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NORMAN WELLS, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1989

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Crow, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Lewis, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Morin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Whitford, Hon. Gordon Wray, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Oh God, may Your Spirit and guidance be in us as we work for the benefit of all our people, for peace and justice in our land and for constant recognition of the dignity and aspirations of those whom we serve. Amen.

Please be seated.

Election Of New Speaker

In accordance with the Rules of this House it is my duty to preside over the election of your Speaker. I now call for motions from the House. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

Motion To Elect New Speaker, Carried

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Richard Nerysoo, take the chair as Speaker.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Secunder to the motion, Member for Amittuq, Mr. Allooloo. To the motion.

MR. PUDLUK: Recorded vote, please.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Request for a recorded vote. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): All those in favour of the motion please rise. Mr. Crow, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Morin, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Wray, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Butters, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. McLaughlin. All those against the motion please rise. Those abstaining from the motion please rise. Mr. Gargan and Mr. Nerysoo. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

I therefore declare Mr. Richard Nerysoo, the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, elected Speaker of the House and would request the mover and secunder to escort the Speaker to his chair.

---Applause

SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo): Honourable Members, let me begin by repeating most sincerely the first words traditionally uttered by a newly elected Speaker. Honourable Members, I beg to return my humble acknowledgements to the House for the honour which you have been pleased to confer upon me by choosing me to be your Speaker.

I would like to express a special personal regard and thanks on your behalf to my predecessor, the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, Mr. Pedersen.

---Applause

I think Mr. Pedersen, in his speech yesterday, reminded all Members of the traditions of the speakership and the need to maintain these in every changing constitutional political process our Territory and Legislature has had to face, and will face in the future.

My predecessor has felt it necessary to relinquish the Chair. His contribution to this Legislature and to our legislative standing in the Commonwealth will assist me in my tenure as your Speaker, and I will sincerely thank him for that. Mr. Pedersen, this House thanks you for your service as its fourth Speaker.

The Speaker cannot serve the House without the good will and the co-operation of all Members; this has always been a fact. Good will and co-operation remain essential for all Members, including the Members of the Executive Council.

Parliamentary democracy in the institution of the legislative assembly is sacred and is embodied in our Legislature and it must be protected. Even with changes in our rules and procedures, all Members have the responsibility to protect and preserve democratic rights on behalf of all residents of the Northwest Territories. As your Speaker, I will protect the institution that we have been so honoured to be allowed to serve for the good of the people of the Territories. I call upon each and every one of you to be ever mindful of this in our actions in this House and when carrying out our responsibilities placed on us by our constituents. I feel that the words of one of Canada's greatest parliamentarians, Edward Blake, are appropriate, who said in 1873, "The privileges of Parliament are the privileges of the people and the rights of Parliament are the rights of the people." These words are as true today and we should reflect on them as we strive to improve the Legislature of the Northwest Territories so our children will take pride in our achievements, then, on their behalf for their future. Let us all, in the interests of the Northwest Territories, carry out our responsibilities, setting aside personal and private prejudice.

I assure all Members that I will endeavour to bring equity, fairness, good judgment and neutrality to the position that you have seen fit to elect me to. I am your servant and I will need your continued support to carry out my duties for you in this chamber, and I promise to do everything I can to serve you well, and I thank you for the privilege.

---Applause

Thank you. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 1-89(2): Deferral Of Transportation Of Dangerous Goods Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has decided to defer the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act until the 1990 budget session of the Legislative Assembly. We have decided upon this course of action to make sure that the legislation this Assembly passes is adequate to its task. The standing committee on

legislation raised several points of concern, which I believe deserve closer attention and consideration. Of particular concern to me is the policy issue surrounding the "handling and offering for transport" of dangerous goods. This remains an unresolved question of jurisdictional competence between the federal/provincial and territorial governments. The issue will require the department to re-examine its interpretation of the two contrary approaches the provincial Transportation of Dangerous Goods Acts have taken across Canada and to determine which model the NWT should follow.

Of much lesser concern are the questions, raised by the standing committee's witness, on issues of technical legal wording, which present no great difficulty in their resolution.

In the meantime, the transportation of dangerous goods will continue to fall under the authority of the existing act, which has served the Territories well since its passage seven years ago. I would feel better with the tighter and tougher provisions of the new act in effect, but by deferring its enactment another few months, this government and the Assembly can be confident that a tighter and tougher act is what they have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Are there any other ministerial statements? Mr. Kakfwi.

Ministers' Statement 2-89(2): Projects Designed To Increase Parental Involvement In Education

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, there is an increasing awareness throughout the NWT and Canada of the crucial role parents can play in the education of their children. In partnership with the regional and local authorities, parents have a great deal to contribute to the educational experiences of their children in their schools, in their homes, and in their communities. When parents are directly involved in school-related activities, students benefit, achievement improves, attitudes and behaviours improve, and the students' respect and understanding for their families, elders and communities grow.

In co-operation with the divisional and the local education authorities, the communities, and interested parents, the student support division of the Department of Education has recently helped develop pilot projects in two communities. Community parent support teams have been established in Arviat and Rae-Edzo to help parents become more involved in education and to encourage other parents to take an active role. Activities undertaken by these teams have included workshops to help the parents gain the information and skills they need to operate as a support group. In Arviat the team has organized a three-day cultural familiarization for teachers new to the community. Future projects include further participation in the professional development of teachers and local promotional campaigns using community radio. Using the experiences of the community parent support teams, a model that can be shared with other communities is being developed.

The student support division is working to encourage parental involvement in a number of other ways. Working with parents and the Dogrib Divisional Board, a public information strategy is being developed to remind parents of the valuable role they can play in the education of their children. Another co-operative venture entails the development of strategies to assist parents in preparing their children for their first years in school. Lessons learned from these pilot projects and strategies will be shared with other communities.

Mr. Speaker, a good educational system is based on a partnership between schools and the communities they serve. By drawing more and more people into this partnership, the department is striving to make education more interesting and relevant for all Northerners. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Are there any other statements? Minister of Culture and Communications.

Ministers' Statement 3-89(2): Sahtu Community Heritage Events

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to bring to your attention two special events which are being staged on the occasion of our visit to Norman Wells and the Sahtu region. Both events are related to the community heritage program of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

The first is the official opening of the Norman Wells Historical Centre by the Norman Wells Historical Society tonight at 7:30 p.m. The second is the opening of the school exhibition in Fort Franklin and the designation of Sir John Franklin's post as a territorial historic site. This will take place on Sunday, October 22nd, in Fort Franklin. I am very pleased to invite you to take part in this celebration of community culture and heritage and look forward to seeing you at these openings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, at a later time today I wish to give notice that I would like to make a statement on the National Energy Board gas export decision. However, that decision will not be out until later today and I would like at that time to seek unanimous consent to proceed at that time with a statement regarding the export of natural gas to southern Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Do we have unanimous consent to return after the announcement by the National Energy Board? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: You have unanimous consent, Ms Cournoyea. Are there any other ministerial statements? Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Arlooktoo.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Lake Harbour Concerns

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I would like to make a brief comment about some of the things I am happy with and about some of the things I am not too happy with. I would like to tell the Executive Council with regard to what they have been doing for the people of Cape Dorset that I appreciate that very much. All the things we have been trying to do for the people of Cape Dorset have been able to proceed very smoothly.

But also with regard to my community of Lake Harbour, it is not the same as my other constituents because that is where I am from, and things that are done for that community are not as smooth as the other communities in my constituency. It seems like it is treated a little bit differently by the government. For that reason I would like to tell the Executive Members that the people of Lake Harbour should be treated the same as my other constituents by the government.

We all know that I was elected to represent those constituents in Lake Harbour in 1979, but it is now 1989 and not very much has been done for that community where I come from. I would also like to say that if we ask questions of the Ministers in the House, I would like them to respond by either saying yes or no, and I would like to have this continued, whether it is an answer from a Minister, to have them directly say either we can do it or we cannot do it. There are some things I have requested for my constituents before that have not been responded to so far.

MR. SPEAKER: I would just like to remind the House that Members' statements are limited to two minutes. Are there any other Members' statements? Mr. Ernerk.

Member's Statement On Deaths Of Distinguished Community Leaders

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to pay my respects to two people from Rankin Inlet who have died this summer. They have died in the year 1989, and I would like to announce at this time, or let the House know, that those two people were loved very much by the people of the Keewatin and they were the leaders of the community. One is Theresa Tarta and the other, Joan Atuat. Both of these elders were leaders of the community and I am sure that we will be remembering them sadly in the future because they have greatly achieved for the people of the Keewatin Region, what we all want to achieve as leaders. I would at this time like to send my condolences to relatives of those people, because they will be sadly missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Importance Of Norman Wells To NWT

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note that you allowed the Member for Sahtu metric minutes yesterday and I hope that you would offer the same privilege to the people who are ordinary Members today. I am talking about the office, not the person.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the people of Norman Wells, I would like Members to note the importance of this community. It is the site of the very first commercial oil well west of Ontario in 1921 and continues today as a significant part of the oil industry in Western Canada. It has played a major role in the development of the Northwest Territories since 1942 when it became an important link in the plans to defend North America from Japanese invasion through Alaska.

On April 29, 1942 the permanent joint defence board, consisting of equal numbers of Americans and Canadians, approved four major projects: the Alaska Highway over the mountains from Dawson Creek to Alaska; a telegraph line which ran along the same route; a series of air fields along the Slave and Mackenzie Rivers to take airplanes to Alaska and to the Soviet Union; and a pipeline called Canol to transport oil from Norman Wells to a refinery in Whitehorse. These four projects were placed under the direction of a group called Task Force 2600.

Mr. Speaker, when the pipeline was completed on February 16, 1944 the work of this big task force came to an end. It had created a network of roads, a communication system, nine airstrips and 600 miles of pipeline. Although the attack from the Japanese never materialized, this military project helped open up the North. It provided the basis for a transportation system which would be of lasting benefit to all our Northerners.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that this government will soon move to develop a transportation infrastructure and to provide support for pipeline development, begun so well in war time, but badly neglected for the past 47 years. Although, Mr. Speaker, I cannot blame this government for all of those last 47 years. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. I did consider the comment you made and gave you the metric minutes that you required. Mr. Butters.

Member's Statement On Pledge Of Support To New Speaker

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I compliment you and congratulate you on your selection as our Speaker. I am confident that you will, as our former Speaker, the honourable Red Pedersen, noted, have the confidence of and be acceptable to, all Members of this Assembly.

I commit to you my support in your new role in this House and express to you my confidence in your stewardship of this most important and demanding responsibility during the waning years of the 11th Assembly.

To our former Speaker, Mr. Red Pedersen, my gratitude for his excellent service in a difficult and demanding role. I have appreciated his thoughtful judgments regarding the conduct of business in the House and his ever present sense of humour. He has served us well and ably and I appreciate his confidence, his conscientious attention to our needs and his dedication to the parliamentary democracy and its demands on many occasions. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Are there any other Members' statements? Mr. Pudluk.

