the line of decentralization and giving more local control. That is the direction this government should be taking, if it is the vastness that we are addressing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to deliberate whether or not decentralization of services for the Department of Personnel is relevant to that particular service department. I think initially the Member had asked for a certain percentage ratio in the North compared to southern standards. Regardless of whether or not we decentralize, those numbers will remain.

I know initially when he spoke, he was concerned at the number of civil servants that we have in the government, in comparison to southern standards; he feels that the ratio may be too high. I have a difficult time in agreeing with the Member on that particular issue. However, as to decentralization within the department, I guess in specific areas, like every other department we do have decentralization guidelines to adhere to and in the event that there are any areas that could be considered they could be looked at. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, with regard to regional operations, there are five different areas that have 60 PYs as opposed to the 4914. My concern is that, yes, the ratio is still high but also we want to address it. We do not want to compare ourselves to southern Canada. Perhaps what southern Canada has got is more decentralization and that is the kind of direction that maybe this government should be looking at.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, maybe I should clarify something for the Member. In Personnel, in the Department of Personnel, the total department we have 102 PYs. We have 60 that are out in the regions and it is not, in no way, shape or form a comparison of 60 PYs to 4000 and some PYs. Out of the Department of Personnel there are 102 PYs, 60 of the 102 are out in the regions.

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

Disagreement In Hiring

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one quick question to the Minister. I will use a hypothetical question that I am going to ask her. I have always been curious as to how the department works with another department that is affected in the area of recruitment. Say, for instance, one of the departments does an interview there is usually a Personnel officer involved and the affected department usually has a representative and they are supposed to work as a team when they are interviewing the applicants. Now, what happens when there is a difference of opinion? The Personnel officer in his own view thinks that applicant A is first and then applicant B and so forth but then the affected department has the reverse opinion and he is placing the second person that Personnel has, as priority one for his department and there is a dispute going on between the Personnel officer and the department representative. How does one resolve this? Who is hired or who has the ultimate say as to who gets hired? I assume that the two representatives, one from the Personnel and one from the department affected, they would go back to their appropriate supervisors and discuss the problem. Does it go up the ladder, up to the ministerial level and how is that resolved? Who has the ultimate say as to who gets hired?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, this type of situation does happen. Basically what happens, if the Department of Personnel does not agree with the employing department a minority report is filed. If there is a strong dispute on it, it then proceeds to the director level or the ADM level; if need be, even to the DM level but it is often settled at the assistant deputy minister level of both departments.

MR. ZOE: Who has the ultimate decision?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: It depends on the case. It is generally the department in the event that they can justify proper procedures. The Department of Personnel just basically tries to ensure that proper hiring procedures were adhered to and that policies were in place and adhered to. However, it does go up as far as both director levels or ADM levels and it is up to the employing department. Thank you.

MR. ZOE: So, what the Minister is telling me is that the ultimate decision is basically the employing department.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: That is correct. The Department of Personnel is there to assist the department in trying to hire the best qualified person and ensuring that policies are adhered to. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Program summary. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were going through the details so very quickly, I got a little bit confused, and I suddenly noticed that I was looking at the capital estimates instead of the main estimates.

Job Advertisements

I would like to make one or two remarks with regard to job advertisements. I know that the Minister has already indicated the fact that she is going to be taking some action, but I would like to give her some ideas about job advertisements, especially when they pertain to Nunavut. I think more action must be taken by the department. If jobs pertain to Nunavut communities, and the Nunavut region in general, they should be advertised in these communities, both in English and Inuktitut. Even if they are not advertised in Nunavut but are advertised in some other parts of the

NWT -- say in News North -- they should still be advertised in both languages, Inuktitut and English.

I also think that advertising through community radio stations is very important. These radio stations in the communities are very much utilized by the people at the community level, so I think that kind of advertising at the local level through a local community radio station is very important.

