



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1990

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

--Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo): Orders of the day for Thursday, February 22, 1990. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 15-90(1): Meeting With Members Of European Parliament And Commission

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, yesterday, along with two other MLAs, the MLA for Aivilik and the MLA for Tu Nede, we met with the European Parliament members who are visiting Canada to learn about our fur industry. Together, we travelled to the trap research facility in Vegreville, Alberta. There we were shown the different types of traps that are being developed to replace the leghold trap and we discussed the fur issue extensively.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of what effects a ban on furs by the European community will have on our northern people. That is why I asked for an emergency meeting of all Canadian Wildlife Ministers two years ago. Since then we have all agreed to work toward implementing trapping standards recommended by the Fur Institute of Canada. One common goal is to replace the leghold trap as soon as possible.

We learned from the European delegates that their proposed resolution to ban the import of wild furs to the European community is centred on the use of the leghold trap. Although the European economic community had agreed not to ban the leghold trap until 1996, the pressure is mounting on the European Parliament to ban the leghold trap as soon as possible, even as early as 1991.

Mr. Speaker, it became very clear in our meetings yesterday that there is nothing we can do to change the position of the European delegates on the leghold trap. For this reason, it is now even more important to develop acceptable alternatives to the leghold trap if we are to keep our trapping industry alive. This will require more effort. We must urge all jurisdictions in Canada, including the federal government, to increase trap development research.

As new traps are developed, the Department of Renewable Resources will make every effort to keep trappers informed. We will continue our work with the trappers to help them learn about new trapping techniques. This winter, more than 20 trapping training and education workshops were held. More trapper workshops are planned and over one million dollars is to be allocated toward a three year trap replacement program. In general, most trappers understand how important it is to their future to change their trapping techniques and we will assist them as much as possible.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of the fiscal restraint, we must continue this battle if we are to keep the trapping industry and lifestyle viable. I would welcome all suggestions of additional ways to achieve our goals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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

Ministers' Statement 16-90(1): Apprenticeship Subsidy Program Expanded

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, for many years Northerners watched as people from other parts of Canada came to the NWT to take skilled jobs on construction projects. Although many employers wanted to hire local people, they could not find workers with the skills they needed. This trend is now changing, due to a number of training initiatives. One of the most popular of these is the NWT apprenticeship program.

In 1987-88 the Department of Education diverted \$500,000 from the government in-service training program. The money was used to help employers from the private sector pay the salaries of northern apprentices. Subsidies range from 30 to 50 per cent of salaries.

Since then, the apprenticeship subsidy program has allowed the department to train 68 apprentices in skilled trades. The program has been extremely well received by the private sector, and the department cannot keep up with the demand -- about 60 requests for assistance have had to be turned down.

Through the department's operational plan, the Financial Management Board has approved additional funds for this program in the next fiscal year. In total, more than one million dollars will be allocated to support and employ about 130 apprentices. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education is committed to providing NWT residents with the training they need to find work in their chosen fields. The popularity and success of the apprenticeship subsidy program shows us that it is an important way to meet the needs of northern employers and trainees. Thank you.

--Applause

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, if I may I would like to give an emergency statement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Minister.

Ministers' Statement 17-90(1): Federal Cuts To Native Communications Budgets

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to inform the House of the grave concern that the government has with respect to outrageous and disproportionate level of budget cuts being exercised by the federal government,

through the office of the Secretary of State, to two funding programs that represent the financial backbone of native communications societies. The groups affected in the Northwest Territories are the Native Communications Society of the Western Arctic, the Inuvialuit Communications Society and the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation.

According to the information that we have received to date, it would seem that the federal government has directed its budgetary wrath on the aboriginal people of Canada. Programs affecting non-aboriginal Canadians were reduced or frozen, but for some aboriginal media organizations their entire budgets have been viciously slashed. In the overall context of the country's deficit problems, the few hundred thousand dollars for aboriginal communications societies have a minuscule effect. However, to the people living in the rural, remote and isolated communities the work of these societies represents their primary communication link to the rest of the world.

The Secretary of State must realize the importance of native communications to the people of the Northwest Territories. It is a bitter irony indeed that the Royal Mint has just yesterday released a new coin commemorating International Literacy Year. The coin depicts an Inuit mother with a baby in her amauti facing a small child, both the mother and child writing. Can the federal government really celebrate literacy by taking the money away from native communications and instead stamp native images on the unused coins? Such a bitter twist of image demonstrates extremely poor communications between federal programs indeed.

Mr. Speaker, as the Secretary of State has not yet officially advised this government of the details of the cuts, we are pressing for those. My staff is doing everything possible to obtain the required information at this time. With that information in hand we will work with the native communications societies and the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation to assess the impact of this serious cut and work with them to develop strategies to ensure the continuation of their operations.

