



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

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NORMAN WELLS, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1989

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo): The Chair wishes to recognize Mr. John B. Bawah, the regional secretary of Northern Ghana. He is presently chairman of the board of the northern region rural integrated program. He is visiting the Northwest Territories to study our system of economic and political development. Welcome, Mr. Bawah.

---Applause

I wish to also recognize the students and their teachers, Dean and Ann Campbell, from the Chief Albert Wright School in Fort Norman. Welcome to our Assembly.

---Applause

As Speaker of this House I wish to welcome the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. John Ningark. I wish to express our congratulations on your successful election to this House. I wish also to indicate to you that the Office of the Speaker and the staff of the Legislative Assembly are prepared to assist you to the greatest extent possible to ensure a successful transition as a Member of this Legislative Assembly. If the Office of the Speaker or the staff of the Legislative Assembly can be of any additional service to you, please do not hesitate to speak to myself or the Clerk or any of the appropriate staff members.

While I wish to express directly to you these comments, I wish also to take the time to thank those unsuccessful candidates who took it upon themselves to put forward their names with the idea and the view that they were prepared to serve the people of Natilikmiot. Again, welcome to the 11th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Orders of the day for Monday, October 30, 1989. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Government Leader.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 22-89(2): 30th Annual Premiers' Conference, Quebec City

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in August I had the privilege of representing the Government of the Northwest Territories at the 30th annual Premiers' Conference in Quebec City. While the Premiers discussed constitutional matters informally and in private, the formal conference agenda was largely devoted to a number of economic, social and environmental issues. In my remarks to the Premiers I reinforced this government's serious concerns about arctic contaminants and stressed the need for co-operative relationships with

provincial governments to reduce air and water-borne pollution from their jurisdictions. Indeed, there was general agreement that protocol should be developed by environmental Ministers to ensure that all provinces and territories will take full account of possible environmental effects on their neighbours which may result from economic development activities.

I also provided an overview of the Northwest Territories' economy with particular reference to positive growth indicators and the future economic impact of gas pipeline development for both the North and the South. Regrettably, the positive forecasts provided by myself and some other Premiers were tempered by near unanimous concern about the impact of federal interest rate policies, cutbacks in federal regional development spending and the proposed goods and services tax on provincial and territorial economies.

Mr. Speaker, I will be candid and say that sometimes the opening remarks by Premiers and government leaders at these conferences are viewed as a time-consuming formality. However, in my update on aboriginal claims negotiations, I must admit that more than a few Premiers took notice of the fact that the TFN claim will give Inuit title to approximately 135,000 square miles of land, an area of about one half the size of Saskatchewan. I also used the opportunity to outline our government's approach to aboriginal self-government and generally encouraged the Premiers to give the issue a high priority during future constitutional talks.

I expect that many of the issues considered at the Premiers' Conference will also be on the agenda for the First Ministers' Conference on the economy which is scheduled for November 9 and 10 in Ottawa. Along with other Ministers, I will be attending the FMC on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories and will report back on the conference during the winter budget session. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. The honourable Deputy Government Leader.

Ministers' Statement 23-89(2): Labour Standards Law Review Panel

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform this House that I have appointed an independent panel to conduct a study into current labour laws in the Northwest Territories. The labour standards law review panel will review labour standards law which sets out the minimum conditions of employment for most workers in the Northwest Territories. The panel will examine the current Labour Standards Act, the Employment Agencies Act, and the Wages Recovery Act with a view to making recommendations for modernizing and consolidating this legislation.

I have appointed Gordon Carter, a Yellowknife consultant and former chairman of the NWT Public Utilities Board, to chair the panel. Mr. Daniel Wilde, a Yellowknife businessman, and Mr. James M. Evoy, vice-president of the NWT Federation of Labour, will also sit on the panel. The panel will seek advice from workers and employers and the general public to combine the current labour legislation into a new employment standards act. The panel will also seek views on minimum wage, general holidays, maternity leave, transportation from remote areas, and security of employment. Members of the public should send their submissions to the panel by November 30, 1989. The panel will begin reviewing submissions in December and may invite people who have sent submissions to appear before the panel to make presentations. The panel will submit its final report to me by March 31, 1990. Mr. Speaker, for your information and that of the Members of the House, I will be tabling the review panel's terms of reference later today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Ministers' Statement 24-89(2): NWT Power Corporation, Nerco Contract

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that today in Yellowknife the NWT Power Corporation and Nerco Con Mine have signed a long-term agreement for the supply of power by the corporation to the mine.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important step for a number of reasons. First, the agreement is a clear sign of confidence in the corporation by one of its largest industrial customers. We can be proud of the outstanding work being done by the company's senior officers and directors. Second, the agreement is important to the mine and its employees as it provides for a long-term supply of secure and fairly priced power. As power is an important component in the production of gold, the importance of this arrangement should not be underestimated. Third, the agreement will provide stability in the demand for electricity. This will permit the corporation to consider the development of additional hydro options for the Yellowknife, Rae-Edzo, Dettah service area.

Chief among these options is the construction of a power line to carry surplus hydro-electric energy from the Taltson system to the Snare system customers. This power line should be an environmentally desirable alternative to the installation of additional diesel capacity in Yellowknife. It would also be an important step in the development of the infrastructure to connect the North and South Slave regions.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, all Members join me in congratulating both the Power Corporation and Nerco in taking this important step. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Ministers' Statement 25-89(2): Foothills Pipeline Application To NEB To Transport Mackenzie-Delta Natural Gas

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, today Foothills Pipeline of Calgary filed an application with the National Energy Board to construct a 34-inch pipeline to transport natural gas from the Mackenzie-Delta 793 miles up the Mackenzie Valley to the 60th parallel and on to the southern markets. The application follows from the October 19, 1989 National Energy Board approval to allow Esso, Gulf and Shell to export Mackenzie-Delta gas. Foothills joins Polar Gas as the second applicant wanting to construct a Mackenzie Valley pipeline. The Polar Gas application has been with the National Energy Board since mid-1985 and we may see additional pipeline applications in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that the Foothills application is incomplete. It is just the first of several other submissions which the company proposes to complete in 1990 before submitting its project for regulatory consideration. With the filing of this application, Foothills Pipeline marks its intention to begin consultation with interested parties.

The Government of the Northwest Territories welcomes Foothills' renewed interest in the North. However, we are very concerned that fragile relationships among northern parties are not unduly stressed or split by competing pipeline interests. To address this concern, I will be meeting with communities, aboriginal groups, and industry to ensure a co-operative approach is developed and followed.

Foothills still has an active application before the National Energy Board to transport Mackenzie-Delta natural gas down the Dempster, through the Yukon, to link up with an Alaska Highway gas pipeline. Therefore, it should not be automatically assumed that a Mackenzie Valley pipeline is guaranteed.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is on record as supporting the development and export of Beaufort-Delta natural gas but only if certain conditions are met. One of the major conditions for gas export, and therefore pipeline development, is that the project must result in

real and tangible lasting benefits to the Northwest Territories. The Government of the Northwest Territories will want to have a major say in the consultation, planning, routing, timing, construction, operation and monitoring decisions for the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

---Applause

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Thanks Re Recent Election

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and as well my colleagues and particularly the people of Norman Wells who have welcomed us here, and the recently appointed Commissioner. First of all, I thank my wife, Celine, from Pelly Bay, who helped me while I was campaigning. We need our wives to help us; it helps us to develop better. I thank the people of Spence Bay, Pelly Bay, and Gjoa Haven and the people that were also candidates, who ran to try and get elected in our constituency. I will try and listen to all the people that I represent. I know it is going to be difficult to work here at times and I will be travelling and leaving my community quite frequently. The people that are elected these days have to work harder to represent and voice the opinions of the communities that we represent. I will not speak too long at this time. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Invitation To New Member To Join Nunavut Caucus

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To our new MLA, we would like him to join the Nunavut caucus and I invite him to come and sit with us. As chairman, I would like to welcome him.

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

Member's Statement On Burial Place Of Father, Fort Good Hope

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the people that I went to visit at Fort Good Hope on Saturday. I would like to thank the people there because it was the first time I went to visit my father's grave. I never saw him since 1947 and he is buried there. I now know where he was buried and I will tell my relatives that I have seen the grave of my father. I would like to thank Steve Kakfwi for inviting us to visit his constituency.

I would also like to congratulate the new Member of the Legislative Assembly for Natilikmiot. I would also like to thank Titus Allooooloo who helped me out and talked to me. I also thank him as well. He talked to the community of Fort Good Hope for me. I know all the people of Fort Good Hope are listening to us and the elders of Fort Good Hope who lived with my father. I would like to thank them as well.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Support For New MLA For Natilikmiot

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome John Ningark, the newly elected Member for Natilikmiot, to the Legislative Assembly. He is from Repulse Bay and I am sure he

is committed to Repulse Bay. He went to Chesterfield Inlet for his education in 1950 and he has worked for the hamlet of Pelly Bay for a long time. We have seen how good his work is and I know he is a very nice person because I grew up with him in Chesterfield Inlet. I will work closely with him, personally, and I know he will work closely with us. One of the reasons I am happy about the fact he has been elected is because his concepts are in Inuktitut and he knows the traditional life of the Inuit and the culture. I am sure he is aware and he understands our elders.

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

Member's Statement On Mayor of Edmonton's Visit

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased to hear of Mayor Jan Reimer's visit to Norman Wells, Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope this weekend. I was hoping I would be here to express my views face to face with the mayor of Edmonton. I understand the mayor received a beautiful pair of beaded gloves from Charlie Barnaby, chief of Fort Good Hope. I thank you, Charlie, for showing the good hospitality we, the Dene/Metis, are known for. As far as the mayor of Edmonton's refusal to apologize, I say to her, that I realize it would take more than one short trip into the North to relieve her of the high level of ignorance that she has for the fur industry. But I still hope that someday she will wake up and see how much damage that she and others like her are doing to our people, with statements they make about our people and the way we make our living.

I urge this government to address the motion passed in this House on Friday, very seriously. I would also like to publicly return the trinkets the mayor has left me. I cannot accept trinkets from anyone that supports the anti-fur movement, because if they had their way, they would kill our people's way of life. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Honourable Member for Kivallivik, Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question O74-89(2) Possible Uses For Sharks

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Kilabuk with regard to the Greenland sharks in Pangnirtung. During the Pangnirtung turbot fishery in 1988-89 a large number of Greenland sharks were caught as incidental catch. The sharks damaged the longline fishing gear, resulting in increased cost to the fishermen. A market does exist for shark skin as an exotic leather. However, entry into this industry is very tightly controlled by a supplier cartel centred in the United States and Europe. Entry into this market is going to be difficult.

Last year three shark skins were shipped to a tannery in the United States which has the specialized equipment necessary to tan the very delicate skins. A specific salting and drying technique will be introduced to the fishermen to reduce the weight of the skins and therefore reduce the cost of shipping. Initial inquiries indicate that a fisherman could receive as much as \$80 for a large skin and \$60 for small skins. Revenue from the skins could offset the damage that the shark has caused to the fishing gear.

Departmental staff are continuing their research into other possible markets such as arts and crafts and the food industry. The cost of shipping the product to market may be the most significant factor inhibiting development; penetrating the very tightly controlled trade in shark skins may also be difficult for northern producers. If the tanning process is successful and a potential market is identified prior to the 1990 fishery -- that is this winter -- Pangnirtung

fishermen will be instructed in the proper method of skinning, handling and shipping the shark skins. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Honourable Minister of Justice.

Further Return To Question O73-89(2): Legal Services In The Keewatin Region

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ernerk on October 24, 1989, to do with legal services in the Keewatin Region. It is expected that an offer will be made to a lawyer within a few days, if it has not already been made. It is hoped that a centre will be established by January or February of next year, but this will depend on whether suitable office and residential accommodation can be obtained by that time. Efforts are currently being made to obtain such accommodation.

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

Further Return To Question O89-89(2): Letter From Mayor Of Sanikiluaq Re Environment

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Crow on October 25, 1989, with respect to the Sanikiluaq concern regarding James Bay hydro-electric development. The James Bay hydro-electric development has potentially major implications for Hudson Bay and parts of the northern ecosystem. I have asked my departmental officials to meet with officials from Quebec Hydro about our concerns. I have also written to the mayor of Sanikiluaq to offer him the necessary funding to assist a delegate from his office to attend the meeting in Great Whale River later this week. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to oral questions. The honourable Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Return To Question O79-89(2): Status Of Disease Registries Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I have a reply to an oral question asked by Mr. Lewis on October 24, 1989, regarding the status of the Disease Registries Act. Mr. Speaker, the Disease Registries Act, passed by the Legislative Assembly in the 1988 fall session, has yet to come into force. The delay is partly due to some lack of clarity about the scope and intent of the act.

Concerns raised by the Northwest Territories Medical Association were largely centred around issues of confidentiality and scope. These were addressed by the Minister and departmental staff at a meeting with NWT Medical Association representatives in May, 1989. At that meeting it was agreed that in order to reinforce the department's traditional good record on confidentiality, the medical director, or designate, would function as registrar for purposes of the act. Initially the act will deal only with malignant neoplastic disease -- cancers. The addition of any other disease entities would be subject to future decisions by the aforementioned parties.

Protocol regarding malignant disease, cancer, which will require reporting are now being developed. Guidelines have also been drafted which will ensure absolute confidentiality and appropriate use of data collected and released under the Disease Registries Act. The protocol and policies will be the subject of further discussions at a meeting next month with the Northwest Territories Medical Association.

The department hopes to bring the act into force early in 1990. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Just a note, that was a reply as Minister of Health. That is my error corrected. Returns to oral questions.

Just prior to proceeding, I wish to recognize the following: chairman of Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, Donat Milortok; chief negotiator, Paul Quassa; Gary Bohnet, president of the Metis

Association of the Northwest Territories; Bob Simpson, who is the senior adviser on self-government for the Dene/Metis.

---Applause

Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O123-89(2): Job Preference For Aboriginal People Living In The South

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Personnel. Madam Minister, have you changed the northern preference policy to allow for aboriginal people that are living in the South to get preference when they apply for jobs in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O123-89(2): Job Preference For Aboriginal People Living In The South

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do not currently have a northern preference policy, but we do have an affirmative action policy in place. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O123-89(2): Job Preference For Aboriginal People Living In The South

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. Madam Minister, we have Northerners that are living in the South, who went south for training, and they finished their training many years ago. They have applied for jobs in the North. They are considered Southerners now since they went south to be trained, and they are no longer given preference when they apply for jobs. Are you going to look at changing your policy so that they would be given the same amount of preference as an aboriginal person in the North? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O123-89(2): Job Preference For Aboriginal People Living In The South

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our affirmative action policy currently does indicate that, where individuals apply for jobs, whether they are of aboriginal descent indigenous to the North, or non-natives indigenous to the North, or women, or if they are disabled -- there are different categories to which our affirmative action policy applies -- if it is apparent that these individuals fall under one of these categories, they should be given preference in a competition, in comparison to an individual who may have come in from Toronto, as an example, last week. Therefore, if they do indicate it and if they are eligible under the affirmative action policy, then they are considered. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O123-89(2): Job Preference For Aboriginal People Living In The South

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. Madam Minister, that is what I am saying. They are not eligible for the simple reason that they do not have an NWT residence. They are people who were born and raised in the Territories and then moved south to get training; there are people from the NORTRAN program; people that went to university and have not come back

yet. Are you going to change the policy so that the government will at least consider hiring these people instead of just throwing their applications to the side and calling them Southerners? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O123-89(2): Job Preference For Aboriginal People Living In the South

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I am not particularly aware of that specific problem, but I can certainly advise the Member that it can be looked into further. Thank you.

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

Question O124-89(2): Public Service Working Group

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Minister of Personnel. Would she confirm that a working group was established, last January, to examine the establishment of a better way of recruiting and administering our public service?

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

Return To Question O124-89(2): Public Service Working Group

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had indicated in the House earlier, the working group was established for many different reasons. One was to review our total Public Service Act to try to bring it up to date; further, a component of their mandate was to look at a public service commission. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O124-89(2): Public Service Working Group

MR. LEWIS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I understand the working group has completed its work and did submit its report, and it has now gone to the Executive Council. Will the Minister confirm those facts?

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

Further Return To Question O124-89(2): Public Service Working Group

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I can indicate to the Member that his allegations are incorrect.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre. Supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O124-89(2): Public Service Working Group

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, when a Minister directs staff to get work done, there is usually a deadline. Has the Minister established a deadline for herself to take these recommendations to the Executive Council?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Personnel.

Further Return To Question O124-89(2): Public Service Working Group

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated at the budget session, a review of the Public Service Act might require a change to legislation. I indicated in this House that a change in legislation takes a time of approximately 18 months and I believe the budget session was a

mere six months ago. Therefore, there is a time frame that I did indicate that I would be looking at. Thank you.

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

Question O125-89(2): Eskimo Museum, Churchill

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Culture and Communications. Two years ago, and one year ago, I asked the same question that I am going to ask again. I would like to see the Eskimo museum in Churchill moved to the North. He responded that he would check and discuss this with the Catholic mission because we have a lot of carvings that are in Churchill at the museum and I would like to ask the Minister how far he has gone in discussions with the Catholic mission.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Culture and Communications.