I kept using Nunatsiaq News because I know that Nunatsiaq News is widely read. It is written in both languages, Inuktitut and English. Many people read articles that are written in that particular newspaper, so I think much more effort should be made by the government to advertise all positions that pertain to Nunavut; and I am talking about senior positions like deputy minister positions, as well as assistant deputy minister positions. I am not totally satisfied that the deputy minister position for Culture and Communications, as well as the ADM position for Culture and Communications, was advertised only once, on December 16, 1988. There has to be more. There are some other newsletters in the eastern communities, including the Keewatin Inuit Association newsletter, that reach all of the communities in the Keewatin Region. I think, Mr. Chairman, I got my point across. Thank you.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated to the Member earlier, that policy is being developed and I can give him assurance that we will be looking at enhancing it to ensure that equitable treatment is given to newspapers across the Territories. I like the idea of allowing the department to request the local radio stations to advertise job positions and we will request the department to put them on the mailing list also when we send out job opportunities. Thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, again with regard to regional operations. I would like to ask the Minister when there is a position that is required to be filled, do the regions then advertise for those positions at the region level and it does not have to go to headquarters? It does not have to go to the Department of Personnel here. The other thing is with regard to the math thing about the ratios. It is one to 10, not one to 100.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I would like to see how that ratio is one to 10 but I do not want to deliberate math at this point. Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, yes, the positions that are out for the regions are advertised through the regional offices and not headquarters.

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Madam Minister. Are we ready for program summary? Total O and M, \$24,130,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Is the committee at this time ready for the Department of Personnel, capital estimates? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staff Relations

Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Okay, on your capital estimates, you are on page 7.07. Detail of capital. Staff relations. Buildings and works. Headquarters, total headquarters, \$830,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Fort Smith, total Fort Smith, \$406,000. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I was just curious after the Member for Nahendeh made the statement about staff housing in Fort Simpson and I notice that there is a replacement for a staff house. I wonder how the department is going to deal with this issue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, basically the staff housing replacement is a staff house that was burned in Fort Simpson and we are getting our funds back at replacement value to rebuild the unit. It is a fourplex of bachelor units that were destroyed by fire and the insurance policy basically covers the cost of rebuilding with the deductible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was not my question. I was not questioning as to what type or why it is in here. Mr. Sibbeston made a statement in the House in regard to government employees getting out of housing, providing their own housing, and so forth. Now how is the department going to deal with Mr. Sibbeston's concerns and what they are doing here? We are dealing with housing here and what the Member from Nahendeh was saying was that government employees should be encouraged to start purchasing and getting out of government units but on the other hand the department is building or replacing the existing unit that has been burned, or whatever. That seems to be going against what is being suggested by the Member for Nahendeh.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, there is still a critical shortage for housing requirements in Fort Simpson. Basically the department has taken opportunity to replace the unit that was destroyed by fire and has taken advantage of the replacement value that the insurance policy had stipulated. I had hoped that implementing a policy on a reduction of standard housing allowance to all level one communities may encourage civil servants in that particular community to try to get out of staff housing. However, we are basically taking advantage of an insurance payment on rebuilding a unit. Thank you.

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Madam Minister. Fort Smith, total Fort Smith, \$406,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Baffin, total Baffin, \$521,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Keewatin, total Keewatin, \$514,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Kitikmeot, total Kitikmeot, \$165,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total buildings and works. Equipment acquisition. Headquarters, total buildings and works. Sorry. Start over again. That was my mistake. Total buildings and works, \$2,436,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total headquarters, \$229,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Baffin, total Baffin. \$180,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Total equipment acquisition, \$409,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Staff Relations, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Total staff relations, \$2,845,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. And the following pages are on the capital recoveries. They are information items on page 7.09. Any questions on that? No? Distribution of budgets, page 7.10.

Total Capital, Agreed

Program summary on capital. Total capital expenditures, \$2,845,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Does the committee agree that concludes the item on Personnel? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. I thank the Minister and her witnesses. What is the committee's wish at this time? Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government is prepared to proceed with the Department of Finance.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Ballantyne.