I am prepared immediately to seek a meeting with the Hon. Gerry Weiner, Secretary of State, to press the concerns of the people of the NWT and to work toward a resolution of this matter.

Mr. Speaker, your government is prepared to do everything within its power to ensure that native communications in the NWT are not dealt the death blow that this recent budget appears to be delivering. Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling to the Legislature a document celebrating the Royal Mint's contradictory and ironic portrayal of this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Honourable Member for Aivilik.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Hunting And Trapping Rights

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The aboriginal rights people are the greatest animal rights activists and conservationists. I rise today in defence of my fellow Inuit and aboriginal brothers and sisters in the NWT and throughout Canada. We, the aboriginal people, must continually confess to the international community nowadays about how we live today and how we are going to live in the future with our environment and the wildlife on which we depend.

In 1976, along with the Government of the Northwest Territories, I started fighting Greenpeace in defence of Inuit seal harvesting, substances that were used for economic

purposes. Inuit will always hunt animals for a livelihood.

In the 1980s I am thankful for the help that Inuit received from the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, from the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, from Ms Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Red Pedersen, Mr. Georges Erasmus from the Assembly of First Nations, Mr. Smokey Bruyere, Native Council of Canada, and yourself, Mr. Speaker, along with many others who fought tirelessly, promoting aboriginal harvesting rights, in Botswana, Europe, Argentina and Ottawa. The results of these efforts will create a better understanding of our way of life to those who have opposed the aboriginal people and their way of life.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his remarks. Unfortunately the Rules state that I cannot ask for unanimous consent without that issue being asked by the honourable Member. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I request unanimous consent for the House to waive the Rule of two and a half minutes on Members' statements? I would very much like to hear the honourable Member for Aivilik conclude his remarks.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Agreement has been reached. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, it is trapping. Yesterday, Mr. Morin, Mr. Allooloo and I, participated at a very important meeting with several members of the European Parliament to talk about the use of leghold traps; we were talking about trapping. Today, the European MPs are debating a resolution regarding the use of leghold traps within the European community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of Renewable Resources for inviting Mr. Morin and myself to attend the meeting in Alberta. Mr. Speaker, the fight for our aboriginal heritage continues. Our way of life continues to be threatened by those who do not understand or appreciate our way of life and the environment in which we live. Mr. Speaker, we are not going to quit fighting.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Member's Statement On Thinking Week For Scouts And Guides

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, Robert Baden-Powell started the Boy Scout movement in 1907. Later, his sister, Agnes Baden-Powell, started the Guide movement in 1910. His wife, Olive Baden-Powell, eventually became the first chief Guide.

Mr. Speaker, this week is Thinking Week for Scouts and Guides around the world. It is a week during which these young people think and reflect on the high standards which their founder set for them to abide by. In their laws and promises, he asked them to promise on their honour to do their best, to love and serve God, their Queen and country, their fellow man, and to live by the Scout and Guide laws which require them to be helpful, trustworthy, kind, cheerful and considerate to others; clean in thought, word and deed, and wise in the use of their resources. These are very lofty ideals and principles for young people to undertake, Mr. Speaker, in our age; and this world would be a far better

place if we could get adults, and especially those in leadership roles, around the world to abide by them.

Mr. Speaker, Lord Baden-Powell was born on this day, the 22nd of February, in 1857, 142 years ago today. During this Thinking Week, we have the First Yellowknife Scouts and Guides serving as Pages, and I would ask this House to recognize them and the ideals which they represent during this Thinking Week.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Federal Cuts To Native Communications Societies

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in a state of shock after learning about the federal government's proposed cuts to native citizens programs. Mr. Speaker, I am painfully aware how much the Dene and Metis people rely, both on the Native Press and CKNM, to keep on top of what goes on in the world around them and to take an active role in it. I also believe that the Native Press is the best newspaper in the Northwest Territories and that it serves all residents of the North extremely well. Mr. Speaker, this newspaper has done a great deal to increase literacy levels and improve race relations in the North. Yet the federal government has introduced new literacy and race relationship programs at the same time they are axing these existing very effective tools.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot stand by and let this happen. We must force the federal government to recognize the ramifications of their proposal. We must convince them that if they follow through with these cuts, the short and long-term costs will be far greater than the present savings. Our government must fight this battle vigorously now, on behalf of all people in the NWT. If we fail to win this battle, we all know what the consequences will be. We know how important these mediums are to the people of the North, and we know that this government will have to fill any gap that the federal government leaves. I will do my part, and I expect this government to do its part, to make sure that we are not left to fill that gap. We must challenge the federal government to rescind their proposed cuts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Iqaluit Motion Of Withdrawal From Baffin Regional Council

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the shocking news I received in this House yesterday about the motion of the Iqaluit Town Council the night before, passing a motion withdrawing from the Baffin Regional Council and, by implication, from being part of the Baffin Region, I have spoken to almost every member of the town council, the speaker of the Baffin Regional Council and many others on the issue. Let me assure this House, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Iqaluit are a part of the Baffin Region, the people of Iqaluit are enriched by, and immeasurably interrelated, with the communities of Baffin. They want to continue to be part of the Baffin Region.

