



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

5th Session

11th Assembly

**HANSARD
Official Report
DAY 8**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1989

Pages 294 - 336

Speaker: The Hon. Richard Nerysoo, M.L.A.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Speaker

The Hon. Richard Nerysoo
Fort McPherson, N.W.T.
X0E 0J0

(403) 873-7629 (Office)
(403) 873-5788 (Home) (Yellowknife)
(403) 979-2668 (Home) (Inuvik)
(Mackenzie Delta)

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

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.
X0A 0N0
(819) 939-2278 (Office)
(819) 939-2363 (Home)
(Baffin South)

Ballantyne, The Hon. Michael, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9
(403) 873-7658 (Office)
(403) 920-2963 (Home)
(Yellowknife North)
Government House Leader
Minister of Finance and Justice

Butters, The Hon. Tom, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1069
Inuvik, N.W.T.
X0E 0T0
(403) 979-2373 (Office)
(403) 979-2373 (Home)
(Inuvik)
Minister of Government Services and
NWT Housing Corporation

Cournoyea, The Hon. Nellie, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1184
Inuvik, N.W.T.
X0E 0T0
(403) 873-7128 (Office)
(403) 977-2405 (Tuktoyaktuk)
(403) 979-2737 (Inuvik)
(Nunakput)
Minister of Health and
Public Works & Highways

Crow, Mr. Charlie, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.
X0A 0W0
(819) 266-8940 (Home)
(Hudson Bay)

Ernerk, Mr. Peter, M.L.A.
Box 182
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.
X0C 0G0
(819) 645-2800
(819) 645-2500
(Aivilik)

Gargan, Mr. Samuel, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Fort Providence, N.W.T.
X0E 0L0
(403) 873-7999 (Office)
(403) 874-3230 (Hay River)
(403) 699-3171 (Home)
(Deh Cho)
Deputy Speaker and Chairman,
Committee of the Whole

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

Kilabuk, Mr. Ipeelee, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Pangnirtung, N.W.T.
X0A 0R0
(819) 437-8827 (Home)
(Baffin Central)

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

Marie-Jewell, The Hon. Jeannie, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1051
Fort Smith, N.W.T.
X0E 0P0
(403) 873-7959 (Office)
(403) 872-2940 (Home)
(Slave River)
Minister of Social Services and
Personnel

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

Morin, Mr. Don, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Fort Resolution, N.W.T.
X0E 0M0
(403) 394-3471
(Tu Nede)

M.L.A. for Natilikmiot

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 310
Iqaluit, N.W.T.
X0A 0H0
(403) 873-7112 (Office)
(819) 979-5993 (Office)
(403) 873-2802 (Home)
(Iqaluit)
Government Leader,
Chairman of Executive Council,
Minister of Executive

Pedersen, Mr. Red, M.L.A.
General Delivery
Coppermine, N.W.T.
X0E 0E0
(403) 982-5788 (Coppermine)
(Kitikmeot West)

Pollard, Mr. John D., M.L.A.
Box 1095
Hay River, N.W.T.
X0E 0R0
(403) 874-2345 (Office)
(403) 874-2600 (Home)
(Hay River)

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 240
Resolute Bay, N.W.T.
X0A 0V0
(819) 439-8898 (Arctic Bay)
(819) 252-3719 (Home)
(High Arctic)

Sibbeston, Mr. Nick, M.L.A.
P.O. Box 560
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
X0E 0N0
(403) 695-2452 (Fort Simpson)
(403) 873-6215 (Home)
(Nahendeh)

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

Wray, The Hon. Gordon, M.L.A.
Baker Lake, N.W.T.
X0C 0A0
(403) 873-7962 (Office)
(819) 793-2914 (Baker Lake)
(819) 793-2700 (Home)
(Kivallivik)
Minister of Municipal & Community
Affairs and Economic Development
& Tourism

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

Officers

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

Clerk Assistant
Mrs. Rhoda Perkison
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1989

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	294
Ministers' Statements	
- 16-89(2) Tabling of the Annual Report of the Science Institute	294
- 17-89(2) Power Engineering Training Program	295
- 18-89(2) Political and Constitutional Development	296
- 19-89(2) 1989 Forest Fire Season	297
- 20-89(2) Federal Goods and Services Tax	297
- 21-89(2) Pulp Mill Developments in Northern Alberta	299
Members' Statements	
- Mr. Zoe on Recognition of Official Languages	300
- Mr. Sibbeston on Thanks to Government for Assistance re Flood Damage, Fort Liard and Fort Simpson	300
- Mr. Lewis on Accountability of Government	301
- Mr. Ernerk on Understanding People of the NWT	302
- Mr. Whitford on National Anthem	302
- Mr. Gargan on Highway Upgrading	303
Returns to Oral Questions	303
Oral Questions	304
Written Questions	315
Returns to Written Questions	315
Petitions	318
Tabling of Documents	318
Notices of Motion	319, 320

TABLE OF CONTENTS, OCTOBER 27, 1989

	<u>PAGE</u>
Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills	
- Bill 20-89(2) Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act	320
- Bill 26-89(2) Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1988-89	320
- Bill 27-89(2) Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1989-90	320
Motions	321
Orders of the Day	335

NORMAN WELLS, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1989

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo): Members, I wish to bring to your attention and ask that you recognize the students that have served us as Pages. This week, from the Grandfather Ayah School in Fort Franklin and from Chief Albert Wright School in Fort Norman, they are: Lee-Ann Yakeleya, Judy McPherson, Kellie Wrigley, Bobby Lennie, Collin Arisene Bayha, Abraham Tutcho, Beverly Tetso, Stacey Ann Modeste, Marty Ann Kenny, Evie Kooto-Dupuis.

---Applause

Orders of the day for Friday, October 27, 1989. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Government Leader.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker...

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, the honourable Member for High Arctic.

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought we left off yesterday on Members' statements.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pudluk, just to remind Members that we adjourned the session yesterday. We stood down all the orders of the day, so as of today we start at the beginning of the orders of the day. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, the way I see it when we adjourn, recess, I thought the orders of the day should be read when we are going to begin from the beginning each day.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to indicate that when we broke yesterday it was my decision that the day was complete and that we began at the orders and did read the orders of the day -- I am sorry, that is wrong. We did not read the orders but the day was completed, and we now begin today at the beginning of the orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Government Leader.

Ministers' Statement 16-89(2): Tabling Of The Annual Report Of The Science Institute

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will be my pleasure later today to table the Annual Report of the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year 1988-89.

This year the Science Institute has continued its tradition of producing innovative and colourful annual reports. Like last year, part of the annual report is in the form of a large colour poster. On the reverse is the report itself, which describes the activities and accomplishments of the institute over the past year. This part of the annual report is being distributed widely in the NWT, both in Inuktitut and in English. The other part of the report is a seven page brochure which contains the financial statements, together with background information on the institute, its members and staff.

In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the following achievements of the Science Institute during 1988-89: On November 1, 1988 the scientific research stations in Inuvik, Iqaluit and Igloodik were transferred to the Science Institute from the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, together with 10 staff positions and an annual budget of \$1.1 million. As well as continuing to support researchers as it has done in the past, the institute plans to initiate programs which will make the centres increasingly responsive and relevant to the people of the Northwest Territories.

Industrial Research Assistance Program

Early in 1989 the Science Institute made available the industrial research assistance program. A joint project with the National Research Council, the program exists to help small and medium-sized businesses improve their use of technology. Already several NWT businesses have benefited from the program by accessing expertise in various fields.

In its continuing efforts to ensure that Northerners are kept informed about research activities in the NWT, the Science Institute issued 153 licences in 1988-89. In September a compendium describing each research project was published and distributed to the communities, and to others with an interest in northern research across Canada.

Along with the Department of Health, the Science Institute helped organize the first workshop on health research North of 60 in June. During the workshop, the participants arrived at a consensus on how medical and health-related research can best benefit the residents of the NWT. The report of their conclusions will also be tabled at this sitting of the Assembly, by the Hon. Nellie Cournoyea.

A series of 200 radio scripts on scientific aspects of the world around us, called "Simply Science", was completed and continues to be broadcast on CKNM and published in the Yellowknifer.

The Science Institute's promotion of science fairs in the schools has proved very successful. Last year one project earned a second prize at the Canada-wide science fair in St. John's, Newfoundland. The institute also published a resource package called "Why Do Walrus Turn Pink?", and distributed it across the NWT. The kit will make it easier for teachers to start up and run science fairs, no matter where their schools may be.

In conjunction with the Northern Heritage Society, the institute continued to provide summer jobs to northerners interested in science. Twenty-five residents were hired by researchers as research assistants, using money provided by the Science Institute.

The institute also assisted with the hearings into the proposed Kiggavik uranium mine and chaired the Rayrock advisory committee which organized the clean-up of an abandoned uranium mine. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Ministers' Statement 17-89(2): Power Engineering Training Program

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, under the Government of the Northwest Territories equal employment policy, the training and employment of Northerners continues to be a major priority for the Department of Public Works. I am pleased to advise Members of this Assembly

about our success in implementing a power engineering training program for northern residents, leading to certification as fourth class power engineers, and employment opportunities with the department.

The Department of Public Works employs fourth class power engineers in many communities as settlement maintenance supervisors, settlement maintainers and as building maintainers. Fourth class power engineers are also employed by community governments and by the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

Power engineering is a recognized trade in the Territories, and many of our government's larger buildings such as schools require fourth class power engineers to operate and maintain their heating and mechanical systems. As the proper and efficient operation of these systems is essential to the functioning of these buildings, the department has been training Northerners to work in this field and to accept positions with the department in northern communities.

In 1985 the department started the program in Cambridge Bay and in 1987 it was formally implemented through Arctic College. During this time the department has dedicated one of its employees, Mr. Bill Westwood, as the instructor. Through the efforts of Public Works and Arctic College in Cambridge Bay, which has provided the financial and administrative support for the program, 13 individuals have been trained and certified as fourth class power engineers. Of these 13 graduates, 12 are aboriginal Northerners and 11 are employed by Public Works. A number of the graduates are considering possible entry into other trades or technical training programs, and one graduate has now entered an electrician apprenticeship program.

Having met Public Works' immediate training needs for power engineers in the Kitikmeot Region, this training program has shifted to Inuvik's Aurora Campus of Arctic College. Due to his keen interest and dedication to the program, Mr. Westwood has accepted a transfer to Inuvik to continue as the instructor. Eight northern students are now registered in that program.

To date the program has been very successful in training Northerners for positions in Public Works, and it is through programs such as this that more northern residents will be able to obtain meaningful and lasting employment with our government. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister of Public Works. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Deputy Government Leader.

Ministers' Statement 18-89(2): Political And Constitutional Development

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, on November 4, 1988, the Government Leader tabled a discussion paper on political and constitutional development to assist the Legislative Assembly in its review of the current status of political and constitutional development, and to help in the development of a consensus on future directions. At the last session of the Legislative Assembly, this House briefly debated the questions raised in the paper and agreed to adjourn the debate to this current session.

In order to help with this process, I will be tabling a report at the appropriate time today in the Legislature, which picks up from the discussion paper, the debate in the last session, and recent developments. Progress and developments in the different areas of political and constitutional development are identified and analysed. The report also identifies that we in the Northwest Territories have indeed entered into a critical period in our history which demands wise and decisive leadership. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Amittuq, Minister of Renewable Resources.

Ministers' Statement 19-89(2): 1989 Forest Fire Season

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the 1989 fire season was one of the worst fire seasons ever recorded in the Northwest Territories. Six hundred and thirteen fires were reported to my department. This is twice as many as in a normal year, and 121 more than the 1973 record of 492 fires. Of the fires reported this season, 356 were fought. Although there were more fires this year, only 25 per cent as much area was burned as in the severe year of 1979. This year 120,000 hectares were burned in areas near communities and in high-valued areas. Elsewhere, 427,300 hectares were burned.