Department Of Finance

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the budget for the Department of Finance for the 1989-90 fiscal year contains a limited amount of forced growth over the revised budget of 1988-89 and reflects a change in the organization of the department and the Financial Management Board Secretariat. The change in organization of the department establishes a clearer accountability relationship and has been accommodated with no change in the size of the departmental budget. This new organization closely resembles the organization of the finance departments of the four western provinces and the Yukon. It will support the mutual and co-ordinated responsibilities of the comptroller general, the secretariat and fiscal policy. It will reflect the true working relationships of the Minister and the department. The amalgamation of financial activities supports the government direction to consolidate and streamline its functions wherever practical.

The department's budget contains no funding for significant new initiatives. The growth of \$5.733 million from the revised 1988-89 budget can be explained by an increase in the debt financing activity and an increase in forced growth expenditures.

The debt financing activity provides for the payment \$5.591 million of interest on the \$53.5 million borrowed for the purchase of the Northern Canada Power Commission from the federal government. These expenditures are fully offset by revenues. The government will be reimbursed the same amount from the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

Forced growth of 5.5 person years and \$354,000 is required for an administration officer, a public accounts officer, a government finance officer, a board transfer team officer, a data entry clerk in Fort Simpson, and for clerical support to the property tax collection functions.

Overall, the department's budget will increase by 38 per cent over the revised 1988-89 budget. All but one per cent of that increase is a result of the funding in the debt financing activity that is fully offset by revenue increases.

The \$5.591 million budget for recovery of interest expenses from the NWT Power Corporation is a new revenue item in the 1988-90 budget, related to the interest expense referred to earlier. The projected \$1.55 million interest revenue increase to be earned from government investments accounts for the remaining major change in revenue earnings of the department that are budgeted in 1989-90. This increase is based on estimates of average cash balances and average interest rates. With that, Mr. Chairman, if it is the will of the House, I would like to bring my officials into the House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Go ahead, Mr. Minister. The committee seems to agree. When you bring in your witnesses, we will go to the chairman of the finance committee. Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses for the record? And we will go on to the chairman of the finance committee, Mr. Pollard.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have with me Eric Nielsen, who is secretary to the Financial Management Board and is the deputy minister of Finance; Jim Nelson, who is comptroller general. Except for the fact that we have only two seats here, I would have Lew Voytilla here, but he is with us in spirit.

If I could, Mr. Chairman, I would like to give some public thanks to Lew Voytilla and to the Financial Management Secretariat, and to the fiscal policy group, because they have worked day and night in the course of this budget preparation. I think they have done a very good job.

---Applause

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

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is with some chagrin that I read this into the record...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. POLLARD: ...because the committee had only one comment to make on Finance and that was with regard to taxation initiatives, Mr. Chairman. "No" -- and I stress no -- "new taxation initiatives were included in the budget. Therefore, the committee does not expect the introduction of any new taxes that would be implemented during the 1989-90 fiscal year." As you know, Mr. Chairman, from being in the House, that was not the case. We were not told at the standing committee on finance meetings that there were going to be tax increases, and we can only assume...

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame, shame!

MR. POLLARD: ...that is because the Minister of Finance does not trust us.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. POLLARD: We are going to be wanting to discuss this with the Minister of Finance at some length in the next standing committee on finance meeting, Mr. Chairman. However, for the record, it is there. We did not expect it, and I guess we are going to have to eat it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Pollard. With that, I guess we are ready for general comments on Finance. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could tell us -- we know he has surpluses, although they have been earmarked -- exactly how much this government has invested in short-term or long-term investments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think that when you are looking at the cash flow it is probably somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$80 million.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was that long-term or short-term notes, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: It is all three months, short-term.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments on the Department of Finance. Is the committee ready to go to detail on the Department of Finance? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): We are on page 4.10 of the main estimates. Directorate, total O and M, \$1,727,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Revenue And Asset Management, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Revenue and asset management, total O and M, \$2,070,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Government Accounting, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Government accounting, total O and M, \$8,232,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Fiscal Policy, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Fiscal policy, total O and M, \$551,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, are we on fiscal policy? Yes. With regard to that input to the multiyear financial plan, I would like to ask the Minister whether or not we will be getting a five year capital plan, since it does say in here that they do have that as part of their objectives, coming out with these multiyear financial plans. Would the Minister be able to provide the Members with those multiyear financial plans?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: We are not in this case referring to a capital plan. We are talking about the fiscal framework. What I try to do in the two budgets that I have presented is to give Members of the finance committee just an estimate, and that is all it can be, of projected revenues and expenditures at least one year ahead of the budget year that we are doing. It is a management tool, but it helps the Financial Management Board, when making decisions on the budget for a given year, to have at least some idea of what might be coming in the future.