Mr. Speaker, the council of the Town of Iqaluit has made a grave mistake with this motion, which most councillors now realize was not given the careful consideration it should have

been given. Today I will be tabling a letter received this morning from the mayor of Iqaluit, offering his apologies to the Legislature for this decision. I believe that all members of the council and the mayor did not intend to send out a signal indicating isolation from the region.

Mayor Blanchette informs me that the town council is taking steps to hold a special meeting to rescind their motion. Furthermore, the council will be considering the effect of section 3(3) of the Regional and Tribal Councils Act of the Northwest Territories, which provides that a community may only withdraw from membership in a regional council following a community plebiscite in which a two-thirds majority of the residents agree to withdraw. Since no such plebiscite has taken place in Iqaluit, I believe that the council's motion to withdraw from BRC has no effect. It is not valid.

Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit is made up of residents from all of Baffin and beyond. It is a regional centre which welcomes regional visitors all the time. Thanks to the airstrip built by the Americans and its location in southern Baffin, Iqaluit has become an important regional and territorial air link. We wish every community had an airstrip like ours.

Mr. Speaker, I respect the outrage shown by my honourable friends and my colleagues in this House from Baffin, at this breach of the tradition of co-operation which has made the Baffin Region strong. In Baffin we do not need intercommunity rivalries. This is negative and destructive. If we are to develop our fragile economy in Baffin, our fishery and tourism, we need to co-operate more than ever before. We have always settled our problems collectively and co-operatively through the Baffin Regional Council and others, and I have marvelled how communities in the largest region get along together...

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member, time has expired for Members' statements. Members' statements. Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Member's Statement On Budget Cuts To Native Communications Society

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the February 20th federal budget the government announced reductions of some \$23 million to the Secretary of State over the next two years. The hardest hit by these reductions will be the native citizens directorate. The NWT Native Communications Society will feel the full brunt of the cuts. In the last day or so they have received preliminary indications that their funding for the Native Press will be cut by 100 per cent by March 31, 1990. Not only will this mean the loss of seven jobs, but this will also mean the loss of the principal means of media communication to the native people across the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, the Native Press has for the last 20 years been the bridge over the communications gap between the media and native people. Sometimes controversial, always informative, Native Press not only covers current events, but produces articles and reports news about native people from a native people's perspective. The total loss of funding to the native communications program will not only alter the quality of political debate, but it will leave a monopoly on news and current events to the major non-native media in the NWT. Not restricted by circulation to the NWT, Native Press serves as a window on native issues to native people across the country.

Mr. Speaker, the Native Communications Society of the NWT has worked very hard over the last few years to organize and reorganize their operations, to increase circulation and to seek alternate funding, to make themselves independent of the government funding base. They are only one year short of that objective. By pulling the plug at this time, it will undo

years of work and silence the native voice for years to come. Mr. Speaker, I believe this government can help the Native Communications Society with very little direct cost through the new economic development strategy announced by this government this past week. I would like to suggest to the Minister of Economic Development that his officials meet with the Native Communications Society and assist them to work out a viable strategy toward economic independence. I will have more to say on this in the question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Member's Statement On Effect Of Budget Cuts On Inuit Broadcasting Corporation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to express grave concern and anger over the news we received yesterday. As I listened to the news broadcasts last night and this morning, I was struck by how totally insensitively the federal government seems to have responded to the native people of the country, in particular the North, and particularly in the light of the debate that we held in this House just a week ago on aboriginal languages.

While the Native Press is very important to the aboriginal people of the West, the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation is equally important to the aboriginal people of the East. I learned from Doug Saunders, the president of IBC, this morning that the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation will lose approximately \$615,000, or 25 per cent of their budget. They will also lose 15 to 20 jobs. There will be cuts in programming; all of the drama productions have been cut and we may lose our children's programming.

Mr. Speaker, IBC provides the only aboriginal language television programming in the Eastern Arctic. It is the only link that our aboriginal people have with their language on television, which has been so destructive to the culture in the East. I can assure the Members of this House that whatever support I can give the Minister of Culture and Communications, he will get it, to fight what is an obscene act on the part of the federal government.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. The honourable Member for Slave River.