Return To Question O125-89(2): Eskimo Museum, Churchill

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) We have had some discussion with the Catholic mission you are referring to but to date they have not agreed to moving the museum to the North. But we are still working on this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Aivilik. Supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O125-89(2): Eskimo Museum, Churchill

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, when looked at from the outside, is very attractive. I go to the museum every time I go to Yellowknife. I feel that they should have a better display in the museum. During discussions with the Catholic mission – maybe the artwork in the museum in Churchill could be displayed in the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

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

Further Return To Question O125-89(2): Eskimo Museum, Churchill

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, up to now, there is no agreement whereby the contents of the museum can be loaned to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. I can check into this to see if it would be possible. Thank you.

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

Question O126-89(2): Pipeline Traversing Dene/Metis Lands

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources today has announced that Foothills has an application before the National Energy Board, and she is seemingly expressing some support for the company in its quest to build a pipeline down the Mackenzie. I just note that whereas she states that the government is on record, as it were, supporting the pipeline, she indicates some concern, primarily that any project would have real and tangible lasting benefits to the Territories. I must say that I am a bit concerned that the Minister has not noted the fact that land claims for the Dene and Metis have not been settled and if any pipeline were to be built it would likely traverse lands that are claimed by the Dene and Metis.

I am just wondering, Mr. Speaker, how does the Minister, who is a claimant in Inuvialuit land claims – how is she distinguishing her interest in that from the interest of other people in the North, primarily the Dene and Metis over whose lands such a pipeline might traverse?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Return To Question O126-89(2): Pipeline Traversing Dene/Metis Lands

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I believe that in the statement I read we said that the government was supportive of the exploration of Beaufort gas. We have made no comment on the support of a pipeline. The application to export Beaufort-Delta gas is predicated on a time frame that is quite a way down the road so we are not, as a government, taking any position at this time on a pipeline because it could very well go down the Dempster as well as anywhere else. However, we are just giving notice to this Legislative Assembly that Foothills has filed, initially, an application which is incomplete at this time. So the consideration of pipelines is a matter for the future, and I certainly hope that before a pipeline is built, a settlement of the claims in whichever area it goes through has been concluded. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O126-89(2): Pipeline Traversing Dene/Metis Lands

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, whereas I appreciate what the Minister is saying, that the possibility of a pipeline is still some distance off, I wonder if the Minister would add to the concern that she has with respect to the possibility of a pipeline, more than just simply real and tangible and lasting benefits for the North; whether she would also indicate to industry at this early stage that land claims of the Dene and Metis must be settled before any pipeline is to traverse any lands claimed by Dene and Metis. If the Minister would add this to her concern and the opinions she expresses to the oil and gas industry, I think it would give some relief to the people of the North. Whereas there is some general support, we would not want to see a government that was just so whole-heartedly in support of a pipeline and, at the same time, not caring for the concern of a lot of the people on the route of the pipeline. Would the Minister add the concerns of the Dene and Metis to the concerns that she presently has, to make sure that there are long-lasting benefits?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Further Return To Question O126-89(2): Pipeline Traversing Dene/Metis Lands

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I think that the settlement of the Dene and Metis claim, if the pipeline should traverse over that area, can certainly be indicated as a major concern of the Government of the Northwest Territories because we are, as a government, continually relating to the oil and gas industry that this is a very vital component that would be necessary to conclude because of the majority of aboriginal groups that live in the Mackenzie Valley, should that pipeline go through there. So I certainly support that we should continue to make sure that the oil and gas industry realizes that is a major component of any pipeline being built. Thank you.

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

Question O127-89(2): Funds For Training Northerners To Work On Pipeline

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education and it concerns training funds for the proposed Mackenzie pipeline. Will the Minister be making approaches to Canada Employment and Immigration Commission to try to obtain funds for the training of Northerners well in advance of any possible construction so that this time Northerners can actually be trained before pipeline construction is started? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O127-89(2): Funds For Training Northerners To Work On Pipeline

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, there is a real need to put things in perspective. I continually try to take a role of being an optimist, that for years I have advocated that we should have a settlement soon. When I left the Dene Nation I thought it would materialize in a year or two but it has not happened. There are some people in the North who believe that it is really beating a dead horse, expecting it to come back to life and finish the race. I guess I will have to fight to keep being optimistic, to believe that it is going to finish.

When this pipeline comes along it is related, in a sense, because yes, I feel that the more prepared we are, the more organized we are, the more support we give to the Dene and Metis, the better the chances are that we will meet all challenges head-on, including the claims. Perhaps with added support and resources, people will feel more confident in accepting the claim and finishing the job. That would be the only thing that would convince me that we can deal with a pipeline because, without some successful conclusion to the claims negotiations, I think we face the fact that people are not going to have their hearts in preparing for a claim but some communities will be getting back to the old tactics of World War I of jumping back into the trenches.

I do not know how else to answer that question. Of course I would like to be prepared. I would like to be as ready as possible but with all the changes in the political skies I am not sure that it may be perceived as a sunny day for everyone in the North.

MR. SPEAKER: Members, just prior to proceeding, I just want to indicate that questions should be based on the seeking of information and should not be, and cannot be, based upon a hypothesis and cannot seek an opinion, either legal or otherwise. It must not suggest that its own answer be argumentative, nor make representations. I just wanted to remind Members of that situation and I would also remind Members that supplementary questions should not contain a long preamble to those questions. Those questions should arise from the original question that you raised and the answers that Ministers are giving. So that is just a reminder. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O128-89(2): Birthing Centre In The Keewatin Region

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is to the Minister of Health. I mentioned this before, and I am going to ask you the same question again. It is in regard to the birthing centre that is requested in the Keewatin Region constantly.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health.

Return To Question O128-89(2): Birthing Centre In The Keewatin Region

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is still the same as the answer I gave previously; the Department of Health and the Keewatin Regional Health Board are looking at that whole system of delivery and how the requests that have been made for birthing stations can be accommodated. It has not been resolved at this point in time.

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

Question O129-89(2): Dock Facilities In Pangnirtung

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have asked this question before. I presented a petition requesting dock facilities. I wonder if the Minister of Municipal Affairs will be assisting us in getting dock facilities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Return To Question O129-89(2): Dock Facilities In Pangnirtung

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a component of the Northwest Territories transportation strategy, the consulting company of Reid Crowther & Partners Ltd. was awarded a contract to evaluate the existing facilities in the Baffin, and to develop a program of improvements, along with costs and timing. These improvements are to look at resupply, hunting, fishing, tourism. The initial report will detail the facilities existing in each community and provide an evaluation of the current and anticipated cargo and passenger volumes.

I fully expect that next summer we will see some activity taking place in Baffin with regard to dock construction and I can assure the Member that because of the large fishing industry that we are developing in Pangnirtung, that Pangnirtung will be one of the top priorities. Thank you.

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

Question O130-89(2): Pricing Structure And Categories For Sport Fishing Licences

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister for Economic Development and Tourism confirm that this government intends to implement a new pricing structure and categories for sport fishing licences for the next fishing season?

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

Question O131-89(2): Breakdown On Moneys Spent On Aboriginal Languages

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for aboriginal languages. I would like to know if he would table in the House a breakdown of the \$26 million they spent on aboriginal languages. In the return he said there was no translation yet. Can you table in the House the English portion, please?

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

Return To Question O131-89(2): Breakdown On Moneys Spent On Aboriginal Languages

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will do that today.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

Question O132-89(2): Big Game Outfitters' Licences

MR. SIBBESTON: During the last couple of sessions I asked the Minister of Renewable Resources about a new policy dealing with big game zones. Just west of here in the hills, the mountains, there is a lot of big game and in the late 1960s and 1970s, the former government, the Stu Hodgson government, gave out big game hunting licences and kind of allotted all of the zones to many outside big game outfitters. In the last few years there has been interest by local people in getting into that business. I have approached the Minister the last couple of sessions asking him whether there is going to be something done, a new policy, to permit local people to get into those businesses. The Minister stated that there would indeed be a new policy out this June. I am wondering now if the new policy is in place and if so, if he could make it available to this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

Return To Question O132-89(2): Big Game Outfitters' Licences

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Member for giving me notice of this question. Presently under the regulations, only zone E-1, which is in this area that the Member is talking about, can be used for outfitting by class A outfitters' licence holders. Presently there are only eight licences allowed in zone E-1. A person applying for a class A outfitter's licence for this area would have to be refused at this point because there are only eight licences allowed at any one time. Class A outfitters' leases can be purchased through normal business transactions. It appears that they run between the \$200,000 and \$400,000 range. The class A licences are renewed for continuous periods such as 10 years. Presently we are working in conjunction with Economic Development and Tourism to develop a new outfitters' policy for the NWT. As part of the process we will be investigating various options with the view to improving northern opportunities in the outfitting industry.

One option being investigated at the present time is expanding into the Richardson Mountains, leading into the Aklavik area. This is being hampered by conflict in the land selection associated with the land claims. There is a possibility of dividing existing outfitting licence areas and possibly of expropriating. There are also other options that the department is looking into. At the present time we have no new policy.

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

Supplementary To Question O132-89(2): Big Game Outfitters' Licences

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, not much progress has been made since I last asked the Minister about this matter. I am disappointed. I was certainly under the impression, when I asked the Minister last winter, that by this summer there would be a new policy and if progress has not been made in this regard, I am disappointed. The Minister has revealed some of the possibilities that may come out of his investigation, which are fine, but can the Minister now, today, tell me and the rest of the Assembly whether it is going to be in the life of his term as Minister or the next 10, 20 or 40 years that we may expect a new policy in this matter? The Minister seems to be taking his time and people are waiting anxiously to make a bit of an inroad into the area of big game outfitters. It has been as it is for the past many years. We need to break that and make some inroads into that. Can the Minister advise just when he can provide us with some good news?

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

Further Return To Question O132-89(2): Big Game Outfitters' Licences

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, it has to be understood that this is a very sensitive area and a very complex area. As I mentioned earlier, the complexities are compounded by the land selection under the present land claims. As well, the Denendeh Conservation Board has shown extreme interest to be part of the decision-making process in order to come up with the policy. But I can assure the Member that I will let the House have a progress report on the development of the policy in our next session. Thank you.

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

Question O133-89(2): Results Of Hydrographic Survey Near Pelly Bay

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transportation. A few years ago there was a hydrographic survey done around Pelly Bay to determine whether or not a barge could navigate into the community. On behalf of the people of Pelly Bay I would like to know if the Minister has been informed about the findings. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member sets a good example of how to ask a question. The honourable Minister of Transportation.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of the study. I suspect that it was a federally conducted study because they are the people that do hydrographic studies, not us. However, I will undertake to check into the matter to see if in fact the study was completed, and if there were recommendations made. If I can find them within the federal bureaucracy I will forward a copy to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

Question O134-89(2): Recommendations Of Internal Review Committee On Social Assistance Rates

MR. ZOE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year I asked a question to the Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell about Social Services and the last report of the internal review committee. They said they were going to talk about it in June. I would like to know what was said on that in June. She said she was going to give us an answer. I would like to know how much money people are paid from Social Services. Is there any kind of rating they go by?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Social Services.

Return To Question O134-89(2): Recommendations Of Internal Review Committee On Social Assistance Rates

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take it that the Member is asking for clarification on the internal review committee that the department had set up to review social assistance regulations. With further reference to his question on how people are paid, basically they are paid in accordance to a rate structure that the department has identified, and also upon need. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O134-89(2): Recommendations Of Internal Review Committee On Social Assistance Rates

MR. ZOE: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The Minister answered me during the last session that the results of the analysis brought forward by the internal review committee were supposed to go to cabinet for approval of the recommendations from this board. I asked the Minister if it has gone to cabinet. She had also indicated that the scale reflecting prices should be implemented by June. I am wondering if the Minister has done the implementation of this recommendation from the internal review committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Social Services.

Further Return To Question O134-89(2): Recommendations Of Internal Review Committee On Social Assistance Rates

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, those recommendations that the Social Services review committee had looked at are currently in the legislation division, Department of Justice. They are also trying to cost the financial factor out, what the cost would be to this government to implement their recommendations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Supplementary, the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

Supplementary To Question O134-89(2): Recommendations Of Internal Review Committee On Social Assistance Rates

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, I am quite disappointed at the response I am getting from the honourable Member for Slave River. It has been almost two years now since this group has been working on that problem. She clearly indicated to me in the response on March 16, 1989, that, whatever the cabinet decision, it was going to be implemented in the month of June, and hopefully retroactive to April 1st. Now it appears that the Minister is delaying this again for another whole year. I assume it will be in the new budget year. Is it really so difficult to get the cost analysis of the recommendations from the internal review committee, that it cannot be done in the short time frame?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Social Services.

Further Return To Question O134-89(2): Recommendations Of Internal Review Committee On Social Assistance Rates

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it is more difficult than we had initially anticipated, mainly because of the cost it was going to be to this government. If I can give some indication to the Member, and maybe give him some history on the review of social assistance regulations. In 1985 they did a comprehensive review of the social assistance program and the information was reviewed and modified in the spring of 1988. Some of the areas that we hoped to address are changes to the asset limits, assistance to children not living with parents, the payroll clients, the allowable income, the appeals process and special needs and recreation allowances. As I indicated to the Member, these proposals have been assessed for cost implications and they are currently in the legislation division of the Department of Justice for further review. Justice has indicated to the department that it is hoped the review will be completed by the middle of November, and I want to indicate to the Member the cost factor that will probably be going forward to cabinet for consideration, if it is prior to the budget session, would be somewhere in the amount of \$3.6 million, varying to a total cost of \$8.7 million, if we do an increase as the Member has requested. Thank you.

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

Question O135-89(2): Suicide Prevention Programs

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct this question to the Minister of Social Services. When we had our winter session in 1989 I put forward several motions with regard to suicide prevention. Could she inform us on what types of programs they have introduced so far, up to this point? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O135-89(2): Suicide Prevention Programs

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to suicide prevention I want to indicate to the House that the department, as a result of the motion that was passed by the committee of the whole last March, has developed a strategy that would provide advanced training and professional consultation for resource workers who provide crisis counselling and aftercare to suicidal individuals at the community level. Efforts are currently under way to develop and recruit a staff of three professionals to deliver specialized training and consultation for community mental health specialists and local helper organizations, emphasizing the development of improved intervention and counselling skills.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate that in addition to that, the department has had some funds set aside for contribution funding to assist local groups in identifying or raising the awareness or to assist communities in trying to find solutions by working together to attempt to combat this crucial problem that we are encountering. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O135-89(2): Suicide Prevention Programs

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to my question. What kind of local agencies can apply for funding from the government? Thank you, Madam Minister, for letting me know how hard you have worked on this subject that is very crucial to our community.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Social Services.

Further Return To Question O135-89(2): Suicide Prevention Programs

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I thank the Member for his compliment, Mr. Speaker. I would suggest that groups in the communities that are willing to take on the responsibility of making a co-ordinated effort of bringing together individuals that are willing to work on identifying individuals that may be suicidal, or on identifying assistance to be given to individuals or families that are either in the grieving or the aftercare process, which comes with the issue of suicide. However, I would encourage community groups that are working together with all community organizations in a community to consider formulating their proposal. I am sure that, with community support, their proposals would be looked on favourably. Thank you.

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

Question O136-89(2): Revocation Of General Hunting Licences

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to my constituency, I will be placing this question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I spoke to him on October 12th in Coral Harbour with regard to Johnny Nakoolak and Mark Nakoolak. In January, 1989 their hunting equipment was lost at the floe edge. They informed the wildlife officers of this. They were told that they could possibly be compensated for their lost equipment. I asked the Minister to investigate as to why they had their general hunting licences taken away.

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

Return To Question O136-89(2): Revocation Of General Hunting Licences

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I received a call from the Member for Aivilik last September but up to this point my department has not responded to me as to how they are going to deal with this matter. After their investigation has been completed they will be able to give me their findings and their recommendations. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O136-89(2): Revocation Of General Hunting Licences

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, his officials have known about this since January. It has been nine months that they have been doing this study. Can I expect an adequate response in the future? I do not like waiting for nine months to get a response.

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

Further Return To Question O136-89(2): Revocation Of General Hunting Licences

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I received a call from the Member for Aivilik in September, he told me that these people had already informed my staff in Arviat. I have asked my officials in Renewable Resources in Yellowknife to look into this matter.

They have not yet been able to report to me. Therefore, I do not yet have an answer for the Member. Thank you.

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

Question O137-89(2): Shelters For Battered Women

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. It is in regard to the shelters. Some battered women are sent to shelters in the other communities. Do you do some form of investigation when the females are sent to shelters, as to what is happening, before they send them to the shelters? When you send a lady or a wife to a shelter, do you do a thorough study before you send them to the centres?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Social Services.