The problem we have right now, it is really impossible to do any forecasting because we have reached the fifth year of our formula financing agreement. Basically, it is very difficult right now to give an estimate. It is going to depend on what the new arrangement is. That is what we are talking about here. We are talking about the fiscal framework, as opposed to a detailed capital plan.

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

MR. GARGAN: Perhaps the Minister might be able to provide us, depending on the outcome of the negotiation that is going to be going on after the five year formula financing is over, once we are sure of the arrangements between Ottawa and this government, perhaps we might be able to get something as far as what the future plans of this government are concerning individual constituencies.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I want to emphasize this particular division is not dealing with individual constituencies. What we will be prepared to do, though, once we finalize the new formula, is to give you our best estimate of our long-term fiscal framework because I think it is important, especially to the Members of the finance committee but also to other Members, to have an idea what the future looks like. As far as getting down to that detail in the future, of how money is going to be spent in constituencies, that is not what this group does.

Fiscal Policy, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Fiscal policy, total O and M, \$551,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Debt Financing, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Debt financing, total O and M, \$5,591,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Tax Administration, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Tax administration, total O and M, \$398,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Management Accounting Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Management accounting services, total O and M, \$854,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Financial Management Board Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Financial Management Board Secretariat. Total O and M, \$1,342,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Detail of grants and contributions. These are the information items. Page 4.18. Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Page 4.19. Are there any questions on these four pages? Revenues, recoveries, and transfer payments. Page 4.20. No questions on these? Revenues, recoveries, and transfer payments. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, you lost me after the Financial Management Board Secretariat. Did you already get into the detail of grants and contributions? Did you call it out?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Sorry, Mr. Zoe. I did not call it out. Would you like me to call it out, Mr. Zoe?

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

Detail of grants and contributions. Total contributions, \$3,000,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Program summary. Total O and M, \$20,765,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. There is no capital on the Department of Finance, so does the committee agree that this is concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Minister, and your witnesses. Mr. Pollard. Just hold on here a second, Mr. Minister.

MR. ZOE: (Inaudible comment)

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: No, Mr. Ballantyne always gets the last say because he can tax us, you see. Mr. Chairman, the order of appearance of departments during SCOF and also during the committee of the whole is usually agreed upon by the standing committee on finance and the Minister of Finance. I would like to point out to the Minister at this time that there are Members who are concerned that major departments are left until too close to the end and I would point out Housing, Health, and Social Services. MACA was okay; it was near the top of the list. But Members are asking that in future, the major departments be dealt with early on in the budget and the smaller departments dealt with near the end.

The other thing, Mr. Chairman, is the Minister of Finance and myself have quite a bit to do with each other during these budget sessions. I would just like to thank him on behalf of the standing committee on finance and on behalf of other Members in the House for his apparent co-operation and his hard work. Thank you very much, Mr. Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Minister. I thank the witnesses at this time. Is the committee ready to go clause by clause on Bill 1-89(1)? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): For your information, Bill 1-89(1) is in your legislation binder, number one. Are you ready to go clause by clause on this bill? Bill 1-89(1). Clause 1, definitions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 3, appropriation for 1989-90. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 4, lapse of appropriation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Schedule. Vote 1, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, \$787,407,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Vote 2, capital. Total capital, \$147,297,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Total appropriation, \$934,704,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Does the committee agree that Bill 1-89(1) is ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Committee Report 1-89(1), Report on the Review of the 1989-90 Main Estimates, is concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Mr. Government House Leader.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government is prepared to proceed with Bill 10-89(1), An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Ballantyne.