Member's Statement On Death Of Distinguished Elder

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a brief comment. Just last summer something terrible happened. Noah Nassok died last summer. He had worked very hard. He had gone by dog teams for long distances and he had worked for the Anglican mission for a long time. He was one of the first Inuit ministers – a lay person for Anglican people. I send my condolences to the relatives; he is also one of my relatives. I know we are going to miss him. He worked very hard and now he is resting. I wanted to mention that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk, for saving some time for another Member. Mr. Whitford.

Member's Statement On Appointment Of Speaker And Commissioner

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this occasion to welcome you as the Speaker and say how pleased I am to see you there. What I want to do in these few minutes is to say that on February 14th last, I rose to make my statement soon after the Commissioner had announced his resignation. At that time I made the suggestion that the next Commissioner be appointed from the North, someone who is a northern born person. I am very pleased to have been part of that historical decision this summer, to make recommendation to the Minister in Ottawa, that Mr. Norris be our 11th Commissioner. I think we have set a precedent here that will establish the coming of age of this government – we can make these kinds of recommendations and the Minister in Ottawa takes us seriously. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Whitford. I do not wish the Members to think that the comments by Mr. Whitford should set a precedent. In fact he raised two items and the usual Members' statements are to deal with one particular issue. So I do not want it to be a precedent. Are there any more Members' statements? Mr. Gargan.

Member's Statement On Appointment Of Speaker

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise at this time to congratulate you on your new position. I would also like to express that during the two years that Mr. Pedersen was the Speaker of this House and most recently as I had an opportunity to travel with Mr. Pedersen for the last two weeks in the Barbados, I have grown to know him quite good. It sort of caught me off guard when he resigned yesterday. I would also like to say that in my abstention of voting for or against your appointment, my opposition was because Members of this House usually are considered for all important votes that take place, including the speakership as well as the chairman of committee of the whole that is going to be there too. So that was the reason I did not vote any way because I thought we should have been involved. In this case, five Members of the Western Arctic were not here when this process took place and also I am not aware of what the process was yesterday or this morning. I only came in at dinner time. That was the reason I did not vote to support or go against an individual.

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that under your speakership I wish to act as your Deputy Speaker. I also wish you would take a glance on this side once in a while because I believe there are going to be four Members on this side, too. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall not forget your smiling face, Mr. Gargan. Are there any other Members' statements? Mr. Patterson.

Member's Statement On Appointment Of Speaker

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I, too, am pleased to welcome you to the challenging responsibility you have undertaken as our new Speaker. I have full confidence in your impartiality, following the tradition set by your predecessor, the honourable Red Pedersen. I also know and have full confidence that you will be dedicated to the traditions of parliamentary democracy of which you spoke so eloquently earlier today. I know this is a difficult job. I pledge my support to you, and I look forward to working with you in my capacity as Government Leader. Thank you. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Are there any other Members' statements? Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement On Media From Eastern Arctic In Norman Wells

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would like to thank the media that have been able to come here, the people from Arctic College that are here to do some media work, and the people that are on training at this time for reporting purposes. I have mentioned them before, those people that are in training at Arctic College in Iqaluit. The news has been going to our communities, and it is very much appreciated that they have been able to come with us to Norman Wells to do some reporting. I thought that as a Member from the Baffin I should mention this in this House. They like to have some media input from the Eastern Arctic. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Are there any other Members' statements?

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O1-89(2): Student Financial Assistance

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question maybe has not been heard by the honourable Member. It is probably straightforward. This question is directed to the Minister of Education and is with regard to students that finish their grade 12 schooling. The students that have graduated and have completed their grade 12 and then want to go to a southern institution to further their education or, say for instance, to a pilot course down south, or any other professional education that they would like to take up -- when they want to do that, would they be assisted financially to further their education? I just want to know what kind of answer the Minister has with regard to financial assistance for students that would like to further their education down south. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Honourable Minister of Education.

Return To Question O1-89(2): Student Financial Assistance

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the Member asks for yes or no answers. The answer is yes, if the institution of higher learning that the student applies to accepts them, we generally provide all the funding that is necessary for the student.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for that quick response. With respect to that, Mr. Minister, I have noticed in my constituency that students have to pay their own way to a southern school when they want to further their education. I will know right now that we can provide them with financial assistance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I am not quite sure whether or not Mr. Arlooktoo was asking a question. I believe he was making a comment so that the Minister of Education will take note of the issue. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question O2-89(2): Decision On Fort Smith Decentralization

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, when we were at the last Assembly this winter, the Government Leader indicated that the cabinet would be deciding on the decentralization of Fort Smith. Since that time, the Government Leader has met with a number of MLAs that are affected. The people in my constituency are most anxious to know if there is any further decentralization or just what the government is going to do in this regard. I would like to ask the Government Leader, when is he going to announce anything further with respect to decentralization of Fort Smith?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Government Leader.

Return To Question O2-89(2): Decision On Fort Smith Decentralization

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for notice of the question. Cabinet has not yet finally reviewed the proposed reorganization recommendations that I have prepared in consultation with MLAs and departments of the government. I expect that the review of my recommendations will take place soon. I am, in fact, planning a visit to the Member's constituency later in November and I would certainly expect that by that time I would be able to report to him and his constituents the result of that cabinet review. But as of today I cannot say that it is completed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Question O3-89(2): Paving Of Fort Simpson Airport Road

MR. SIBBESTON: A different question, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Wray, about a matter in my constituency. At a meeting of the village council in Simpson on Monday, the council asked me to raise the point about the possibility of paving the road into Fort Simpson from the airport. They alleged that the Commissioner some years ago when he was on a trip to Simpson promised the people of Simpson that the road would be paved. I do not know how good the Commissioner's word was then, but I think it was in the days when his word was quite weighty. I note that a number of communities in the North have their roads into town paved: Yellowknife, Smith, Hay River, Rae and Fort Providence. I am now wondering, when can the people of Fort Simpson expect that the road into their town will be paved?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. The Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O3-89(2): Paving Of Fort Simpson Airport Road

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, in the days of yore, when the Commissioner went around promising things, it usually meant that somebody else suffered. A community got one thing, but what was not known was that another community probably lost it. I cannot give any commitment as to when the community can expect the road to be paved into Fort Simpson. Our priority at this point in time is reconstruction and paving of the major highway

itself, the Mackenzie highway, particularly between Providence and Rae, where we are suffering some very severe failures. What little money I have at this point in time is going into the major highway.

Inevitably, it will be done, but at this point, I really cannot put a time on it. I think once the major highway has been reconstructed and paved, then we can look at starting to do some of the other things that should be done as well. So I cannot give the Member any commitment in time at this moment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ernerk.

Question O4-89(2): Private Dental Services, Rankin Inlet

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations. (Translation) This is a question to the Minister of Health. The private dental services in Rankin, if they do not receive the contract from the government to serve the people of the Keewatin Region, they will be closing down. I thought this might be a mistake. The government seems to be working backwards. I just want to ask the Department of Health to see if they can assist us or intervene. We want the private dental services in Rankin to stay open and receive the contract, because it will be most beneficial to the people of Rankin Inlet and the Keewatin. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister responsible for Health.

Return To Question O4-89(2): Private Dental Services, Rankin Inlet

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the circumstances. The situation that arose and has been referred to by the honourable Member concerns a dental contract that was deliberated on by a committee of the Keewatin Regional Health Board. At this present time the Keewatin Regional Health Board is looking at the decision made by the committee, and the Department of Health has offered such assistance as it can, to see what can be done to expedite the most appropriate decision. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any other oral questions? Mr. Lewis.

Question O5-89(2): Condition Of Mackenzie Highway

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to create at least the impression today that ajauqtit is organized. My question is for the Minister of Transportation again. This summer I took a trip along our highway, as I have done for the past two falls, and noted on one journey from Providence as far as Chan Lake, which is not a very long distance, that every few hundred yards there is a little red circle or a little red triangle to show you that there is a bump in the road. It seems to me that every time I am on that road I see these round circles and these kind of diamond shaped markers that tell you that this road is dangerous and you should go very slowly.

My question to the Minister is that since these red things are there all through the summer, why do they not fix them instead of just warning people? Why do you not fix the road rather than just warn people that the road is bad?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O5-89(2): Condition Of Mackenzie Highway

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The problem is quite frankly that there are major failures occurring in the base of that road and it is not just simply a question of patching up. I guess we could run around and patch it up but that would be a waste of money because the

problem will only resurface within a very short time. As I had mentioned earlier in my reply to Mr. Sibbeston, we are going to have to do a major reconstruction of that highway and, as such, work will begin this winter on stockpiling and major roadwork will commence on that entire section and on paving over the next few years. We have to rebuild the base, and to go around patching up would certainly alleviate some problems but when you only have so much money, quite frankly I would rather take the money and go to the root of the problem and fix it once and for all. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O5-89(2): Condition Of Mackenzie Highway

MR. LEWIS: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Since the base is no good and in the opinion of many people the base was put in the wrong place to start with, at least the road is built on the wrong base to start with, is the department considering rerouting that road so that we would have a more interesting drive, with all respect to Mr. Gargan, from Providence up as far as the interesting country that begins around and about Fort Rae?

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

Further Return To Question O5-89(2): Condition Of Mackenzie Highway

HON. GORDON WRAY: Well, as an easterner it all looks the same to me, Mr. Speaker, trees and trees. There is no major plan for rerouting but there will be some, I suspect, minor rerouting. The first section that we will be doing is north of Providence, kilometre 44 to 65. This is the worst section, causing most of the difficulties this summer. We have put through a crushing contract and that will be done this winter. We will also be doing some clearing work from kilometre zero to 44. There is no major plan for rerouting simply because of the cost. Rerouting means all new surveys; it means a complete new base, whereas even though the base is gone in this section, there is still some part of the base that is useable. So, there is no plan for major rerouting.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Any further oral questions? Mr. Whitford.

Question O6-89(2): Trucks Sliding Off Mackenzie Highway

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While Mr. Wray is getting the kicks I might as well get mine in as well, to him. It is concerning the highway. Recently in a northern newspaper there was an article about several trucks having slid off the road between Fort Rae and Yellowknife because of the road conditions, the surface conditions, not the bottom or the base. Can Mr. Wray tell me why these trucks have been sliding off the road, even at slow speeds?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: No, I cannot. I have absolutely no idea why the trucks are sliding off the road but I will undertake to find out. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is taking the question as notice. Mr. Gargan.

Question O7-89(2): Drowned Bison In Sanctuary

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will give Mr. Wray a break there. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, on May 15th, it was discovered in the bison sanctuary that close to 50 to 150 bison have died due to drowning. I would like to ask the Minister what the exact numbers are regarding the amount of bison that were destroyed in this sanctuary. I also would like to ask the Minister whether or not he had the

courtesy to write a letter either to myself concerning the bison herd there, or to the band council or hamlet council regarding the bison destroyed in the bison sanctuary near Fort Providence.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister responsible for Renewable Resources.