Return To Question O137-89(2): Shelters For Battered Women

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Social Services does support groups across the Territories, societies across the Territories, and gives them funding to operate women's centres and also to assist women that have been victims of spousal assault. The groups determine for themselves their mandate and expend the funds as they feel may be required to attend to the needs for spousal assault victims. However, I want to indicate to the Member that I believe that is a concern across the whole country where victims of spousal assault are taken into centres away from their community – there is somewhat of a concern that they themselves are being victimized. I did indicate this as a concern when I went to one of the federal conferences and addressed the issue of spousal assault.

I do want to emphasize to the Member that the funding, once it is given to societies and groups, is spent as they deem fit in attempting to fulfil their mandate of addressing spousal assault. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions.

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, a return to Question W2-89(2), asked by Mr. Pudluk to the Minister of Education on the new school for Grise Fiord.

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

Hon. Stephen Kakfwi's return to Question W2-89(2), asked by Mr. Pudluk on October 19, 1989, regarding a new school for Grise Fiord: As the Member is aware, because families from Grise Fiord relocated to Arctic Quebec, the Executive Council delayed the construction of a new school in 1988-89 and approved a retrofit of the present Ummimak School. Over the last two years, \$170,000 has been allocated to retrofit Ummimak School to meet current code standards.

This September the Department of Public Works completed an inspection of the school. As a result, the Department of Public Works recommended that the floors in the washrooms be rebuilt and new floor coverings be installed in the washrooms, hallway and mechanical rooms. This work is scheduled for the summer of 1990 as it would interrupt classes if the work took place during the school year. The cost of this additional work is estimated to be \$50,000.

With respect to the Member's concern about unsafe lighting fixtures, the Department of Public Works advises that the fixture on the door frame in the mechanical room has been temporarily relocated until work is completed on the installation of the new stand-by generator. Materials

for the installation of the generator should be ready by the end of November. This is not a room that is used by the students and therefore this fixture is not a hazard for them.

It is estimated that the renovations will extend the life of the present school about five years, and a new school will not be considered until that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to Opening Address. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Morin's Reply

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many critical issues have been identified in the Speech from the Throne. I would like to commend the Commissioner and the government on the recent decision to make available the resources needed by aboriginal people to protect and enhance their rights and to enable the community of Snowdrift in my riding to bring forward legal action against a federal government decision to proceed with the military plan for low-level flight programs over Denendeh.

In relation to the government's intention to proceed with the development of a policy regarding militarization of the North, I want to be sure that this government understands that clear direction has been provided by this House in the past, and that this direction should be reflected in a comprehensive policy statement. I also want to be sure that ordinary Members of this Assembly are fully involved in the development of this policy and may be tabling a motion calling for the establishment of a special committee to ensure involvement as well as public input.

While I believe that the direction, to date, provided by this and previous Assemblies has been clear, this government has excused its own inaction on the basis that there was not a northern policy on militarization of the North. If a special committee were formed, it would have the task of consolidating previous motions of this House with similar and consistent motions of aboriginal organizations and public interest groups. Opportunities for further public input must also be ensured. Special committee hearings will also meet this need.

Furthermore, I am encouraged by the recent effort made by this government to demonstrate northern opposition to contamination of our water system through pulp mill development in Alberta. It is my hope that this Assembly will recognize the seriousness of the many issues before this Assembly and will work hard to address the needs of our people in a meaningful way and provide much-needed leadership and direction required by the government as a whole.

Need For Constitutional Development

The Commissioner pointed out to us the importance of the role of ordinary Members under our system of government. He referred to it, as many have before, as consensus government that requires a clear, mutual understanding of, and by, the public we serve. I say that a consensus is something we should strive for but I do not believe, in fact, that we have achieved this goal. While we ordinary MLAs must take some responsibility for our failure to achieve our goal of consensus government, there is clearly a need for questioning the power exercised by the Executive Council to dictate, for us, the action or inaction of the government on many important and fundamental issues facing us. It is obvious that there are many who agree with me; otherwise, there would not be a need for a constitutional development process. This process, and the Constitutional Alliance forum, were set up precisely because people are not satisfied that our system of government meets their needs.

The people of the North are currently without a constitution. We are an interim government and how we function as a government has never received the sanction of our population. Let us not forget this fact and ensure that the people of the North will have the opportunity to participate in the most fundamental right they have, the creation of a constitution for the North. We will begin

a debate in this sitting that I hope will result in serious commitments on the parts of all parties involved in the constitutional development process, to take the steps necessary to achieve the fundamental right of self-government.

While I, too, would like to see the cost of governance reduced, I do not believe that the solution lies within a concentration of power to a very few, sitting at a central level. In fact, I believe there is money to be saved by a highly decentralization approach to governing. I, for one, am not prepared to endorse unilateral decisions made by this government. The ability of this government to make unilateral decisions is a blatant denial of the consensus ideal.

Importance Of Environmental Legislation

The decision to determine that we should not proceed with environmental protection legislation, on the basis that we could not afford to implement such legislation, is an example of such unilateral decision-making. Who has determined that we cannot afford to protect our environment? Clearly, not this House as a whole, or the ordinary MLAs. Have we been given an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of the environment to our people? Have we given our people the opportunity to make choices, even if they are hard choices that have to be made? No, we have not.

I find it ironic that this government has finally decided to take action to fight the development of pulp mills upstream in Alberta, and to support the legal action of the community of Snowdrift to stop low-level flights, and yet it is still not prepared to advance legislation that would place us in a far less reactionary stance so that now we find we have to take up the fight to defend against these two major threats to our environment.

Having our Government Leader take off his gloves with the Alberta government, in a purely defensive fashion, is not going to give us the edge that we need to win a battle – a battle that will safeguard our water quality throughout the Mackenzie basin. Indeed, going into the ring when we have not even had the opportunity to select our opponent is poor strategy; we are simply reacting. We are on the defence; we are not signifying to others our priorities. Inadvertently, we are giving a message to others, outside our jurisdiction as well as within it, that we do not care much about our environment, that we are not willing to demonstrate that protection of our environment is a fundamental concern to the people of the North. For many in the North, protecting the environment and ensuring its natural state for future generations is as fundamental to life as breathing. This government is ignoring this reality; it can never hope to feel the support and confidence of aboriginal peoples unless concrete steps are taken to use everything at our disposal to live up to this responsibility. Perhaps it is because this government does not understand the aboriginal languages associated with the aboriginal understanding of the role of mankind in relationship to their environment, that this government does not have the ability to understand the need to protect the environment.

Need For Aboriginal Languages Services

I am appalled that this government is willing to blatantly publicize the fact that it has spent \$26 million on the implementation of language services and yet it is still not willing or able to tell the people of the North what they can expect in the way of government support for their languages or, indeed, whether or not basic services, which are the right of every Canadian, will, in fact, be provided to them, through giving people access to these services by giving them the ability to understand the rights to which they are entitled. You expect people to feel that this government is theirs when they cannot even understand what you say. I am not referring only to the discussion that takes place in this House, but I am also talking about everything from medical services to participating actively in the democratic process.

With language comes understanding of the world. If we are not prepared to recognize the world view of the majority of our population, then how can we claim to be democratic? The Government of the NWT made public commitments in 1986 to make amendments to the Official Languages Act. We have been informed, through the Commissioner, that this government is still not prepared to

follow through with these commitments, even after it has had an extra year to develop such amendments and has spent \$26 million. At this very moment we have a group of people here interpreting the proceedings of this Assembly. The effort put into providing these services and the demonstrated commitment of these individuals must be commended.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, Mr. Morin, just slow down on your statement.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The development of the language bureau is a major achievement. Unfortunately it is about the only success story that I can find and even this success story is dampened by the reality that they are expected to provide services to everyone who requires it. They are expected to perform efficiently, not only in this House, but for every need that aboriginal people may have in relation to this government, at every level, and in every aspect of life.

You know, I was very much looking forward to the release of a publication by the Department of Health that I was told was paid for out of this aboriginal languages fund. It was developed for interpreters working in the health service field. When it came out, I could not believe that there was not a single aboriginal word in this publication. It was basically translated from English to English health terminology. It was fully paid for out of an aboriginal languages fund. I hope to God this is not a typical example of how this money was spent.

Resolutions Of Dene National Assembly

This summer I attended the Dene national assembly held in Inuvik. I was part of that assembly when a resolution was adopted calling for this government to publicly account for moneys spent on aboriginal languages. In fact, it calls for such accounting to take place during this very sitting of the House. Furthermore, it calls on this government to follow through with its outstanding commitments to amend the legislation that would give meaning to recognizing the languages of the majority of residents of the North. The way in which this resolution proposed to do this is a reflection of the evaluation people have made on the progress of this government over the last five years, in relation to their languages. It, in fact, reflects a blatant lack of confidence in this government to take care of its language needs, and it calls on this government to provide aboriginal representatives with a direct say in the process and the content of future amendments.

Furthermore, it calls on amendments that would ensure ongoing and direct aboriginal participation in setting policies, priorities and programs of the government. I suggest strongly that this resolution sets out a very reasonable and necessary approach toward giving substance to what has, so far, been only long-standing lip service and outstanding commitments by this government. I suggest strongly that we consider adopting a similar motion in this House.

To witness the strong support provided to the French language residents in the North, through establishing of a fully French school in Yellowknife, and see such little progress on aboriginal languages, is truly frustrating. A whole school has been established for seven French students. Surely after all these years our government can demonstrate similar support to the majority of the people in the North in the matter of aboriginal languages.

In closing, I would like to give the Minister of Education encouragement for facing the current court challenge of his decision to break down centralized power of one community over a whole region. I am glad that his decision was upheld.

I would also like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your new role as Speaker and I look forward to working with you for the next two years. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable Member for Tu Nede. Replies to Opening Address. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

Mr. Ningark's Reply

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a proud moment for me, especially when I witnessed the newly appointed Commissioner, Mr. Dan Norris, make his first Opening Address at the beginning of this session of the Assembly. It was an especially proud moment for me, too, when the Hon. Richard Nerysoo was voted into the Office of the Speaker. We all know that being elevated to a higher position has its consequences. One realizes that one no longer works as an individual. One has to seek support from the public at large. There is, however, satisfaction and reward in every field and profession. Satisfaction and rewards are serving one's country and making one's home community a better place to be for everyone.

In times of developments taking place beyond our control, it seems we must work together to put aside our differences, for we all know co-operation is the key to success. Mr. Speaker, a number of times it was mentioned that this Legislature is based on consensus government. That concept has failed to impress me. However, in order to keep everyone honest, there must be a positive and negative force reaction within the component. Under that aspect I know that the interests of the public can be attained.

Importance Of Equal Justice

As a society of people and communities grow, demand for justice seems to prevail. Since the value of human beings is the most important of all aspects, I would like to stress the importance of an equal and balanced justice, especially in the remote communities of the North. I, for one, believe strongly in our justice system, that criminals must be punished for crimes committed. As a matter of fact I sometimes question many cases that have been heard under our justice system. The question that I often ask myself is: Does the punishment really fit the crime? I even think that we are too compassionate, too sympathetic, to deal with many increasing crimes in the North. We must stop tossing the coin and do away with systematic solutions. Victims of crime in the North may be the most tolerant people in the world, but they are human beings too. Under the same token, Mr. Speaker, those whom we label as criminals in our society must have the privilege of being represented by professional counsellors. After all, that is the fundamental foundation of our constitutional justice system. We need professional legal aid workers in our communities.

Community High Schools

Wherever I go everyone seems to be affected by education. There are graduates with respectable jobs. I salute the students, parents, teachers, local education councils, regional education councils and the Minister of Education and the government for their efforts. But the costs are high and the fashion and manner of educating our children at the secondary level is still a decade behind those of our southern neighbours. The pain and sacrifice of having to send our children away each year is still very much part of our lives today. I have witnessed many, many times the feeling of apprehension between the parents and children at the moment of separation, since the day of modern education was introduced to us. If we cannot afford to build high schools in our communities, maybe we can facilitate the need, using the existing schools.

If we are concerned about the current rate of graduates and are truly sincere about education, why not bring the education up to grade 12 in our communities? I know this requirement takes political will. We are the politicians. At least we are at phase one; next step is phase two. I would like to end this topic with a sincere thanks to the Minister of Education and his staff for their interest in keeping education at a respectable level, but we must move on in order to keep up with the growing new technology.

Social housing has come a long way from the days of igloos. Mr. Speaker, if we are to educate our people to look after their modern homes and their mental and physical well-being, we must meet the demand for more housing. There is more interior damage, and mental and physical instabilities are more common in an overcrowded home environment than in an uncrowded home. In the long run this investment of getting more housing can prove itself to be a good insurance against the ever-increasing home repairs, and the rising cost of health care in the NWT.

In the creation of jobs, we must explore all the possibilities and potentials by bringing vocational schools closer to the designated groups in the communities. For those people that never had the opportunity of getting an elementary or secondary education, if they so desire to get into our work force, must be given the chance to acquire the qualifications to enter their choice of professions by making facilities more accessible for them.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, for the time being, I would like to keep one promise that I made during my campaign. I promised that the preservation and promotion of my Inuktitut language would be a priority during my term as an MLA...

---Applause

...that it would be the predominant language that I would be using. I intend to keep that promise. It is the God-given language and no bill, no constitution, is going to take it away from me. One will have to change my identity before one can deprive me of my language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Replies to Opening Address. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Mr. Lewis's Reply

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am disappointed that only half the government is present for the newest Member's Reply to Opening Address to this Assembly.

I move to speak today, Mr. Speaker, because it seems to me that meeting in Norman Wells for the very first time gives us the opportunity to examine another part of our very large territory. If we look at the wall at the back of this gymnasium, there are two signs; one says, "Welcome MLAs to Norman Wells" and the other one says, "Welcome to Norman Wells Territorial School". To guide me through what I want to say this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, I should take the very first of those welcome signs, because a long time ago, if you wanted to make some kind of address to somebody you just wrote down on a piece of paper a whole bunch of letters to remind you what it was that you really wanted to talk about. So the very first letter on that sign is the beginning of the word "Welcome", "W", and I would like today to thank the people of Norman Wells for the tremendous welcome that we have received in this community.

---Applause

The hospitality has been tremendous; people stop you and talk to you; they offer you lifts; people have been very very kind to Members of our Assembly. In acknowledging this welcome, Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that we owe many thanks, first of all on behalf of those people that live in Mackenzie House, mostly ordinary Members and staff, for the great kindness shown by Al Short, the area supervisor for Esso Resources, who made that facility available to us.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. LEWIS: I should also like to thank the management of Norwel, the company that manages the hotel, the grey-haired gentleman who is always smiling and is so helpful, Mr. Wes Regan; and the man who does night shift, Mr. Art Peel. Both of those gentlemen have been very, very kind to us and have provided us much assistance in attempting to get some of our work done and guiding us about the facility. I could not let the opportunity pass also, Mr. Speaker, to thank the two chefs, the two brothers, Mr. Bert Boisseau and Mr. Allain Boisseau, one the day shift chef and one the morning shift chef. Both these gentlemen have provided us with excellent meals.

I was very lucky, Mr. Speaker, to spend the weekend -- unlike some Members -- in Norman Wells and I must say that this facility is almost like living on the Love Boat, except that love only goes so far, Mr. Speaker, I should remind Members. However, we have been treated with great kindness by the staff in Mac House, and I would not want to let this opportunity go by without recognizing the tremendous support we have been given by all the people connected with Esso Resources and Mac House.

I did have an ulterior motive also to stay, Mr. Speaker, because my wife happens to be at a conference in Prince Edward Island and the thought did strike me that if I went home to Yellowknife I would be the cook, my son would be supposed to be in charge of dishes, and I would end up doing all the housework. So it was a good idea to stay here to enjoy the wonderful care we get from those people.

Establishment Of Norman Wells

Normally we have students in the House, Mr. Speaker, and when the opportunity presents itself I would like to tell them a little bit more about this community, but since we are all adults here and we know so much I will not bore Members by telling them more than what they can read elsewhere about the community of Norman Wells. I would tell you one very brief thing though, and that is that this community was established on the basis of the discovery of oil which took place in 1919 on Bear Island when using a very primitive drill which you held up on a rope and then you let it go; that was the original drill that struck oil and which resulted eventually in the commercial development of oil in 1921.

What is significant about 1921 also, Mr. Speaker, is that it was that year, having examined this great oil discovery -- the very first in Western Canada, long before Alberta, long before anywhere else outside of Petrolia in Ontario -- here we had in this remote, at that time, wilderness, a great oil discovery. The big problem facing the company that discovered it was how they were going to get it to market. It seemed an impossible job and not within the bounds of the technology of that time to bring oil to market. So Charles Taylor, who was in charge of Esso at that time, decided that what they would do was bring the oil out by airplane. It was that famous incident that we very often recount, and very often wrongly, which students today should learn about.