Member's Statement On Town Of Fort Smith's Position On Multiculturalism

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the House to offer my congratulations to the Town of Fort Smith for the position that they have taken on the related issue of multiculturalism in the North and in Canada. Last Tuesday night the town council passed the following motion: That the Town of Fort Smith support and affirm the concept of a multilingual and multicultural society in a bilingual country.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that language and cultural issues are complex and the implications of related government positions can be profound. Although, at this point in the history of both the North and this country, we are struggling to develop a consensus about our commitment to language and cultural rights.

As with all major issues the first step is to confirm the principles which will direct us in the struggle. I am particularly pleased, as the MLA for Fort Smith, to see the town council

adopt this philosophical stance. Fort Smith has sometimes been criticized as a community where native and non-native people have had problems resolving their differences and respecting each other's needs. No doubt this significant step is an indication of the town council's commitment to work together with all cultures in the community.

Mr. Speaker, Fort Smith is a community with four major languages in daily use; Chipewyan, Cree, English and French. The council states its position with the full knowledge of the complexities of the issues involved. I congratulate the council.

As MLA, I understand this motion to mean that the citizens of Fort Smith recognize the urgency of language and cultural issues, and recognize the importance of providing official recognition of aboriginal languages within the Northwest Territories. I urge other communities to follow this significant step. Thank you very much.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Meeting With European Parliament Representatives

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I was one of the Members selected to go and meet with the European parliamentary representatives in Alberta. I changed my mind at the last minute because some Members were concerned about the financial implication of that particular trip. I know the three Members that went and met with those people in Alberta were capable politicians. Now I can see why people who make a living by hunting and trapping are frustrated. We have animal rights activists trying to ban their way of living; on the other hand we have some politicians trying to decide whether or not appropriation money should be spent to represent them.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot begin to imagine the comparison between a couple of thousand dollars used for travel to represent the people of the NWT against the agony of gradually losing one's livelihood because of the pressure from the animal rights activists in Europe. Let us not worry about money at this stage, and take the initiative to try and save the livelihood of the people of the NWT. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Cuts To Native Broadcasting Programs

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time to make a statement regarding the federal cuts to the native broadcasting access program. During this time of struggle to express our identity and during the current debate we have on the language issues, the Inuvialuit Broadcasting Corporation, as well, has been cut without notice. Although many of the previous discussions had suggested that the funding would be continued, yet there was absolutely no notice. Certainly at this time, when people are wanting to provide information about themselves to the general public and to communicate among themselves while moving into the main stream of Canadian society, I believe that this is not the time to cut a very serious communication program. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Inuktitut Broadcasting

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, coming from the Baffin Region, am concerned about Inuktitut broadcasting and Inuktitut communications. It makes me feel very hurt because we always listen to the news at night and if this is going to be cut off it would hurt a lot of people because we depend so much on the news in Inuktitut, as well as the press. We all realize that it will affect all of the communities in my region. We are very much concerned about our Inuktitut language. For the first time there was a meeting conducted all in Inuktitut, in Iqaluit, and now we realize that funding will be cut off and we are very sorry to hear about that news.

Before I go to bed I usually watch the news in Inuktitut. We will miss it very much. As well, the children's programs on TV; all the children are watching them and they are just starting this pilot project and everyone is pleased with it and I am very sorry that this is going to be cut off. I will support anyone who would try to continue the program. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**Question O167-90(1): Increase In Social Assistance Rates**

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was placed yesterday by another Member. This will be directed to the Minister of Social Services. All the goods and services prices are being raised and the assistance has not kept up with the inflation. We are not looking forward to the rise in inflation but the assistance that is received through welfare has not been raised as yet. I ask the Minister of Social Services, is there any time that we can look forward to the raising of the assistance rate because the people will not be able to buy healthy foods as it is now, because they have to pay for freight on ships as well. The ships take a long time to arrive. How are you going to deal with this so that assistance will keep up with the rate of inflation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Slave River.

Return To Question O167-90(1): Increase In Social Assistance Rates

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had indicated yesterday in this House, financial assistance for increased food rates under social assistance is no doubt a need that has to be looked at. However, with the costs that we are going to be looking at, which were going to be an additional three million dollars, to be absorbed by this government, it makes it very difficult for me to specifically state a time frame when we will be able to address this. However, as I have said, it is going to be difficult to deal with it in the immediate future. I know that the need is there, and I can advise the Member that we certainly hope that we can look at it some time in the future, but it is difficult to say exactly when. Thank you.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the honourable Minister for answering my question advising that she will be looking into the possibility of raising the financial assistance to welfare recipients. I will be looking

forward to hearing from her before 1991 concerning looking into the rates.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I did not interpret a question in the Member's comments.

MR. SPEAKER: With due respect to the honourable Member, it is a matter for her to determine whether or not the Member was asking a question and if she so wishes to answer. The honourable Member for Baffin South, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O167-90(1): Increase In Social Assistance Rates

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When are you going to look into the increase in social assistance? Is it going to be within 18 months that you will be looking into increasing social assistance? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Slave River.