Return To Question O7-89(2): Drowned Bison In Sanctuary

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker. I will make the commitment and write him a letter.

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

Supplementary To Question O7-89(2): Drowned Bison In Sanctuary

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister whether or not he had the courtesy to write to anybody in Fort Providence, the band council or hamlet council or myself. I have not received anything regarding the outcome of the bison destroyed in the sanctuary. I wanted to know if the community's concerns have been addressed. I would like to ask the Minister again, whether or not he knows the exact number of bison destroyed and whether or not he has done something to notify or consult the community regarding that situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O7-89(2): Drowned Bison In Sanctuary

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: No, I have not written a letter to the community to this date. For the other information he is requesting, I can make it available to him at a later date.

MR. SPEAKER: So the Member is taking the question as notice. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: The Minister who I would like to ask a question of is not in the House. Even though he is not in the House I feel that life continues. So I am going to try to get an answer from a Minister responsible for a fire chief position in Rankin Inlet. Is there anyone responsible? Can I try the Government Leader, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Ernerk.

Question O8-89(2): Fire Chief Position In Rankin Inlet

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the winter session of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Justice made a statement to this House, in 1989, that a fire chief position would be made available to the hamlet of Rankin Inlet. I specifically asked this question in the House during the debate of his department in 1989 in the winter and the answer was yes. My question is this: I understand that the GNWT has recently decided to make this a government position and a regional position. Why is this?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe Members have been informed that the Minister of Justice and Finance is attending federal/provincial Finance Ministers' meetings this week and is therefore unable to be in the House today. However, I will be happy to take the question as notice on Mr. Ballantyne's behalf. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Mr. Ernerk.

Supplementary To Question O8-89(2): Fire Chief Position In Rankin Inlet

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. Would the government consider putting this position into the hands of the hamlet of Rankin Inlet again?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Just as a reminder, it will not be possible in the future to have supplementaries to questions that have been taken as notice. However, seeing as that one was given, I will allow it, but not as a precedent. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would, in view of the absence of the Minister of Justice, ask also to take that supplementary as notice on his behalf.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Question O9-89(2): Decentralization Of NWT Housing Corporation Offices

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. Butters. The Minister knows that the whole of the Fort Smith area, the Deh Cho area, is presently served by its district office in Hay River. I was at a meeting in Wrigley on Monday and a number of housing officials were in attendance. There was one from Fort Simpson and another one chartered in from Hay River, and it surprised me that officials would travel that far at high cost to attend a meeting. It occurred to me that if some of the housing officials presently situated in Hay River were moved to Fort Simpson they would not have to travel so far. I wonder if the Minister would consider the possibility of decentralizing the district office in Hay River to Fort Simpson, and I believe that same sort of thing should happen perhaps to Fort Smith, and the Housing Corporation in Yellowknife to Rae. It is a multifaceted type of issue I believe has to be dealt with. Would the Minister seriously consider decentralization as I asked?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Butters.

Return To Question O9-89(2): Decentralization Of NWT Housing Corporation Offices

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give the honourable Member thanks for giving me notice of this question. I have not thought of such a decentralization as yet, but I have listened carefully to the Member's remarks and I would be happy to consider the suggestion that he has made to me this moment.

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

Question O10-89(2): Policy On Military Activity In The North

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our new Commissioner yesterday indicated, on military planning, that "Plans by Canada and the United States to conduct low-level bomber training flights in the southern Mackenzie emphasizes the need for the Northwest Territories to develop a policy on military activity in the North." Is this government going to be involved in developing that policy, or is it only the Canadian government and the United States who will be involved in developing that policy?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Mr. Government Leader.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am afraid I did not quite understand who the Member was quoting in the document referred to.

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me. The document that I believe Mr. Pudluk was quoting from is the statement of the Commissioner in his opening remarks yesterday. Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O10-89(2): Policy On Military Activity In The North

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the proposed policy referred to in the Commissioner's Opening Address is the policy on peace and security which would be developed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. It would, hopefully, serve to advise and influence the Governments of Canada and the United States as they make decisions which affect the Northwest Territories. The policy referred to, Mr. Speaker, is a proposed policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Question O11-89(2): Effect On Keewatin Re Cuts In Via Rail

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. This is with regard to the recent cuts in Via Rail in southern Canada. I am wondering if that will have any effect on the Keewatin Region, especially from the rail transportation point of view, at least to Churchill and to the rest of the region, because of the high cost of living, the high cost of transportation, etc.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O11-89(2): Effect On Keewatin Re Cuts In Via Rail

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It indeed appears that there is going to be an effect on the Keewatin Region, although perhaps not quite in the area we expected. While the passenger line from Winnipeg to Churchill has been preserved intact at this point in time, the bulk of the passengers that are carried on that line are mainly tourists, which were arranged through Via Rail's marketing agency. The spinoff effect was that those tourists and the bulk of the tourists that we get into the Keewatin Region were part of the Via Rail tour groups. From what I can understand, as part of the cuts, Via Rail's marketing agency has also gone down the tubes, which seems to suggest that, in fact, in the Keewatin we may have lost our entire tourist industry, or the vast majority of it, in the recent Via Rail cuts. We have established contact with the Government of Manitoba, who I believe are concerned and have set something up to see if they can do something. We are working closely with the Government of Manitoba because obviously the loss of even the small number of tourists that we had is going to adversely affect our economy; but even more importantly, from what our intelligence brings to us, by cutting the marketing agency, ultimately the bulk of the passengers on that route would be lost, which in turn would allow the federal government at some point in time to look at cutting the passenger service entirely out of that line.

We know that the federal government would like nothing more than to cut that line completely. It is going to cost something in the neighbourhood of \$250 to \$300 million to repair the line. They are reluctant to do so right now because the line is vital, as Mr. Ernerk knows, to the resupply of our region. Without that rail line the Keewatin cannot be resupplied. We would have to probably go back to being supplied out of Montreal by ship, which would be an extremely difficult and costly process. If the Government of Manitoba -- and I guess we are going to have to work with them -- does not replace those passengers, then the scenario could possibly be that passengers will go, the passenger service will be next to go, and next to go after that will be the freight service.

There were only two grain ships that went into Churchill. One grain ship went into Churchill this summer, two grain ships the previous summer. Because the federal government is unwilling to spend money on the line, it seems to be, rather than overtly closing the line, they are just waiting out us and the Government of Manitoba and the line will have to close because it cannot be used or be functional. We are extremely concerned about the future of the Churchill line, and these

recent cuts seem to point to a progressive pattern which I think is going to cause serious problems for the Keewatin Region. Thank you.

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

Question O12-89(2): Transportation Of Dangerous Goods

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Transportation. The Minister indicated today that he would defer the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act to the budget session in 1990. During the winter there is an increased volume of dangerous goods which are being transported to mines, especially in the Western Arctic. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not, since this act is being deferred, there is any other way of addressing the transportation of dangerous goods.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O12-89(2): Transportation Of Dangerous Goods

HON. GORDON WRAY: While the new legislation has been deferred the fact, Mr. Speaker, is that the old legislation will stay in place and we will still have a Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act that we will enforce until we amend it and improve it and strengthen it. There is protection offered under the existing legislation and we will be extremely vigilant in ensuring and monitoring the enforcement of our existing legislation. So, we will not be left without anything. We do still have our existing legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Any further oral questions? Mr. Sibbeston.

Question O13-89(2): Availability Of Economic Development Funding

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Economic Development. There was a situation recently where a Metis person in Yellowknife was interested in buying into an existing business in Yellowknife, a fairly large company. He went to the department and was advised that there was simply no money available for him. There is a general feeling in the North that for natives who want to get into business there is all kinds of money and there is some criticism from the non-native people that money is too readily accessible. Can the Minister tell the Assembly whether there is any money available for persons such as this Metis person in Yellowknife who wants to buy an existing business, an ongoing business? Also, if it is something that is readily available; business being what it is you cannot simply wait months and months. It is sometimes a matter of responding very quickly. Is there money available and is it available readily so that business transactions can take place?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Minister responsible for Economic Development, Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O13-89(2): Availability Of Economic Development Funding

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Without knowing the exact details or the individual involved it is pretty hard to respond because there is a large number of programs under which this individual could be coming to us. Generally speaking, yes, there is a large number of programs; EDA, Special ARDA, loan fund programs. However, this could be a situation where, and Members will know this, in the business loan fund we have actually run out of money because of the heavy activity and demand that has been placed on us. In this session I am bringing forward an amendment to the Business Loans Act to increase the amount of money available in the business loan fund. So, that may be the situation that the Member is referring to, where we have a temporary shortage in that loan fund and I have to change legislation in order to increase the amount of money available. However, if the Member could provide me with details on a confidential basis, I can check into the individual involved and get back to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Any further oral questions? Mr. Lewis.

Question O14-89(2): Status Of Transportation Infrastructure Needs

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Transportation. I am aware that his department is examining the transportation infrastructure needs for the next few years. I am wondering if he could give us a report as to where that development is right now. Are there meetings taking place? When does he expect it to be completed, and so on?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation.

Return To Question O14-89(2): Status Of Transportation Infrastructure Needs

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed there are many meetings that have taken place and a major program of public and private sector consultation was completed in September and October. It was conducted in all 50 NWT communities as well as southern offices and headquarters of various governments, carriers, resource companies and other interest groups. The timetable for the strategy, Mr. Speaker, would be that at the end of this month, the 27th of October, phase two report would be ready, which would essentially be a summary of the data collected to date. By December, phase three of the report, which would be the formulation and evaluation of the strategy, would be available. By January the executive summary and maps will be ready and by March the final report will be available for the public and for the Legislature. I will table the final report in the budget session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Wray. Any further oral questions? Mr. Gargan.

Question O15-89(2): Timber Permit To Patterson Enterprises

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question, I believe, to the Government Leader and it is with regard to a timber permit that was granted to Patterson Enterprises. The reason why I direct my question to the Government Leader is because the decision to grant a permit was an Executive decision and not the Minister for Renewable Resources. The decision, I believe, was based on recommendations from an arbitrator. I would like to ask the Minister and the Government Leader whether or not the decision was based on the recommendations from the arbitrator and whether or not I can get a copy of the recommendations from the arbitrator, or was this an Executive decision and not based on recommendations, perhaps, by the Minister of Renewable Resources?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Gargan. The honourable Government Leader.

Return To Question O15-89(2): Timber Permit To Patterson Enterprises

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will answer this question since actually several departments of our government were involved. The decision referred to by the Member was made by the Executive Council. It was based on the arbitrator's report but other factors were considered. Mr. Speaker, the arbitrator's report could be provided to the Members. Thank you.