Bill 10-89(1): Tobacco Tax Act

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, two types of amendments are being proposed to the Tobacco Tax Act. The first area of amendment provides for the increase in the tax rate, as announced in the Budget Address. The second area of amendment provides for administrative changes that are necessary to ensure that the Government of the NWT has an efficient and effective tax collection system. The administrative changes will: transfer duties from the Commissioner to the Minister; make the act consistent with provincial and territorial jurisdictions; clarify and improve the rights and responsibilities of tax collectors; and make a number of other general improvements regarding the imposition and administration of the act.

The act has been amended to provide the legislative base for the imposition of a 55 per cent tax rate on the retail price of most tobacco products. This tax represents an increase from the current rate of 45 per cent and 40 per cent on cigarettes and cigars, respectively. The 55 per cent tax will also be imposed on most types of loose tobacco products, which up until now have not been taxed by the territorial government.

If I could, Mr. Chairman, there was an area of difference in this particular tax, and we had a very productive meeting at the legislation committee. I would like to thank especially Mr. Whitford and Mr. Sibbeston who played a very useful diplomatic role. I think Mr. Morin made his points very well. Because of the reasonable approach taken by the committee, the government is staying firm as far as chewing tobacco, snuff and pipe tobacco increasing to 55 per cent; but the government is prepared to limit the increase for cigarette rolling tobacco just to 25 per cent.

---Applause

The administrative amendments are being made to clarify the roles and responsibilities addressed in the present act. The current act is administratively complex and is difficult to understand and apply. The tax on tobacco is a tax imposed directly on the end consumer, who pays the tax upon the purchase of the product for private consumption. In order to make the collection of tobacco tax administratively efficient, the government does not collect the tax directly from the consumer. Rather, wholesale dealers collect the tax upon the sale of tobacco products to retail dealers, and then remit the tax to the government. In this way the government is required to deal with only a small number of wholesale dealers, rather than the many retail dealers, or the thousands of individual consumers.

The amendments are designed to provide for a method of collection of tobacco tax that is efficient and cost-effective. The amendments ensure that additional administrative burdens are not imposed on retail and wholesale dealers, while clearly establishing their responsibilities. The proposed amendments also outline the responsibilities of collectors and deputy collectors. Appeal mechanisms of collectors pertaining to search and seizure are also presented. With that, Mr. Chairman, if I could bring an official in, I would be prepared to deal with detailed questions.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would defer to the deputy chairman of the standing committee on finance, Mr. Lewis.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Lewis.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe Mr. Ballantyne has covered very well the areas of concern that were raised by the Members of the standing committee on finance. The main concern was that a 55 per cent increase was rather a heavy burden for some people, and it was considered a cultural thing for people who go out in the bush to take little cans of tobacco with them, and maybe if there is to be a tax it should be done over several years rather than to stick a heavy tax on just at one time. The government has recognized that as a problem and has made the necessary adjustments on the suggestion of various Members of the committee, as outlined by Mr. Ballantyne. Otherwise, we have no problem with this bill, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Mr. Minister, would you like to introduce your witness for the record?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I have with me Mr. Jay Saint, who is our tax expert with the Department of Finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Are you ready to go to general comments on Bill 10-89(1), An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act? If not, are you ready to go clause by clause? Okay. Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 3. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Morin has an amendment and it would be appropriate to make it now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Mr. Morin.

Motion To Amend Clause 3, Bill 10-89(1), Carried

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill 10-89(1), An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act, be amended by deleting subclause 3(b) and substituting the following: (b) repealing paragraphs 1(b),(c),(d),(e),(f) and (g), and substituting the following: "(b) 25 per cent of the taxable price per gram of tobacco, commonly known as cigarette tobacco, and the tax shall be computed to the nearest tenth of a cent per gram of tobacco;" and adding in paragraph (i) after "than", the words "cigarette tobacco".