When Charles Taylor decided that he would take his planes into Norman Wells to see if it was possible to bring this oil out by aircraft in oil barrels, they made a big mistake. One of the planes had to land in Mr. Sibbeston's riding, in Fort Simpson, and on landing there the plane crashed and broke a prop. The propeller had to be fixed by a man called Mr. Brown who happened to be the Hudson Bay carpenter. It is one of the miracles of the technology of that time that that carpenter was able to make a prop in order to get that plane back in the air. But that plane never made it to Norman Wells -- in fact it had to go back to Peace River -- and one of the things that people do not know, also, is that the reason that the thing landed in Fort Simpson had nothing to do with oil at all. There was a policeman that did not want to make the three month dog trip from Edmonton up to Fort Simpson, so he was able to persuade Mr. Taylor that he should land in Simpson and it was that that caused the accident. They landed in the field opposite the barracks and the poor plane never went any further.

Since those days, for all those people who look at airplanes and the things that they carry, you will notice that probably today airplanes serve the basic economic responsibility, and that is the major economic activity in the Northwest Territories of carrying politicians and public servants carrying briefcases from one meeting to the next. They do not have very much to do with oil any more except to carry the odd executive that has to go to a quick meeting and to be back in Calgary by breakfast. I thought I would just mention that briefly. It is just a very small part of the story of the oil discoveries in Norman Wells.

Review Of Executive Council

I thought I would try to flush out the Executive Council this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, because the next letter on the welcome sign is the letter "e" and automatically I think of the words executive

council for some reason or other, the groups of people that are opposite me, we call our Executive Council. You can tell by this progress, Mr. Speaker, that with 24 letters -- and I must add here that the reason I had to wait today was because Mr. Ningark had to be in the House -- We are 24 MLAs and there are 24 letters there and I would not be able to give every MLA a letter without Mr. Ningark taking his seat today. However, now that we have the Executive Council with us, or at least most of them -- they are gradually increasing by number -- I would like to...

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

MR. LEWIS: ...now that the Government Leader has explained this to Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Speaker, I will carry on.

--Laughter

Mr. Speaker, we went to Baker Lake not long ago. I do not have the precise dates off the top of my head but one of the exercises that we were supposed to go there and undertake was to review the Executive Council and their performance and to look at where government has been for two years and where we are going to go for the next two years. However, when we got there we found -- and I am not really telling anything secret here; this has nothing to do with the secrecy of our caucus meetings and our 24 Members in this circle -- that there were two different perceptions of what we were there for. The Executive Council said, "Look, we are here to discuss social problems. That is why we came this long, long distance." However, Members who had been watching the performance of government, their inability to answer questions, to give the information that we want, to be really part of a consensus where we are all friends and one big happy family, had a different perception. We really wanted to sit down with our friends to make an assessment of where we have been and also an assessment of perhaps where we were going to go. Unfortunately, we have not spent very much time doing that. So today, I would like to take just a minute, for the benefit of our new Speaker and our new Commissioner, to tell us something about the government that we have. A purely personal point of view after two years of observation.

Job Of Government Leader

The first one is that we have a Government Leader, at least he was here a minute ago, who is, in my opinion, a powerless individual. We gave him a job which is, perhaps, an impossible job to do. When we decide that we create somebody, through an election of peers, to be a leader of a government we become the selectors and he becomes the captain. How much power have we really given him unless we are prepared to support him in the tough decisions that he has to make?

I have known Mr. Patterson for many, many years. He was my boss for four years. I found him to be a gentle soul deep down. I have visited his house in Vancouver. I know his father; I know his brother who is a psychiatrist, a very, very brilliant individual, and I know his sister who is an architect. His father was a professional accountant who worked for one of the big forestry companies in British Columbia. So he is from a very, very established family, all of them brilliant. It is my opinion, despite Mr. Patterson's inherited brilliance, that what we have given to him is an impossible task unless somehow, somewhere, he decides that he is going to be very, very courageous. Maybe I am asking him to be more courageous than it is fair to ask anybody to be, because over the past two years no doubt he has had some problems with his team. Maybe not everybody wants to play centre, or wing or defence and maybe people have their own ideas about the way things should go but it is my perception as an ordinary Member in this House that what we have in our government, despite the appearance of solidarity where they sit with the other side in our Assembly, that we have a rabble. I do not mean that in a derogatory sense, Mr. Speaker, and I am glad you did not rule me out of order for the use of the word "rabble", but what we have is a group of people who really do not have to listen to the Leader; all they have to do is listen, as I said on Friday, to whatever voice is going around in their heads on that particular occasion.

There is no appearance, when we are out of this Assembly, of a government that is organized, that is stable, that knows where it is going and how it is going about it. It seems to me that when we made the decision not to allow the Leader to have a real mandate we made a big mistake because he can argue with us, "I will not make the tough decisions because I was not given the responsibility in the first place to put this cabinet together." I believe that over the next two years Mr. Patterson will be asked to call on all the skills, talents and resources that he has in order to continue to make this government function efficiently and it will be a very, very difficult task for him and I would urge Members on the other side to be aware of the impression that is created within the public of what our government is and how it is going about its business.

Performance Of Executive Council Members

Mr. Wray is not here. I am still on the Executive Council, the letter "e", Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would say that Mr. Wray has recovered from the Olympic torch incident of two years ago and has re-established himself in the public trust. Several Members, however, posed by the very large gas torch not too far away from this building in order to remind Mr. Wray of that day of shame when he decided to boycott the Olympic torch relay.

Mr. Speaker, over the past 18 months Mr. Wray has followed the hearings of SCONE and has tried to implement our recommendations before our report was even written and went to the printers, which is an exercise in futility because until the last two weeks we, ourselves, had not fully made up our minds what would be in our final report. However, I understand that Mr. Wray has written his version of it many, many months ago. I would urge Mr. Wray that he should not have been so impatient since our economic problems will not be solved during his years of office. Our economic problems are so deep-rooted and so difficult that all we can develop is really a long-term plan. Mr. Speaker, I could talk at great length about Mr. Wray since he sits opposite me and I enjoy listening to his very carefully worded responses and his scrappiness during debates. He is somebody who has origins and roots similar to my own and I must say that I appreciate the fact that he seems to know what he is doing, although sometimes, like the miller in Canterbury Tales, he tends to open the door with his head rather than with his hand. That, perhaps, could be said about other Ministers, Mr. Speaker, but I know that Mr. Wray would not be hurt, except when he tries to open the door with his head.

The next person on our Executive Council, Mr. Speaker, is the Minister who sits next to him, Ms Cournoyea. When I decided to do this, having looked at the letters on the board, there, Mr. Speaker, the thought that went through my mind, since I am always being accused of being like a school teacher, or like a preacher, was that perhaps I should write out a report card so that they could take it home and say, "This is my report card for the last two years' work," but I thought that, since we are consensus and we are all peers, equals, except that some are more equal than others, then perhaps what I should simply do is make my remarks and not expect them to be taken for more than what they are, just something to help the Commissioner to understand what he has inherited to act on his behalf.

I would say that this Minister, Mr. Speaker, is a very achievement-oriented person. She has supervised the transfer of NCPC and of Health to the Government of the Northwest Territories; she has played a major role in the Northern Accord. However, Mr. Speaker -- I know she is going to be annoyed at this -- she must also remember the days when she was an ordinary Member. I know in my early conversations with this Minister, Mr. Speaker, I was reminded that both I and my predecessor, Mr. MacQuarrie, tended always to be asking difficult questions, raising issues, and generally posing problems that have to be resolved, which Members found to be irritating.

People In Legislature Must Raise Issues

Mr. Speaker, that is one of the jobs of people in any Legislative Assembly, to raise issues, to make people think, to try to take stock of where we have been and where we are going. I would remind the Member that, in the early days when she was in the opposition, she also made intemperate remarks -- remarks which offended many, many people -- and one of them kept me seething and

boiling with anger for many, many days, not weeks or years. I would like to remind the person of why a remark made in this House can be just as offensive as the remark made by the mayor of Edmonton just the other day, which caused everybody in this House to be so upset. It was in 1981, March 10, during the debate on financial aid to students, and the issue and the debate was whether, in fact, students – non-native students – who went out to school should be given the opportunity to come back and to pay off the debt to the government. Now the Minister at that time was talking about my kids, children that were brought up here, schooled here, lived all their lives here, and this is the kind of offensive thing that people can utter without realizing the ramifications of what they are doing.

If I may be permitted, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote from Hansard, page 1333, March 10, 1981: "I think that they will suffer grave consequences by forcing them into a situation where they have to come back. They do not want to be here anyway. I do not like to see them here either and the quicker they can move, the better, and I would not want them tied to the North and feel that they were compelled to come back and make us suffer more because they do not want to be here anyway." I am being a bit dramatic now, Mr. Speaker. "They do not like what we are. They do not like the country and they stay in positions because the benefits are there. I just do not want to see them any more. Give them what they can and then give them the option to move. Do not force them to come back." Those remarks, made at that time, when I was a senior public servant, I could only sit and endure and bite my tongue because as a public servant I could not speak; I did not have a forum like I have now and which I appreciate the members of Yellowknife Centre for giving me.

I will continue, Mr. Speaker, as I continue my review of letter "e" and the Executive Council review, to remind Members that the people in the city of Yellowknife have not all simply come there to make fast bucks and then expect to take millions out to live a life of luxury in Hawaii. My friend, Shorty Brown, for example, has been there nearly all of his life, since the 40s. He has a Dutch wife. Where is he going to go to? Is he going to go back to Holland? Am I going to take my kids back to Wales? I believe that one of the great challenges in this House is to make a homeland where all people, of whatever race, can feel comfortable; and remarks such as those made in haste, perhaps, in 1981, are no longer representative of the feelings/opinions of this Member. In fact, looking at the staff that she has been able to draw around her to work with her, I have to compliment her because she has found people that provide quality work and perhaps there has been a change of heart since those days when she herself was in opposition.

I told you I would be blunt today, Mr. Speaker. However, I feel that it is necessary from time to time, because in our society it seems to me that it is all right for a native person to be blunt but if you are a non-native person you have to be careful what you say and walk on eggs around issues and not to say what is really deep inside your heart.

I now come to Mr. Alloo. Mr. Speaker, if I were to mark down, as I was a teacher a long time ago, I would give this person the award for the best citizen and the most gentlemanly person that we have in our House and I find him to be a person of considerable integrity. I feel that he has suffered over the last year because a year ago he had decided who he wanted to have as his deputy minister, to run his department for him, and he was overruled. I know this to be a fact, and for one whole year that department has been without leadership, without guidance. I also feel some sympathy for him because we ourselves, as ordinary Members, have to push this government to do something about pulp mills in Alberta. We were the ones that did that. The government was not doing it.

No Issue Larger Than Environmental Protection

We are also the ones that try to tell this government that there is no issue bigger than the issue of environmental protection. There is nothing bigger as an issue in our age, as a political one; and yet, our government equivocates and Mr. Alloo is the one who is getting nearly all the heat because we are not looking after the number one priority issue that faces this Assembly and these Northwest Territories. Everybody knows it and yet this gentleman is not able to lift a finger to do the things that he knows, and all of us know, really have to be done.

I now come to my friend, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ballantyne runs what I call service departments. I do not mean to put him down in using that term but let us face it, he has already told us that in Justice he cannot tell judges what to do, nor should he have the power to do that, and we already know that when we go to the federal government for our budget they are not going to sit down across the table and say, "Well, let us make a deal here." We are going to be told exactly what amount of money we are going to get; we know already that we are going to get \$50 million, or in that range, less than we had last year. And who is going to get blamed for it? Mr. Ballantyne. He is going to be the one that will be nailed because we face a crisis, because we cannot offer the same service that we offered with the budget that we had last year, or we are going to be forced to go the way of all other governments and to go into debt in order to survive.

Mr. Speaker, I find Mr. Ballantyne to be a well-prepared and competent Minister; he is a professional politician who will, no doubt, beat Mr. Butters' record of -- I do not know how many -- terms in office, but it is about 19 years, I think. However, Mr. Speaker, because I do not believe in just telling people nice things, it is just possible that this man is the school bully -- it is just possible. Mr. Speaker, I suggest that you keep an eye on him and protect the smaller kids around him, especially Mr. Allooloo, on his right-hand side, who wants more money and he will not give him any.

I hope Mr. Kakfwi will not feel offended, Mr. Speaker, because when I first met Mr. Kakfwi in 1972, I looked at him, and he was a student then in the teacher education program. As I mentioned before, there were so many people that came out of that program that proved to be leaders in our society. In fact, when I first saw Mr. Kakfwi I knew that he would be one of these people that would eventually make a valuable contribution to the development of the Northwest Territories. I felt the same way about Ethel Blondin; I felt the same way about Mr. Overvold who is just sitting behind, now the principal secretary to the Government Leader; I felt the same way about Gerry Cheezie; and unfortunately I have to say I felt the same way about another young man who died this summer, Mr. Gerry Reuben, who was never able to fulfill the great promise that he had to serve the people of these Northwest Territories.

When I look at Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of the many, many nights when, as a young man, I was consumed with a passion to read and one of the great heroes of my time was a writer called Fenimore Cooper, who wrote about the West, who wrote about the aboriginal way of life and whenever I see Mr. Kakfwi standing in the chamber with his arms folded like that, I immediately see images of some of those leaders Fenimore Cooper wrote about. I sometimes think he must have seen the same movies that I saw when I was a kid because every chief seemed to stand like that and you could never figure out what was going on in their minds; their faces never gave anything away. My suspicion is, Mr. Speaker, that this gentleman, after as many years as chief negotiator and leader of the Dene Nation, learned those skills of being able to play poker with the most powerful people in this land and I wish him great success in what obviously is a good future for him in either government or anything else he chooses to take on.

Education Problems

However, Mr. Speaker, again having said some very nice things, at least what I think are nice things, about the Minister, I should remind him that in 1981 we did have a special committee on education and that committee, which I followed just as closely as Mr. Wray has followed the work of the special committee on the northern economy, I felt really never dealt with the problem of education; it dealt with the control of education; it dealt with the structure of education; it did not deal with the substance of it and I still fear that, although we have made changes so that people can control things much better than they could 15 years ago, we still have some basic problems about programs -- the kind of system that we have and the kind of education that our young people are receiving in our classrooms.

I do not believe that simply passing the buck and saying, "Well, we set up these people; they can worry about it" will solve the problem. It is no good passing over a vehicle and saying, "Well, we do not know what to do with this vehicle; you try to do something." It has to be something of

substance and right now, in my opinion, we have solved some of the problems of controls, some of the problems of structure, but the basic quality of what goes on in our system is still something that we should be taking a look at and which, in my opinion as a biased person, obviously we failed to do in 1981 and I regret that very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lewis, I wish to take a 15-minute coffee break and, at the conclusion of the coffee break, you can continue.

---Applause

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I wish to call the House back to order. Replies to Opening Address. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had just finished talking about Mr. Kakfwi and I have next on my list in this review of our Executive Council, for the benefit of our new Commissioner, Mr. Tom Butters, who is not an unfamiliar figure to the Commissioner; so I will not spend a long time even though he has had the longest service in this House.

Mr. Butters I know better than most, because he in fact was my boss, my Minister for a year, and he became quite famous in the department as the person who got up early and expected other people to get up early. I think that because he is the dean of our House and has been here for so long I should not say too much, either good or bad, about him because he does deserve some respect for having put up with this circus for the last 19 years.

I will not, in fact, dwell too much on his accomplishments, except to say, Mr. Speaker, that he is a very responsible person who reacts to people, who responds to requests, who is always accessible to Members, and who returns his phone calls; in fact, he acts in the way you would expect any individual with the kind of responsibility that he has. My guess, however, Mr. Speaker, is that in the later years of his career he is not perhaps as involved as he was at one time. I would not want to think, however, that his penchant to go things alone and to be a bit of a loner means that he is going to just drift away to the fringe and will not be heard from again, so I urge the Government Leader to involve him a little bit more in the work of this government because he is not ready to be retired to the bench yet and there is lots of life in him and we should take advantage of it.

---Applause

Fort Smith As Garden Capital

I come next to my colleague from Fort Smith, where I did live for a period of two years. I must say that in the two years I was in Fort Smith, which is just a brief, little respite in anybody's life, I found that there was an "end of the road" mentality in her community. I do not mean that in the sense that people were backward; I just mean that there was the feeling that there was no future because there was no road that led to the South.

For 30 years the people in that community have looked for a vision and in my opinion this Minister, since coming into this House, has been attempting to rescue Fort Smith from oblivion. There is still talk about the moving of the capital from Fort Smith to Yellowknife. Well, the facts of history, Mr. Speaker, tell us that Fort Smith never was the capital of the Northwest Territories. In fact it was the administrative centre for the Mackenzie district and it never was at any time in its history, a capital city. However, we know it today as the garden capital and that is as close as it ever got to becoming the proper sovereign capital of our Territories.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, both Mr. McCallum and the current Minister have done everything they can to use government to try to prop up the economy of Fort Smith. In my opinion, just putting something here or something there is not going to solve economic problems. If this Minister or any subsequent Minister wants to do something of permanent value, that they be remembered by history for the next 100 years, that would only be achieved if the road that people have talked about for the last 30 or 40 years could be punched through the park. Instead of simply saying, "I want young offenders" or "I want the women" or "I want this to come to my constituency" – it is not going to solve the economic problems of Fort Smith – the solution for Fort Smith is to become a transportation link with the South where there is a road that takes away that "end of the road" feeling; where you would have tourists who will come to see some of the very interesting kind of topography in that part of the world; where you would be able to watch whooping cranes, the most northern nesting pelicans, or watch the wildlife in Wood Buffalo National Park, the biggest national park in Canada. That is the future of Fort Smith and everybody there knows it.