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

Question O16-89(2): Timber Rights In Jean Marie River Area

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a further question on the Patterson timber rights matter. When I was in Jean Marie River on Tuesday, the community indicated their concern about the government's granting of timber rights to Patterson in the area that it did. The community advised

me that historically the people of Jean Marie River have used that area in question for trapping and hunting. They reminded me that Charles Gargan and William Hardisty and Gabe and John Sangris and Henry Kelly and his wife use it. More recently there has been a kids' summer program, learning how to trap and hunt, in that particular area. Did the government take into consideration the aboriginal rights of the people living in Jean Marie River, who have traditionally used that land and are still using that land? And if they have considered it, then what are the consequences of the government's granting licences? What is the government going to do for the people of Jean Marie River whose lands have been encroached upon and, to a certain extent, their rights infringed upon?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. The honourable Government Leader.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of the complexity of the question I would wish to take it as notice and provide the Member with an answer as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Morin.

Question O17-89(2): Correspondence On Military Activity In The North

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. Could you make available to me any correspondence you have had with the federal government's Department of National Defence, Bill McKnight, Minister of National Defence, on all military activity in the North in the past year; all the correspondence that this government has written to the federal department, as well as to the Minister? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government Leader.

Return To Question O17-89(2): Correspondence On Military Activity In The North

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, as far as correspondence between our government and the Minister of National Defence, I do not think there has been a great deal. There have been a number of meetings and discussions, but I do not think there have been more than two or three letters that I can recall. However, I will be pleased to provide those letters to the House at the appropriate opportunity, including a letter just received from Mr. McKnight on the subject of low-level flying. I could table that letter today, Mr. Speaker, and the others later.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Any further oral questions? Mr. Arlooktoo.

Question O18-89(2): Damaged Dentures

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health in regard to dentures. The Inuit people usually eat hard food, country food; for example, frozen meat and dry meat and hard biscuits. These are the main foods of the elders and usually this damages the dentures. Ipeelee even has a broken denture here.

---Laughter

Is it not possible to give the Inuit people better dentures, ones that are hard to break? I have seen a lot of Inuit people who have damaged dentures and sometimes they glue them back together. I do not think the glue substance is good for you. I was wondering if they could give them better dentures. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question O18-89(2): Damaged Dentures

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, this may be good for a chuckle, but certainly in the tour over this last summer, when we went through the Baffin and Keewatin, it is not such a funny story because it is actually true. There are very serious problems with the dentures that are given to people. It is particularly difficult in remoter communities because oftentimes you may have an opportunity once a year to see a dentist. So I think this is a very serious situation. I believe that dentures should stand up to chewing on quaq as much as chewing on an apple. I believe dentures should be made to stand up. It appears that with the dentures that have been assigned to various people, that the quality of the work is a problem. It is not that the dentists have not received adequate payment for services rendered.

So certainly I understand the Member's question. It probably would be more of a laughing matter if it was only occurring once in a while, but the occurrence of inferior dentures supplied to people who live in remote communities is a very serious matter and we are trying now, in terms of assigning or giving out the contracts to various people who supply dentures, to ensure that the quality of work improves. I certainly appreciate the Member bringing this to the attention of the Assembly because I think that at this time the expenditure made by the Department of Health on behalf of people, whether they are Inuit or otherwise, is great enough that we should be getting quality service for the payments we are making. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question O19-89(2): Adult Educator For Fort Wrigley

MR. SIBBESTON: (Translation) I would like to ask Mr. Kakfwi a question and I hope he will reply to me satisfactorily. Just recently I was in Fort Wrigley and there seemed to be a lot of people that have dropped out of school, and a lot of them have been educated only as far as grade six. So there are not very many people that are well educated. Since 1986 there has not been anyone placed in that community to teach upgrading to the adults. I would like to ask the Minister of Education if he would place an adult educator in that community. There are a lot of adults there that have dropped out at an early grade, and they wish to further their upgrading. I would like to ask the Minister for his assistance.

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Sibbeston. Mr. Kakfwi.

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

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

Question O20-89(2): Tuberculosis In Repulse Bay

MR. ERNERK: I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health. Last winter when we had our session in Yellowknife, the question kept coming up with respect to tuberculosis in Repulse Bay. I personally know the people of Repulse Bay kept their spirits up although there were a lot of people who had tuberculosis. Perhaps I can ask the Minister during our session here if she could respond to me as to how the tuberculosis cases are going on in Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Minister of Health, Ms Cournoyea.

Return To Question O20-89(2): Tuberculosis In Repulse Bay

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to table a report on the question asked by the honourable Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Mr. Gargan.

Question O21-89(2): Renovations To Hostels In Inuvik And Fort Simpson

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity on two occasions to visit the town of Inuvik and in my stay there I was staying in the hostel -- I forget the name of the hostel, but I think it is the Sir Alexander Mackenzie -- and I had the opportunity to witness the state-of-the-art tech that was being invested in this particular building. There were, for example, rooms for two people, cupboards, fans, sprinkler systems, controlled lights, gyprock finishing. There must have been a substantial amount invested in renovating this hostel. I would like to ask the Minister -- perhaps I was also disappointed that nothing has been done about Deh Cho Hall in my region -- are there any plans to do some work on the Deh Cho Hall, which used to be Lapointe Hall, and how much did it cost the department to do that kind of major renovation on the hostel in Inuvik?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister responsible for Education.

Return To Question O21-89(2): Renovations To Hostels In Inuvik And Fort Simpson

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, maybe I missed something, but I thought he was asking the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs the question, although I could answer. I understand MACA is not involved in this project, so if I could. The hostel is being considered right now for alternative uses other than a hostel. In discussions between the government and its different departments and agencies, and groups within the community, there is some suggestion that they would like to use it as office space since there is a critical office shortage, I understand, in Fort Simpson. That particular proposal is being discussed right now.

There is no demand for a hostel as in the past because the home boarding program that the village, the band, the local education council and the government have undertaken has worked very successfully. The majority of the students who were formerly boarding in Deh Cho Hall are now staying in private homes; homes which are jointly selected and approved by all these different community groups. A lot of positive things are being said about this process and the need that we originally had for doing something about the hostel immediately has largely diminished. Thank you.

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

Question O22-89(2): Home Boarding Program

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. He still did not tell me what the price tag was for the renovation of the hostel in Inuvik.

I would also like to ask the Minister how effective this home boarding program is within the communities. There is still, as far as statistics go, a low level of turnout by aboriginal students graduating from high school. I believe the percentage is about four or five per cent, and the reason for that is that they go from a traditional community to a whole new environment. I believe that also discourages them from completing their education. So there is the negative effect of home boarding, as opposed to if you have the hostel environment, you do encourage a lot of community involvement and also encourage students to go into larger centres to complete their

education. So I would like to ask the Minister whether or not, since he started this home boarding program three years ago, has it had any dramatic effect, whether or not the chance of an aboriginal student graduating is a lot higher.

MR. SPEAKER: I would suggest that the Minister accept this as a new question and not a supplementary to the original. The Minister responsible for Education.

Return To Question O22-89(2): Home Boarding Program

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I would think that when we had a hostel in Simpson and we were not doing any home boarding, that the success rate of students was not substantially high. And in fact there was a good percentage, that I can give to the Member at a later date, of students who left after the first month to head back home. It was something that was noted during the discussions a couple of years ago. But to suggest that because we do not have a hostel, that the students in Fort Simpson and those that attend school in Simpson are going to suffer, I think is not a logical conclusion. I do not know how you could draw a conclusion like that. It may be one of many things that can contribute to whether a student does well or their quality of education deteriorates. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The time period of oral questions has expired. We now have to proceed with written questions. Any written questions? Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W1-89(2): Money Spent On Highway Between Alberta Border And Enterprise

MR. SIBBESTON: What is the amount of money that has been spent by the Government of the Northwest Territories and federal government on the NWT/Alberta border to Enterprise stretch of the Mackenzie highway during the past 10 years, by fiscal year? Because over the course of the last 10 years I suspect there have been millions and millions of dollars spent almost yearly and the outcome has not been very satisfactory. So there has been some concern as to just how much our government has spent on that particular stretch of the highway.

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Mr. Pudluk.

Question W2-89(2): New School For Grise Fiord

MR. PUDLUK: The residents of Grise Fiord are concerned about their school facility. The interior and the exterior of the school have been renovated, however, some of the doors cannot be opened because the lighting fixtures are in the way and this is hazardous to the children. I am asking the Minister if he can consider allocating the community of Grise Fiord a new school as soon as possible because it is now evident that the people will remain there. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Any further written questions?

Item 4, returns to oral questions.

Item 5, replies to Opening Address.

Item 6, petitions. Item 7, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Lewis.

ITEM 7: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Report Of The Special Committee On The Northern Economy, Committee Report 1-89(2)

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my two co-chairmen, Mr. Peter Ernerk, MLA for Aivilik, and Mr. Don Morin, MLA for Tu Nede, and on behalf of our colleagues on the special committee on the northern economy, I am pleased to present to this House this document: Summary of Public Hearings: "What the Residents of the Northwest Territories Think of the Economy". The document is presented in both English and Inuktitut versions. As its title indicates, it is a summary of our meetings with the public to discuss the economy of the NWT. You will note, Mr. Speaker, that the document is divided into three parts.

The first part provides our itinerary. It lists the communities we visited, the dates we visited them and describes in general terms what we did in each community.

The second part contains the substance of the report. It spells out the major issues and concerns our residents have about our economy. To the fullest extent possible we have let our residents speak for themselves. We have used their words, taken directly from the transcripts, to describe their concerns and recommendations. We have kept our own editorial comments to an absolute minimum.

In the third part we have provided a simple listing, on a constituency by constituency basis, of all the specific recommendations that were made to us during the public hearings. Some of these recommendations, the ones with longer-term implications, will form part of our final report. Others, some of which are more short-term in nature or affect only one community, would not be in this report. Nevertheless they are still very important and should still be reviewed by this government.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that all Members of this House will find this document interesting reading. Our residents speak from the heart about their frustrations, their worries, their hopes and their suggestions for change. Their words are direct and often quite colourful. They are totally free of the kind of technical, bureaucratic jargon we seem to hear every day in our business; jargon that does its best to mask many of the harsh realities of our economic life.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to note that the document does not contain any of our committee's recommendations. They will be provided in a few days when we table our final report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Ernerk.

Report Of Standing Committee On Legislation, Committee Report 2-89(2)

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to present the standing committee on legislation's report on its review of the bills for the fifth session of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, your committee met in Yellowknife for five days, reviewed some 30 draft bills presented by the government. It is my pleasure to move this report into committee of the whole for detailed discussion in conjunction with the clause by clause review.

Motion To Move Report Of Standing Committee On Legislation, Committee Report 2-89(2), Into Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Now therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that the report of the standing committee on legislation for the fifth session be moved into committee of the whole for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The document is now ordered into committee of the whole for discussion. Are there any further reports of standing and special committees? Item 11, tabling of documents.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 1-89(2): A letter from the Hon. Bill McKnight, Minister of National Defence, dated October 18, 1989. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 2-89(2): Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Annual Report 1988/89. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further tabling of documents? Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 3-89(2): Letters from the Baffin Divisional Board of Education and from the Community Education Council of Cape Dorset and also the Lake Harbour Education Council. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 14, motions. Item 15, first reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 3-89(2)?