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Mr. Lewis, as deputy chairman of finance, basically stated why the committee had felt the act should be amended. Mr. Ballantyne was quite good in accepting the recommendations from the committee. That is all I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you, Mr. Morin. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Clause 3, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Clause 4, taxable price per cigarette. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 5, taxable price per gram of tobacco. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 7, appointment of collectors. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 8, requirements for permit. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 9, refusal of permit. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 10. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 11, agreement with collectors respecting remissions.
Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 12, inspection of buildings. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 13, appeal to Minister. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 14. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 15. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 16, definition of "overpayment". Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 17, officers. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Clause 18. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, there is one other small amendment to follow Mr. Morin's amendment, if I could move it, Mr. Chairman.

Motion To Add Clause 19 To Bill 10-89(1), Carried

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Bill 10-89(1), Tobacco Tax Act, be amended by adding clause 19, to read as follows: 19. Section 29 is further amended a) by striking out "subsection 3.1(2)" and substituting "subsections 3.1(2) and 3.2(2)" in paragraph (j); and b) by adding "and the taxable price per gram of tobacco" after "cigarette" in paragraph (k).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Question is being called. All those in favour? Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 19. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Bill as a whole, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Does the committee agree that Bill 10-89(1) is ready for third reading, as amended? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Minister and your witness. What is the committee's wish at this time? Mr. Morin.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Angottitauruq): The motion to report progress is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

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

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF COMMITTEE REPORT 1-89(1), REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 1989-90 MAIN ESTIMATES; BILL 1-89(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1989-90; Bill 10-89(1), TOBACCO TAX ACT

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering CR 1-89(1), Bill 1-89(1) and Bill 10-89(1) and wishes to report that CR 1-89(1) and Bill 1-89(1) are ready for third reading, and that Bill 10-89(1) is ready for third reading, as amended.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The House is agreed. Mr. Alloo.oo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to Item 4, returns to oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 4, returns to oral questions. Are there any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: There are no nays. Mr. Allooloo, proceed.

REVERT TO ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O452-89(1): Consequences Of Bowhead Whale Hunting

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ernerk this morning, concerning bowhead whales. I have talked to the president of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association this afternoon about this matter. He advises me that it is their intention to seek a permit from the federal Minister to harvest bowhead whales this summer. In the event that the permit is denied, their intentions are to go ahead with hunting bowhead without a permit.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame!

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: I understand that the Keewatin Inuit Association has written a letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans requesting a meeting to discuss the bowhead whaling issue. We support this approach to resolve the situation but our government does not support hunting whales without a permit, especially as bowhead whales are an endangered species.

The consequences of the illegal hunt include, first, that legal charges can be laid against each individual who takes part in such a hunt and if convicted, each individual could face a fine of up to \$5000, 12 months in jail, or both. In addition all equipment may be seized and permanently retained by the federal government. The federal department could also increase these penalties or bring in new regulations and penalties prior to break-up, if the issue continues. The KIA could also be charged for conspiracy to aid and abet commission of the offence.

Secondly, politically there could be a great deal of harm done to the Inuit of the NWT. There could be worldwide condemnation of Inuit for their actions. Inuit could lose all credibility as wise users and managers of wildlife.

---Applause

Animal rights activists around the world would be able to use this action to disrupt markets for Inuit products and to further their causes.

Third, the action could alter the favourable attitude shown by the federal Minister and his department toward the development of fishing industries by northern native groups.

Fourth, the agreement in principle could be jeopardized since Inuit have agreed to abide by laws governing wildlife, particularly endangered species.

Lastly, the federal government could examine the level of funding that it provides to organizations which support endangered species or take part in such activities.

Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct in stating that the Inuit are not lawbreakers. Since the laws of the country governing wildlife came into our territory in Nunavut, the Inuit have been co-operatively working with the authorities to see that laws are not broken, as the Inuit are conservationists. The Member is also right in stating that Inuit have never been known to have taken so many animals as to make them endangered in our Territories. Therefore I would seek your support to not allow such activities to be taking place without proper permits. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Point of order, Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order for clarification. The Minister used the word Kitikmeot. It is not Kitikmeot. It is in fact, Keewatin.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for that clarification. That was in the first paragraph, Mr. Minister. I noticed that too. Or at least I thought I did. We are on orders of the day. Mr. Gargan.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan, could you enlighten the House as to which motion you are referring to.