How can we help this Minister achieve that goal? It should be a simple one goal to try to get that link to southern Canada and to get rid once and for all of thinking that you are off to the side; ignored; no one loves you; no one cares about you. That would solve it far more than just simply putting in a building or giving them a new piece of equipment. That is not going to solve the problem in her community. So I would tell the Minister, Mr. Speaker, who I see as the right flank and the left flank in the kind of field army put together by our honourable Leader -- I would liken it to an armoured division with Mr. Wray to the far right and Madam Minister to the far left, getting ready with their very heavy armour to assist the Government Leader to knock down all obstacles so that government can get its way and impose its will on us poor, defenceless, weak opposition Members.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I have now finished with the letter "e". I have done my own personal review of the Executive Council, without going into too much detail. I would urge Members to realize that what we have is a government that exists nowhere else that I am aware of, and I have asked dozens of people the questions about where we are, what we look like compared with other people, and there is nothing else anywhere else that is like this. It is up to us to try and find ways of evolving our system of government to the benefit of all the people of the Northwest Territories and maybe, the odd times, setting aside your personal ambitions because very often all that does is to continue the process and not to improve it. You still have a system and the system has to evolve and change.

I think that we have done a great service in that evolution by getting away, by ridding ourselves of the automatic two year review. That was a major advance because now we can look every day at the Ministers that discharge responsibilities in this government and not have that kind of axe that after two years everybody quits and we start all over again. That was a terrible, terrible mistake, in my opinion, and I am glad that we are over that hurdle now and we can review our government, Minister by Minister, program by program, on what I hope will be a more regular basis than we do right now. One of the weaknesses, Mr. Speaker, is that we only meet now twice a year. The spring session is gone and there is a long period of time between sessions where we do not have an opportunity to really look face to face at the people that discharge government on our behalf as an Assembly.

Land Claims

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to take the rest of the day, you will be glad to know. The next letter on our welcome sign there is the letter "l" and I have used the word "land claims". I know that is of great interest to many of the people that have come to visit us here in Norman Wells. It is something that has preoccupied people of the Northwest Territories since the time that Thomas Berger did his work along this great river valley.

I refer to it, Mr. Speaker, because as one of the three co-chairmen on the special committee on the northern economy I can say that we were told wherever we went that this is one issue that we really have to put behind us. It seems to be a process that has gone on forever. If I were much older than I am and if I were an aboriginal person sitting in a small community I would, by this time, be frustrated, out of my mind, to think that I would be dead and gone before some agreement has been made about the way this land would be chosen and settled by the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories. Non-native people have tended not to want to say something about this subject. It is almost like a taboo area, as if it was none of my business. Well, as legislators, people who sit in this Assembly, everything that happens in the Northwest Territories is our business and as a Member elected to this Legislature, and because this subject is of interest to the people in the riding that I represent, I want to just say a couple of words about it.

I believe that the expenditure of \$35 million out of half a billion dollars that the federal government has set aside to establish this land claim will become an even less favourable deal as the years go by. To most people in Canada, to become the owner of 70,000 square miles and to have the amount of money that has been set aside, is incredible. Each day I fear that the political will is going to disappear in Ottawa, at the time that we are beginning to see a federal government that no longer finds the Northwest Territories very interesting, very exciting. In fact,

we do not mean very much at all any more. Just 53,000 people and these people consume a budget of close to a billion dollars and they want more. The times are soon passing when we can go to Ottawa and get people to say, "Yes, great, we will give you exactly what you want."

I really fear that unless the people who have this great responsibility get on with the work, that the federal government that we have in power right now is simply not going to proceed to ratify and finalize this agreement. Fifty-eight people, according to my count, signed this document. I realize that it was not what everyone wanted but most agreements are like that; you do not get everything that you want. In fact, before you get into any negotiations, and I am sure Mr. Kakfwi would agree with this, you are given a mandate; you are told by your people to go and get something and these are the guidelines and when you get as far as an agreement in principle, presumably you have gone as far as you can in trying to get something established on behalf of the people that you serve.

I will go no further than that today, Mr. Speaker, because I realize that it is a very sensitive subject. As a person who lives here, who has spent the last year and a half studying our economy, I hear that wherever I go. This claim has to be resolved somehow. We just cannot let it go on for another 10 or another 15 years. It has to be something that we have to put behind us and I urge the people responsible to try to get this thing resolved, realizing fully that historically this is one of the great events in the history of aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories. The treaty of 1921, as we well know, related very much to this community right here. We all know that treaties in the past were signed to make way for development. We know very well that as soon as this treaty was signed it meant that this development of this oil in Norman Wells would then become available to Canadians south of the border.

The same thing happened with treaty eight because of the Yukon gold rush. There was development so a treaty had to be signed. Now we have other developments on the horizon and we think the same thing will happen, that the federal government will just make any deal in order to get that kind of development to take place and there would be no opposition to it. In my opinion we are now at the stage where we can no longer treat treaties in the way that they were done in 1890 and 1921. It seems to me that history has caught up with us and we may have lost the very best opportunity for the economic development of our Territories unless this is resolved within the next short while.

First Aboriginal Person Named As Commissioner

Next, Mr. Speaker, on my list is the Commissioner. I welcome our new Commissioner, Mr. Norris. I was disappointed to find that even the Native Press gave very little coverage to an appointment which, to Members of our Assembly, was a significant one. This was the very first aboriginal person to be named Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Charles Camsell was a non-native person from the Liard Valley that was the Commissioner at the turn of the century. I think that it is a very significant development in the evolution of government in the Northwest Territories that we have an aboriginal person who is now the head of government. Really, he is the Queen's representative in the Northwest Territories and technically still has all the powers that Commissioner Parker had, but has delegated those powers to this elected body. I wish him well in his new post. It will be something that he will develop in his own way, in his own style, and I am sure that in his term of office he will see further changes in the evolution of government.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, that our government and the public service have evolved somewhat. We have seen the change to the Commissioner too, but as a political development, and I am sure that other Members who have come to listen to our debate on constitutional development will be interested in this, we have really not developed constitutionally very much, apart from this development of a public service and the change in the role of the Commissioner. The rest of it is still ahead of us.

Ordinary Members As Opposition In House

Moving right along, Mr. Speaker, I would like to come to the next letter in the word "welcome" which is the letter "o". For this I make no apologies when I use the word "opposition". Mr. Ningark, in his comments, referred to the need to have a body that will, in fact, both oppose and propose. The tendency in the past was not to have an opposition that did that, and many people who have heard me discuss the issue of opposition think that is merely my way of saying, "Well you know all I am going to do is..." -- can I use the word "bitch"? "moan"? -- that is not a good word -- "...complain and oppose and be negative and so on." I do not see that as what opposition Members do. What they do is to really provide some kind of mechanism to provide checks and balances for the government.

Some people have asked if it is possible to develop a viable opposition within the Government of the Northwest Territories. Some people have said, "No, you cannot do it." They argue that the Government of the Northwest Territories is a government by consensus. It requires the cooperation of all Members, both those in the Executive and ordinary Members, in order to function. The development of a viable opposition would therefore frustrate this idea of consensus, so people say that therefore there cannot be any opposition. I happen to disagree with that idea that there cannot be an opposition. I think it is not only possible to develop a viable opposition, I think in this stage in the development of our Assembly it is a very desirable thing.

Before I explore the benefits of an opposition, and how you could structure it, perhaps I need to define what I mean by the word "opposition". In the parliamentary form of government, Mr. Speaker, the opposition is that group or coalition of groups that failed to win the majority of seats in a House and must be content with just being critics of the government of the day. The opposition in other jurisdictions is the government-in-waiting. It has only one reason to exist and that is that it wants to become the government. While they are in the opposition, the Members do all in their power to criticize and embarrass the government.

Role Of Opposition

I do not think that is our role, to just simply criticize and embarrass the government. The role of the opposition, Mr. Speaker, was defined more than a century ago in a very famous speech by Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby, delivered in the British House of Commons on June 4, 1841, which is before Mr. Butters was born. This is what he said: "When I first came into Parliament, Mr. Tierney, a great Whig authority used always to say that the duty of an opposition was very simple; it was to oppose everything and to propose nothing."

Because a parliamentary opposition requires a party form of government, we cannot have a traditional government-in-waiting approach, or style of opposition, in this Legislature. But this does not mean that we cannot have an opposition, and it was in that spirit, Mr. Speaker, that in our ordinary Members committee the other day we asked to have the development of procedures for the work of this group of people who are not in government so that we could do a better job in calling this government to account every time we meet in this Assembly; but more importantly, to make it accountable when we are not meeting.

Other forms of government, Mr. Speaker, for example municipal governments, do not usually have a party form of politics, but some of them do have to develop a functioning type of opposition. There is no reason why we cannot have an opposition as long as we can define what we mean by an opposition and agree on how it should function.

Accountability Of Government

Mr. Speaker, if the role of an opposition is not to throw the government out and put itself in, then what could its role be? The role of the opposition in consensus style government should, in my view, be to hold the government of the day accountable. We have used the word "accountable" time and time again. They did not get their mandate as a government directly from the people, but they have to be accountable to us and to the people; and it does not happen in our style of

government. The word "accountable" means that government must be answerable for fulfilling responsibilities that flow from that authority that is given to it. Government must explain its decisions and actions and the consequences of its decisions and actions. In our form of government, the government has been given the authority to act as government, first by the people who have elected the Members of government as MLAs, and secondly by the whole Legislative Assembly that has elected the Members to this Executive. The government must therefore be accountable both to the people and to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Everywhere in Canada governments account to the people at election time, usually once every four years. This is the ultimate test of accountability for a government. The government will run on its record, explaining what it has accomplished. It will submit its fate to the decision of the electorate. That does not happen in the NWT. The government is only accountable to itself. The people do not decide the kind of government they will have.

This government accounts to the Legislative Assembly through various mechanisms, Mr. Speaker: question period, Speech from the Throne and the release of periodic reports. Unfortunately, these mechanisms in our form of government are almost totally inadequate for ensuring accountability. Part of the problem stems from the nature of accountability itself. Every government has as its prime objective and purpose the job of getting re-elected. Understandably, therefore, it will be very selective in how it is answerable, both to the people and to the Assembly. It will do all in its power -- and I want to emphasize this, Mr. Speaker -- a government will do all in its power to emphasize the good news, the great things it has achieved, through press releases and so on, and it will do all in its power not to reveal the information that does not flatter its record, that does not show itself in the very best light possible, whether that it is to the advantage of the public or not.

Another point, Mr. Speaker -- this is very critical -- is that we have seen the word "accountability" means to be answerable. The concept of answering to people assumes there is someone or some group that will be around to ask the right questions, to force the government to be accountable. In most democracies, this someone is called an opposition. In many jurisdictions, it can also be the press. Mr. Speaker, I regret to say that in the NWT this is not the case. Up to the present we have had no opposition, although the form of our Legislature obviously lends itself to that kind of approach to accountability.

Role Of Press In Opposition

As far as the press is concerned, because of the dominance of government in the North, the local press is highly dependent upon government for its advertising revenues. It is not about to bite the hand that feeds it. Further, as we have seen in recent issues, our press in Yellowknife is too busy turning itself into a northern version of the National Enquirer with screaming headlines about prison sex and front page leads about a couple suing an Edmonton company for bad meat that even their dog would not eat, to do much in-depth reporting about the activities of government. Government, as far as the press is concerned, is not as important as meat and sex. That is the impression you get from reading our local press.

When I decided that I would talk about the press today I was told by a colleague of mine, "You want to kill yourself politically? Go ahead and do it, my friend." Well, I have done it, and I believe what I say. The press is part of the accountability of government. You should be able to stand up without fear or favour to let the public know the kind of government it has and the kind of opposition it has. If both of them are weak, you should report both, on both sides of the coin.

I am not here blaming my friend, Mr. Sigvaldason in Yellowknife, for not being as tough as he could be in taking the responsibility of the media in the way perhaps they should. He is a businessman; he has bills to pay; and who can blame anybody for making sure that everything he does is going to make sure that that business will survive?

Mr. Speaker, how can government be held accountable if there is no one or no institution to hold it accountable? I am afraid that what our government does, Mr. Speaker, is to hold itself accountable by talking to itself only, occasionally asking Members on this side, and for the most part only hearing the answers it wants to hear. With the exception of question period in the House, where individual Members ask questions of government, the government decides on its own what information it will share with ordinary Members and what information it will not share. Obviously, since the sharing of almost any information can cause problems for government, it tries to share as little information as possible. I have heard enormous concern and criticism by ordinary Members -- Mr. Crow, in Sanikiluaq, trying to get information from that far away place in Yellowknife -- and he is not the only example. We have technology today that makes instant communication available to everybody and yet it is difficult for people that do not live right in the city to get the information that they need in order to get their work done. This is paranoia. We are supposed to be consensus, and yet it is very clear that our government acts in secrecy even on the smallest, tiniest, little issues. Staff have become paranoid about what it can do and cannot do; what you are supposed to know and what you are not supposed to know. I do not find that in keeping with the spirit of consensus government. Obviously since the sharing of almost any information can cause problems for government, it shares as little as it possibly can.

Problems With The Way Government Is Elected

In terms of accountability, government manages most of the time to get a free ride. If no one is organized to ask the right question, there is little need to give the right answers. One of the things that helps government get away with this goes back to the nature of the way it was elected. Unlike party politics or team politics where the opposing parties usually run on a platform which is then used as a yardstick to measure their performance when in office, our legislatures have no platform before they are elected. They are elected as individuals on individual pieces of paper that give the public an indication of the sorts of things they are interested in. Plus they only have a mandate from the people to do things that they can do as ordinary Members.

A second problem with the election is the way we choose the cabinet. If the Leader of the government were given authority to appoint his cabinet, then he or she could be held accountable for the performance of individual Ministers and of the cabinet as a whole. As it is now, the cabinet is elected by Members as a whole. If the Members do not like the performance of an individual Minister or fear that the Minister is not accountable, the Leader has limited options. He can point out, quite correctly, that he did not choose a particular Member or Minister as a Member of his cabinet and he can say to us, "Well, I have limited power to correct the situation." He could, perhaps, transfer the Minister to another portfolio. But what happens if the Minister does not want to move? How can our Leader say, "Well, I think I would have a better team. This person does not play very well on the wing or on the centre or on defence. I would like to have this Minister here." Right now he does not have the power of doing that, if he has a Minister that does not want to move. There is nothing you can do about it. And yet every other government in this country only functions because the Minister has, as leader, the power to be able to get the team working in the best conceivable fashion to get the job done. And it is a big weakness in the kind of government that we have.

In fact -- I will not use bad language; I will be very careful -- but the Government Leader could now ask Minister A to move from portfolio this to portfolio that and they can tell him to shove it and they will stay where they are, because he will not be able to insist on his way without alienating people in his own group and people from this side too. He knows it and it makes him powerless in discharging the responsibility for running this government.

Myth Of Consensus

At present then, Mr. Speaker, the lack of an opposition and the problems of procedures work very much against accountability. How can our government system have survived so long without an opposition? One thing that has helped is the myth of consensus. Mr. Speaker, we say we have it, but we do not have it. It is a myth. Just like the myth of going to Baker Lake to talk about the review, which was our opinion and the myth of going there to talk about social problems, which

was the government's opinion. We all have our version of what the reality is. And in this case we have the myth of consensus government.

The word "consensus" comes from a Latin word which roughly means "to feel the same way as someone else feels". To a certain extent this Legislative Assembly has always been seen as some large extended family where people work long and hard to settle disputes and they arrive, eventually, at family-type decisions. But we only meet twice a year, Mr. Speaker. We may be able to talk late into the night when we meet together in our Assembly; we may be able to have lots of discussions; but what happens in all those days when the government is on its own and can do exactly what it wants, as the Executive of this House, to carry on the business of the day? Consensus cannot work during that period. Accountability is nonexistent, because there is no mechanism to make sure that the concerns of Members are met in that process.

Mr. Speaker, since the time of the transfer of the capital from Ottawa, the Commissioner, and then consequent governments, have promoted the idea of making decisions by consensus, because it was "the aboriginal way" to make decisions. It may be true that traditionally native people have always avoided an advocacy system of decision-making where opposing sides have often adopted an "I win, you lose" approach and prefer to discuss things through until they can feel the same about an issue as everybody else. A consensus. But what the myth fails to take into account, Mr. Speaker, is that even in the old days, as I understand it, opposition was part of consensus-making. It was not uncommon for people to hold opposing views and argue for hours, even days, as I remember reading when I read my Fenimore Cooper novels about the many, many days the tribal councils would sit and you would hear opposing arguments about what you should do and should not do.