Mr. Speaker, only 10 percent of the total fires were a result of man's activities. The remainder were caused by lightning. This represents a significant reduction in the percentage of man-caused fires. My department appreciates the efforts of all residents in taking care with fire in the forests this summer, and in reporting fires.

The 1989 fire season began quite slowly. At the end of June only 47 fires had been reported. All were fought and extinguished. However, by July the forest fire hazard was high in most areas because of the below normal rainfall.

Heavy Workload Required Employment Of Extra Firefighters

Most of our fires occurred in July and August and a few were reported during September. Since so many fires occurred in such a short time frame, a tremendous workload was placed on the regular firefighting force of 250 employees. To assist them, my department hired 700 extra firefighters from the communities in the forested area. They received over \$800,000 in wages. In spite of the very heavy workload and the number of firefighters, there were very few accidents. No lives were lost and the most serious injury was a broken ankle caused by a falling tree.

Whenever fires were near communities or areas of local interest, such as a trapline, my department informed band and community leaders. Their comments and advice were used to make decisions about fires to fight and to ensure that damage did not occur to private property.

During the peak of activity, lightning started a fire on August 4th near Arctic Red River and Fort McPherson. This fire grew rapidly and escaped control efforts. In order to ensure that my department could maintain a strong initial attack capability on other fires, assistance was requested under the Mutual Aid Resources Sharing Agreement to which this government is a signatory. The Alberta Forest Service provided assistance and worked with my staff to ensure that this fire did not threaten the two communities. Under the same Mutual Aid Resources Sharing Agreement, my department had extended aid earlier in the season to the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia when few fires were burning in the NWT.

The cost of this fire season will be approximately \$16 million for direct suppression expenditures. This amount is still less than that spent in 1980-81. Most of this money was for goods and services purchased from northern businesses. For example, northern aircraft operators received over seven million dollars in business.

Nineteen eighty-nine was a difficult fire season, setting new records for fires occurring. However, significantly less area was burned than could be expected in such a severe season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North and Minister of Justice.

Ministers' Statement 20-89(2): Federal Goods And Services Tax

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal government has announced that a nine percent goods and services tax will replace the current manufacturers' sales tax on January 1, 1991. The federal government believes that the elimination of the current

manufacturers' sales tax will have beneficial economic effects. It has numerous exemptions and three rates, and is very complex and difficult to comply with and administer. The tax favours imports and makes exports less competitive.

Although we recognize the problems with the current manufacturers' sales tax, the Government of the NWT does not support the goods and services tax in its present form for the following reasons:

First, because the tax will be imposed on the retail price of most goods and services, it will cost much more in the North than in the rest of Canada. We estimate the NWT residents will pay anywhere from 30 per cent to 100 per cent more in tax than residents of southern Canada, depending on where they live.

Secondly, although the federal government will increase the sales tax credit so that a family of four could receive up to \$750 per year, this amount will not be enough to offset the higher tax paid in the North. As well, those earning over \$24,800 will lose all or part of this credit. Because salaries are higher in the North to compensate for higher prices, NWT residents will receive a lower credit than residents of southern Canada with the same level of real income.

Thirdly, because costs are higher in the North, many of our public institutions, the municipalities, schools, hospitals and Arctic College will pay more in tax than they do now. While the federal government has promised to refund part of the additional tax to these institutions, we expect that the refund will not be enough to compensate for all the additional tax.

Finally, northern business will face increased administration costs. This problem will be greater in the NWT than in the South because our businesses do not now have any sales tax to administer and accounting services are not available in many communities in the NWT. The administration fees available to small business are unlikely to cover the increased costs in the NWT.

The GNWT is proposing alternatives to the goods and services tax. We have made the following recommendations:

- 1) That the eligibility criteria for the sales tax credit be adjusted so that NWT residents with incomes up to \$37,200 receive full benefit of the planned sales tax credit.
- 2) That administration fees available to small businesses in the NWT be indexed to reflect higher costs in the North.
- 3) That the rate for tax rebates to municipalities, schools, hospitals and Arctic College should reflect northern costs, in order to ensure that northern institutions do not pay additional tax.
- 4) That the current \$5400 deduction available to northern residents be increased to offset both higher costs since 1986 and the increased costs to northern residents that will result from the GST.
- 5) That measures be taken to compensate northern residents for the increased cost of utilities that will be triggered by the proposed tax.
- 6) That measures be taken to offset the effect of the GST on air fares and the cost of transporting necessities to the North.

I have tabled a brief with the House of Commons standing committee on finance outlining our position. Unless the changes to make the tax fairer are implemented, this government remains strongly opposed to the goods and services tax. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

Ministers' Statement 21-89(2): Pulp Mill Developments In Northern Alberta

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, there is a great deal of concern in the NWT for the protection of our water quality. The main reason for this concern recently is the increasing development in Northern Alberta, particularly a number of proposed pulp mills which use chlorine to bleach the pulp in order to produce white paper. What can we do as a government to ensure that the water quality of the NWT is not degraded as a result of these mills and other industrial activities?

To date, we have been negotiating with Alberta toward a transboundary water management agreement. We have come a long way over the past several years but we cannot expect to complete an agreement until Alberta and British Columbia reach a similar agreement on the management of transboundary waters. The benefit of a transboundary water management agreement with our neighbours is to define and protect our water quality objectives in the long term.

Our government has also negotiated with the federal and Alberta governments for the need to assess cumulative effects of all Northern Alberta pulp mills. The Environmental Review Board which has been established to assess the overall effects of the Alberta Pacific Pulp Mill is represented from the Northwest Territories by Cindy Gilday who was born and raised in the North. At first, the Northwest Territories was only allowed to have an observer on the review board, but after further negotiations with the federal and Alberta governments, the right to be represented by an official member was granted. To ensure that territorial residents have an opportunity to express their views at the hearings, the panel has agreed to hold sessions in the NWT at Fort Smith on November 15th and 16th and Fort Resolution on November 23rd.

Our government and the federal government have each provided \$40,000, for a total of \$80,000, for Northerners who need assistance to intervene in the public hearings. This money has now been allocated to those who have indicated their plans to prepare an intervention. The Department of Renewable Resources is also providing information and assistance to residents and groups as required.

It is important, Mr. Speaker, to remember that pulp mill developments on this river system are not new; one mill was built 30 years ago, another one 15 years ago. A third pulp mill, the Daishowa mill, is scheduled for completion by next summer.

We must do everything possible to protect the waters of the Northwest Territories. It is our responsibility to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are followed. To achieve this goal, we must be able to monitor changes occurring in our waters. Towards this end, the Department of Renewable Resources, along with two federal departments, jointly sponsored a workshop of water quality experts last June. The results and recommendations of that workshop have recently been made public. The main focus of that workshop was to discuss the monitoring requirements for pesticides, pulp mill and petroleum hydrocarbon effluent in the Slave River. Even though water is a federal responsibility, our government, in making every effort to protect the quality of northern rivers and lakes, is prepared to ensure that a monitoring program is implemented to protect northern residents. We must do this as soon as possible to establish a baseline so that we can monitor changes that may occur in water quality.

In closing, I will say that our immediate focus is to prepare a sound intervention on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. We are presently analysing all available information about the present state of water quality coming into the Northwest Territories and the effects of proposed pulp mills. I would like to assure you that we are doing everything possible to ensure the protection of the quality of our northern waters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Point Of Order

MR. ERNERK: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. As we completed yesterday's sitting, the statement that was indicated by the Speaker, yourself, sir, reads: "Therefore, I adjourn the House until 10:00 a.m., October 29, 1989." I would just like to observe Rule 26, Rules of the Legislative Assembly, that says: "Immediately prior to adjournment on each sitting day the Clerk shall announce the Orders of the Day for the next sitting day."

Mr. Speaker, orders of the day are missing from yesterday's Hansard dated Thursday, October 26, 1989, Norman Wells. Thank you.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I just want to indicate to the Members of this House that the point of order is correct. However, I want to indicate that the error will not be made again. However, the present process does not invalidate the orders of the day as I indicated earlier. The point of order is correct. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Official Languages

MR. ZOE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I spoke in Dogrib, and I did not have any interpreters. That is why we adjourned yesterday. Now we have some interpreters available, and I thank Mr. Speaker for that.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday some people spoke in their own aboriginal languages. Today only French and English are official languages...

MR. SPEAKER: I believe it is on channel two. Proceed, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we speak in aboriginal languages -- French and English are recognized officially. We have the aboriginal languages included in there, but they seem to be falling behind. The English and French languages seem to be included. When you look at the act, we seem to be included. After Christmas this year they will be invalidating some of the -- in the future they will have French and English as the official languages. They will be used for all laws, court proceedings, the way laws are printed. All these matters will be in English and French. They will be recognized in English and French. Not only that, the French people, if they wish, may request items in the French language, not only in Yellowknife but in isolated communities in every region. The French people may request things in the French language, both written and spoken. I disagree with what has been taking place. I wish to have the aboriginal languages, and the English language -- I want them to be all recognized officially, similarly, and I wish to speak on that matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

Member's Statement On Thanks To Government For Assistance Re Flood Damage, Fort Liard And Fort Simpson

MR. SIBBESTON: This being Friday, I want to pay a compliment to the government. I know I am castigated by Members on this side, but I will still persist.

On April 30th and the morning of May 1st the community of Fort Liard was flooded. Never in its history had the Liard River risen so high, and it really was a life-threatening situation. In the middle of the night people were evacuated to higher ground by canoes and so forth. Fortunately, there was no one injured. There was flood damage to 41 houses, many of them beyond repair.

I arrived on the scene later that day and called Mr. Patterson to come to Liard to see the flood damage for himself. Mr. Patterson did come and we walked through all of the flooded area and saw the flooded houses, and later on he met with the community and assured them that the government would provide some compensation.

The next day I flew to Fort Simpson and witnessed on May 3rd a flooding in that community. In Simpson there were 14 houses and buildings that were damaged. In late June the government did come through and pay compensation. They paid a total of \$313,000 to people in Liard and \$152,000 to the people in Fort Simpson.

I want to commend, firstly, the people in both these communities that were involved in dealing with the flood and commend Mr. Patterson and Mr. Wray and Mr. Butters, who eventually came through with some money to build seven new houses to replace those that were totally damaged. So, thank you to the government, and I say this on behalf of my grateful constituents. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: This must be a new day and a new mood. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to remind all Members of the words of our former Commissioner, who at his retirement party reminded all of us that one thing we must do...

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order. Member for Slave River.

Point Of Order

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in reviewing the Rules of the House, I find in Rule 13(9), it states, "When in the Assembly every Member shall be attired in native dress or in a manner appropriate to the dignity of the Assembly." And looking at Mr. Lewis, my honourable friend across the way, and reviewing the definition of "attire", Mr. Speaker, it indicates not only to put garments on, but to "dress, clothe, in splendid or decorative clothing; dress; array, in the clothes of fancy or rich garments". No doubt I look at this vest and I find it to be very rich and fancy; however, I question the quality of the shirt that he wears.