Further Return To Question O167-90(1): Increase In Social Assistance Rates

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, yes, I can give an assurance that I will look into the food rate requirements, and I recognize the requirements; and in order to increase the food assistance under social assistance it is going to cost an additional three million dollars to this government. Having said that, I know that inasmuch as the need is there, the problem we are facing is our fiscal restraint. Initially last year, as I stated yesterday, we did not anticipate an overall three million dollar increase in social assistance. In addition to that, if I address the food needs, it is going to cost an additional three million dollars, for a total of an additional six million dollars over what we had anticipated. It is going to be very difficult to determine whether or not we can afford this. I cannot give the Member an exact time frame. I can assure him that I can look into it, but I cannot guarantee whether or not we are able to address the issue immediately. Thank you.

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

Question O168-90(1): Inequities In Social Assistance Food Scale

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services. Madam Minister, does your department have a policy to treat all residents of the Northwest Territories equally?

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

Return To Question O168-90(1): Inequities In Social Assistance Food Scale

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that all policies adopted by this government are applied equally and fairly to all territorial residents. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right on.

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

Supplementary To Question O168-90(1): Inequities In Social Assistance Food Scale

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Madam Minister, then why does your department, Social Services, discriminate against Snowdrift residents? The cost of living in Snowdrift is equal to the cost of living in Pelly Bay, but yet when your department pays out social assistance, Snowdrift is being paid out at a level on your scale of -- I think it is two -- and Pelly Bay is paid out at seven or nine, I believe. So residents in Pelly Bay get far more money per month for food than residents of Snowdrift, yet the cost of living is equal. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O168-90(1): Inequities In Social Assistance Food Scale

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the scale that the Member has discussed, I recognize there are different scales for all different food allowances in the Territories given to different communities. This scale reflects the amount of the cost of food in each community. Whether or not the cost of living is the same in Snowdrift as it is in Pelly Bay is determined by the information that we are given by Statistics Canada concerning the cost of living allowance. This scale is reflective of that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O168-90(1): Inequities In Social Assistance Food Scale

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the same Minister. Madam Minister, I do not know how Statistics Canada arrive at estimating the cost of living in Snowdrift, whether they use a dart board or whether they go into the community and actually look at the cost, but will your department undertake to go into Snowdrift and have a realistic look at the cost of living in that community and adjust the scale so people are treated equally? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O168-90(1): Inequities In Social Assistance Food Scale

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the information that I have, it indicates that the community of Snowdrift is currently on scale seven in accordance with the food allowances that are granted to the residents in Snowdrift.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

Supplementary To Question O168-90(1): Inequities In Social Assistance Food Scale

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Madam Minister, once again, will your department go into Snowdrift and do a study to find out the realistic cost of living in Snowdrift and adjust the scale accordingly?

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

Further Return To Question O168-90(1): Inequities In Social Assistance Food Scale

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, my department has done a study and that is why we anticipate that if we increase the food costs it will cost an additional three million dollars to this government. The scale for Snowdrift is currently at scale seven, and not as the Member had stated, on scale two. In the event these food changes come about, the only additional amounts that the community of Snowdrift can receive will be one or two scales because the food rates only go up to scale 10, and they are currently on scale seven.

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

Question O169-90(1): Revised Statutes Of NWT

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. The last revised Statutes of the Northwest Territories were published in 1974. A commitment by the government was made in 1987 to revise the statutes from 1974 to 1987. These revised statutes have not been completed yet. In other words, anyone researching matters which refer to statutes, could possibly have to go back through the gazettes for 16 years to check for amendments.

We are 16 years behind in knowing the most up-to-date laws. This is very inefficient, costly, and shows that the Justice ministry is struggling with its responsibilities to provide both government and the people it serves with the most up-to-date laws. My question is: Why have the revised statutes up to 1987 not been completed yet?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Return To Question O169-90(1): Revised Statutes Of NWT

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you very much. I think, of the projections that I outlined some two and a half years ago, we are going to be fairly close to meeting those. The revision commissioner has completed her work. We are finalizing the work now. It was a massive undertaking, a revision of all our statutes. We hope to have it completed this year. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O169-90(1): Revised Statutes Of NWT

MR. LEWIS: Could the Minister of Justice tell the House where translation of these statutes is being done?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Further Return To Question O169-90(1): Revised Statutes Of NWT

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Originally the translation was taking place here in Yellowknife.

We had some problem retaining French counsel, so some of the work is being done in Moncton.