Articulating the opposing views clarifies the issues and builds confidence in those who had to make decisions and live with the consequence of those decisions. Transferring an age-old form of decision-making to a new institutional form of government has caused us many problems. While our form of government has some significant strengths, it has one major drawback. To carry on the business of government, modern governments are under great pressure to make decisions quickly. Consensus decision-making takes a great deal of time. Immense amounts of time. Something that our government does not usually have. So instead of achieving consensus, what our government usually strives for is compromise. When you think about it, our government is not really a consensus government since there is very little consensus achieved about any of the major issues. It is rather a compromise government or a coalition government. It decides what it wants to do and then tries to work out a compromise, if necessary, with the regular Members or with individual MLAs. Usually it simply takes a firm position and tries to get enough people to buy into the position to join them in forming the compromise or the coalition.

Need For Viable Opposition

Although this may sound ironic, Mr. Speaker, the development, in my opinion, of a viable opposition would be the single most important contribution to the establishment of a true consensus type of government. While it is impossible for government to function if it has to deal with 16 opposing viewpoints of individual Members, it can deal with and work out a consensus with one opposing viewpoint, that of an organized opposition. Now it may be that the organized opposition cannot get one viewpoint on every subject under the sun, and that is why, at our stage of development, most of us fear the idea of party politics. Because the tendency has been that when groups have formed, they want to stake out a position on every little detail so that any Member who stands in this House can only say something that has been approved ahead of time. But it would be possible for the big issues of our day, the things that matter to us, that we could develop a position which would then form the basis for debate. And instead of trying to find a consensus among 16 positions, we could get a consensus about two opposing ideas on one major subject.

Mr. Speaker, I know that Ministers work very hard. I have all kinds of evidence of people who wake up early in the morning. I compliment the Minister who leads our government on being a taskmaster from time to time, even though from time to time it is an unruly rabble that he has to

work with. But it is difficult also, Mr. Speaker, for an ordinary Member to function as he should in this House. Given the myth that consensus is good and opposition is bad because it works against consensus, regular Members are under tremendous pressure to go with the flow so that the wheels of government do not simply slow to a halt.

Difficult For Member Who Is Unpopular With Government

There are also pressures associated with the problems of power. The only way, Mr. Speaker, that an ordinary Member can get any kind of power or benefits for constituents, other than controlling one of the legislative committees, is to work out personal deals with individual Ministers who have portfolios within this government. This is difficult to do if the Member is seen as continually opposing what the government wants to do. In other words, if you were seen on this side as somebody who is continually asking difficult questions, who is continually asking that issues of great importance be raised, issues that individual Ministers do not want to hear about, that Member automatically becomes unpopular -- the burr under the saddle -- somebody who will not be worthy of favour. Therefore, for ordinary Members, it is very difficult for them to be an opposition person because they represent people in a small place where things of great importance to those people have to be done and if you were to invoke the anger of a Minister because of a statement made, because of his opposition his community could suffer. Therefore, it is bad government if somebody cannot get up in this chamber and, without fear or favour, bring up an issue which is of great importance to all the people of the Northwest Territories; and it is bad if a Member cannot do that simply because he is considered a negative person with nothing to offer. Opposition, Mr. Speaker, has something to offer; it is an important part of government; and that is what I hope, over the next two years, we will develop so that there will be a greater accountability than we have now.

The government also has a problem, Mr. Speaker. It is also limited by the lack of an organized opposition. Because it is outnumbered two to one by the ordinary Members and depends completely upon their good graces to remain in power, it becomes extremely difficult for government to take hard positions on issues it feels are in the best interests of the Territories as a whole. It is very rare that they can get up and say, "This is for the best interests of the people we serve, even though we know that you 15 people over there do not agree with us." If something is very, very important and crucial for the development of our Territory, then there has to be courage but it is very difficult for a Minister to be courageous or for a leader to be courageous when he knows that the Members opposite may bring his government down. Mr. Speaker, it is hard enough for the leader to achieve consensus even among his own Ministers, but that is what politics is all about. If the leader has to continually compromise his position to accommodate the needs of ordinary Members, it becomes extremely difficult to take any strong positions as a government.

I wondered when I made my review of our Executive Council earlier, Mr. Speaker, whether in fact our leader was going to be able to say, "Look, this is going to cause me great difficulty; this is what is for the best for the people of the Northwest Territories; this is what I have to do." It is very difficult for him; it requires a tremendous amount of courage; and over the next two years, in my opinion, there will be more occasions when he is going to have to say, "I have to take my chances; I cannot allow this situation to go on without taking a firm stand."

I would urge Members to realize that is the danger of the kind of government that we have got. We could be destroying it every week if we are not very careful about the way we develop it from here on in.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on at great length about the role of opposition; in fact I could go on for another two hours but, in the interests of time and the patience of my colleagues, I should remind ordinary Members that tomorrow morning, we will be examining some procedures where we can, in fact, begin to tighten up the way in which we get better government, to allow perhaps the Government Leader to be tougher than he is; to find ways in which we can get tough decisions made so that people can see that we are not going to take advantage, that we share some of

these problems and there are ways in which we can do that. But I will leave it for tomorrow morning when we sit down in ajauqtit.

Mr. Speaker, the next letter on my list is the letter "m". It deals with the problems of what I call a minority government. Since I have already covered it in some detail, I will skip it because we all know that what we have is a minority government and I do not need to elaborate on that point.

No Magic Solution To Economic Problem

Moving along, I go next to the issue of economy. Many people expected that when we began our close examination of the structure of our economy in the Northwest Territories, we would find some magic economic solution that no economist has ever been able to discover before. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that in all my reading over the last 30 years, there have been very few new ideas in economics and we were not able to find anything new. What we were able to do was to get a feel for the direction that we must go. We identified things which probably stemmed from the way we approach life in the Northwest Territories. We talked throughout our report of the need for education, organization, and discipline. I do not mean education in terms of having a Ph.D. from Harvard; I mean in knowing something. Being educated means knowing something, being able to do something, having confidence in handling something. What we have in our territory is a human resource which is not yet as well-educated as it should be; the 52,000 people that we represent do not have the confidence that comes from knowing and feeling confident that they can do certain things; we do not have good organization; and we have no discipline. When we analysed our economy, we realized -- in fact, Mr. Parker, our Commissioner, when he sat down with us at the beginning of our work, said, "You know, there are some keys. We have every kind of economic disadvantage in the Northwest Territories but what we have to realize is that we have to be much tougher about how we deal with the preparation of people for a rapidly changing world in which we are going to become even more disadvantaged in the marketplace. We are going to have to become much tougher about some of the things that we take on."

Mr. Speaker, we referred to some of the economic miracles -- how, for example, Germany was devastated in the second world war; it had all its infrastructure completely destroyed. I agree that there were circumstances where other people were able to help them to recover but the people, themselves, because of their education, because they were organized, because they were disciplined, they were able to become one of the economic miracles of Europe. It was not anything to do with their economic advantage or disadvantage. The same thing happened in Japan. Japan has no natural resources -- nothing. All they have is a well-educated, well-disciplined, well-organized people.

We, in this Assembly, are supposed to represent the best of what we have to offer the people of the Northwest Territories. I wrote an article two years ago, before this election, where I referred to my friend here, Mr. Ernerk, and my friend, Mr. Ningark. The title of that article was "The Best and the Brightest". They had gone to school in Chesterfield Inlet where there were lots of problems -- it was not perfect, but one of the things they learned there was that you have got to have confidence to do something; you have to get a decent education to handle this modern world that is rapidly coming to face you; you have to have a sense of being organized in your everyday life; and you have to be disciplined in the way you take on tasks.

Earlier on, I referred to the Executive Council as a rabble. I am afraid to say, Mr. Speaker, that we are also a rabble; what you have on this side is a rabble too. They are my friends but we are not an organized group. We have our own opinions about things and we have differences and we are trying to work them out, we are trying to work as a group. The whole intention of trying to get our procedures organized a bit better is simply to try to get government to be more answerable and to make them more answerable. That is what I mean by accountability.

No Vision Of The Future

When I talk about economy, which is the letter I am on now, we have the same problem. We have a completely disintegrated economy. We have one department going this way and another one

going that way. We have communities not sure what the government is trying to do. We do not know what the policies are. We do not know what the directions are and, as a result, we do not have any vision about what this country is going to do to reduce its dependence on government over the next 20 years. That is what we face. Government has made people dependent on government. It is not the people's fault; the people themselves were dragged into places where government could look after them. They were able to sustain themselves before, in a certain way and in a certain fashion, but government itself created its own problems by bringing people into urban centres when there was no economic sense for doing it. Everywhere else in the world people come into urban areas because of economic opportunity. There is money to be made; there are jobs; there are economic opportunities; but in our case it is a matter of just economic convenience, administrative convenience.

Over the next 20 years we are going to have to educate our people to a higher level than we have ever done before because right across the country people know that if they are going to survive in the modern age we are going to have to compete with Japan and with Germany and with all the emerging countries in southeast Asia who are now becoming the next economic miracles. We cannot compete with those people unless we show our own young people that what we are doing right now is just not good enough if we are going to survive.

We were tempted, Mr. Speaker, to call our special committee on the northern economy report, "After Survival". I know it was a title that Mr. Morin liked, or "Beyond Survival", because at one time people did survive and they prayed at the end of every winter that they were able to survive that winter and they could look forward to a nice spring and good hunting in the summer. Every year there was that uncertainty. Well, today government looks after all that. You do not have to worry any more; you can always go to welfare or go to government. If you want a job you will be looked after; but how do we, in fact, get those things which take you beyond survival: a sense of fulfilment, a sense of dignity, and pride from a job well done? You are making a contribution to your society. You are not just simply somebody who sucks the blood from the Canadian taxpayer, who just sits there doing nothing.

Need To Prepare Young People For Modern Workplace

People in my experience in all my travel do not want that. They do not want to be on welfare. They want to be doing something meaningful and we, as a government, are not preparing people properly so that when they go into the workplace an employer can say, "That is the guy that I want; I want him." We have to prepare more and more young people so that there will be a huge demand for them; so that they would be resisting employment in the streets because there are people out there who want them to come and work for them. We are not doing it. Our young people are dropping out of school like flies and we may even face a time in the not-too-distant future, Mr. Speaker, when we are going to have to recognize that some of our communities are not going to get really, really big. We cannot create the number of jobs that will allow those places to grow, to be the size of some of our large places. Some young people are going to have to face the fact that they are going to have to leave, that they will not be able to get a job back in their homes, because in the rest of the world that is the reality. Not everybody is going to work in their birthplace. You are going to have to go where the work is. That is an economic fact. You cannot create a mine where there is no ore. You cannot suddenly discover gas or oil if there is no gas or oil. You have to go where the work is and our young people have to be given the confidence that they can leave home and make a living anywhere they choose to go. We have to break down that mentality that it has to be just here. For our older people, for the people that were not part of this new transition, where they would get all the skills and all the abilities that an education system would provide, that would be their home. They will survive there and there will always be communities there. The young people have to recognize that there will be mobility over the next 20 years.

A key, Mr. Speaker, is that we have to educate our people to a higher level. I am talking about training of all kinds. We have to give a better sense of organization within our government, to set an example in our policies and programs for the rest of what goes on in the Territories and we are going to have to instill a better sense of discipline; we are supposed to be role models.

People look to us; we have to be disciplined too, and I would say that this group and the government group has to be more disciplined and organized if we are going to truly be a responsible government and accountable to all the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I have another whole bunch of stuff to talk about. I could go on, as you know well, for the next few hours but having got to the end of "Welcome" I would like to thank the people of Norman Wells for the fine welcome they have given me today, and I could drink another drop of water and carry on. I do appreciate the fact that most Members did stay, which is unusual for people from the other side when one of our group gets up to try to give a chance to represent our constituency and the concerns that they have.

So, before I complete my little presentation, Mr. Speaker, in response to the Commissioner's Opening Address, I want to just say a few things about the constituency that I represent. I will not bore you with all of the other stuff. I will go right to "I" and "s" at the end of "Wells". This is local stuff, Mr. Speaker. Every person who gets up in this House to make a response to the Commissioner's Opening Address, what he normally does is to talk about the things that matter to the people who elected that individual. So, for the people of Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, I will admit that compared to most other parts of the Northwest Territories there is a sense of economic well-being. I do not deny that most people who live in the area that I represent are fairly well off. There have been some changes in government policy that allow some of the single parents that could not get child care to now get what they want. I am satisfied that the Minister responded to that grave need that kept me very busy on weekends, trying to help people who were just desperate because they had nowhere to take their kids on Monday because as a single parent they had to find some place that would look after their children.

Destruction Of Building Used By Guild Of Crafts And IODE Thrift Shop

As far as other small local things, Mr. Speaker. I have been concerned for some time about the movement of the Minister responsible for Health to divest the government of a building which used to be known as the "Northern Health Centre". This building has been there for a long time, since the 1950's, and it houses two very important programs. The one program is the program called the guild of crafts. This guild has been in existence since 1947. It was the first society of its kind. It has inspired craftspeople, artists of all races, to pursue their skill and talent in a basement area which is very dark, unlit, dusty, worth very little if you were to look at it through the eyes of a real estate agent. In fact, it looks like the cellar of some Victorian building that is rapidly falling apart at the seams. This guild has been told that after something like 45 years it will have to move and find itself another place because the building is about to be knocked down and it will be sold to the Tree of Peace so that it can expand its premises to do the things that it would like to do with its programs. The Tree of Peace is also in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, and I commend the work of that organization, for the work that it does. However, I think that by telling a group of people that have carried on an activity that goes back to 1947 that they will have to move, and not really giving them some sense of a secure future, for something of great importance to the people of Yellowknife of all ages, all races, there will be a great loss for our citizens.

In the same building, Mr. Speaker, there is an IODE thrift shop. I do not do my shopping there any more but I know there are many people in Yellowknife who depend on the thrift shop so that they can go and find some clothing which has been discarded by the wealthy people of that city. It is conveniently located in the downtown area of the city and it is run by a group of dedicated people with the assistance of mentally handicapped people from the Abe Miller Centre, where people have worked since 1962 to provide economic opportunities for people with mental handicaps so they can find a place in the workplace. By denying these two groups of people the use of a building, I am afraid that the Minister will probably be taking away something which is of importance not only to that group of people, but also to other groups of people who will not be able to use it in the years to come.

Another issue that is of concern to the people of my area, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that we do not have a good library service. It is the capital city. I happen to make great use of libraries in this

community, but I find that when I go to the city library in Yellowknife, what you really have is a collection of donated books. Maybe Ms Cournoyea is right, all we have in Yellowknife is a revolving door of people coming and going, and they usually do not take their books with them. They leave them behind and the Yellowknife library inherits them and if you are a book collector, you can go to the arena every summer and buy hundreds of books that are donated to that library. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that we do not have a library which has a collection for people that really want to have a good reference place for the kind of work that many professional people do in Yellowknife. It is a sad reflection on our city and on our Territories that we do not have, in the capital city, a library for research.

Proposal To Build Alcohol Treatment Centre

Mr. Speaker, the other issue I want to raise is to do with the Northern Addiction Services proposal to build an alcohol treatment centre, not in Yellowknife -- it is not in that sense a local issue -- but the people who have worked hard for the last four years on that proposal happen to have lived in Yellowknife for many years. Many of them are native people and they have dedicated themselves, much in the same way the Abe Miller Centre people have dedicated themselves, to trying to find the money to build something that will be of benefit to all the people of the Western Arctic.

I feel sad that we have a Minister that does not understand that this is not "a little Yellowknife issue". This is an issue which relates to money, it relates to time and it relates to people who right now consume an awful lot of alcohol and an awful lot of dollars in treatment, and most of those dollars are going south. We have an opportunity to get \$2.5 million from the federal government and the Minister refuses to establish a deadline by which any work that she has under way will be completed so that we can get a much-needed facility for people who desperately need it in the Western Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, I said that I would only deal with the last two letters, so I now go on to the letter "s", staff. Government depends on its staff; the public service. Over the last couple of years, from my observations, the public service has grown a little bit. There has been some increase in sophistication in some of the committees that have been established, but it is still a political football. There is not the care taken over it that you would expect any large organization to take in looking after the machinery that gets the job done. What gets the job done in government is the staff. Those are your tools. That is your capital equipment and we still have a staff -- to be quite honest, I treat my socks better. I take more care in organizing my closet than this government takes in organizing its staff. It is a crucial issue that this government has to face during its mandate, so that when we have a public service which I hope in a short time will be mostly native people, it will be an organization and a service which people can be proud of, where you do not just stick somebody in there and hope that they will survive; that you will take care, that you will provide training, that you will provide support. So that the young people out there can see this as a job that has some future, something which will contribute to their own welfare and the public at large in the NWT.

Establishment Of Public Service Commission

I have urged you, and this House has urged you, in previous sessions we have recommended to you that you establish a public service commission. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that this government is coming close to treating ordinary Members with contempt in the way that they are handling this issue. It is one of the biggest issues that this government is going to have to face if it is going to survive. And if I have to run one more time and one more time after that, Mr. Speaker, it will be in pursuit of that one objective. Because I really believe that if you look far enough down the road and if we do not do a better job than we are doing, you are going to have people at each others' throats. The public service is going to be a political football and no one will have any sense that where they are going is something in which they would want to invest any of their education, their time or their energy. It will be just a road to disaster when you have a system in place that makes no sense to anybody at all that I talk to.