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I will take note of the point of order and consider it and provide a ruling for appropriate attire. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Member's Statement On Accountability Of Government

MR. LEWIS: My last words were, "John Parker's retirement party". But with that interjection, Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of a statement made earlier by the Government Leader about the institute publishing a research package called, "Why Do Walrus Turn Pink?", which was a document which is of scientific interest. However, the Commissioner did not make remarks about the importance of science to our future. He was talking about the need to listen to the people.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, now having been in this House for two years, that the only voices that our government hears are the voices that go around inside their own heads. Not only do they not listen to the people, they do not listen to Members from our ordinary Members' committee. I would have thought that in a consensus form of government that it is the ordinary Members that really represent, just as much as Members of this government, the wishes and desires of the people of the NWT.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Agreed.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

MR. LEWIS: In fact, yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we felt so strongly about this that we decided to organize our ordinary Member's committee so that we would, in fact, try to make this government more accountable to the people it serves. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Member's Statement On Understanding People Of The NWT

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to report that I am very happy. We are very understanding of each other in the NWT and I am sure we will have better understanding when we deal with Nunavut land claims. Looking at all the minutes of the meetings with regard to Nunavut and the aboriginal people, when they start discussing the land claims we understand each other right away. A lot of people in my constituency would like to see land claims settled and they would like to see Nunavut and they think that Nunavut is good for them and they will benefit from that. It is not just to benefit the people who are living today, but we have to think of the future generation.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to these and our future, I am very happy that we talk. Sometimes we have problems and there is some uneasiness at times. We understand each other all the time, though. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Member's Statement On National Anthem

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the opening of this session of the Legislative Assembly, we heard a choir of our young people singing our national anthem, O Canada. Mr. Speaker, I say that I felt quite proud, as I always do when I hear that song, and I joined in. But, Mr. Speaker, when I looked around, unfortunately I saw very few people singing. Perhaps they were not singing because they did not know the words. Maybe they were too choked up with being Canadian and too proud so that they could not; or maybe they did not know the words in their own native languages. Whatever the case, there were few. I did not know whether we were supposed to join in or not, but I did anyway. Whatever the case, Mr. Speaker, I sadly notice that we as Canadians in general do not rise enough to sing our national anthem for any reason. We hold major international conferences and meetings. We open major buildings and projects, yet we do not sing O Canada. I do not think the national anthem was sung when we opened that new airport terminal in Yellowknife. I know for a fact that we did not sing O Canada when the seismic station was opened, and yet we had people from every continent there. Nothing was sung.

I do not know why this happens, Mr. Speaker. But I know one thing. I travel over to the States from time to time and at the drop of a hat they are going to sing The Star-Spangled Banner. At any major sporting event, whenever something is happening, people take great pride in singing their national anthem and I wonder if there is something we are lacking. The Rotary Club is the only club that I know of that routinely opens their meetings with O Canada. I think that we should take notice of that and maybe do a little bit more of it. Certainly at the opening of these sessions or at the closing of these sessions, I would be pleased to lead the Members if they ask me.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

Member's Statement On Highway Upgrading

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, on a positive note, I wish to take the opportunity to thank the honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs for designating highways No. 1 and No. 3 in my constituency for priority attention by his department. These two stretches of highway have needed complete reconstruction and surface paving for a long time.

I am also happy to hear that the department plans to give priority to the section from Bluefish to Fort Rae, which is long overdue, and to the realignment of the right of way between the Mackenzie River and the Fort Simpson junction. The bad bends there are a serious hazard to the motorists.

I understand that the bush cutting and clearing work for the new alignment will take place this winter. I would like to remind the Minister of the high unemployment rate in my community. Any employment opportunities such as brush cutting and clearing work or other jobs that might be created for the local community as a result of this project would be very welcome.

I also want to offer my support to the Minister in his negotiations with Ottawa to transfer the interterritorial highways. The highway system has always been my means of transportation to and from the sessions and all my constituents travel these roads as well. Therefore I can say I have a certain amount of expertise in knowing what these roads are all about. So if I can be of assistance to the Minister in his discussions with Ottawa, I would be more than happy to assist. Once again, thank you for the help, Mr. Minister. All the complaining and screaming has finally paid off. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

Point Of Order

MR. SIBBESTON: I would just like to raise a point of order with respect to dress. Since one Member on that side has raised a point of one of our Members on this side, I would like to raise a point regarding one of the Members on your side. Mr. Speaker, if you read Rule 13(9) that deals with the dress it says, "When in the Assembly every Member shall be attired in...dress". I interpret that to mean, surely men cannot wear a dress but any woman on that side must wear a dress and Ms Nellie Cournoyea is not wearing a dress. Mr. Speaker, the work of an MLA is hard and generally a dreary job and the only joy and pleasure we have is to see the our female colleagues wear a dress. Mrs. Marie-Jewell generally does that and it is very ladylike and a pleasure, but Ms Cournoyea continues to wear pants. So could you, Mr. Speaker, order Ms Cournoyea to wear a dress?

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Sibbeston. I will take note of the point of order. However, it is not the business of the Speaker to give orders, as opposed to apply orders that have been given to me through the Rules. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The Minister of Renewable Resources.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by the Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Sam Gargan, with respect to bison drowning in the Mackenzie bison sanctuary. In mid June 1989, 177 wood bison carcasses were discovered around the perimeters of two large ponds located on the north and south side of Falaise Lake. The carcasses showed evidence of

lacerations and bruising on the face, chest, shoulders, thighs and flanks. The evidence suggested that the bison drowned after struggling in deteriorating ice during spring thaw in late April and early May. Incidents such as this are not unusual and have occurred a number of times in Wood Buffalo National Park.

The same day these dead bison were discovered, the Denendeh Conservation Board, which was meeting in Yellowknife, was advised immediately. A detailed report was prepared for the board and presented at the September meeting.

A resident of Fort Providence is a member of the Denendeh Conservation Board. One of his responsibilities is to keep the community informed on renewable resource issues. Residents of Fort Providence were also kept informed by Renewable Resources staff. In addition, bison biologists held a detailed joint meeting with the Fort Providence Hunters and Trappers Association and the Fort Providence Band Council in late September. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to oral questions. The honourable Minister responsible for Renewable Resources.

Further Return To Question O24-89(2): Hunting Of Musk-Ox On Bathurst Island

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Mr. Pudluk's question of October 20, in regard to musk-ox hunting on Bathurst Island. The Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association requested departmental advice on resuming caribou hunting on Bathurst Island last summer. In reviewing their request, Renewable Resources recommended a caribou harvest of up to 10 males and identified a new musk-ox harvesting opportunity from the most recent Canadian Wildlife Service survey. The regional biologist met with the community during July to discuss this. The necessary legislation for a musk-ox quota could not move forward without written community support, which was received on October 20. The legislation change is now being prepared for the Department of Justice and will be completed in time for this year's hunting season. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O107-89(2): Minister's Statement On Protest At Samuel Hearne Secondary School

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Education. There seems to be some confusion, Mr. Speaker, over the amount of physical pushing and shoving and stuff that took place at the Inuvik school incident this past week. When the Minister made his statement he used this word and I want to find out from him on what grounds he used it when he made the statement such as he did. What grounds did he have to make that kind of a statement?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Education.

Return To Question O107-89(2): Minister's Statement On Protest At Samuel Hearne Secondary School

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I thought I made it on solid ground.

---Laughter

I think it is important to get it clear. I must say, one thing that always surprises me is how easily some people can attain such dizzying heights of sustained stupidity and how quickly some observers perceive it to be moments of brilliance. I refer to my impression of the media coverage of the events so far this week.

I based my statement and the use of the word on a written report from the acting principal of the school who was involved in the incident, and it was used after some discussion with our legal counsel. The word "pushed" was used in the report by the staff person who was involved in the incident. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

Question O108-89(2): Economic Development Officers, Baffin Region

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question that I am asking has been asked before. I first asked it in 1987 to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism with regard to my constituency, especially Broughton Island and Clyde River. I had an answer that this would be improved, in regard to economic development officers visiting the community. They are having a problem because the economic development officers do not visit those communities as often as they should and they wanted to get some training in regard to economic development, or some assistance from economic development officers.

I do not want to keep on asking this question to Economic Development but I have to have it resolved because my constituency has been asking about the economic development officer. They do not have any assistance in the way of carving and arts and crafts work and they are having a lot of problems because they need some guidance from the economic development officers.

My question is, would Economic Development be able to assist us with having visits by economic development officers to my constituency? There are always ships moving about in the Baffin Region. Would the Minister consider people getting some soapstone from the Lake Harbour area and brought to my constituency? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O108-89(2): Economic Development Officers, Baffin Region

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really should take the question under notice because I was under the impression that Broughton Island was serviced by an economic development officer. Perhaps not a full-time one, but one that was shared with the community of Clyde River. But I will check into that matter for him.

On the overall matter of economic development officers, again the question comes down to money. Unfortunately, I only have 27 positions to service 62 communities. So except for the very large communities, most communities in the NWT are being serviced by having to share economic development officers. For example, in Mr. Sibbeston's region I have only one economic development officer for six communities. So things are extremely tough in terms of the number of people that I have and, as you heard, resources and money are just not available to acquire positions.

With regard to acquiring soapstone from Lake Harbour. I really do not know what to say on that one. Perhaps Mr. Kilabuk should talk to Mr. Arlooktoo. But I am looking into the whole question of soapstone for Mr. Arlooktoo and we do have some money set aside in the Baffin Region to help communities acquire soapstone. So again I will get some information from my officials in Baffin to see what assistance is available and where we can get it. I guess I am sort of half answering the question and perhaps I can report back to Mr. Kilabuk before the session finishes. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

Question O109-89(2): Obtaining Soapstone For Carving

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is just a supplementary to Mr. Kilabuk's question. Here in the NWT jobs are very scarce. I think there will be no jobs for the people pretty soon. Has Economic Development found anything to make crafts with from down south or have you looked into getting some craft material that can be brought up to the NWT for the natives to make some carvings out of? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Return To Question O109-89(2): Obtaining Soapstone For Carving

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our whole strategy on crafts has been to try and utilize northern products, northern suppliers, as much as possible. There was an attempt at one time I am aware of, several years ago, to bring soapstone -- I believe it was into the Keewatin -- from Thompson, from the mines there. But the soapstone was of extremely poor quality and by and large was not used particularly well. I think, consistent with the report from the special committee on the northern economy, I think we should rather concentrate on looking around our own land for materials because sometimes we think there are no materials when they are right in front of our eyes. When I visit other countries, Finland and Soviet Union, I see quite amazing products being developed from things like caribou antler and caribou horn, whalebone, all kinds of northern products. However, I am not aware of the soapstone supply situation in Baffin and it could be it is extremely bad. But I will undertake to look into the matter, just to see if we have identified soapstone deposits in Baffin and where they are and how much assistance will be needed to access those soapstone deposits. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O110-89(2): Rankin Inlet Library Board

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education and it is in regard to an ongoing matter that John Ayariaq, of the library board in Rankin Inlet, has been struggling with for a number of years. The problem is that the government's payment policy to boards of education has had a direct effect on library services in Rankin Inlet. The problem is that funding for a school librarian has been affected and my question is to the Minister of Education. Would the Minister of Education be prepared to provide funds, in conjunction with the Department of Culture and Communications, to assist the school and the community with library services?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Education.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I take the question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

Question O111-89(2): Severity Of Minister's Statement Re Student Protest

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, in reading the statement that Mr. Kakfwi made yesterday about the student protest, I could not help but notice how heavily laden his statement was with authority -- RCMP, I think is there six times. In every clause almost, the RCMP is mentioned and words like "Criminal Code" and "investigation" and so forth appear throughout the statement. I know that if I were a student in a high school I would find the statement quite intimidating, scary and it would make a student very scared to make any kind of a move. It just seems to me that in a high school setting there should be an atmosphere of free thinking and an ability to take steps, where necessary, by students, and the Minister gives the impression that it is only due to his kindness that the students were not charged under the Criminal Code.

So I find the statement somewhat intimidating. Did the Minister intend to intimidate students and if not, will the Minister outline a process, a way whereby students can protect concerns they have,

lest they fall into situations – lest they are so intimidated that they are too afraid to ever express any of their concerns?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Education.

Return To Question O111-89(2): Severity Of Minister's Statement Re Student Protest

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the fact is I took the incident to be a serious matter. As I said earlier, one of the staff members was pushed. Against direct orders from the staff, some of the students seized control of the public address system. I consider that to be a serious matter. There are Members, maybe, in this House and in the public who do not consider it to be a serious matter, but I would suggest that if it were happening in their home town they may have some concerns about it.