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

Supplementary To Question O169-90(1): Revised Statutes Of NWT

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it correct then that although the government has hired five French legislative counsels to review all this work, that we still need to go to New Brunswick to get it done?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Further Return To Question O169-90(1): Revised Statutes Of NWT

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: We have had five positions but we have not been able to keep those positions filled. We have run into some difficulty, so a lot of the finalization of the translated statutes work was done in Moncton, New Brunswick.

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

Supplementary To Question O169-90(1): Revised Statutes Of NWT

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why did the Department of Justice not release the revised statutes in English at the soonest possible date and add the French translation when they were ready, instead of holding up the whole process as they have done?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Further Return To Question O169-90(1): Revised Statutes Of NWT

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think the honourable Member must recognize that this is a very complex task. There are a number of tables that are being verified now. Until our department is absolutely satisfied with the results, I think it would be irresponsible to release those results to the public. We are very happy with the progress we have made in these revisions. It has been a massive undertaking and has been very well handled. I think that lawyers and people of the NWT will very well appreciate the fine work that has been done by my department. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Honourable Member for Deh Cho.

Question O170-90(1): Drowned Bison

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Last year around June, 150 bison drowned in the Phyllis Lake area. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not there are any plans to avoid that kind of situation again.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O170-90(1): Drowned Bison

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, the drowning of bison last year was a natural disaster. We have no plans at the present time to supervise the herd 24 hours a day to make sure this sort of thing does not happen.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Deh Cho,

supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O170-90(1): Drowned Bison

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister is of the opinion that it is not a concern for his department, perhaps he should give that responsibility to the community of Fort Providence, which has a great concern over the herd and the well-being of the bison. I would like to ask the Minister if he would consider some kind of a program for the community of Fort Providence to do that controlling of bison.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Amittuq.

Further Return To Question O170-90(1): Drowned Bison

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department is very concerned about the herd and has been managing the herd for quite some time to ensure that the population of the herd multiplies. The management plan of the Mackenzie Wood Bison is in the process of being developed. The department is trying to manage the herd in the best way we can. In terms of giving the responsibility over to Fort Providence, we could look at the issue and get back to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Question O171-90(1): Clean-Up Of CF-18 Crash, Inuvik

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. An article in the Globe and Mail on Wednesday, February 21st deals with the crash of the CF-18 at Inuvik. Apparently this aircraft, when it crashed, disintegrated and put into the atmosphere and into the area a considerable amount of a toxic substance which could be hazardous to people's health, very similar to asbestos. Does this government have any representatives there in the area to monitor what goes on? I realize it is a military matter. I realize it is a federal matter as well because it is on federal land, but it is a territorial matter because it affects residents in that area. Is this government involved in that clean-up?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Amittuq.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I am not informed on the clean-up of the debris derived from the aircraft that crashed. But I will take the question under advisement.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Honourable Member for Pine Point.

Question O172-90(1): Tendering Of Antenna And Tower Sites

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Culture and Communications. It has recently come to my knowledge by certain northern businessmen that some 90-odd antenna and tower sites by CBC and Television Northern Canada are in the process of being tendered and will be reconstructed in the future. These businessmen have approached me to ask why they have not seen anything up here regarding this construction program.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O172-90(1): Tendering Of Antenna And Tower Sites

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am informed that Television Northern Canada put out a tender call

for 53 antennas to be erected in the communities and they appeared in News North, Nunatsiaq News and the Labrador paper, some time ago. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

Question O173-90(1): Anticipated Increase Of Three Million Dollars In Social Assistance

MR. ZOE: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is always making reference to three million dollars. Could I ask the Minister how this three million dollars is arrived at?

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

Return To Question O173-90(1): Anticipated Increase Of Three Million Dollars In Social Assistance

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amount basically arrives from the anticipated costs that would have to be absorbed if we decided to increase the food rates in regard to assisting the social assistance to clients. We have taken it from the estimated cost that we currently disburse across the NWT today.

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

Supplementary To Question O173-90(1): Anticipated Increase Of Three Million Dollars In Social Assistance

MR. ZOE: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from the answer that the Minister has given, I understand that there was a study that was undertaken and that is where the three million dollars are that are being referred to. Could I ask the Minister if this study was conducted? If it was, could she table the study in the House? Thank you.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that question under consideration because I do not know if there was a specific study, per se, to come out with the actual costs. It was basically on estimates that we are having to absorb regarding social assistance, and in the event that we want to enhance certain components within social assistance to be able to disburse to the clients. We came up with the percentage of the cost of living increase applied to it and came up with the total amount of...

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member, are you taking the question as notice?

---Laughter

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I am trying to explain it, Mr. Speaker. Basically, as I had indicated, it would come up with the total cost of six million dollars if we tried to deal with the food rates. But there was no specific study, I believe, that is a document that could be tabled. Thank you.