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Wray.

First Reading Of Bill 3-89(2): Charter Communities Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 3-89(2), An Act to Amend the Charter Communities Act, be read for the first time.

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

---Carried

Bill 3-89(2) has had first reading. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could once again seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 4-89(2)?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has requested to give first reading to Bill 4-89(2) today. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Minister.

First Reading Of Bill 4-89(2): Cities, Towns And Villages Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 4-89(2), An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 4-89(2) has had first reading. First reading of bills. Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I wish to seek unanimous consent at this time to deal with Bill 6-89(2).

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has requested unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 6-89(2). Are there any nays? Proceed, Madam Minister.

First Reading Of Bill 6-89(2): Dental Profession Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Bill 6-89(2), Dental Profession Act, be read for the first time.

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

---Carried

Bill 6-89(2), Dental Profession Act, has had first reading. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 7-89(2), An Act to Amend the Education Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has requested unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 7-89(2) today. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Minister.

First Reading Of Bill 7-89(2): Education Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 7-89(2), An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the first time.

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

---Carried

Bill 7-89(2), An Act to Amend the Education Act, has had first reading.

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

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 3-89(2), An Act to Amend the Charter Communities Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has requested unanimous consent to give second reading to Bill 3-89(2) today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Minister, you have unanimous consent.

Second Reading Of Bill 3-89(2): Charter Communities Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 3-89(2), An Act to Amend the Charter Communities Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Charter Communities Act to allow the Minister to change the name of a municipal corporation; to allow the Minister, in the community charter, to establish the dates for council elections; to allow charter communities to determine in what circumstances the leader or other presiding member shall vote; to clarify that a majority of those council members voting is necessary in order for a resolution or by-law to pass; to allow charter communities to forgive outstanding property taxes where no special lien attaches against land for non-payment; to allow charter communities to make grants to persons or groups not resident in the charter community; and to make consequential amendments to the Local Authorities Elections Act. Thank you.

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

---Carried

Bill 3-89(2) has had second reading. Mr. Clerk, Bill 3-89(2) has had second reading and is ordered into committee of the whole for discussion today. Second reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to move ahead with second reading of Bill 4-89(2), An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to give second reading to Bill 4-89(2) today. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Minister.

Second Reading Of Bill 4-89(2): Cities, Towns And Villages Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 4-89(2), An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act to allow the Minister to change the name of a municipal corporation; to allow the council of a municipal corporation to determine the circumstances in which the mayor or other presiding member shall vote; to clarify that a majority of those council members voting is necessary in order for a resolution or by-law to pass; to allow the council to forgive outstanding property taxes where no special lien attaches against land for non-payment; to allow the council to make grants to persons or groups not resident in the municipality; and to make a consequential amendment to the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 4-89(2) has had second reading. Mr. Clerk, Bill 4-89(2) has had second reading and is ordered into committee of the whole for discussion today. Second reading of bills. Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to seek unanimous consent to go to second reading of Bill 6-89(2), Dental Profession Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to proceed to give second reading to Bill 6-89(2). Are there any nays? Proceed, Madam Minister.

Second Reading Of Bill 6-89(2): Dental Profession Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Bill 6-89(2), Dental Profession Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to regulate the practise of dentistry in the Northwest Territories; to establish a registration committee and provide for the powers and duties of that committee; to provide for the qualifications for registration and licensing under the act; to provide for the appointment of a review officer and the powers and duties of the review officer; to provide for the establishment of a board of inquiry, appointment to the board and the powers and duties of that board; to establish offences and penalties; to provide for a regulation-making power; and to amend the Dental Profession Act, R.S.N.W.T. 1974, c. D-3, to rename the act the Dental Auxiliaries Act and to repeal some provisions in that act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--Carried

Mr. Clerk, Bill 6-89(2) has had second reading and is ordered into committee of the whole for discussion today. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 7-89(2).

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Minister has requested unanimous consent to give second reading to Bill 7-89(2) today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Minister.

Second Reading Of Bill 7-89(2): Education Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 7-89(2), An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Education Act to provide that a community education committee, community education society, board of education, divisional board of education, board of secondary education and community education council may hold a meeting that is closed to the public; to provide for the issuing of certificates of eligibility as principal; to provide for an exemption from the requirement to hold a certificate of eligibility as principal in the prescribed conditions; and to provide for regulations with respect of certificates of eligibility as principal. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, Bill 7-89(2) has had second reading and is ordered into committee of the whole for discussion today.

Second reading of bills. Consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. The following items are to be considered: report of the standing committee on legislation, Bill 3-89(2), Bill 4-89(2), Bill 6-89(2) and Bill 7-89(2), with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER COMMITTEE REPORT 2-89(2), REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION; BILL 3-89(2), CHARTER COMMUNITIES ACT; BILL 4-89(2), CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES ACT; BILL 6-89(2), DENTAL PROFESSION ACT

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will come to order. We will take a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Chairman, we would like to proceed with Bill 3-89(2), Bill 4-89(2), Bill 6-89(2) and Bill 7-89(2), in that order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Bill 3-89(2), with Mr. Wray.

Bill 3-89(2): Charter Communities Act

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some opening comments, Mr. Chairman. They pertain to all of the municipal legislation that will come before the House within the next few days, so I will make my comments now and then that way I will not have to repeat myself when the other ones come up.

Mr. Chairman, when I introduced the new municipal legislation on May 29, 1987, I submitted that the Cities, Towns and Villages Act and the Charter Communities Act, the Hamlets Act and the other major pieces of municipal legislation are intended to be what is called "living legislation" to be amended as and when further consultation points out the need for adjustments to reflect changes in the conditions and the needs of northern local governments and residents. This is why I am introducing a set of amendments to the existing legislation as well as the new act, the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act.

In some instances the proposed amendments are in response to representations from municipal governments and from the NWT Association of Municipalities. For example, proposed amendments to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Charter Communities Act, the Hamlets Act and the Settlements Act, would allow the local council to determine when the mayor or other presiding members of council may exercise a vote. In cities, towns and villages and in hamlets and charter communities which become municipal taxing authorities, proposed amendments would allow the council to forgive debts of arrears of property taxes not secured by land. Councils of cities, towns and villages, charter communities and hamlets would, under certain conditions, be allowed to make grants to persons or groups not resident in the municipality where, in the view of the council, this will benefit the residents.

All of these are practical amendments proposed by local councils to respond to everyday issues facing community governments. Amendments to the Charter Communities Act and to the Settlements Act would allow the Minister to establish an appropriate election date in the order establishing a charter community or settlement corporation, rather than prescribing a specific election date in legislation. These amendments will respond to the preferences of predominantly aboriginal communities for flexibility in election dates to allow greater participation in elections during times of the year appropriate to the lifestyle of those communities.

Some of the amendments are proposed as a result of internal government review. For example, the proposed amendment to the Municipal Employee and Benefits Act would allow the Commissioner to make retroactive regulations only for the purpose of bringing the pension plan under the Municipal Employees Benefits Act into compliance with federal legislation.

As well, amendments to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Hamlets Act, the Charter Communities Act and the Settlements Act are proposed to enable the Minister, by order, to change the name of the settlement or corporation. This particular amendment is useful support for many communities wishing to restore their aboriginal names.

Finally, a new act, the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act, is being introduced in direct response to a recommendation passed by this Legislature on February 29,

1988. The proposed bill would, with certain conditions, extend tax relief, currently provided to senior citizens, to disabled home-owners, both in municipal taxation areas and in the general taxation area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to reviewing the bills in committee.

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

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on legislation first reviewed the Charter Communities Act in May of 1987. It was proclaimed on January 1, 1988. This is a unique piece of legislation, not found in other jurisdictions. Its purpose is to allow for a charter agreement which sets out the powers and responsibilities of municipal government with the Government of the NWT, and which would provide for a unique form of government in a community that has both an active band council and settlement council, for example. The Minister, Mr. Wray, presented the bill to the standing committee on legislation on September 28, 1989, in Yellowknife. The Minister explained that at present there are no established charter communities existing in the NWT; however, a charter has been worked on for the communities of Fort Good Hope and Fort Resolution.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the act in the following manner: Clause by clause, section 11(a)(1), "Contents of community charter", is new, adding "fix the date for elections".

Section 33(b)(1), "Rules of procedure for council", is new adding after "(b) the procedure of the council", "(b)(1) the circumstances in which the mayor or other presiding council member may vote at meetings of council or committees of council;"

Section 35(1), "Validity of resolutions and by-laws" is amended by striking out "and entitled to vote" and substituting "and voting". Section 36, "Entitlement to vote", is repealed and replaced with wording to determine under what circumstances the leader or other presiding member shall vote; and to clarify that a majority of those council members voting is necessary in order for a resolution or by-law to pass.

Section 169(1.1), "Procedure for Forgiveness of Debts", is new and allows the council to forgive outstanding property taxes, by by-law approved by the Minister, where no special lien attaches against land for non-payment. The Minister explained to the committee that the purpose of this amendment was to allow for the write-off of tax debt.

Section 170, "Making Grants", is repealed and revised allowing for the council to make grants to persons or groups not resident in the municipality. However, the approval of the Minister must be obtained before the grants are made. A consequential amendment is included in the bill which proposes to amend the Local Authorities Elections Act.

That is the standing committee on legislation's report. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. Does the committee agree to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Clause 1. Agreed? Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Chairman, could I be allowed to bring in witnesses?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): I am sorry. Yes. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): For the record, could you introduce your witnesses?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Giuseppa Bentivegna, director of legislation, and on my left is Mr. Robin Beaumont, municipal policy and legislation specialist.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 2, request to change name. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 4. Agreed? Mr. Zoe.

Changing Name Of Municipality

MR. ZOE: I would like to comment on clause 2. If the community does not want to change the name of the municipality, in section 7.1(2) it suggests that the Minister, with the advice of his colleagues or other people who are not affected by the municipality, can request him to change a name. For instance -- I will use your constituency of Fort Providence -- even if Providence does not want to change its name, the municipal corporation name, if the Minister gets advice from other people, such as myself, to change the name of Fort Providence, then he has the power to change the name of the municipality. I do not think that putting this clause in is appropriate to being included in the Charter Communities Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: No. The way in which the legislation is intended is that 7.1(1) would have to take effect first. In other words the council of a community would have to request this of the Minister. When that happens then the Minister would go to the Executive Council. I cannot envision any circumstances where the Minister acting against the community would attempt to change the community's name. It has to be at the request of the council.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in my reading of clause 2, section 7.1(2), it does not indicate that the council -- under subclause (1) it says if the council requests, sure the Minister can change the name of the municipality, but under subclause (2) there it says that where

the Minister considers it to be in the public interest that the Minister upon the recommendation of the Executive Council may change the name. My interpretation of that particular clause does not warrant you will seek council's request. It could be done by the recommendation of your cabinet colleagues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: No, the section has to be taken as a whole section. One, two and three are the process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 2, request to change name. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. McLaughlin.