In my opinion, I wanted to establish if there was a basis for my concern. I would suggest that if I had not acted as quickly and as clearly as I had, I would be equally charged with being weak and indecisive and indifferent to a serious situation. I still believe that I acted properly and in line with the duties that I am charged with.

I am intending to leave the Legislature early today to make a visit to the high school to speak with the students so that they hear from me as to how I perceive the incident and they have a direct opportunity to speak with me by themselves, in the absence of adults and teachers, so that they know they have caught our attention but that not everything they have done, and the manner in which they have carried it out, is to be applauded and appreciated. We are trying to turn the incident into a positive learning experience.

There are some serious elements to the incident which were not for me to lecture them on, so the RCMP went into the school yesterday and talked to the students. I understand it was a good, productive visit. Today I will speak to them as well and give them an opportunity to speak to me, and it is my intention that all schools, teachers and students across the Territories will receive some information and some communique about the incident so that they will all be advised about the seriousness of the matter and some points, perhaps, on how to get their point across in a more productive way. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O111-89(2): Severity Of Minister's Statement Re Student Protest

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate what the Minister is saying. To date, the RCMP have gone into the school and, as the Minister says, they have used the event to educate the students about how they can voice their concerns in a lawful manner. The Minister says he will also raise this, but after he has finished with the students in Inuvik, I wonder if the Minister would make available to all students throughout the NWT guidelines and suggestions as to how students can raise concerns, so that there is not this scary feeling of intimidation that if we ever do anything the whole force of the RCMP is going to come down upon us and take us to court, charge us, and so forth. So we do not leave the impression with students of the North that you dare not make a move because the RCMP are going to come to the school, they are going to arrest you, they are going to throw you in jail and you simply are not permitted in any way to take any steps. I think it would be very worthwhile if the Minister could state very clearly to the public and the students of the North the sorts of actions the students can take legally, so that it is certain they are not intimidated.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Education.

Further Return To Question O111-89(2): Severity Of Minister's Statement Re Student Protest

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, sometime early this morning I had the thought, perhaps in a dream, that if I were the Minister of Defence in Canada, and if I had an unlimited budget, I

could go to Inuvik today and announce that I was seriously considering reopening the Armed Forces base there, but that would be taken as intimidation. In any case, they were crying for it a few years ago. But the intent the Member is asking about is of the intentions I have. I support -- and I said it in Iqaluit last year -- that where students are being ignored and their rights are tampered with -- in the case of Iqaluit where their residence had been taken over by Arctic College and by adults, they were being crowded out of their space and their concerns had been raised over and over again over a period of a year -- where the furniture and living conditions were, I would say, very poor. Over a period of a year they continually raised these concerns, and the matters they raised were not being addressed. Finally, with three days' notice, where Arctic College students simply moved in and took over a floor of their residence and forced them up another floor, where they were forced to share things like showers -- the students had had enough; but their demonstration was a sit-in where they simply deprived themselves of a day in school. They harmed no one; they simply said, "We are going to protest." They had a sit-in for a day, and I happened to be there and I felt, given the seriousness of their situation -- and as you know all of us have a tremendous amount of concern for students in the Eastern Arctic -- I felt it was important that they be supported, to know the concerns they had raised were right. I felt they had no option but to act because officials and people like myself were not responding as quickly as we should.

In the case in Inuvik, I think the process was taking care of itself. The request for additional resources, teachers, was made through the proper channels by the principal, by the superintendent, by the Beaufort-Delta Divisional Board of Education, and had been forwarded to me. There was no need for them to walk out. They suggest, as well, that their budget was cut. The budget was not cut. I felt that there was no way that I could suggest that I support them in this case because everyone was doing their job the best they could. Without giving the people responsible an opportunity to take care of their concerns, and without bringing it to the attention of the principal and asking for a response, without bringing it to the superintendent, without bringing it to their board or to the Inuvik Community Education Society, they simply decided to walk out and protest and I cannot applaud that for a moment.

Again, this will be part of the discussion I have today and also part of the message that we will share with all schools and students in higher grades across the Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South.

Question O112-89(2): Request For Airport Runway, Lake Harbour

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been asking this particular question several times, and I will be addressing this question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Wray. I was not responded to because of lack of funding. I am going to try and put it in a better light than before. The Yellowknife Member stated that we should be singing O Canada and appreciate being Canadians; if I sing O Canada, maybe I could get a runway for my community.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: If that is the requirement to get a responsive government maybe we should all stand and sing O Canada. However, the honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs.

Return To Question O112-89(2): Request For Airport Runway, Lake Harbour

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I met with the Minister of Transport, Mr. Bouchard, earlier this summer with some of the other MLAs, I brought up the subject of Lake Harbour after our meeting. Mr. Bouchard made it clear, in no uncertain terms, that the federal government would not contribute any funds whatsoever to a runway in Lake Harbour. So, our options are becoming narrower and narrower all the time. However, as I had mentioned before, there is still one very small slight chance and that is, that the Member knows we are experiencing

some major problems in Lake Harbour with land for housing. We are, essentially, running out of land in the community.

The federal government does have some money set aside to improve the runway, I believe starting next year. We also have some money set aside for land development. We are looking at whether it would be cheaper to build a new runway and use the existing runway and area for housing developments than to develop a new land development area. Obviously we have to take a very close look at the costs. No matter what we do, it is going to be very expensive. So September 25th or 26th, about a month ago, we awarded a \$35,000 contract to J.L. Richards and Associates to put together the study for us, to assess the costs. Hopefully, we should have some information by the end of December of this year. However, quite frankly I am not hopeful, knowing or seeing some of the early costs figures of the runway location. However, we will wait and see what the study says.

With regard to the singing of O Canada, if Mr. Arlooktoo were to do that then I suspect that there would be about seven other Members who would be competing with him to see who could sing the best. Thank you.

--Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Motion To Extend Question Period, Carried

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I will be making a motion to extend question period for half an hour.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. The only problem is that the request cannot limit the time period. If what you are seeking is unanimous consent to extend question period, it is in order. Are there any nays? Question period has been extended.

--Carried

The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O113-89(2): Inuktitut Literature For Libraries

MR. ERNERK: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is on the same subject and concerns the library service and the availability of materials in Inuktitut syllabics, especially within the community of Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is that the library service operates out of Hay River and is under the Department of Culture and Communications. It does not have sufficient funds to translate documents into syllabics. Most of the work for the library is done in the communities and sent to Hay River for cataloguing. It normally sits there for months because they do not have Inuktitut speaking people on staff.

My question to the Minister of Culture and Communications is this, I ask the Minister if he is committed to the ongoing enhancement of our language in the library services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Culture and Communications.

Return To Question O113-89(2): Inuktitut Literature For Libraries

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The library services in the Northwest Territories have in their selections Inuktitut books which are to be distributed

throughout the libraries in the communities. There are up to 126 books, in the libraries, that are in Inuktitut. For the latter question, yes, we are trying to acquire more Inuktitut books for the libraries.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Aivilik, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O113-89(2): Inuktitut Literature For Libraries

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the Minister's speech, that with all his authority he would try to acquire and provide funding for native language enhancement. The way his department operates, inasmuch as they have tried to enhance the French language, can he work on the native languages as well, with the same effort that they have put on the French language?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Culture and Communications.

Further Return To Question O113-89(2): Inuktitut Literature For Libraries

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member for Aivilik knows, the library services in my department have limited funding for the services that we are required to provide. Up to this time I am not satisfied with the quantity of materials available in aboriginal languages and unfortunately the people who are producing the Inuktitut literature are not producing that much. We are looking for funding to produce more aboriginal language materials. We have to get approval for our plans so we can justify new proposals to the appropriate funding sources. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Aivilik, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O113-89(2): Inuktitut Literature For Libraries

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I will ask a very simple question, through you, sir. Is the Minister of Culture and Communications prepared to devote as much funding to the aboriginal languages as his department is doing with the enhancement of the French language? Yes or no?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Culture and Communications.

Further Return To Question O113-89(2): Inuktitut Literature For Libraries

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are willing to devote as much to the Inuktitut language as we are devoting to the French language. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River.

Question O114-89(2): Use Of Trailcross Facility For Female Inmates

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is fairly easy to see that it is Friday, Mr. Speaker. Through you, sir, to the Minister responsible for Social Services, dealing with correctional institutes. Mr. Speaker, there have been some problems lately with female and male inmates in the same institution. I am aware that the females are still in Yellowknife and I am also aware that there is a feeling that they should have their own facility. Although this may be delicate for the Minister because this is in her constituency, I am wondering if the Minister has considered using the Trailcross facility in Fort Smith as an interim measure? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Social Services.

Return To Question O114-89(2): Use Of Trailcross Facility For Female Inmates

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had indicated in the House, my department is currently developing options to present to me to forward to cabinet for consideration. Possibly one of those options may be identifying that particular facility. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just wondering if maybe the Speaker needed some glasses to see this far.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Boo!

MR. SPEAKER: Order. I want to indicate to the Members of the House that the process that I am following is to allow every Member to ask a question and if a Member has already asked a question, I will go to a Member who has not asked a question previously. I am taking a list and off that list I am reading the Members and the constituencies of those Members. So it is not a matter of the Member questioning whether or not I can see. I can see the honourable Member very well; in fact, I am trying to see the door here.

---Laughter

The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Question O115-89(2): Use Of Drowned Buffalo Remains For Arts And Crafts Products

MR. WHITFORD: I meant no disrespect in that, but I felt that being used to the configuration of tables in the other Assembly chamber, it was a little easier to see Members. I always thought that we tried to get questions in according to the particular topic and I wanted to capitalize on a point to the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. He informed one of the Members in a written answer about the drowned buffalo close to Fort Providence and a subsequent question about materials for arts and crafts. I know that there are parts on a buffalo that are suitable for arts and crafts and I wonder if the Department of Renewable Resources -- or perhaps Economic Development, but I am directing this to Renewable Resources -- are planning anything to harvest this abundance of skulls and horns from these dead animals that are still within the perimeter of Falaise Lake. In my opinion, I have seen a lot of good material there for carving, from buffalo. I wonder if he is going to do anything about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Renewable Resources.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

Question O116-89(2): Extension On CMHC Funding For Alcohol And Drug Centre Near Dettah

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Housing. Mr. Minister, as you are aware from the questions asked by the MLA for Yellowknife South the other day in the House, time is running out on CMHC funding for this drug and alcohol centre in Yellowknife. Have you been in touch at all with the Hon. Alan Redway, Minister responsible for CMHC, to see if he could extend the deadline for the funding for this drug and alcohol centre in Yellowknife so that the government can do a proper survey or formulate a strategy on developing drug and alcohol centres in the North? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, no. The matter has never been brought to my attention until now. I believe CMHC is dealing directly with the organization itself and not involving the Housing Corporation. I will take the question as notice and file a reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question is being taken as notice. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

Question O117-89(2): High Rate Of Caribou Deaths In High Arctic

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. In my constituency last year in the wintertime, up to the springtime, there were a lot of caribou that died. I was wondering if there was any study done as to the reasons why they died.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

Return To Question O117-89(2): High Rate Of Caribou Deaths In High Arctic

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Peary's caribou population in the High Arctic is not increasing and some of the sub-populations are decreasing. The scientists think that in wintertime and springtime the ground gets too hard for them to dig into the moss. So that is the reason caribou are dying.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for High Arctic, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O117-89(2): High Rate Of Caribou Deaths In High Arctic

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the caribou are smaller in some of the islands but some of the caribou in the Baffin Region are much bigger than the Peary's caribou but there were a lot of caribou from Baffin Island and Arctic Bay that died. They died the same way as the Peary's caribou although they are a different caribou in Arctic Bay. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

Further Return To Question O117-89(2): High Rate Of Caribou Deaths In High Arctic

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were told last spring by the communities of Igloolik, Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet that some people saw dead caribou. The study has not been concluded yet, but they figure that last spring, before the snow melted, there was rainfall during the spring and then there was a freeze-up after that. I think you have heard on the radio that they saw the caribou herds going toward Igloolik on the sea ice. There were a lot of caribou that died. The wildlife scientists are trying to figure out why they have died but the study has not been completed yet. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South.