I am not trying to propose a public service commission to protect whites, because that is what is assumed. I am doing it because I have given a lot of thought to the subject of what is going to happen when you have a Dogrib Minister and an Inuk deputy minister and assistant deputy minister and a chief of staff and there could be turnaround all over the place simply because you are not related to this guy or related to that guy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible comments)

MR. LEWIS: I saw it in Africa. I have been to Africa and I have seen it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Proceed, Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I had been cut off because I said something which the Government Leader found objectionable. As somebody who has travelled in many parts of the world, I have seen what tribalism does. I have travelled in Africa. In fact I wanted to talk to my friend from Ghana. He is not my friend, but he is a friend I have not met, because he will tell you the problems you will face, if you do not develop a public service, where you have seven or eight different groups of people with their own interest. He will tell you what happened in Ghana. I would love to have talked to him. I would suggest maybe that the Government Leader take a bit of time to sit down with people who have inherited colonial systems of government from the Brits and then had to develop a system of government. They have gone through the same thing that we did and eventually, after a lot of bloodshed, they ended up establishing not exactly what you would have in other jurisdictions as a public service commission, but very much like it. Because if you do not do it, you are really heading, in my opinion, on the basis of experience and a lot of reading and talking to people just like the gentleman from Ghana, you can have the same problem in this territory.

So that is notice, Mr. Speaker, that over the next two years, and if I am not happy after two years, four more after that, if the people want me back and four after that, if I still have not achieved this one thing that I think is important for the future of our government.

So I appreciate very much the attention that Members have given me this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I have a lot more to say but I appreciate that we should spend time dealing with other business of government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. The honourable Government Leader.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table Tabled Document 23-89(2), a document entitled Science Institute of the Northwest Territories Annual Report, 1988-89, in English and in Inuktitut.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 24-89(2), a document entitled 1985-1989, Finances, Canada-NWT Agreement on Contributions for Aboriginal Languages.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 25-89(2), a document on the Labour Standards Law Review Panel, Terms Of Reference.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 11-89(2): Low-Level Flights In The NWT

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 1, 1989, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the Member for Aivilik, that the Legislative Assembly reaffirms its opposition to low-level flights in the Northwest Territories; and further that this Legislative Assembly supports the efforts through legal action by the community of Snowdrift to prevent the low-level flights; and further that this Legislative Assembly requests the Executive Council to immediately demand that the Minister of National Defence withdraw his approval of the low-level flights on IR-9820; and further that full public hearings be held on this matter. Thank you.

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

Notice Of Motion 12-89(2): Vacant Positions For Various Standing Committees

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, November 1, 1989, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move that the following appointments be made to the standing committees of this House: to the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions, the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. John Ningark; to the standing committee on finance, the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, Mr. Red Pedersen; to the standing committee on legislation, the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Nick Sibbeston, as a full Member, and the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, Mr. Red Pedersen, as an alternate Member; to the standing committee on public accounts, the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. John Ningark, as a full Member, and the honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Peter Ernerk, as an alternate Member; to the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges, the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, Mr. Red Pedersen, as a full Member, and the honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Tom Butters, as an alternate Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The Honourable Minister of Social Services.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 15-89(2): Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, November 1, 1989, I shall move that Bill 15-89(2), An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act, be read for the first time.

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

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 28-89(2): Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, November 1, 1989, I shall move that Bill 28-89(2), Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 7-89(2), appreciation for Ruth MacKendrick, senior Hansard editor. Mr. Patterson.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 7-89(2): Appreciation For Ruth MacKendrick, Senior Hansard Editor

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

WHEREAS Mrs. Ruth L. MacKendrick, senior Hansard editor, has been employed with the Legislative Assembly since 1974;

AND WHEREAS Mrs. MacKendrick retired in June of this year;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that we express to Mrs. MacKendrick our appreciation for her 16 years of valuable service with the Hansard office of the Legislative Assembly.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ruth Lomas MacKendrick was born in Saskatchewan and received her early education in Saskatoon. Upon graduating from the University of Toronto in 1945, she served overseas as a lieutenant, an occupational therapist in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. For her service in England she was awarded the Defence of Britain Medal. When Ruth came to Fort Smith in 1969, she was no stranger to the North, having spent two years, 1959 and 1960, at the Canadian army base in Fort Churchill with her husband, Jamie, and two children. On moving to Yellowknife in 1972, she started as a proofreader with the Legislative Assembly and became an editor in 1975, and senior editor in 1983.

I should note, Mr. Speaker, that Ruth is no longer with Hansard and not here in Norman Wells. She retired in July, 1989. Her hobbies include painting, pottery, sewing and Scottish country dancing. Currently she is the regent of the Nahanni Chapter of the IODE, who operate the thrift shop in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the honour of putting this motion to the Legislature. Ruth has always impressed me with her sense of what a privilege it was to have worked for our Legislature. By this motion, we are saying to her that it is this Assembly which considers itself privileged that a person of such fine calibre and dedication would associate herself with us. I know I speak on behalf of all Members when I say we sincerely wish Ruth and Jamie every happiness in their well-deserved retirement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Patterson. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, while Ruth MacKendrick is no longer employed with the Hansard office, I am sure that she will receive in short order a copy of this motion and our expressions of gratitude and commendation made here today, and will appreciate and welcome our recognition of, and tribute to, the contribution to our process of herself and her staff. Mrs. MacKendrick, with her usual modesty, were she present, would be pleasantly embarrassed at this notice and assure us, one and all, that if her work has been commendable and praiseworthy, that much of the credit must include her hardworking and efficient staff. Fortunately we retain the services of many members of that staff, a staff trained carefully and capably by Ruth MacKendrick. We all wish her well in her new endeavours and interests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Motion 7-89(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. I hear a question. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The record should note that the motion has been passed unanimously.

---Applause

Motions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Motion 10-89(2): Establishment Of A Special Committee On Aboriginal Languages, Carried

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS aboriginal languages are essential to the existence and advancement of the aboriginal peoples of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS there is a desire to recognize and establish aboriginal languages as official languages of the Northwest Territories;

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 Languages 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 as individual Members undertake such travel as is required to carry out the assigned responsibilities of the 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: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Lewis. Seconder, Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As seconder of the motion, I am very happy to have this special committee established and I think it is very important. It seems like the Members appointed to the committee will be able to assist the aboriginal languages; I feel this is very important because they have to represent the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories. I would like support of this motion from the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Motions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion regarding filling vacancies on standing committees of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the motion regarding appointments to standing committees of this House. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Lewis.

Motion 12-89(2): Vacant Positions For Various Standing Committees, Carried

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS there are a number of vacancies on standing committees of this House;

AND WHEREAS all committees of this House should have full membership;

AND WHEREAS the work of the standing committees is important in the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to fill these vacancies;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that the following appointments be made to standing committees of this House:

- a) to the standing committee on agencies, boards, and commissions, the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. John Ningark;
- b) to the standing committee on finance, the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, Mr. Red Pedersen;
- c) to the standing committee on legislation, the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Nick Sibbeston as a full Member, and the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, Mr. Red Pedersen as an alternate Member;
- d) to the standing committee on public accounts, the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, Mr. John Ningark as a full Member, and the honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Peter Ernerk as an alternate Member;
- e) to the standing committee on rules, procedures, and privileges, the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, Mr. Red Pedersen as full Member, and the honourable Member for Inuvik, Mr. Tom Butters as an alternate Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. 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. Item 15, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 26-89(2), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 1988-89, be read for the first time.

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

Bill 26-89(2) has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, 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. Motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 20-89(2) has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go to second reading of Bill 20-89(2), An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Minister has requested unanimous consent to give second reading to Bill 20-89(2). Are there any nays? Proceed, Madam Minister.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 20-89(2): Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Bill 20-89(2), An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the definition of "energy", "plant", and "rate structure"; to add a provision stating that this act is paramount over any other act if a conflict arises; to provide that the corporation may undertake any other activity and energy conservation programs and may establish one or more subsidiaries; to provide that the chairperson may delegate duties to the vice-chairperson; to provide that the chief executive officer of the corporation may be the chairperson or the president; to allow the corporation to make an indemnity over \$500,000; to clarify the return on equity to which the corporation will be entitled and the limit on borrowing; to allow the Government of the NWT to make loans to or invest in the corporation; to provide for prior agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the corporation for cost to be reimbursed to the Government of the NWT; to allow the corporation to invest in securities in the highest rating category; to allow the corporation to write off assets that do not exceed \$100,000 and debts that do not exceed \$20,000

and that these amounts may be exceeded with the approval of the Financial Management Board; to provide for a report of the auditor to the board; to provide for the payment of petroleum products taxes and grants instead of property taxes; to make consequential amendments to Charter Communities Act; Cities, Towns and Villages Act; Hamlets Act; and Property Assessment and Taxation Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 20-89(2) has had second reading. Mr. Clerk, Bill 20-89(2) has had second reading and is ordered into committee of the whole for today. Second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Report of standing committee on legislation; Bill 22-89(2), Bill 10-89(2), Bill 2-89(2), Bill 19-89(2), Bill 24-89(2), Bill 20-89(2), with Mr. Zoe in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER COMMITTEE REPORT 2-89(2), REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION; BILL 20-89(2), NORTHWEST TERRITORIES POWER CORPORATION ACT

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The committee will come to order. Mr. Ballantyne, as Government House Leader, which bills would you like the committee to consider?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. If we could consider Bill 20-89(2), Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act and then follow with Bill 22-89(2), Bill 10-89(2), Bill 2-89(2), Bill 19-89(2), Bill 24-89(2) and Bill 26-89(2).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you for that list, but Bill 26-89(2) was not given second reading this afternoon. Does the committee agree with this order?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 20-89(2), Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): We are dealing with Bill 20-89(2). Madam Minister, are you prepared to make your opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. My opening remarks will be brief as this act has already been carefully reviewed on a number of occasions. The standing committee on finance was given a review of the amendments then in progress on August 13, 1989. This was followed by a review by the standing committee on legislation in the last week of September. A further review was conducted last Thursday by a joint session of the standing committees on finance and legislation. Prior to that meeting we circulated a comprehensive set of notes on each clause to the Members of both committees.

One last change was prepared last Friday at the recommendation of the standing committee on finance. A regulatory expert, Mr. Hugh Williamson, and the government's own legal counsel also

recommended this change. When we get to the appropriate clause I will move an amendment that establishes that the rates of the corporation, as well as the rate structure, will be established by regulation. This change appears necessary to avoid the confusion that will result from the situation of having the government and the Public Utilities Board responsible for the same thing.

Situation Regarding Rate Structure

Mr. Chairperson, we have an unusual situation here at the present time. The government is responsible for the rate structure of the corporation. The rate structure is a set of rules that determines how the approved costs of the corporation are distributed amongst its customers. We have inherited a set of rates that was not developed according to any plan or principles, but developed in an inconsistent manner over time. We have therefore a system of rates without rules and without structure. In fact the only thing we can call the rate structure are the rates themselves. This presents an unusual situation for the Public Utilities Board. According to the Public Utilities Act, which the corporation is subject to, the board is responsible for approving the rates of the corporation. These rates are, in fact, the rate structure that the government has established by regulation. Therefore, in practical terms, we have two parties responsible for the same matter.

It was a recommendation of the chairman of the standing committee on finance and of the others that I mentioned, to make a change to remove the reference to rate determination by the Public Utilities Board, and to clarify that the board will be responsible for the determination of revenue requirement of the corporation. This gives the board full jurisdiction over the costs that the corporation wishes to charge to customers, including the return earned by government, and gives government the responsibility of deciding how the rates will be established. This change will permit us to re-evaluate the current rate structure of the corporation to determine the system that will be the best long-term advantage to the NWT. The rate structure has enormous implications for everyone because the costs are so high. The process of reviewing this structure must be carefully thought through. The Public Utilities Board should be a great help in this work.

This is the only change, Mr. Chairperson, from what you have seen before and I would be pleased to provide whatever further comment the Members desire as we move clause by clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Mr. Ernerk, as chairman of the standing committee on legislation.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of this bill is to amend the NWT Power Corporation Act. The standing committee on legislation last reviewed the Northwest Territories Energy Corporation Act in 1988. The bill was also reviewed with the standing committee on finance. At that joint committee meeting the Minister, Ms Cournoyea, informed the Members that there would be no power rate increases until October 1, 1989, the date upon which the NWT Power Corporation will become subject to public utility regulation under the Public Utilities Act.

The Minister also informed the standing committee on legislation at that time that the government would bring forward proposed changes to the NWT Power Corporation Act in the fall session of 1989. These changes were introduced by the Minister before the standing committee on legislation on September 26, 1989 in Yellowknife. The Minister explained that the Act to Amend the Power Corporation Act was required because the amended Public Utilities Act was passed by the Legislature this spring ensuring that the Power Corporation will be regulated under the Public Utilities Act beginning October 1, 1989.

She explained that the most important matter that remains for the government is the establishment of the rate structure, the allocation of the cost of service to rate zones and classes of customers. She announced that the Power Corporation has made application to the Public Utilities Board for permission to increase the customer rate across the board by 4.8 per cent, effective November 1, 1989.

The second proposal is a change to permit the Power Corporation to pay fuel taxes and grants in lieu of property taxes. Amendments are also proposed regarding financial matters of the Power Corporation in relation to the Financial Administration Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Pollard, as chairman of the standing committee on finance, do you have any comments?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would that it were, sir, that I had as much power as the Minister just bestowed upon me to change their minds. The reason -- I want to point it out very clearly to the committee -- the reason that there had to be some amendment to this act is because there were two conflicting pieces of legislation, as you well know, Mr. Chairman. It would have ended up with the Public Utilities Board and the government in a stand-off on rates. Inasmuch as I am one of those people who wishes the Power Corporation to come before the Public Utilities Board, I certainly do not want to jeopardize the future of the corporation.

With regard to the recommendation that the rates be removed from the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Board in the meantime, I think it should be explained to the committee that the standing committee on finance wants some other things that go along with that; namely, if that amendment is going to occur that the Public Utilities Board be allowed to conduct the review into the rate structure in the Northwest Territories. We are having some research done as a standing committee on finance, Mr. Chairman -- we will make that research available to the Minister just as soon as it is available to us -- with regard to possible rate structures in the Northwest Territories, and Mr. Williamson will be providing us with some studies that have been done in the past. So, I think that, as we are dealing with a piece of legislation, there has to be some arrangement made with the government that these studies are going to be conducted and conducted by the Public Utilities Board and I think we would try to extract that in the clause by clause when we look at the bill clause by clause, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on finance has some other questions to ask as it goes through the bill, clause by clause, but has advised me to advise you, sir, that it is ready for review in this committee right now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Before I go to general comments, Madam Minister, would you be providing the committee with witnesses?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree that Madam Minister bring in her witnesses at this time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Proceed to the witness table. General comments on Bill 20-89(2). The honourable Member for Pine Point.

Paramoucy Of This Act

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a general question regarding a very unique clause in this piece of legislation which gives it paramountcy over all other enactments by this government. I would like to ask the Minister if she and/or her officials know of any other legislation, in other jurisdictions in the country where there is a provincial Crown corporation providing power or some other form of energy as a public utility, where the act governing that public utility is paramount over all other legislation which may conflict with it.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, for the record I have with me Gordon Green, with the NWT Power Corporation; Mr. Peter Hart, with Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources; Giuseppa Bentivegna, legal counsel for the government.

In regard to the Member's comment and question, to our knowledge there is no other jurisdiction that has such a provision in the act for a Crown corporation.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Could the Minister then explain the government's reasons for taking this very unusual legal procedure within legislation? Could she explain to the House, for the record, why there is a necessity to do this when it is not the practice in other jurisdictions with similar legislation?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I will begin to try and explain and then I will ask Ms Bentivegna to go for the next section, in terms of perhaps more detail. The Government of the Northwest Territories recently took over the Power Corporation. In many instances the legislation that is governing is taken from other provincial jurisdictions. This is a new body, a new responsibility that we have taken over and we are attempting to build it according to our special requirements in the Northwest Territories.

We have inherited a regime that was set up in such a way and developed over a long number of years, under a federal Crown corporation. Basically, to make a long story short, I suppose that we are building a corporation and we find a lot of things within building that corporation, that we have to have flexibility in dealing with; that we have to have a certain protection with that corporation. However, the main objective is to finally come up with the rules and procedures and an act that would reflect a good private type corporation that would operate with the special peculiarities that we have in the Northwest Territories. So, we are different in the Northwest Territories. We have inherited a Crown corporation and we are trying to make it work with the knowledge that we have right at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Ms Bentivegna.