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

Question O174-90(1): Ramifications Of Federal Cuts To People Of The NWT

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. It concerns the funding

cutbacks from the federal government. Mr. Speaker, we have people in the House making statements about the effects of the cuts from the Secretary of State on the Native Press and on communication societies.

Mr. Speaker, core funding to women's groups was cut totally, sir. So my question is to the Minister of Finance. When will he be able to come into the House and tell us the exact ramifications of the federal cuts on all the people of the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O174-90(1): Ramifications Of Federal Cuts To People Of The NWT

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I said in the House yesterday the actual main estimates of the federal government are being tabled today. So we will not have access to the technical documents that will be tabled with the main estimates until, I hope, tomorrow. So I would hope that early in the next week I could give to this House a more detailed analysis of what areas in the federal budget will have a negative impact on this government, and to the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Question O175-90(1): Effect Of Cutbacks On Native Communications Society

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Culture and Communications. I understood that the emergency statement that he was talking about -- I wonder if your department will find some other funds or will your department be able to help with more money?

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

Return To Question O175-90(1): Effect Of Cutbacks On Native Communications Society

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not really found out how badly affected the Native Communications Society and the television society will be and how much the cut will be. We have heard from the Minister of Economic Development that the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation's budget will be cut by \$600,000. We have not heard from Gerry Wiener as to exactly what the cuts will be, but he will be tabling a detailed document as to exactly how much the funding will be cut to the native groups. Before we know exactly what the amount of the cuts will be, we do not really know how we can help the Native Press. Thank you.

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

Question O176-90(1): Enforcement Of Hunting Regulations By Game Officers

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question that I would like to direct to the Minister of Renewable Resources; it deals with the enforcement of hunting regulations. A few years ago, when the winter road opened up north into the area where there is a lot of caribou he had a lot of game officers out there patrolling to ensure that the caribou were taken properly and there was no waste. I have received complaints here, in the last day, from a person who

was out there. He has reported that in one day alone, on Sunday, while he was cruising around on a snowmobile, he found five carcasses of dead caribou in various states of dismemberment. Some had the hind quarters taken off and nothing else; others were gutted but no meat taken and two were left completely whole. The question I have is, does the department patrol that hunting corridor?

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

Return To Question O176-90(1): Enforcement Of Hunting Regulations By Game Officers

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O176-90(1): Enforcement Of Hunting Regulations By Game Officers

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question I have, subsequent to that answer, is how often are these patrol officers out there and are they on snowmobiles or are they in vehicles?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Amittuq.

Further Return To Question O176-90(1): Enforcement Of Hunting Regulations By Game Officers

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, they are in vehicles and on snowmobiles to patrol the area. But precisely how many times they are out in a certain place, I will have to get back to the Member with more information.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Deh Cho.

Question O177-90(1): Caribou And Bison Protection

MR. GARGAN: In light of the Minister's response to the honourable Member from Yellowknife South, I would like to ask why caribou are numbering about 200,000 and bison numbering about 2000, and there is more emphasis put on bison.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O177-90(1): Caribou And Bison Protection

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bison in the Mackenzie sanctuary are strictly under a quota system. They can only be harvested under a quota system. There is no year-round hunting taking place in that area. We have patrols for that herd. The reason we patrol the winter road more often for caribou is that there is a lot more hunting of caribou taking place and they are not under a quota system, aside from a commercial quota. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Deh Cho, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O177-90(1): Caribou And Bison Protection

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, whatever way you want to look at it, when you kill an animal that is one less for the herd. I am concerned that where there are not that many bison, we should put more emphasis on trying to preserve that herd and try to make it multiply more, whether it is because of natural causes or humans hunting them. The Minister should be

concerned that we have a small herd in the bison sanctuary and more patrols should be put in there so they do not become extinct. I would like to ask if the Minister would consider having some control so we do not have the same situation as we had last spring.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Amittuq.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I thought that in my answer to the previous question that I answered the Member's question.

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

Question O178-90(1): Establishing The Tide Line Boundary

MR. ARLOOKTOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to say something completely different. I am not going to talk about airports. I am going to talk about the ocean, salt water. The tide line is 40 feet. Where is the boundary, at the high tide line or low tide line? When it is low tide the ships, if they have no licence, they can even do some work there in that low tide. What is the boundary for the Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Inuvik.

Return To Question O178-90(1): Establishing The Tide Line Boundary

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Member for Baffin Central asked me a question regarding access to the beach. I said I would answer him today and the reason I did not answer him today is that when I had a discussion with him this morning, the whole matter of the responsibility for that tidal area came into our discussions. I think this is what Mr. Arlooktoo is referring to, that area where the tide moves the ice and prevents access to the sea ice. I cannot answer the question. I have discussed it with Mr. Kilabuk and as a result of that discussion have asked my department to look into the question he has raised.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Honourable Member for Baffin South.