Question O118-89(2): Recognition Of French Language

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to Titus Alloo. I was told outside of the Legislative Assembly, and I would like to know if this is true, that as native people if we do not believe in the French language being recognized, would the Canadian government not bother with us? I was told by one of the Executive Members that they will not deal with us in our aboriginal language if we do not approve the recognition of French language. I was wondering if this was true. I was told this outside of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Culture and Communications.

Return To Question O118-89(2): Recognition Of French Language

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently negotiating with the federal government in regard to the aboriginal languages. We are trying to get a commitment from the federal government. We still have not made an agreement as to how much funding we will be receiving from the federal government after today. We still do not know what the amount will be. Right now I cannot give you a reply because there is no agreement as of today. We do not know whether we will be receiving funding today or not. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O118-89(2): Recognition Of French Language

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will rephrase my question. You did not answer my question. My question was, if the native people do not recognize the French language as an official language we are told that the federal government will have nothing to do with our aboriginal languages. I did not ask anything about financial matters. If we do not approve the recognition of the French language, will they not bother with us or with the aboriginal languages? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Culture and Communications.

Further Return To Question O118-89(2): Recognition Of French Language

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Up to today the GNWT has been dealing with these issues through funding only. Right now we provide interpreter services and we are publishing native language documents with the funding we get. If you remember, there was an agreement in 1984. The Legislative Assembly made an agreement to recognize the French language as an official language. Today in the Legislative Assembly, if we say that we will not live up to the terms of the agreement, it will not help us a bit. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Baffin South, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O118-89(2): Recognition Of French Language

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You still have not answered my question. I have heard a rumour from one of the Members of the Executive Council that if we do not approve or if we do not say yes to the French language as an official language that our funding will be cut back on aboriginal languages. Are they trying to threaten me? Do I have to make a deal with them? If I want my language to be recognized, do I have to approve the French language as an official language? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Culture and Communications.

Further Return To Question O118-89(2): Recognition Of French Language

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, we have to go by the legislation that we have in place, the legislation that was put in, in 1984. We have to abide by that legislation and if we do not, we would be breaking the law. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Question O119-89(2): Establishment Of Public Service Commission

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I have waited for over an hour to be recognized but with age comes patience so I appreciate the opportunity to speak. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Department of Personnel. Would she confirm that last January a working group was

established to examine a recommendation passed by this House, for the establishment of a public service commission?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Personnel.

Return To Question O119-89(2): Establishment Of Public Service Commission

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, not specifically for a public service commission. However, a working group was established in order to look at reviewing the Public Service Act and at the same time to consider the public service commission. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O119-89(2): Establishment Of Public Service Commission

MR. LEWIS: Has this working group, Mr. Speaker, now completed the work that was assigned to it?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of Personnel.

Further Return To Question O119-89(2): Establishment Of Public Service Commission

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe so.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, supplementary.

Question O120-89(2): Cabinet Consideration Of Recommendation On Establishment Of A Public Service Commission

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister did not say yes or no. Therefore, I would like to address my supplementary to the Government Leader, if I may. Mr. Government Leader, was the recommendation of this working group to establish a public service commission examined by the cabinet before we went as a caucus to Baker Lake?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Government Leader.

Return To Question O120-89(2): Cabinet Consideration Of Recommendation On Establishment Of A Public Service Commission

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

Question O121-89(2): Caribou Killed For Their Antlers

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, this spring, I believe, there were a number of caribou that were killed and their antlers were removed. Was there an investigation done and were the people who committed this crime ever brought to justice, or is it still under investigation?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

Return To Question O121-89(2): Caribou Killed For Their Antlers

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any caribou being killed for the antlers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O122-89(2): Grizzly Bear Quota For Repulse Bay

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister of Renewable Resources a new question with regard to wildlife. The Minister is aware of what I will be asking. Last September he was in Repulse Bay and met with the Repulse Bay Hunters and Trappers Association. It was a long meeting. He was welcomed by the Repulse Bay community, and I was happy with that. Mr. Speaker, through you to the Minister: They asked for a quota for grizzly bears. Mr. Minister, what is your response to date? Is it yes or no?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question O122-89(2): Grizzly Bear Quota For Repulse Bay

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) I would like to thank the community. When we visited, we were welcomed. I still have not received a response from the wildlife biologists, and I cannot give you an answer as to whether it will be yes or no. I still have not received a report from the scientists. The Department of Renewable Resources will be giving me a recommendation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W7-89(2): Charges Re Samuel Hearne Secondary School Student Protest

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my question to the Minister of Education. Again, it is with regard to the incident that occurred at the Samuel Hearne school with respect to the pushing and the shoving. I understand now that the Minister has decided not to pursue charges against the students as a result of this incident. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not the reason why charges were not laid was because there were not enough grounds, and that the only kind of charges that could be laid would be assault charges in this case. Also, he might be denying them, under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the freedom of expression or freedom of speech, and in this case he would be embarrassing himself if he tried to pursue with the charges. Perhaps he was advised not to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: If I could ask the honourable Member to put the question that he wanted directed to the honourable Minister of Education.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not he has been advised not to pursue the charges since there are not perhaps enough grounds, and that he might violating the Charter of Rights and Freedoms on two grounds.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Education. I stopped because the honourable Member had his hand up and we were dealing with oral questions. I did call the item of written questions and Members are correct with regard to that particular item. However, I would recommend to Members that they make me aware as to when Members are going to ask an oral question prior to proceeding to written questions, because I cannot see Members in the Assembly when I am moving to another item of business. However, now I will proceed to written questions and I believe the honourable Member has indicated he is not prepared to ask the question at this time. Written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, return to Question W1-89(2), asked by Mr. Sibbeston to the Minister of Transportation; return to Question W6-89(2), asked by Mr. Morin to the Minister of Culture and Communications.

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

Hon. Gordon Wray's return to Question W1-89(2), asked by Mr. Sibbeston on October 19, 1989, regarding money spent on highway: First of all, it is important to make it clear that the Mackenzie highway is part of the interterritorial highway system and that, therefore, the responsibility for its reconstruction lies with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Canada. All of the expenditures on the highway, to date, have been federal expenditures made with the approval of the Treasury Board. The Department of Transportation administers the project on behalf of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development pursuant to an engineering services agreement between the two governments.

This section of the Mackenzie highway was originally built between 1949 and 1952. It was reconstructed in 1962-63. The most recent work has taken place from 1983-89, involving reconstruction to widen the road, improve the drainage system and construct a base and paved surface. The reconstruction became necessary as a result of the increased traffic volumes, including cars and especially trucks with increasingly heavier payloads, travelling this primary access to the Northwest Territories.

The total cost of the work to date, including the estimated cost to finish the paving next year, is \$24.1 million. This is a large sum and reflects the cost of road construction in the NWT. I am pleased to point out that these efforts have made a big improvement to the highway. Last week, paving was completed from the border to kilometre 18. This makes for 49 kilometres of pavement with 35 kilometres remaining to be paved next year. I have no doubt the people of the South Mackenzie can already appreciate what a difference this project has made in the condition of the highway and will continue to enjoy the benefit for many years to come.

Return To Question W6-89(2): Moneys Spent On Aboriginal Languages

Hon. Titus Alloo's return to Question W6-89(2), asked by Mr. Morin on October 24, 1989, regarding moneys spent on aboriginal languages: A complete breakdown of the \$26 million spent on aboriginal languages has been prepared by my department. However, this document has not yet been translated, so I must defer tabling the information in the House until the budget session of 1990. English copies are available and I would be happy to make copies available to Members of this House upon request.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if Mr. Gargan's question was out of order and if it could be struck from the records. If it was asked and recorded, then I do not have an opportunity to respond. Secondly, because the question is also seeking a legal opinion it is one that I think is not within the Rules on oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi, your point of order is not a point of order and is incorrect. The matter that we are dealing with is returns to written questions and the fact is that the statements were already made by the honourable Member and it will be a part of the record but noted as not an oral question. Point of order, the honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to request unanimous consent to return to oral questions.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to oral questions. Are there any nays? I hear a nay. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again perhaps with regard to the...

MR. SPEAKER: Order. What are you rising on? Returns to written questions. We shall take a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to call the House back to order.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Item 9, petitions. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Petition 1-89(2), from Rankin Inlet. It is entitled, "No uranium mining here". The petition opposes the proposed Kiggavik uranium mine, proposed by Urangesellschaft, outside of Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, it contains 531 signatures. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Petitions. The honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: I would like to present Petition 2-89(2) on behalf of my constituents in Pond Inlet. The Kasarnak day-care centre is operating in one half of the portable school building but as of August of next year, 1990, classroom requirements will force the day-care centre out of the building. There is quite a demand for day-care. It helps parents that need to work and it helps grandparents who are too old or too tired to adequately care for their grandchildren. Most important, it provides a safe, clean, stimulating environment for preschool children. The Kasarnak day-care petition states that it needs support in order to stay open, whether a new facility or help in renovating an existing building so that they can have a permanent home. The petition has been signed by about 200 people. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Just a note that the honourable Member is tabling a document as the honourable Member for Amittuq. Petitions. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Petition 3-89(2), from the residents of Baker Lake, Arviat and Whale Cove, in opposition to the Kiggavik uranium mine near Baker Lake. The petition contains 552 signatures, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 16-89(2), coming from my constituency of Repulse Bay, with regard to the nuisance of grizzly bears, and asking if they could get a quota for grizzly bear harvesting in the Repulse Bay area. The minutes of the meeting of the hunters and trappers association on September 28 are in there also, and the HTA is asking for permission to get a quota for grizzly bears. They are asking the Minister of Renewable Resources, Titus Allooooloo. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Just a reminder that when one is tabling documents, just give a brief outline of what the document is about. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 17-89(2), from the Dene/Metis joint leadership meeting of October 11th. It is in support of the Northern Addiction Services efforts to encourage the Minister of Social Services to provide the necessary funding to see that this facility is adequately funded.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 18-89(2), Seize The Day, a Report to the Legislative Assembly on Political and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories, in English and in Inuktitut.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table two documents: Tabled Document 19-89(2), Status Report on Tuberculosis in Repulse Bay, in English and Inuktitut, and Tabled Document 20-89(2), Presentation on Federal Goods and Services Tax from the Hamlet of Paulatuk.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 21-89(2), a document entitled, "Choices". It is a three year action plan to address spousal assault, a final report on progress to March 31, 1989. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 22-89(2), a letter from small businessmen of Resolute Bay concerning the increased rate for workers' compensation for 1990. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. The honourable Government Leader.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 8-89(2): Tabled Document 18-89(2) To Committee Of The Whole

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the appropriate time I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Tabled Document 18-89(2), Seize the Day, A Report to the Legislative Assembly on Political and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories, be moved into committee of the whole for discussion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Notice Of Motion 9-89(2): Creation Of Nunavut Territory

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice of a motion for Tuesday, October 31, 1989. (Translation ends) I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that this Assembly affirm its support for the creation of a Nunavut territory. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Notice Of Motion 10-89(2): Special Committee On Aboriginal Languages

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 30, I shall move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that this Assembly establish a special committee to be named the special committee on aboriginal languages, and that the following Members be named to the special committee on aboriginal languages: the honourable Member for Amittuq, Mr. Allooloo; the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne; the honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Ernerk; the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 20-89(2): Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 30, 1989, I shall move that Bill 20-89(2), An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to notices of motion since the legal counsel of the ordinary Members committee has told me that I did not complete reading that motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, if I could complete notices of motion for first reading of bills and then we will return, with the unanimous consent of Members, to Item 12. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 26-89(2): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1988-89

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not know we were out of this one. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 30, 1989, I shall move that Bill 26-89(2), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1988-89, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 27-89(2): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1989-90

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 30, 1989, I shall move that Bill 27-89(2), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1989-90, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Do I have unanimous consent, then, to return to notices of motion? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Proceed, the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

REVERT TO ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And further, that the terms of reference for the special committee on aboriginal languages be established as follows...