Mayors Voting At Meetings

MR. McLAUGHLIN: If the Minister could explain to us the type of circumstances that have brought this about. Has there been controversy over when and if mayors can vote at meetings? Because I know in my experience on town council that occasionally the mayor decides to vote if things are not the way he wants things to be. I know there was controversy over that. Maybe I could get a description of that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will just agree on clause 3 first; that is clause 4 you are talking about. Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 4. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: If I could have the circumstances described as to why this has come about.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I think it is merely to lay out the process. For years, in some communities it was custom that the mayor did not vote and only voted in the event of a tie. In other communities the mayor voted. Our legislation was silent on the issue. All we are really doing here is allowing the council to pass a procedural by-law which dictates under which circumstances a mayor or other officials can or cannot vote.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 6, entitlement to vote. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 7, exception. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 8, making grants. Agreed? Mr. Zoe.

Giving Of Grants By Communities

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, on clause 8, the new section 170(1)(b), that the council when they are giving out grants "to persons or groups not resident in the municipality, with the prior approval of the Minister", why is it again that our government has a string attached to councils? Does the government not trust the municipal councils as to what they are doing? The grant they give out cannot be more than two per cent of the overall municipal budget, so we have some sort of control there right now. Why do they need the approval of the Minister when they are going to give out grants to groups or individuals that are not living within that municipality? I do not think this clause is necessary.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. This section would apply only in hamlets and charter communities and reflects the fact that 100 per cent of the funding comes from the government and comes from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. We feel that we should exercise some control on moneys being given to non-residents of the community because, in effect, we are giving the council the money for that community. If they wish to take the money we give them -- and like I say it is 100 per cent -- and give it to somebody other than residents of the community then we feel that they should at least get permission from the funding agency before they do that.

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

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, once again just to reiterate exactly what I said earlier. This particular clause I think the municipalities would rather do without. Like I said, we already have control. They cannot spend more than two per cent of the total expenditure of the municipal corporation's budget, so there is a control mechanism there, and once again we are limiting the municipality from doing the things they want to do. After the Minister comments, I will be putting a motion forward, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. My feeling is, in fact, that we are going even further than we ever did before. To start with, communities did not have the right to give grants to non-residents. This is a new right that we are giving communities. Secondly, they were limited to \$200 under the old legislation. We have now moved that \$200 limit to two per cent, so we have, in fact, expanded the rights of municipalities in a major way with this piece of legislation. We are not taking anything away from the hamlets or charter communities. We are giving them even more powers than they had before. Quite frankly, I have a real problem in saying that; we negotiate with the community, we turn over all the funding to a community for that community. I do not see anything wrong with asking the community to at least obtain approval from us before they give that money away to non-residents of the community. I think that is fair. Our ultimate loyalty must be to the community, not to the council. That is who we are giving the money to, and we are funding it and channelling it through the council; but I think what has to be understood is that in this new legislation we are now giving the communities the right to give grants to non-residents, which is not a right they ever had before.

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

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not arguing that we are giving municipalities additional powers, but they have to have the approval of the Minister, that is what concerns me. Why do municipalities have to get approval of the government? Municipalities to date have matured dramatically, and I know that the Minister would agree with me that they have matured. They take on the responsibilities of each community, and surely the municipality is not going to give the full amount of that two per cent that is allowed in the legislation to one particular group or a person. That will never happen. They have matured, and I cannot see why they still require approval of the Minister, because there are already controls there within the legislation, the two per cent limit. I do not agree with the comments the Minister is making with regard to the approval of the Minister in charge.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. As I have said, it applies to hamlets and charter communities and reflects the fact that their funding comes completely from us. It is not a city, they are not towns or villages, they do not raise their own money. The money all comes from us. We are talking about a grant here. It is free money. They are giving away money. I am responsible for that funding. Whether or not the hamlet gives it away is not the point. The point is that as Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs I am the one responsible for accountability for that money. We have given it to the community as a grant for community operations, and if they in turn give a portion of that money as a grant to non-residents, for whatever reason, I am the one that has to be accountable for that money, not the community.

Secondly, I disagree with Mr. Zoe's statement that it would never happen. It has happened already. In fact, if you remember during the famine in Ethiopia we had to step in because there were communities that were preparing to give away very large chunks of their funding to famine relief groups, sometimes close to 10 or 15 per cent of the total budget. We had to step in. So it has happened before.

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

Motion To Amend Clause 170(1)(b), Bill 3-89(2)

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I move that in section 170(1)(b), "with the prior approval of the Minister" be deleted.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Can we get a copy of your motion please? Mr. Zoe, your motion is in order. To the motion.

MR. ZOE: Mahsi cho, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have made my comments with regard to clause 170(1)(b) so once again, by deleting "with the prior approval of the Minister" I think it would give the municipalities more responsibility to manage the money that is granted to them. Surely the municipality would not abuse this particular section, if we take that particular section out, "with the prior approval of the Minister". I think the municipalities have matured in the past number of years now and I think it is time that we do not tie strings to them. I basically stated my case in regard to this and I hope the Members would support me in this particular motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Zoe. To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak on this for a moment. I think that in both legislations there is a similar curb there on the power of the Minister to require the prior approval. I support the government's position on this because I think that whether it is a grant by our government to a community that does not raise its own taxes or even if it is a town, village or city that raises its own taxes. When it raises its own money it is raising it through taxes for the purposes of spending it within the municipality. When the people pay their taxes they are expecting it to be spent within that municipality and I think that you should have that curb when

there is a good cause. For example, a municipality might want to make a donation to the Arctic Winter Games Foundation or to Sport North or something like that, or some event in the region or a grant to the Regional Tourism Association. In all those cases I think that if it has good merit the Minister will approve it but I think there is a basic principle that the money is being given to a community to spend on their residents, in the case of a municipal grant. When the money is raised locally it is taken from the local residents through taxation and with the expectation that it going to be spent on the people it is taken from. If it is not going to be spent on the people it is taken from, I think there has to be good reason and I think you need a clause like this to make sure that the money, in most cases, does get spent on the people it is supposed to be spent on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. To the motion. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I already stated my case for my reasoning why this particular approval of the Minister should be deleted. In the arguments of the friend of the government over there, the Member for Pine Point, he does not realize that other municipalities that are non-tax-based are taxed. Our government collects on behalf of the non-tax-based municipalities. So, that argument is not really valid, saying that it is all free money that the non-tax-based municipalities are getting, it is not true at all.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, I do not think that it is a requirement for the municipality to seek approval of the government and there are various controls within the legislation that limits them in providing grants to a person or groups. Municipalities have matured now and the onus is on the municipality to ensure their residents or their community – the responsibility is there. They have to manage their money well and we should not be having strings attached to municipalities. They are elected people and the residents of the municipalities put trust in the people that they elect so I would strongly suggest that the amendment that I am proposing to be supported. Thank you.

Motion To Amend Clause 170(1)(b), Bill 3-89(2), Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Question has been called already. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Clause 8, making grants. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 9. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 11. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 3-89(2) is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will go now to Bill 4-89(2). Mr. Wray.

Bill 4-89(2), Cities, Towns And Villages Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: I made my comments on the Cities, Towns and Villages Act previously, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ernerk.

Comments From Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ERNERK: The standing committee on legislation first reviewed the Cities, Towns and Villages Act in May 1987. It was proclaimed in force on January 1, 1988. The purpose of the bill was for administration procedures, powers, and duties for regulating the activities of cities, towns and villages. This act replaced the existing Municipal Act and provided for consequential amendments to other acts.

The Minister, Mr. Wray, introduced the bill before the standing committee on legislation on September 28, 1989. The purpose of the bill was to allow for amendments to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act as follows: Clause by clause. The director of legislation clarified a further amendment and change in numbering to section 2 which will be included in the bill referring to the procedure requirements for a name change of a municipal corporation.

Section 30 (b)(1), "Rules of procedure" is new and allows councils of municipal corporation to determine under what circumstances the chairperson or other presiding member shall vote at meetings of council or committees of council.

Subsection 32(1), "Validity of resolutions and by-laws", is amended by striking out "and entitled to vote" and substituting "and voting".

Section 33, "Entitlement to vote" is repealed and 33(1) and 33(2) are substituted to clarify that a majority of those council members voting is necessary in order for a resolution or by-law to pass.

Subsection 165(1.1), "Procedure for Forgiveness of Debts", is new and allows the council to forgive outstanding property taxes, by by-law approved by the Minister, where no special lien attaches against land for non-payment.

Section 166, "Making Grants", is repealed and the revised section allows for the council to make grants to persons or groups not resident in the municipality. However, the approval of the Minister must be obtained before the grants are made and a maximum \$5000 in a fiscal year has been set. The Minister explained that this amendment was requested by the NWT Association of Municipalities and that ministerial prior approval is required for grants above \$5000 to non-residents of the municipality. Subsection 166(2) allows for making grants by a council in a fiscal year, not to exceed two per cent of the total expenditures of the municipal corporation as set out in its budget. A consequential amendment is included in the bill, which proposes to amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. Does the committee agree to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 2, request to change name. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 5, entitlement to vote. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 6, exception. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 7, making grants. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 9. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 4-89(2) is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will proceed now to Bill 6-89(2), Dental Profession Act. I would like to thank Mr. Wray and his witnesses. Ms Cournoyea, are you ready to make your opening statements to Bill 6-89(2)? Madam Minister.

Bill 6-89(2): Dental Profession Act

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to introduce a bill which will establish a new Dental Profession Act, that will control and regulate the dental profession in the Northwest Territories. The current Dental Profession Act, 1971, is very outdated and no longer adequately addresses the needs of the Northwest Territories. About three years ago the Northwest Territories Dental Association requested that the act be updated to better safeguard the public and provide for more association input and to address deficiency in the current act.

The department had extensive consultation with the Northwest Territories Dental Association and it has involved other interested parties, such as health boards and the Department of Justice. A committee composed of representatives of these agencies reviewed the current act and prepared a number of recommendations upon which we based much of the new legislation. The legislation clearly defines the licensing and registration, appeal and the discipline processes. It allows for the establishment of professional corporations and, in general, ensures that only qualified and competent dentists are allowed to practice in the Northwest Territories.

The current Dental Profession Act regulates various dental auxiliary personnel. Regulation of these auxiliary personnel will remain under the old act which will be renamed the Dental Auxiliary Act. Only dentists will be regulated under the Dental Profession Act.