MS BENTIVEGNA: Mr. Chairman, from the legal point of view or the drafting point of view, the reason for such a clause is that since the government in this act is keeping some of the power over the corporation, such as rate structure -- then on the other hand, the corporation is subject to review by the Public Utilities Board -- it was necessary to put in such a clause to make it clear that when the Public Utilities Board is dealing with the NWT Power Corporation that it deal with it in terms of the NWT Power Corporation Act and not the Public Utilities Act.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think some of the media covering here might have heard that CBC in the South is often referred to by other journalists, like the Edmonton Sun, as "Mother Corp". This legislation does not just prevail over the NWT Public Utilities Act, but also over all other enactments and this has caused me quite a bit of concern because it was as if we were making our own "Mother Corp" up here. Since the discussion with the Minister and her witnesses during the standing committee I have become satisfied that the Public Utilities Board will still have the proper role to play in the governing of the activities of this corporation in the future and its protection for the public. As for other enactments, I had a discussion with the Law Clerk for the Assembly between that meeting and today's meeting. Because I think it could be misconstrued as to the fact that possibly the Power Corporation might be able to prevail over the Labour Standards Act and any other act which it might not like, I would like to ask the Law Clerk

to give us a layman's description of what limits there are on the Power Corporation and how it could prevail over other enactments. I think if it is not explained carefully the Members of the general public could perceive that we have created a "Mother Corp" up here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I believe that the clarification was asked from the legal counsel sitting next to your left and next to my right.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Law Clerk, can we get your comments?

No Legal Difficulty With Paramountcy Provision

LAW CLERK (Mr. Cooper): The example is, perhaps, some provisions that might be contained in this act which might exempt employees of the Power Corporation from the operation of the Labour Standards Act, but any such provision would have to come before the Assembly in the form of a bill to amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, at which point it would be promptly rejected. The paramountcy provisions only pertain insofar as there is a conflict between this legislation, this bill, or the act as a whole and in any other enactments. The Minister has pointed out that the act is very new and for that reason I think that over the years when passing NWT legislation there has not been any attention paid to how it might impact on, for instance, the Power Corporation because it was a federally established body, Mr. Chairman.

So there may be a number of clauses in any number of acts out there that could conflict with this act and I think the intention is, and I note in this draft bill that there are several notwithstanding clauses – notwithstanding the Public Utilities Act, notwithstanding the Financial Administration Act, and so on – where the drafters of this legislation have identified some direct conflicts. But there are perhaps many conflicts, or several, which have not been identified and I think the intention is to ensure that this legislation prevails over any conflicting legislation. And while it is a somewhat unusual section to put into an act that is not a constitutional act, I understand the necessity for it and the circumstances, and I think legally the Assembly would want to look very closely and scrutinize any amending provisions that might come before the Assembly in the future. But I see no difficulty with this from a legal standpoint at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. General comments. Is the committee ready to go clause by clause? Mr. McLaughlin.

Role Of Public Utilities Board

MR. McLAUGHLIN: If there are no other general comments, then it is my job to be the critic for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. So I did have one other general comment. The other thing that is significant in here, and the Minister has mentioned this in her statement, is the role of the Public Utilities Board. Members will remember that when this legislation was first passed, when the Power Corporation was put into place last year, we were concerned that it should be under the control as soon as possible of the Public Utilities Board. Members understood that there was a transition period because we were adopting a federal corporation that was not under the control of the Public Utilities Board. So Members were understanding that we would give the Executive Council and the Minister a considerable amount of time to get the corporation established in the NWT, because we did not want to see the corporation as hidebound by government as the Crown corporation was when it was a federal corporation. We did make a commitment and I believe it was in legislation and it was also underlined in the original draft amendment brought to us, but as the Minister pointed out, because of a conflict in two clauses, they have decided to change that and the Public Utilities Board apparently will not be having the power and control over this corporation that we originally expected. I wonder if the Minister could explain to the House why that has occurred, and also explain, so the general public will understand, what the role of the Public Utilities Board will be in the interim.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I certainly feel that we did make a commitment to conclude all our obligations in a certain period of time. However, in the last few months we have attempted to move the corporation to be truly a NWT corporation and certainly we always feel that we are looking at every avenue in trying to establish this corporation in the NWT. So far we have continued with the same structure that we inherited and while we were continuing under that same structure, the work that has taken place is that the corporation has reviewed the facilities in the communities and planned the most urgent upgrades. Certainly over the last while, in looking back over the documentation on taking over the corporation and looking at the studies that were done -- and apparently most of the studies that were done were done in the winter months, unfortunately -- we had many, many more issues that were brought to our attention in trying to get the basic operations in place, which we did not anticipate.

In moving the headquarters to Hay River, we were able to establish that in a proper time frame. We have also adjusted the operations to replace contract operators in the communities with permanent positions and hopefully have created better lines of communication between the communities and management.

I would like to bring to the attention of Members here that it was not really known how many people had been working at the community level under contract and a very, very minimal contract. And certainly, as to the well-being of those operators in the communities, some of them who have been working for the corporation for some 12 to 17 years were very poorly compensated for the work that they were doing for the corporation. There had to be a number of very serious looks at the regional operation and their support to communities. All these were areas that we felt should have been operated and maintained in a certain manner, but just in taking a look at all the plants and the people who were doing the work, certainly we found a number of issues there and working abilities not being properly compensated for.

Problems Not Anticipated

So there were a number of things that we did not anticipate. There were a number of plants that certainly were not looked at during the original review that caused us a great deal of difficulty and we had to pay more attention to that particular technical operational part of building the corporation and making sure, particularly at the community level, that people were happy in their jobs, were able to maintain their jobs and had proper support to do so.

Those are the general areas that probably took more of our attention than we thought would have been required from the people who were trying to set up the corporation and move it from Edmonton to the NWT. Basically we have inherited a system with no order. We are trying to rectify those matters in a sensible way and it is taking more time than we anticipated. This is why we are behind in some aspects of the technical bureaucratic requirements of the Power Corporation in looking at it more critically, as we should have right from the beginning. And even though at this point in time we are talking about the rate structure and then the recommendation that the rates not be under the Public Utilities Act, we are making certain commitments that the work should take place and we will analyse and come up with some options to deal with this somewhat unusual problem.

In the meantime, on the question of how the Power Corporation is subject to review and approval of the Public Utilities Board, at this time these are the areas in which the Power Corporation will be subject, under the Public Utilities Act: all the cost incurred to operate the electrical facilities; the return allowed on the equity of the government and the amount of interest that may be charged to customers; the complete cost of services, called the revenue requirement, that may be collected in rates; any purchases of new machinery and equipment; the terms and conditions of supply to the customers; the disposal of machinery and equipment and other assets; the borrowing of money or issuing new shares; undertaking major capital projects; the accounting practices, such as depreciation; the quality of service to the customers; the extension of services to new customers or withdrawal of service; the franchise of the corporation; and also the Public

Utilities Board may investigate a complaint about the service of the corporation. Those are the areas that the Public Utilities Board will have critical observance and jurisdiction over the Power Corporation.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to make it clear, the list the Minister read to us right now, is that what the Public Utilities Board will ultimately be in charge of, once we give them that full power, or are those things that they can do right now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, all the 13 points that I relayed to the committee are points and areas where, presently, the Public Utilities Board has jurisdiction over the Power Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments. Does the committee agree we go clause by clause. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): We are dealing with Bill 20-89(2), An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act. Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 5, duties of vice-chairperson. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 7, appointment of chief executive officer. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 9, supply of water and sewerage service. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 10, cost of contingency or stabilization account requirement. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, clause 10(3): "...the corporation is entitled to a rate of return on the equity financing the rate base equal to the rate of return earned by a private sector utility..." I wonder if the Minister could tell us what the application is at the present time for rate increases by the Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, if the Member desires, I could have Mr. Green from the NWT Power Corporation relay that information.

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

MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently the Power Corporation is earning negligible amounts; in fact it budgeted pretty well for a break even situation this year. We have proposed a 4.8 per cent rate increase, which would give us in the neighbourhood of two to three per cent return on equity.

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

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, if I could ask the Minister, if the rates were under the Public Utilities Board and the corporation appeared before the Public Utilities Board to get a rate of return that may be earned by a private sector utility in situations of similar risk, what would be the projected increase in rates, if that were to occur? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, within the Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources department and the NWT Power Corporation, the estimation is that if a rate or the issue was brought before the Public Utilities Board the rate that would be suggested would be a 10 to 15 per cent rate of return on equity.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The honourable Member for Hay River.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, was that a 10 to 15 per cent increase in electrical rates charged to customers in the NWT, or would that be a 10 to 15 per cent increase in the rate of return? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I do not want to make a technical fault in my explanation. Gordon Green can perhaps tell you what that return is on, as opposed to the original question, which I probably answered in another context.

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

MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the corporation went forward for a return on rate base of approximately 13 per cent, we would be looking at - and this is a guess right now - between 20 to 25 per cent increase in the rates over what they are right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 10. Madam Minister.

Motion That Clause 10 Be Amended, Carried

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, as I suggested earlier, it was recommended to us that we should move ahead with an adjustment on clause 10.1. Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 20-89(2), An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, be amended by adding the following clause after clause 10: Clause 10.1, section 15.2 is amended by (a) adding "or the rates" after "structure" in subsection (1) and (b) adding "or the rates" after "structure" whenever it occurs in subsection (2).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 10, as amended. Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: The clause that is amended is 10.1.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Clause 10.1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, I move that the House extend its hours to finish the item at hand.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I have a motion on the floor which is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 11. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Clause 12, limit on borrowing. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Clause 13. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Clause 14. The honourable Member for Hay River.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I have some problems with the government being able to loan, or as it says, "from time to time make a loan to the corporation". It has the ability in this clause, too, to invest in the corporation, buy some more shares, and I guess I just want to register in the House that I have a concern about the government being able to loan the corporation money. I just feel that it is an open-ended way, if this corporation ever gets into trouble, and I am talking about in the future, of it just being able to go to the government and say, "Give me a loan. I need to get by." So I just want to register the concern.

The government has the ability to invest and buy more in the way of shares from the corporation. I would just ask that Members make note of the fact that I think it is dangerous for this government to be able to make loans. If it said something about, this is bridge financing or interim financing, or if it said something about it being small amounts of money in order to let them get on to borrowing from other financial institutions, I think it would be clearer; but just loans -- I think it is dangerous. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I believe the Member has raised that concern before and the only comment that was made previously was that any type of expenditure or loan or investment has to go through the proper processes of the government. I take note and I believe that we all take note of his concerns and carefully tread our way, that we do not get carried away with a type of investment probability or loan probability that we could take. However, all I could say to the Member is that the government, before making any contribution or loan to the Power Corporation, would be governed by its own rules and regulations to make sure that it was not done in haste or without proper consideration. But I will take note of the Member's concern.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you, clause 14, loans. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 15, capital structure. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 16. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 17, costs. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 18, accounts in financial institutions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 19. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Clause 20, write-off. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 21, annual report. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 22, definition. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 23, revenue requirements. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 24. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

Motion That Clause 24 Be Amended

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I move that Bill 20-89(2), An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, be amended by deleting clause 24 and substituting the following: "Clause 24. Section 34.4 is repealed and the following is substituted: 34.4. The rate base and the revenue requirements of the corporation shall be determined in accordance with this act and the Public Utilities Act."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: I take it the Minister is saying that the revenue requirements will come under the Public Utilities Act and the rate base will be determined under this act. Am I correct, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister or Ms Bentivegna.

MS BENTIVEGNA: Mr. Chairman, it is just that both of them will be under the Public Utilities Act but they have definitions in the Power Corporation Act so those are the definitions that should be applied. That is why there is the reference to both acts.

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

MR. POLLARD: Just so that we are clear then, perhaps Ms Bentivegna could tell us if, in fact, what I said was true, that the rate base will flow from the Executive through the Power Corporation Act and the revenue requirements will be decided under the Public Utilities Act by the Public Utilities Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Ms Bentivegna.

MS BENTIVEGNA: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The initial rate base is in the Power Corporation Act but that can be changed if the revenue requirement is adjusted or changed so that they are almost the same kinds of components, but the Public Utilities Board will look at both. But the initial rate base is already set out in the Power Corporation Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The honourable Member from Hay River.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I just want to know, who sets the revenue requirements? Is that set and looked after by the Public Utilities Board and solely by the Public Utilities Board? I understood the Minister to say that at the very beginning; I just want to make it so that we are all clear that -- I think we realize that the Executive Council is going to set the rate base, but are the revenue requirements determined by the Public Utilities Board under the Public Utilities Act?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Ms Bentivegna.

MS BENTIVEGNA: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The revenue requirement is set by the Public Utilities Board; the rate structure is set by the government in regulations.

Motion That Clause 24 Be Amended, Carried

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

---Carried.

Clause 24, as amended. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: I just want to point out why the standing committee on finance agreed to amend it and take the rates away from the Public Utilities Board for the interim. It was because the rate structure would have been set by the Executive Council. The rates would have been the subject of the Public Utilities Board, the revenue requirements would have been the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Board. From the rate structure that the Executive Council sets, and if the Public Utilities Board decided not to accept those rates, there would have been a stalemate.

The standing committee on finance felt that because of the way the rate structure that is the jurisdiction of the Executive Council has grown, it was just added onto and pieced together, and as the corporation grew as NCP, and although they looked at it in 1983, the National Energy Board, nothing was done to the rate structure. And we feel as a committee that there is little to go on at the present time for the Executive Council. So we are agreeing that the rates not be put under the Public Utilities Board at the present time because they still have the ability to look at the revenue requirement, look at the operating cost of this corporation and I suppose unofficially they could still look at the rates by taking into consideration the rate structure that the Executive Council put forward.

But I would reiterate, and I would ask the Minister if she is prepared now to ask the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board to allow the Public Utilities Board to investigate a new rate structure for the NWT in order that they can all come under the Public Utilities Board when that is completed. I would ask if the Minister is prepared to suggest that to the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I believe in our discussion we made the commitment to see that the Public Utilities Board looks at that complicated problem of rate structures. I appreciate the recommendation that came forward and certainly I have already discussed this with the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board. We would have discussed this with the chairman of the Public Utilities Board; however, he is out of the country and we did not have the opportunity to get any idea of how long that task would be. But yes, we are committed to meet our obligations in having the rate structures looked at by the Public Utilities Board.

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

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, it is still the position of the standing committee on finance that ultimately they would like to see the rates fall under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Board. But I think at the present time they recognize there has to be an interim step to investigate a new rate structure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Clause 24, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Clause 25. Madam Minister.

Motion That Clause 25 Be Amended, Carried

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 20-89(2), An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, be amended by adding to clause 25 the following: "25.1. Paragraph 25(b.2) is amended by adding 'or rates' after 'structure'."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Thank you. Is the committee ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 25, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 26, consequential amendments. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 27, exemption of approval. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 28. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 29, exemption of approval. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 30. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 31, exemption of approval. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to point out that under clause 27(5), 29(5) and now 31(5) this does give the Minister the power to exempt a council from going to plebiscite, if I am not mistaken, on a franchise. If that is the case, Mr. Chairman, it may be that if you have nine people on your council, in any community in the NWT, and five is a quorum, five people could decide a franchise and decide a 20 year term on a franchise for its community, if the Minister agreed that there was no plebiscite. I believe that would be the case;

five people would be making a fairly substantial major decision for a municipality. I would just like to point that out, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, that is correct, that a municipal council could request that they do not have to go to public plebiscite. However, it should be clearly noted that the request could only be entertained if the community goes to a full by-law request. It would have to go through all the procedures of enacting a by-law.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 31. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 32. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 33. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Clause 34. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 20-89(2), An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, is now ready for third reading as amended? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I would like to, at this point in time, express my gratitude for the long number of hours -- I realize we have slipped through this act very quickly -- but I would like it to be noted on record the number of hours that the staff members responsible from Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, as well as the Power Corporation, the standing committee on legislation and other government departments have put in, on quite a long and extended evaluation of what we were proposing today. I wish to express my gratitude for the time and effort that they put forth.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The committee would like to thank Madam Minister and her witnesses for appearing before our committee. I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call the House back to order. Report of the committee of the whole. Mr. Zoe.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF COMMITTEE REPORT 2-89(2), REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION; BILL 20-89(2), NORTHWEST TERRITORIES POWER CORPORATION ACT

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 20-89(2), An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, and I wish to report that Bill 20-89(2) is now ready for third reading, as amended.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. You have heard the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 19, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Third Reading Of Bill 5-89(2): Criminal Injuries Compensation Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 5-89(2), Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 5-89(2) has been given third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

Third Reading Of Bill 16-89(2): Liquor Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 16-89(2), An Act to Amend the Liquor Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 16-89(2) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice.

Third Reading Of Bill 11-89(2): Interpretation Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 11-89(2), An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act, be read for the third time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 11-89(2) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice.

Third Reading Of Bill 12-89(2): Jury Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Bill 12-89(2), An Act to Amend the Jury Act, be read for the third time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 12-89(2) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice.

Third Reading Of Bill 13-89(2): Justices Of The Peace Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 13-89(2), An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 13-89(2) has had third reading. The honourable Minister of Justice.

Third Reading Of Bill 14-89(2): Legal Profession Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River, that Bill 14-89(2), Legal Profession Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 14-89(2) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Item 20, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. Meeting of ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning and a caucus meeting at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, October 31st.

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 31st, 1989.

---ADJOURNMENT

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