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Would the honourable Member begin the motion at the beginning of the resolution again?

Revert To Notice Of Motion 10-89(2): Special Committee On Aboriginal Languages

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 30th, I shall move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that this Assembly establish a special committee to be named the special committee on aboriginal languages and that the following Members be named to the special committee on aboriginal

languages: the honourable Member for Amittuq, Mr. Allooloo; the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, Mr. Ballantyne; the honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Ernerk; the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Sibbeston.

And further, that the terms of reference for the special committee on aboriginal languages be established as follows: 1) Review existing legislation and prepare draft legislation dealing with aboriginal languages; 2) review the status of the aboriginal language agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada; 3) review existing reports, policies and practices of the Government of the Northwest Territories, dealing with aboriginal languages; 4) prepare implementation plans for use of aboriginal languages; 5) consult with the Speaker concerning rights and use of aboriginal languages in the Assembly; 6) consult with territorial aboriginal organizations.

And further, that the special committee shall: (a) Conduct its business in a manner approved by the committee; (b) have the power to call for such persons, papers and records and to examine witnesses as, in its opinion, are necessary to the conduct of business; (c) be provided the necessary funds to carry out its responsibilities from the appropriations of the Legislative Assembly; (d) as a whole, or individual Members, undertake such travel as is required to carry out the assigned responsibilities of this committee; (e) be empowered to retain the services of such professional staff and advisers as deemed advisable by the committee; (f) be provided with the necessary administrative support by the Legislative Assembly office; (g) have the power to sit during sessions, adjournments and recesses of the House; (h) present its report to the Legislative Assembly during the sixth session of the 11th Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We will now return to Item 14, motions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit, the Government Leader.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq that Tabled Document 18-89(2), Seize the Day, A Report to the Legislative Assembly on Political and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories...

MR. SPEAKER: I just want to indicate that you require unanimous consent before you proceed with the motion. The honourable Government Leader.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I apologize, Mr. Speaker. Could I seek unanimous consent to move Tabled Document 18-89(2) into committee of the whole?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government Leader is seeking unanimous consent to move Tabled Document 18-89(2) into committee of the whole. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Government Leader.

Motion 8-89(2): Tabled Document 18-89(2) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Tabled Document 18-89(2), Seize the Day, A Report to the Legislative Assembly on Political and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories, be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motions. Motion 2-89(2). The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre. I will just remind the Member that the orders indicate the number in which the items have to be dealt with. Do you wish to proceed with your motion, Mr. Gargan?

Motion 2-89(2): Request For Plebiscite On Seat Belt Legislation

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

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly enacted the Motor Vehicle Act during the ninth session of the 10th Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the act was proclaimed in force on April 1st, 1988;

AND WHEREAS section 161 of the Motor Vehicles Act requires all persons in a vehicle on a highway in the Northwest Territories to wear a seat belt;

AND WHEREAS the conditions and the lifestyle of many of the residents in communities across the North has not been considered in this legislation;

AND WHEREAS enforcement of the seat belt provision is extremely difficult;

AND WHEREAS the residents of smaller communities have expressed concern with the use of seat belts in carrying out the traditional life;

AND WHEREAS the residents of the Northwest Territories are concerned for safety on certain highways;

AND WHEREAS the definition of highways causes hardship within smaller communities;

AND WHEREAS residents of the Northwest Territories should be permitted to express their democratic rights through a plebiscite on the issue;

AND WHEREAS the Commissioner can direct that a plebiscite be held on any question that is of importance to the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the Legislative Assembly requests that the Commissioner and Executive Council consider directing the holding of a plebiscite on the question of the wearing of seat belts within municipal boundaries.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the ordinance on plebiscites, section 3, subsection (1), "The Commissioner may from time to time direct that a plebiscite be held on any question which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, is of importance to the NWT." It is under this act that I make this motion. I have here with me an opinion from 23 communities which indicate that there should be a public process in which we give an opportunity to the communities to express an opinion on a certain section of the Motor Vehicles Act. Also I have three communities that are undecided on whether to support it or not and one that was against it.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are enough grounds there to hold such a plebiscite. Also in December in most in the NWT there will be municipal elections and I believe that that would be the time that perhaps the question of whether or not seat belt legislation should apply within the municipalities would be addressed. The option would then be up to the government as to whether it is appropriate to act on it or not. But by no means does the motion indicate that there should be an amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act. It is asking whether or not the communities could express, through the democratic process, an opinion as to whether there should be some changes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for High Arctic as seconder.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my constituency this matter has been of great concern and they would like to have it rectified. It is difficult to please everyone, I am sure, but I support this motion and it is clearly stated, to find out what the people of the communities want. This is a great concern in smaller communities, wearing seat belts when they are travelling inside the municipality. Some places do not have very many vehicles. And some communities are small but they have a lot of vehicles. In some communities where there are not too many cars, there are usually quite a few people riding in them because they do not want to travel back and forth too often. There are not enough seat belts in the car for everyone. It is obvious they do not want to break any laws and for that reason they are having problems using this act that was passed April 1, 1988.

Some communities where there are not too many cars support this motion. It is obvious that in the future they will be requiring more vehicles, even the ones that are not using them now. Mr. Speaker, I want to see the motion pass so that the concerns of our communities can be expressed fully.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I support this motion even though I come from Yellowknife where people, in most cases, come from other parts of the country, where they accept seat belts as a normal part of every day life. When this legislation was first introduced into the House, there had been some moves by Mr. Gargan to try to change it and at that time, because of the constituency I serve, where there have been several deaths, I was not able to support the idea of simply getting rid of a requirement to wear seat belts. However, I am in great sympathy with the Member who has taken an extraordinary amount of time to talk to the people. There has not been one Member, in my opinion, that has dedicated as much time on one single issue as Mr. Gargan has to this one of seat belt legislation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LEWIS: At the beginning of this day's session, I mentioned that this government does not listen to the people, it just listens to the voices that go around in each individual's head. And from time to time they may listen to one particularly friendly person on this side. But for the most part, government carries on without really examining what people really want, because sometimes we can have stupid laws, even though we are wise people; sometimes we make the odd mistake and in this case, what Mr. Gargan is asking for is that we listen to the people. We do not have governments like those that exist elsewhere in this country. We have a government which we kind of made up ourselves behind closed doors and this is an opportunity for us to listen to the people on an issue that is of great importance, according to the information that I get from the Member, about the way people feel in their very small communities about something which they feel perhaps in southern Canada makes sense, and in their small towns they should have some control over. This is an opportunity for this House to show, maybe just once in our four years, that we do listen to the people and one way of doing that, traditionally, is by a plebiscite. We do it on other huge issues and perhaps this is another one of those things where we should talk to the people in a formal organized fashion through a plebiscite.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be supporting the motion to hold a plebiscite on the question of wearing seat belts within municipal boundaries. I think my colleague from Yellowknife, being such an eloquent speaker, stole all the words I was going to say.

(Translation) This motion Sam made, I agree with him. I think he is right; we should leave it up to the communities. I would also like to agree with the motion that is being made. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the mover and the seconder of the motion that I will be supporting the motion because I understand it will protect my community and my constituents. I am aware that some of the legislation does not apply to my community, and at times it is very hard to apply the legislation or acts that are made. For example, looking at Repulse Bay and some other communities, it is very hard to enforce legislation because some of the roads are very short. It takes longer for you to put on a seat belt than you can use the road. It is very hard to use seat belts when there are short roads, and the legislation on seat belts should not apply to some of the smaller communities. When you drive down south the cars are going very fast and I understand the legislation for the cities or places that have so many cars. But in our smaller communities we travel about five miles an hour, we do not travel at high speeds, and we do not travel long distances in vehicles. That is why this seat belt legislation is useless in our smaller communities. It is better to try and understand the people we are representing. I will be in support of this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Just as a reminder that the question that is being posed to this House is the consideration of holding a plebiscite and not the question of debate on the validity or requirement for seat belt legislation. To the motion. The honourable Member for Baffin South.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be in support of the motion of holding a plebiscite against the use of seat belts. The use of seat belts is not supported by the Hamlet of Cape Dorset. They have written to me about this. I have relayed this legislation to my communities. This legislation does not apply to smaller communities. We already have by-laws within our communities covering speed limits. I will be in support of this motion. I think we should have a plebiscite in our communities, and I am sure they will be in support of the plebiscite on the wearing of seat belts. It is very hard to enforce this seat belt legislation in small communities. Every time they pass a police officer they put on their seat belts very quickly. I am sure this is evident, too. The drivers of the four-wheelers have to use helmets all the time, but this is very hard to enforce, too. I will be supporting a plebiscite on the use of seat belts in the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, my position on this is that I am not in support of the concept of holding a plebiscite throughout the Northwest Territories, as the motion suggests. I may abstain, depending on how the vote goes. I do appreciate and recognize what the Member is attempting to do. He is obviously of the view, and has obtained a tremendous amount of support from many communities in the North which also agree with him, that seat belt legislation should not be imposed on them.

Legality Of Seat Belt Legislation

The matter of seat belt legislation, in my view, is one that is a little bit uncertain as to its legality. I take it a court in one of the provinces has questioned the legality pursuant to the Charter of Rights. In my view, it is up in the air. In all of my experience in the North I have never been approached or doubted by any officer checking me as to whether I should be wearing a seat belt or not. I personally use seat belts on the highway because at a fast speed I do recognize the danger of what may happen if you do not wear a seat belt.

Mr. Speaker, in my view whether this motion passes or not, there should be a message to the government that many communities in the North question the mandatory imposition of seat belt legislation upon them. In my view the message that the government gets and the action they should take is to change their legislation to give and delegate the matter of seat belt legislation to the communities; for the communities themselves to decide by their own by-laws whether they will make seat belts mandatory within their own community boundaries. This should be the message, I think, the government takes from all this.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SIBBESTON: I do think that, to an extent, the fact that the government has made it mandatory in its legislation is a bit of big bad Yellowknife, the big bad government, thinking in its wisdom that everybody in the North should be tied up with seat belts when they drive. It is a bit of a feeling that Yellowknife knows best, and they are going to impose it on every person throughout the whole NWT. In my view, this is how people in the small communities would view it, because the rate of speed, the rate of traffic, and everything else in the communities, is very much different from Yellowknife and the larger centres. It is not practical to insist on seat belts in Jean Marie River and Nahanni Butte and small places like this. It is a bit of the big government, Yellowknife, imposing what it thinks best in the bigger centres and along the public highways in the southern part of the North on the rest of the North. In my view, as I said, the government should see this as a request to them that they amend the legislation to give and delegate the seat belt legislation powers to each community in the North.

I believe that plebiscites should be used for big things: the question of division, question of Nunavut, the question of Denendeh, really important matters. The holding of a plebiscite is costly, too. Whether this bill passes or not, I think the government should take from this what I said. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hay River.

High Cost Of Plebiscite

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not be supporting the motion. This plebiscite is going to be costly and if you want my honest opinion, sir, I think I could tell the government right now that people are going to say that they do not want seat belts. Nobody likes seat belts. People in my constituency do not like seat belts and so I would imagine that if they had a choice they would not wear them. If they have a choice to tell this government, by way of plebiscite what they want to do, I think they are going to say, "We do not want seat belts."