Because of our difficulties in recruiting fully qualified dentists to many parts of the Territories, we will continue to allow the temporary permit registration, a one-time, three-year period for dentists who have not passed the National Dental Examining Board of Canada examination or its equivalent. In order to qualify for a temporary registration, the applicants must show that they have the necessary qualifications. The sponsoring dentist must show that he has been unable to recruit dentists with Canadian standing and the Minister must decide if there are special circumstances to warrant the registration. It should be noted that the Northwest Territories will continue to be the only jurisdiction in Canada to allow dentists to practice who do not possess the National Dental Examining Board of Canada certificate, or its equivalent.

In closing I would like to emphasize that the act is comprehensive and well defined and I would be pleased to answer any questions that the committee may have.

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased if you would allow Mr. Bob Cowcill to join me at the witness stand, along with Giuseppa Bentivegna.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Madam Minister. Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in her witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): For the record, Madam Minister, could you introduce your witnesses? Then we will proceed with Mr. Ernerk.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, at the witness stand is Bob Cowcill, deputy minister of Health and Giuseppa Bentivegna.

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

Comments From Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of the bill is to regulate the practise of dentistry in the Northwest Territories, to establish a registration committee, to provide for qualifications for registration and licensing under the act, to provide for a review officer, a board of inquiry and appointments to the board, to establish offenses and penalties and to provide for regulatory powers.

The Minister, Ms Cournoyea, appeared before the standing committee on legislation on September 26, 1989. She noted that the existing act has proven to be outdated and no longer addresses the needs of the Northwest Territories.

Three years ago the Northwest Territories Dental Association requested that the act be updated to better safeguard the public, to provide for more association input and to address deficiencies in the present act. A committee representing the dental profession, health board and the Department of Justice has reviewed the current act and has prepared a number of recommendations reflected in the proposed bill.

The current Dental Profession Act regulates various dental auxiliary personnel, and regulation of these people will continue under the existing act which will be renamed the Dental Auxiliary Act. Only dentists will be regulated under the proposed Dental Profession Act.

The Minister continued and explained that due to continuing difficulties in recruiting fully qualified dentists to many parts of the Northwest Territories, the one-time, three-year-period temporary permit registration for dentists who have not passed the national dental examination or its equivalent will continue. The Northwest Territories will continue to be the only jurisdiction in Canada to allow dentists to practise, who do not possess a National Dental Examining Board of Canada certificate or its equivalent.

A Member asked if foreign-trained dentists could practise in the Northwest Territories. The legislation director explained that under the proposed act they might be eligible under certain conditions of sponsorship by a resident dentist to practise for a period of three years and to later pass examination before becoming eligible to practise dentistry under part one of the dental register.

Licence To Practise Dentistry

A Member asked in clause 2(1), licence to practise, whether or not a person who does not have Canadian qualifications must practise as part of a company, and can someone who is not a licensed dentist be permitted to work under the supervision of a dentist? The legislation director explained that it was not a requirement to set up a corporation but that the bill allows the dentists to set up a corporation in order to take advantage of that administrative structure for business purposes. All dentists in a professional corporation must be licensed.

In clause 5, "a person may apply to the registration committee to be registered in part one or part two of the dental register", a Member asked as to what is meant by "registers". The government representative explained that there are two registers with various categories that define the qualifications necessary for a dentist, orthodontist and a foreign-trained dentist, for example. To be registered as a specialist in part two, you must qualify for registration in part one or be a general dentist. This allows the government to control and keep track of the numbers and types of qualified dentists allowed to practise. Residency in the Northwest Territories is not a requirement for registration.

A Member asked if the review officer, clause 42(1), for looking into disciplinary matters, was a dentist and similarly was the majority who sat on the board of inquiry, clause 57, also made up of dentists? The legislation director stated that this was the case because professionals were needed to determine the facts in the matter under review. In the profession-regulating acts there are criteria set up to deal with discipline in order to allow that licences to practise can be revoked. There is also an appeal mechanism from the board of inquiry to protect a dentist and to protect the public.

A Member of the committee, Mr. Gargan, notified the Minister that he had serious concerns which he may bring up in the House over what could be perceived by the public as a different level of justice in the bill for professional people in that the review officer and the majority of the board of inquiry are composed of professionals judging their own colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. General comments on Bill 6-89(2). If not, is the committee ready to go clause by clause? General comments. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask a question. When the bill was introduced, it said there was consultation with the dental association. Does the dental association represent all of the dentists in the North? Was there anyone else able to have input into this act?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware that every dentist in the NWT has membership in the Northwest Territories Dental Association. However, we distributed the proposal as widely as possible and made it well known that we were proceeding with this dental registries act.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Am I to understand, then, that this act was sent to all the registered dentists in the North, or a letter or something, inviting comments? What does the Minister mean by widely circulated?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, all I can conclude is that we did the best we could to circulate what was going to take place in terms of developing a Dental Profession Act. Certainly the dental professional association was involved on the committee structure that was looking on as we developed this legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Mr. Whitford, are you satisfied with the Minister's remarks? Mr. Gargan.

Qualifications Of Dentists In The North

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I am concerned right now with the bill with regard to the section allowing dentists that fail the standard test of the Dental Association of Canada, I believe, the opportunity to practise here in the NWT for three years. Mr. Chairman, with regard to that section it is difficult for dentists to travel to communities and try to do dental work for a couple of days

and then leave the community. It does not necessarily give the community or the dentist an opportunity to do work that is required. This is an area in which the aboriginal people are mostly affected. Mr. Arlooktoo did refer to it in his oral question about people using dentures, and I believe that now there is more direction taken by dentists to try to save a tooth rather than pull a tooth, or to pull them all out and use dentures. I do get concerned when people from outside the country are brought here.

I do not know whether the Minister was bragging when she said we were the only jurisdiction that allows dentists that do not pass the test to practise up here. This is a section of the act that I am most concerned about. As far as the dental profession goes in the North, it is difficult to do work in the communities for a couple of days and then leave. But that does not resolve the caring of people in the communities. I have to question whether or not bringing in people that are not qualified under the Canadian standard to practise up here is the answer. I suppose if one needs practice in pulling teeth, the North would be an ideal place to be in, but I believe the purpose of having an act is to improve things. In my opinion, it is not improving things to find a way of allowing dentists that do not have the necessary qualifications to practise up here and still be protected. That is the way I view the bill, anyway. I would like to get a response.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, first of all let us clear up one thing. Dentists that are coming to Canada are qualified dentists, generally. It cannot be said that they failed an exam or they were not qualified. The only thing that has to happen is that it takes a certain period of time before they can get the necessary Canadian credentials to practise on their own in Canada. So what we are saying is that a person who is a qualified person and meets established criteria should be allowed to practise but to practise under the supervision of a fully qualified NWT resident dentist. At all times.

So a person would have to meet certain criteria and must demonstrate -- and I will just read this so that it would be very clear that those people are under strict conditions, that they are practising under a qualified dentist and also that they are qualified in their own right, but because there is a certain period of time that they have to work in Canada, to have the Canadian papers, that there are some provisions set up. These people would have to demonstrate that they have entered into a sponsorship agreement with a fully qualified dentist who is resident in the NWT, that they are of good character and they meet the prescribed qualifications. First of all, a letter from the National Dental Examining Board of Canada indicating the applicant is eligible to sit for the Canadian exam, a copy of a certificate from a recognized university or school of dentistry indicating successful completion of a program, and a certificate indicating good standing from the country of his origin, are required.

Also the sponsoring dentist has a responsibility. He has to show evidence that he has attempted to recruit a dentist with Canadian standing and he has to declare that he has entered into a sponsorship agreement with a candidate for a temporary licence. So I think in terms of how it was expressed initially, there might have been a misunderstanding, but in no way are we attempting, at this time, to bring in people who do not have proper qualifications.

Problem Of Service Delivery In The North

The problem we have in the NWT is to get people into the NWT, working in the NWT, delivering regular service to residents of the NWT. At this point in time I do not think there is a shortage of dentists, as with nurses in southern Canada, but in northern rural communities in the NWT, we are having difficulty. And even the dentists that are presently having clinics and business in the NWT are having difficulty recruiting. So this is not a situation we would prefer, but it is a situation that is reality and we are trying to address it at this stage so that proper service can get to people and maybe more often than twice a year or two days out of every three months.

I am sorry if my original presentation may have caused a misunderstanding that the people had to be here for a while to get their qualifications. It is a Canadian certification that we are talking about.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, if that is the position the Minister is taking, then we seem to be adopting a lot of southern legislation up here. Does the Minister have any difficulty with the present act that is used through the rest of Canada? Why are we the only jurisdiction that differs with regard to this act -- that is, regarding the three years certification?

Under the present non-insurable medical for status and Indian people, as far as the bill goes, the federal government covers that 100 per cent. But we are not getting the necessary care, even though those people are covered under the non-insurable medical. So why are we not accepting the same legislation as they have in the province? Even if we do accept the southern models, the necessary dental care to aboriginal people is still going to be covered.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Each province has their own legislation and the legislation generally addresses the particular concerns and issues in their own province. Although this present Dental Profession Act is similar in many ways, we are attempting to address the kinds of problems we have in the NWT by making provisions to deal with the kinds of problems we have in the NWT, by making provisions to deal with addressing those problems. The old act also had the temporary dentist practice requirement in it, so we are bringing it forward because it is still useful to our present situation in the NWT.

As for the other statement in terms of the GNWT delivering the service to status people, yes that is true, but those services are only indicative of the guidelines of the federal government in allowing us to deliver those services. We cannot send the federal government a bill, any old bill. The criteria are there to say that you are allowed to deliver the services to aboriginal people under certain criteria, and we can provide that information to you. So we do not have an open billing arrangement with the federal government. We have to operate under the same guidelines as those providing services to status Indians in the South. It is not an open book where you just go in -- it is far better and certainly a good service, but we just do not have open access to the government coffers and a bill-back to the federal government. But if you want the criteria, we can provide that to you.

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

Dental Care Statistics

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dental care statistics on aboriginal and other people on the amount of intervention on the care of -- there has to be a point where a dentist decides, rather than saving a tooth, that it would be best to pull it -- and get some kind of indication through that kind of measurement whether or not those kinds of legislation are required. But certainly as far as my own travels go, and observing people in my own community, in most cases where dentists do travel into the communities there is very little work done to the tooth. Rather than trying to save a tooth, they will pull it. Does the Minister have any kind of statistics with regard to dental work in the communities, as opposed to larger centres where the luxury is there to save a tooth? Maybe this is a health issue rather than the dental profession issue. But I find it difficult where professional people go into a community, they must be governed through this act and also do the necessary work required.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I will certainly see what our officials can put together. I know we have various levels of statistics and audit taking, but I think the act itself does not really talk about how many times there is a visit. It is mainly how a dentist operates and what processes an individual has, to complain or appeal or make known their concerns if something goes wrong. But certainly in terms of the need to know and statistics and information, we do keep some records and I would be happy to try to put those together for him.