MR. GARGAN: This is with regard to the \$60 million that is designated for development of child care services on reserves.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 14, motions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Gargan, proceed.

REVERT TO ITEM 14: MOTIONS

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

WHEREAS child care, including day-care, is a priority of the Members of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has identified funds for day-care, including specific funds dedicated for the use of reserves of First Nations child care;

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 NWT.

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

MR. GARGAN: Just briefly that in the federal government when they first started the national strategy for child care, they did say that there was going to be \$60 million to develop child care on the reserves. The Minister of Social Services did indicate that that \$60 million portion of the money would not go to the NWT, that it was specifically going to be used only for southern Canada where there are reserves.

Also, just maybe on a note that Mr. Butters also did indicate, that to get loans guaranteed you did have to be on a reserve. In this case, Hay River is the only one but even they are not being guaranteed that. Mr. Chairman, I will be going down to Vancouver on Monday on that First Nations child care inquiry and I would like to be able to come up with a motion that has been supported in this House for the Assembly of First Nations to consider giving us support, so that the federal government would change their directions and give us some of that money that is designated for the reserve. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Ernerk, as seconder of the motion do you wish to speak?

MR. ERNERK: No, Mr. Speaker, the mover of the motion has explained the intent of the motion so I will not speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. To the motion. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Ongoing Communication With Federal Ministers

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I just wanted to make a couple of comments in regard to the motion on the floor. Mr. Speaker, this was indicated to me by the Hon. Jake Epp when he was the Minister responsible for National Health and Welfare. I spoke to him on the telephone, July 12 I believe, when he announced the \$60 million fund, indicating to him at that time this funding was identified for native children on reserves. I did advise him at that time that there was only one reserve in the NWT, being the Hay River Reserve.

Further to that, he also advised me that this would probably be a fund that would be more favourable toward the NWT because of the majority of our children being native. I was quite disappointed I must say, in further discussions and further correspondence going back to Mr. Epp, when he identified that the \$60 million would only be for reserves, when his initial conversation indicated that it could be made available to the NWT.

So I did want to indicate to the Member that there has been quite a bit of correspondence that has crossed from my desk to the previous Minister, the Hon. Jake Epp, and to the current Minister, the Hon. Perrin Beatty, basically requesting him to reconsider the on-reserve Indian child care initiative program. I did ask him to certainly encourage his government to reconsider their decision because the children in the North, the majority of children in the North are native, and the general population in the NWT do have unique needs which require special services beyond those that may generally be available, compared to the South.

I did want to advise the House that there has been a continual amount of correspondence, in that we are certainly continuing to pursue the issue with the federal government in trying to access these funds that were allocated for reserve funding, not only for the one reserve at Hay River, but for the Territories in general. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. Mr. Gargan, as the mover of the motion, do you wish to conclude?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 18-89(1), Carried

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

--Carried

We are on Item 19, third reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 1-89(1), Appropriation Act, 1989-90, be read for the third time.

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

---Carried

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

Third Reading Of Bill 10-89(1): Tobacco Tax Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 10-89(1), An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act, as amended, be read for the third time.

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

---Carried

Bill 10-89(1) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Item 20, assent to bills. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to give assent to bills?

ITEM 20: ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Please be seated. By the authority invested in me by the NWT Act, and as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby assent to Bill 1-89(1), Bill 4-89(1), Bill 7-89(1) and Bill 10-89(1).

MR. SPEAKER: Item 21, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, Members are reminded of the Government Leader's invitation to the reception this evening in conference room B downstairs immediately after adjournment.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, April 5th, at 1:00 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

11. **Tabling of Documents**
12. **Notices of Motion**
13. **Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills**
14. **Motions**
15. **First Reading of Bills**
16. **Second Reading of Bills**
17. **Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Appearance of FEARO Witnesses; Tabled Document 58-89(1) and Tabled Document 59-89(1); Bill 3-89(1)**
18. **Report of Committee of the Whole**
19. **Third Reading of Bills**
20. **Orders of the Day**

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, April 5th, 1989, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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