I liken it a little bit to taxation, Mr. Speaker, which is the law. If you gave people out there the choice of whether or not they should pay taxes, I think they would tell you they do not want to pay taxes. I think that if this plebiscite goes ahead, as I say, I think we can predict the outcome. I would ask Members to consider that when we get into this kind of hassle, when we get into a plebiscite situation, when we get public opinion going, for whatever reason, one direction or another, then if this law is overturned and you do not have to wear seat belts and people continue to get injured, people continue to get killed, people are continually left without parents because of accidents, Mr. Speaker, we pay the health care costs.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

MR. GARGAN: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. Gargan.

Point Of Order

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that the Member is addressing the issue of the plebiscite as if it already happened and that the opinion is already there to sway the voters to vote in a certain direction. The motion itself addresses a public process to get an opinion from the public and I think the Member is addressing this motion as if it already happened.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The issue raises a point of debate, but I must remind the honourable Members that the question that is being posed by the motion itself is the matter of the Executive

Council considering the holding of a plebiscite and that is the issue at hand. The honourable Member for Hay River.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Suffice it to say that I will not be supporting the motion, Mr. Speaker. I think it is too costly and I do not think it will do any good.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Gargan has some valid points and, as my colleague said, has worked long and hard on this. I still support mandatory seat belts but I do not know all of the facts in the smaller communities because I do not live there. But I do live in an urban riding where there are more vehicles, more roads, higher speeds. Unfortunately I was a coroner for a while and I know the effects that restraints have on people. If I were to support the motion I would be contradicting my view for the public good and my responsibility is to speak sometimes on things that may be contradictory but still for the public good. Therefore I will not be supporting Mr. Gargan's motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not be supporting the motion. The last plebiscite to be held in the NWT was in 1982 with regard to the creation of Nunavut. The cost of that plebiscite was \$250,000. The last territorial election cost just under half a million dollars. This plebiscite would probably cost around half a million dollars. I think it would be irresponsible of us as a Legislature to spend half a million dollars knowing that we are about to lose millions in our formula, on an issue that, quite frankly, I agree with the Member for Hay River, we already know what the people are going to tell us. I know what my constituents think. They do not like seat belts. I do not particularly like seat belts either. But what I like and what we have to do are two different things, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

HON. GORDON WRAY: First of all, we cannot afford the plebiscite. But that is perhaps irrelevant, because the motion talks about "within municipal boundaries", and listening to some of the Members, particularly my colleague for Aivilik, it is obvious that there are great misconceptions found in the NWT. The facts, Mr. Speaker, are that in 1987 there were 1363 accidents in the NWT. Sixty per cent of those accidents were within municipal boundaries; of 287 people injured, 178 of them were within municipal boundaries. The facts are that unbelted people will be killed at 20 mph. The average speed limit in our communities, the small communities, is 30 mph. At 11 mph, Mr. Speaker, your head will break the windshield. At 15 mph, if you are holding a child...

MR. GARGAN: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. Gargan.

Point Of Order

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with a process in which to get a public opinion. The Members are addressing this motion as though it was already passed and they are asking the general public not to support the wording for a plebiscite.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. Wray.

Point Of Order

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that you have ruled twice on this, but I do note that in the comments you allowed from the Members, you allowed a certain degree of latitude in terms of what they were speaking to and certainly several of them did not speak strictly to the issue of the plebiscite. I would ask that you allow the same degree of latitude to people opposed to the motion.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Firstly, to the point of order raised by Mr. Gargan. Again I will remind Members that the question that is being posed to us is whether or not we will consider the holding of a plebiscite. To the point of order raised by Mr. Wray, I have tried to allow for as much latitude on the issue as possible, but I have tried to stay away from the arguments for or against a particular question. That is basically what I have tried to do. I will allow all Members that type of latitude, but I would ask you to consider the question that is before us at this particular time. Proceed, Mr. Wray.

Majority Of Accidents Occur Within Municipal Boundaries

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaking to the motion, it is obvious that because of the "whereas" clauses the Member feels that somehow there is a difference within municipal boundaries, as opposed to outside municipal boundaries. All I am trying to point out is that if the plebiscite is asked and the question is, "Should there be seat belts within municipal boundaries?" what has to be understood is that there are more injuries and more deaths within municipal boundaries than there are outside. The fact is that driving on a highway means nothing in this argument. People will be killed at low speeds as much as at high speeds. Those are facts. We have the facts. We have the numbers. So I am not going to support the motion simply because we know that seat belts save lives no matter where they are worn. We know there is absolutely no difference whether they are worn inside or outside municipal boundaries and we know that the majority of injuries and deaths in the NWT occur within our communities, not on the highway system.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Government Leader.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree with Mr. Pollard, who has also had a lot of experience as a coroner, that the plebiscite would likely result in a lack of support for this initiative. Mr. Speaker, I would humbly submit that we are, in this debate, entitled to comment on the broader implications of the motion, the results that a plebiscite might have.

I have been thinking about the issue of seat belts, especially since a man died in a vehicle which passed by me while I was driving with my 10-year-old son this past Labour Day weekend on the Dempster highway. His vehicle left the road, overturned; he was not wearing a seat belt and he died. His name was ahead of mine in the guest book at the NWT visitors centre in Dawson City.

Mr. Speaker, I know, and I do listen to the people, occasionally, and I know there are complaints about the inconvenience caused by taking some 10 seconds to buckle or unbuckle a seat belt. I hear from my constituents. I also know, Mr. Speaker, from listening to my constituents that most people never think they are going to be in an accident, as most smokers do not think they are going to get lung cancer. Yet, from what Mr. Wray has said, there is an average, by my calculations, of about 27 accidents in the NWT every week, or three or four each day, mostly in municipalities.

Responsibility Of Legislative Assembly

Mr. Speaker, I know that very few people realize as well that an accident at a speed of 15 miles an hour is enough impact to throw a child out of its mother's arms, like a rag doll, into the windshield. I know that if we allow this plebiscite, and that if we are then forced to back off on this law, there may well be no more complaints about convenience; but I also know that there will be grief and pain if even one life is lost because our government and our Legislature did not have the courage and the sense of responsibility to do what we know is right, even in the face of complaints from the public about inconvenience.

Mr. Speaker, if a life is lost, or if a child's skull is crushed because his mother could not hold onto the baby, it will not be any comfort to that family to say, "It is a matter of individual responsibility." It will be no comfort to the grieving family to say that the Legislature repealed its legislation on compulsory seat belt use because the law turned out to be unpopular in a plebiscite, or because it was deemed somehow to infringe on personal freedoms. It certainly will not be a comfort to the grieving family if they find out afterwards that the injury or loss of life could have been prevented by the use of a seat belt.

I agree with the honourable Member for Nahendeh that there is public concern, and that we may well have failed to persuade people of the need for this lifesaving device. That is quite obvious to me. I wonder if there are alternatives, Mr. Speaker. I wonder, for example, if it would help if we started providing to this Legislature the names of people who were injured or died and the location of accidents, and whether or not they wore a seat belt. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, will more people have to be injured or die because they were not wearing seat belts before we learn to act as responsible legislators rather than people who let ourselves be pushed by every wind of public opinion that blows?

I ask, Mr. Speaker, what signals are we sending to the people of the Northwest Territories about all of our laws if we pass a law in one session, which like other laws, say the Taxation Act, we require people to obey and respect, and then at a later session we decide to have a plebiscite on that law? In fact, I ask, Mr. Speaker, what signals are we sending to the people of the Northwest Territories about the respect they should show for our laws by even having this debate?

Mr. Speaker, I think there are times when governments must lead public opinion, not follow it. I think there are times when elected representatives must act responsibly, not just according to what may be popular. This is a time, and the issue is simply the protection of human lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I do give credit to Mr. Gargan's diligence, and I listened with interest to Mr. Lewis's flowery speech, I think that this motion is irresponsible. I think that Members in this House should consider their actions. People in this House should realize that in a civilized world we are the only jurisdiction that would even consider rejecting seat belt legislation. When I hear from an honourable Member that Yellowknife is imposing their will on small communities, I say to you, Mr. Speaker, somebody is just as dead in Fort Providence as they are in Yellowknife.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think this debate shows me, not that we need a plebiscite, but that we need a hell of a lot more education in the small communities...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: ...so that people will recognize the seriousness of what we are talking about. I am amazed that this conversation, this debate, is taking place. With all due

respect to Mr. Gargan's diligence, I do not think people in small communities really recognize the risk they are taking and are exposing their children to by not using seat belts.

I would suggest to Mr. Gargan and to other Members here, that they could use the same amount of energy as they are using in trying to get a plebiscite, in educating people...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: ...as to the dangers of not using a seat belt. I think -- I have said it once before and I will say it again -- in this debate we should be leaders. I think in this debate we should be educating our constituents. I think in this debate the good in what we are trying to achieve is much more important than political popularity.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: With those words, Mr. Speaker, I will not support this motion. Thank you.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Good speech.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make a brief comment in regard to the motion. The three-wheelers and four-wheelers, there was a big opposition when the law came that they had to wear helmets in order to operate those machines. Now they have to wear helmets because we agreed to enforce that. Now I have children who are teenagers and they use three-wheelers and four-wheelers. If the enforcement of wearing helmets did not come into effect, I think I would have lost another child because of that kind of accident. So I support those kinds of safety devices. If I was somewhere where there was a highway I would not mind, but I want everyone to know that I am going to abstain from the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My constituents have complained to me that seat belt legislation hampers their ability to move in and out of the vehicles or restricts them to some degree and also they say it is an inconvenience to their activities. I would like to tell you a short story that adds a personal touch to my experience. I had a little nephew thrown out of a vehicle in Pond Inlet in the late 1970s and as a result the six-year-old child died from the injuries received. I think the vehicles that are powered by motors should have some sort of safeguard to protect the people who are using the vehicles. It has been shown by statistics in the provinces and other countries, that in fact seat belts do save the lives of people who could have been thrown out of the vehicle in case of accidents. I sympathize to some degree with Mr. Gargan that, in the small communities such as my communities, seat belt legislation is an inconvenience to the people who are riding in the vehicles. But the safety that has been shown by statistics, by experience in other provinces, in other countries, overrides those inconveniences that have been shown to us by our constituents. Therefore I will not support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Final argument, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought this would be the first time in my two year term that perhaps there might be a process by which public government or consensus government is at work. There are always two sides to a story and naturally the negative side of it is that if we do not wear seat belts it could cause death. But last spring I made a statement with regard to the statistics in the United States in which 2.5 million people are injured as a result of seat belts. Permanent injuries. Broken necks, broken backs, internal injuries. So those are the type of statistics, too, that we have to look at.

Defensive Driving Courses Needed In Communities

The Government Leader referred to individual decisions. Yes, I believe in individual decisions too. But the point that the government has not made, and Mr. Ballantyne touched on it, is that we have to promote driving safety. Yes, I agree with the government on that part. But the kind of defensive driving training that is now initiated in the communities is that this summer we had 13 students that went through a driver's test, and out of that number three of them passed. Why? Because there is not proper instruction, because there are not proper courses in those communities. We have them in Fort Smith. We have them in Rankin and we have them in Inuvik -- defensive driving courses, which teach the students that if you wear your seat belt it could be a matter of life and death. So the individual has that choice to make.

I see this government as going around the issue by saying that we cannot afford to have those instructors in the community to teach them. So the only way around it is to enforce the use of seat belts so that we have a situation whereby we could eliminate the expensive process of going into the communities and teaching the people defensive driving courses, which are absolutely needed.

Mr. Speaker, the process I thought I was addressing is the process which perhaps would be an answer to what we as legislators, we as government, have perceived as consensus government.