Now I know in terms of the non-insured services, it is in excess of five million dollars a year that is being expended. We have a lot of difficulty and I think that how we address that is that a lot of people because of change of diet and not enough knowledge about the new products coming into the NWT, have a lot of damage to teeth. One of the things we found that was really alarming was the young children that are allowed to go to sleep and feed from a bottle of sugary crystals mixed with water. We are spending a tremendous amount. It does not have anything to do with the act but I know that certainly with the Department of Health, we are going to have to address that in terms of education and preventative efforts so that people know. Because most of the time these things happen but people really do not know what they are doing because they are not aware of the damage that that particular substance is causing to the children's teeth. But that is somewhat separate from the Dental Profession Act. That concern is very, very paramount and all the health boards are trying to deal with it and bring that to the attention of the parents. I would be happy to put the statistics together for you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Baffin Central.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Is there any Inuktitut translation on the act we are dealing with? Even a summarized version of this act? I would like to get a copy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The Chair will recess for five to 10 minutes to see if the translation is done. Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, there was a translation in Inuktitut when we presented it to the standing committee on legislation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I believe the translation was a summary of Bill 6-89(2). The Chair will undertake to see if the translation is being worked on and we will recess for 10 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The committee will now come back to order. We are on general comments on Bill 6-89(2). Member for Baffin South, general comments on Bill 6-89(2).

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding this legislation. I would like to talk a little bit more about dentures. For those people who already have dentures, some of them had their dentures for a long time; they are old ones and a lot of them have broken in my area that I have known. For those who have had the dentures for a long time and they are not properly fixed, they cannot be replaced. This is what we have heard and a lot of people have complained about this in my constituency.

Because the dentures break so easily and a lot of times they are too big, they do not fit, sometimes they just spit them out somewhere and lose them. I wonder if these dentures can be replaced before they get too old and I was asked to find out if this would be possible. I wonder how they can be replaced or fixed up, if it is possible or not. I do not know who told the dentists that they cannot replace or fix the old dentures. In our area they do not do this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo. I realize you are making reference in regard to the dentists and especially dentures and stuff. I will permit Madam Minister to comment on the remarks that you have made but I would ask the Members to be specific to Bill 6-89(2). This bill is to regulate all the dentists in the Northwest Territories. So, if I could remind Members to be specific to Bill 6-89(2), the Dental Profession Act. Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, there are guidelines and I believe that every five years you can receive a new set of dentures but I would be pleased to provide the guidelines on what is permissible on the non-insured benefits regarding dentistry. I will provide that tomorrow if the Member is happy with that particular time frame.

Mr. Chairman, also from the information that we have here, repairs to dentures can be made once in a calendar year. We will provide the total policy and guidelines on what is permissible under the non-insured benefits for dentures.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairperson, basically I was going to say what you just said, that we try and stick to the bill. I very much would like to talk about dental services as well but I would like to reserve my comments to a later date because dental services are very important in our communities. So, I am going to reserve those comments for a later date.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Are there any further general comments? Is the committee ready to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Bill 6-89(2), Dental Profession Act. Clause 1, definitions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 2, licence to practise. Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The exception, application, nothing in this act prevents a person who is not entitled to practise dentistry from giving aid in isolated cases. Is this pretty general? Are we talking about dentists or just people?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, we are not talking about any profession. We are talking in general, if there is an emergency. For example, you may have a two-day storm in some remote community and someone telephones a doctor and says, "Look, this guy is really suffering. I have to do something about this tooth. What do I do?" Someone has swollen up and has a big abscess. Then I suppose there may be opportunity at that time for somebody to aid in that kind of situation, in a very extreme case of emergency. What we did not want to do is cause somebody to be legally challenged just because we are having a dental profession act, so that people were not able to act in extreme cases of emergency.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Then it does not need to read "entitled to practise dentistry" but "qualified to practise dentistry somewhere else". I thought this would mean that person, although he is not licensed to practise in the North -- it is just an open area -- any person if the need arises can lend emergency only treatment to an individual in need. Is that correct?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: That is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Are you finished with clause 2? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 3, registers. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 5, application for registration in part one or part two. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 6, registration committee shall register. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Under clause 6, subsection (2), "such terms and conditions as the committee specifies." This is for application of a licence subject to that. What, for example, would this entail, qualification-wise? What conditions would apply here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I will ask the legal adviser to clarify that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Ms Bentivegna.

MS BENTIVEGNA: Mr. Chairman, it could be any range of terms and conditions such as asking the qualified practitioner, because they have to meet the criteria, to take additional courses; or if they were going to do certain procedures, let us say, which they were not very strong in, to take

additional training in that, or to refrain from doing those very specific procedures. It would be that kind of term and condition.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, is this kind of condition applied to many acts of this nature, doctors or things like that? Because it is pretty broad. I understand what the legal adviser has said, that it may require a person to take a course or two, but it is fairly broad. It could mean anything, and I am just wondering if that was intentionally done. Is this done in other areas as well, such as doctors and lawyers perhaps?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: To my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that is a qualifying phrase that is in other legal registries acts.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 6. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Energy is now prepared to make her statement with respect to the National Energy Board decision. The government therefore requests that we report progress and continue with this bill tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I assume that that is a motion that you are putting forward. I have a motion on the floor to report progress. It is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: I would now like to call the House back to order. Item 18, report of the committee of the whole, with Mr. Zoe reporting.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF COMMITTEE REPORT 2-89(2), REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION; BILL 3-89(2), CHARTER COMMUNITIES ACT; BILL 4-89(2), CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES ACT; BILL 6-89(2), DENTAL PROFESSION ACT

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering CR 2-89(2), the report of the standing committee on legislation, and Bills 3-89(2), 4-89(2), and 6-89(2) and wishes to report that Bills 3-89(2) and 4-89(2) are now ready for third reading. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--- Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 19, third reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for unanimous consent to proceed with Bill 3-89(2), An Act to Amend the Charter Communities Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Wray seeks unanimous consent to proceed with Bill 3-89(2). Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Wray.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Third Reading Of Bill 3-89(2): Charter Communities Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 3-89(2), An Act to Amend the Charter Communities Act, be read for the third time.

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

---Carried

Bill 3-89(2) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for unanimous consent to proceed with Bill 4-89(2), An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Wray seeks unanimous consent to proceed with Bill 4-89(2). Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Wray.

Third Reading Of Bill 4-89(2): Cities, Towns And Villages Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 4-89(2), An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 4-89(2) has had third reading. Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to request unanimous consent to return to Ministers' statements.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays? Unanimous consent has been given. Please proceed.

REVERT TO ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 4-89(2): National Energy Board Gas Export Decision

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, today in Ottawa, Inuvik and Yellowknife, the National Energy Board announced the approval of conditional licences to ESSO, Gulf and Shell for the export of Mackenzie-Delta natural gas. As Minister responsible for oil and gas development in the NWT, I intervened at the National Energy Board hearings in Inuvik this spring and supported the export applications by the three producers. Our government support was based on the premise that development of Mackenzie-Delta gas reserves will result in: northern involvement in project planning, including an effective role for government and the public and influence over project location and routing; northern energy benefits, including the secure supply of reasonably priced gas to communities; northern economic development benefits, including training for jobs, employment and business opportunities; northern equity involvement, an opportunity for northern interests to have a direct financial stake in development; and northern resource revenues and fiscal benefits flowing directly from the production and sale of northern natural gas to the South.

Mr. Speaker, furthermore we expect that the Dene/Metis will conclude the final land claims agreement with the Government of Canada well before any physical development activity or construction begins. This will allow them to participate fully in the development process and secure benefits.

The GNWT support was also based on the belief that before gas production or transportation facilities are approved, the GNWT will have successfully negotiated a northern energy accord with the Government of Canada. In a few days I will be reporting to this House on progress achieved on that front.

Conditions Established by National Energy Board

We expected that the National Energy Board approval would be subject to conditions. The conditions established by the National Energy Board include: "The companies will be required to advise Canadian buyers who have declared an interest in buying gas from the Mackenzie-Delta region of the quantities available for sale from time to time. The companies will be required to file executed export contracts with the board for approval. They will also be required to advise all interested parties of the filing of these contracts and allow them time to register complaints if they have not had the opportunity to purchase gas on terms and conditions similar to those in the export proposal. The gas exported under the licence is to be produced in the Mackenzie-Delta region."

The board also noted "that it recognized the importance of resolving native land claims, but it was not convinced that approval of the licences would prejudice a settlement of the Dene/Metis claim. It said that approval of export licences does not mean that consideration of a facilities application would necessarily follow shortly, thereby straining the resources of the Dene/Metis."

I want to stress that it will take several years before the conditions can be completely met. In fact, the decision states gas can begin to flow "no earlier than November 1, 1996 and no later than October 31, 2000." Nevertheless, my Executive Council is encouraged by the National Energy Board decision. It is a positive, yet cautious, statement to the rest of Canada about the development of our northern resources.

Sufficient Lead Time Available

As the actual development of production plant and pipeline facilities is several years off in the future, we feel there is sufficient lead time available to us for proper preparation. It will take time for favourable gas market conditions to develop; gas prices will have to increase over the next several years; the gas producers will not proceed until they have firm sales contracts with distribution and utility companies; industry must complete its project planning studies and engineering design. It must also ensure project feasibility, secure the financing commitment for this several billion dollars that development will cost and determine whether to follow a Dempster or Mackenzie Valley routing; specific gas production and transportation proposals will have to obtain the necessary regulatory and licence approvals, and government must be prepared for the effects of development. The lead time available to us will be a very busy period. Turning the idea of a gas export permit into a reality will be a long and complex process. Today we are at the threshold of that challenge. It is important that we learn from past experiences and take maximum advantages of the lead time available to us. It is particularly appropriate that we are meeting here in Norman Wells where we gained, first hand, so many of those experiences. Mr. Speaker, we need to communicate effectively and work toward setting realistic goals, formulate our plans and prepare ourselves to manage the impacts and take full advantage of the opportunities which development will bring. It is up to all of us, governments, the public and private industry to use this lead time wisely.

Development Of Effective Strategy

Over the next several months Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and other territorial government departments will be co-ordinating the necessary pre-planning work. We will develop an effective strategy to clearly identify all the tasks we face and ensure that the various interests

in the North are identified and able to participate in and reap the benefits of the Mackenzie-Delta gas development. Initially our efforts will focus on including communities in any pre-planning exercises and beginning to look at employment training and economic opportunities.

I would like to encourage and urge Members to provide me with any thoughts they may have over the coming weeks on how we can achieve these aims. I intend to be meeting with communities, aboriginal groups and industry to firm up our approach. The onus is on those whose lives are most influenced by northern development to reach out to all affected players, including communities, federal government, aboriginal groups, and industry, to develop a co-operative framework for dealing effectively with development. I believe there is a useful role for everyone in this very challenging process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 20, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of caucus at 6:00 p.m. this evening. There will be a meeting at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning of ajauqtit.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Friday, October 20th.

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: Report of the Standing Committee on Legislation; Bill 6-89(2) and Bill 7-89(2)
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 10:00 a.m., October 20, 1989.

---ADJOURNMENT

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