Now in the Plebiscite Act itself, Mr. Speaker, I will read you section 5 which says, "Any plebiscite held pursuant to this act is only for the purpose of collecting information and the results...are not binding upon the Legislative Assembly, the Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Executive Council, the Commissioner, the Government of the NWT or its employees." So that in itself indicates that perhaps it is only an opinion, and perhaps there are ways in which the government may address that opinion; but they do not have to, they are not obliged to. The only thing I am saying is, let us have a public process. I do believe in democracy, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

And I do believe in a process in which perhaps the people that are directly affected out there give that opinion to the government. And if the government in its wisdom feels it is not appropriate to have an amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act, then by all means they should justify their point at that time. The only thing I am saying is to give the people out there the opportunity to express their democratic opinion on it.

Motion 2-89(2), Defeated

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Recorded vote has been requested, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour of the motion?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Crow, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Morin, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Gargan.

MR. SPEAKER: Those opposed to the motion?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Pollard, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Wray, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Butters, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MR. SPEAKER: Those that are abstaining?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Kilabuk and Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion has been defeated, nine against, eight for and two abstentions.

---Defeated

Motions. Motion 4-89(2). The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

Motion 4-89(2): Discussion Of The Report On Political And Constitutional Development, Carried

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

WHEREAS the paper entitled "Political and Constitutional Development in the Northwest Territories" was tabled at the third and fourth session of this Assembly;

AND WHEREAS limited discussion has taken place with only one witness appearing during the fourth session;

AND WHEREAS the paper entitled "Report to Legislative Assembly on Political and Constitutional Development" has been tabled for discussion during this session;

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

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the Legislative Assembly invite representatives from each member of the Constitutional Alliance to appear as witnesses in committee of the whole during the discussion of the Report to the Legislative Assembly on Political and Constitutional Development.

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

---Carried

Motions. Motion 6-89(2). The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

Motion 6-89(2): Support For Fur Trade And Rejection Of Mayor Of Edmonton's Comments

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Her Worship Jan Reimer, Mayor of the City of Edmonton, decided not to wear the mayor's chain of office for her swearing in ceremony as a mark of her opposition to the fur trade because it is mounted on beaver;

AND WHEREAS the city of Edmonton has been the main transportation gateway into the Western Arctic;

AND WHEREAS the fur trade played a key role in the early development of the economy of the city of Edmonton;

AND WHEREAS the mayor's actions and statement is a slight to the aboriginal people of Alberta and the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the mayor's actions demonstrate an apparent ignorance of the history and heritage of the city she was elected to represent;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories reaffirms its support for the fur trade;

AND FURTHER, requests that Mayor Reimer publicly retract her statements on the fur trade;

AND FURTHER, requests the Executive Council to consider an alternative location for the Edmonton office of the Government of the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHER, that the Executive Council examine alternative supply routes for the western Northwest Territories outside the city of Edmonton. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion is in order. To the motion. Mover of the motion, the honourable Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members are well aware of this issue already because I have brought it up in the House, as well as many other Members this week, I feel and I hope that Members will support this motion. We, as Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Northwest Territories, cannot sit back any longer and let anti-fur movement people continue to criticize and verbally abuse our traditional fur harvest. This is one of the most important industries that our people have in the North and is one of the most important ways that the small communities can make any sort of economic development, any sort of living to support their families. We have seen what has happened in Europe. We have seen what happened to the seal industry. We should learn by now that we cannot sit back. We have to take a stand; we have to fight and we have to fight hard. Whenever any elected official makes a slight like this toward our trappers, we cannot take it lightly. It is not a small statement, it is a statement that could have a very bad effect on our trapping industry, especially an elected representative of a municipality that is closely situated to us, that we have been supporting for the last 50 years or so. We should expect some sort of support in return for our economic development in the North.

The mayor of Edmonton has taken this stand so our government, too, should take a stand. The whole reason for this motion is so that it could direct the Executive Council to see if there are alternative routes and see if there are other locations for the Edmonton office.

The fur trapping and traditional gathering of meat in the North, as we found out in our travels with the special committee on the northern economy and through our reports, is around a \$75 million industry. It is not only very economical for our people, it also has very strong cultural links. Once again I could not overemphasize the fact that we have to start taking a hard stand on behalf of our trappers and we cannot stand for people to talk about our trappers the way that the mayor has.

As you heard, the Minister of Social Services the other day in the House stated that the suicide rate in the Eastern Arctic has gone up in the past five years, after the seal industry was shut down due to the actions of the anti-fur trade groups.

I do not want to talk on this issue too long. I spoke to it many times this week and the Members all know my feelings. I hope you will all support the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Secunder of the motion, the honourable Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am the secunder of the motion because in my community we order all our goods from down south and the fur industry helps us a bit but we do not get much money from it. Mr. Morin said the mayor of Edmonton refused to wear the chain of office during her swearing in. We all know that something like this symbolizes authority. Up north here, when something is done down south against us, the whole of Canada hears about it and it creates problems for the people of the NWT. The new mayor of Edmonton should be apologizing to the people of the NWT because she is making us suffer. (Translation ends)

Mr. Speaker, as a hunter and trapper, I and my fellow Inuit from Nunavut, Northern Quebec, throughout the circumpolar community -- we are a responsible people when it comes to conserving and managing wildlife. That is how we learned to live. That is how we learned to survive from the land and sea. We have never wiped out any species of animals all our lives. We are good managers of wildlife. I know through the convention on international trade of endangered species, the international community recognizes the fact that we have never wiped

out any species of animals. We are good managers; we are one of the very best conservationists in the world.

I say to Mrs. Jan Reimer, be a proud Canadian. Because, you see, the fur industry built Canada. That is why on the other side of the five cent coin there is a beaver. This nation was built upon the fur industry.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. ERNERK: Mrs. Reimer and those bleeding hearts should recognize that fact and be proud of it. Every Canadian should be proud of that fact. And what we are hearing, Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, from a group of responsible people, responsible individuals who help to run this nation and cities such as Edmonton, is that that is not being said. They should be, as I am, an aboriginal person, proud to be Canadians. Every one of them.

---Applause

Now I want to say to Mrs. Reimer, it has been shown that the Government of the NWT, with their delivery of programs, with their services of programs, that they have one of the very best wildlife management programs. The international population is very envious of that fact and the international community who is responsible for the wildlife management is very envious of the government's programs with regard to management of wildlife and environmental issues. So as a seconder of this motion, I fully support this motion.

With regard to the consideration of government relocating the Edmonton office, I guess we could pick a number of places in southern Canada. Winnipeg would be the other obvious place. But there are a number of other places to take a look at. So I would expect the Government of the NWT to come out with a reply to this important request within a certain period of time; in other words, before too long. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Chair would recognize the clock. It is almost time for -- can I continue beyond 2:00 o'clock? Do I have to make a motion to extend?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Speaker must adjourn at 2:00 p.m. as a result of the process of this House. However, a motion of extension is in order prior to the clock reaching the hour of 2:00 o'clock.

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that the hours of sitting today be extended to the completion of this particular item.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is not debatable. A seconder to the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre. All those in favour? All those opposed? We will continue until the conclusion of this item. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Point of order. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Point Of Order

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I take it that the honourable Member's motion referred to the item "motions" which would allow us to do the motion of appreciation to Mrs. MacKendrick as well.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To your point of order. The Rules clearly indicate that sitting beyond the hour of daily adjournment must be for the purpose of continuing consideration of a specific item of business. I want to indicate that particular item of business at this particular time is a motion with regard to support of fur trade and rejection of the mayor of Edmonton's comments. Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the motion. I have had an opportunity of reading it and conferring with my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, in principle I support that motion. I support it because I want to lend my support to the fur trade, the industry that is related to it, and the long history that the fur trade has had in Canada, for the Northwest Territories, to the provinces and to the people that pursued this. Trapping, in my opinion, is very important to the NWT and to the provinces and Canada. It is a way of life. It is a career. It is a living. Just the same as ranching, chicken farming, raising turkeys or sheep or pigs. It is the same thing. It is a way for people to make a living, provide for their families. That is what we know. That is what we do here. It is no different and this process has continued for centuries here in the NWT. I personally come from a long, long, long line of hunters, trappers and gatherers. Some of my relatives still pursue that profession and that lifestyle. Myself, sir, I used to hunt. I trapped small fur, not for a living in the true sense of it, I was too young for that, but I support those people who do choose this for a way of life. On the other hand, I think the mayor of Edmonton spoke out without realizing the ramifications of her comments. She has commitments, she has convictions, but I do not think she should have said this where it would harm people. The people in the NWT, the people in the northern parts of the provinces and the Yukon, I am sure, know what they are doing and I think the animal rights people have exaggerated the way things are carried out. When my relatives trapped for beaver it was done as humanely as possible, without the goriness that I have seen when some of the animal rights people make their presentations and their movies and their publications.

But, Mr. Speaker, the mayor of Edmonton and her naivete – when she made this comment I felt that she was chastised by this government, by the honourable Member, in particular, and by the other Members that are in this House. She has been chastised by the northern trappers of her own province, as they told her how important this was to their industry and their way of life. She knows that. She has been invited to come to the NWT by this government and by the honourable Member, to show her how people live in the NWT and how much they depend on trapping and perhaps, if it is possible and if it is practical, see exactly how they conduct their way of life. I do not know whether it will be possible or practical, but I understand that she may be coming.

Motion Not Supported In Entirety

Now, as I said, I support the government's position on this and their statements that they have made and the statements that the honourable Members have made over the last few days. What I cannot support in this motion, Mr. Speaker, are the two furthers that are down at the bottom of the motion; that the government consider alternate locations for the Edmonton office. That is meaningless. They could look at that and move it down the street; it will suffice. We depend on it for communications, for a jumping-off place. And we have counted on them for years. I realize it was in bad taste and I think the people of Edmonton will probably let their mayor know, in no uncertain terms, just how she has offended the people of the NWT and in particular the trapping people, the people that depend on the fur industry.

I certainly cannot support even examining alternate routes for our communications, because it will prove to be impractical. There is no way that I could ever live with this kind of a commitment.

I cannot do it. If I were to support this and if it were to be carried, then the government comes up with an alternate route, say to Calgary or Vancouver or somewhere else, I could not live with that kind of a commitment because I would not be able to keep it and I would be lying every time I landed in Edmonton. I cannot do it.

Therefore I cannot support the motion in its entirety. If the honourable Member would delete those two paragraphs, I would support the motion to chastise the mayor, lend my support behind the trapping industry in the NWT and the members of my family and my friends and acquaintances who pursue trapping as a lifestyle and recognize how important it is to our economy. I support that. But those two things are impossible to keep and I would personally not be, and I know a lot of my constituents would not be, able to live with this kind of a commitment and therefore it is meaningless that I even consider voting for those two things. I support the principle of the bill but I cannot vote for it in its entirety and if the honourable Member would change it, I would be supporting him.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 6-89(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour?

MR. MORIN: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Recorded vote, please.

MR. SPEAKER: On your point of order, Mr. Morin, I already called for the vote in the affirmative and your request for a recorded vote must occur prior to my calling for a vote on the particular motion. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There is a meeting of the standing committee on finance at 2:30 p.m. this afternoon. Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. there will be a meeting of ajauqtit and at 10:00 a.m., a meeting of the standing committee on finance.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Monday, October 30th.

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; Bills 22-89(2), 10-89(2), 2-89(2), 19-89(2), 24-89(2); Tabled Document 18-89(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 1:00 p.m., October 30th, 1989.

---ADJOURNMENT

Available from the
Publications Clerk, Department of Culture and Communications
Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T.
\$1.00 per day; \$40.00 for 1st session, \$20.00 for 2nd and 3rd session; or \$60.00 per year
Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Northwest Territories