Question O179-90(1): Obtaining Soapstone From Below Tide Boundaries

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Government Leader a question in regard to soapstone. Some of the soapstone is on the land higher up, but some is below the water, below the tide line. Northern Quebec people cannot get the higher soapstone but their soapstone is on federal government land.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Iqaluit.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this is quite a complicated legal question that the Member has asked and I would like to take the question as notice and the appropriate Minister will respond as soon as possible in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

Question O180-90(1): Leading The Battle Against Native Communication Cutbacks

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. Due to the urgency of federal cutbacks

on the Native Communications Society, will you, as the Government Leader, lead the battle to fight against the federal government to see if you can possibly get them to rethink their decision on the 100 per cent cut on Native Press as well as other aboriginal newspapers in the North? Will you take the leading role and assist your Minister of Culture and Communications to battle the federal government to get this changed?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O180-90(1): Leading The Battle Against Native Communication Cutbacks

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the honourable Member that this matter is of grave concern to the entire cabinet, including myself. We discussed it this morning. We are attempting to obtain more detailed information to confirm the very alarming signals we are getting from the native broadcasting associations.

Mr. Speaker, as to whether I will take the lead on this matter, I think it is fair for me to say that I think our Minister of Culture and Communications has the prime responsibility in this area and it is he that should meet with his federal counterpart, the Secretary of State, to represent our government's strongest concerns on these cutbacks. However, Mr. Speaker, I can assure the honourable Member that I will give that Minister my fullest support in this problem and if he should be unsuccessful with the Secretary of State, or have problems arranging a meeting, or have any other difficulties, then I am prepared to get involved at the highest level if necessary myself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nede, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O180-90(1): Leading The Battle Against Native Communication Cutbacks

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Government Leader, once again a supplementary. Mr. Government Leader, it is good to hear your response and it is good that Mr. Allooooloo will be meeting with the Secretary of State; but is it not good strategy at the same time for yourself to be lobbying or phoning, or whatever it takes, at the higher level so that you attack this problem on two different fronts, and maybe then be able to resolve it a lot sooner or get some positive feedback from them? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O180-90(1): Leading The Battle Against Native Communication Cutbacks

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I certainly can assure the honourable Member that I do intend to get involved and certainly will do what I can to assist the Minister of Culture and Communications. I think our other Ministers, almost every one of them, has a reason to become involved because of their departmental responsibilities. I think Mr. Wray clearly will be willing to become involved if there is a possibility of making some of these organizations viable; Mr. Kakfwi is concerned in his capacity as Minister of Education; the Minister of Finance is concerned because of the fiscal implications of this federal offloading to our government. We will all be involved.

I guess the only point I wish to make to the honourable Member, Mr. Speaker, is that I think sometimes it is good strategy to save the big guns for the last. I would see Mr. Allooooloo becoming involved initially and leading the charge,

as it were, with his counterpart in the federal government and then, if necessary, I as Government Leader would follow up with the Prime Minister to intervene and see what can be done if, perish the thought, Mr. Allooooloo meets with obstacles. I hope that explains my view of the strategy, Mr. Speaker; we should use all our resources but we should use them in as timely a fashion as possible so as to have the maximum effect.

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

Question O181-90(1): Better Equipment To Cope With Permafrost Conditions

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. We are all aware that in the communities the ground is frozen and the equipment is not good enough to go through the permafrost. Is there a way of getting bigger and stronger vehicles to work on the land during the summer, and in the winter too, for heavy equipment work? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Inuvik.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I believe the specifications for equipment that is purchased by this government are developed by the Department of Public Works. The specifications developed by that department are then put out for tender and the equipment bought on the basis of those specifications. I will discuss the matter with my colleague and determine how we can address the Member's question and concern.

MR. SPEAKER: So you are taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

Question O182-90(1): CBC Criteria For Service In Small Communities

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Culture and Communications. I am not going to talk about fisheries this time. When there is a population of 500 in a community, they can get CBC radio service. Is this radio service also going to be provided to communities where the population does not reach 500 as yet? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O182-90(1): CBC Criteria For Service In Small Communities

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the standards and policies of CBC, when the population of a community reaches over 500 they are eligible for TV antennas, Telesat, as well as radio broadcasting services. I have not heard as yet as to how much CBC's funding will be decreased. Thank you.

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

Question O183-90(1): Use Of Local People As Guides On Bison Hunts

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, for two years the community of Fort Providence has been training guides for hunting bison. They are now at the point where they have to go beyond just hunts. Fort Providence has been working on a proposal now for two

years with no apparent results. When does the Minister intend to maybe support the community for commercial test hunts?

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

Return To Question O183-90(1): Use Of Local People As Guides On Bison Hunts

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, at this point, the department is quite concerned about the way in which we hunt bison. The hunting of bison in that area is relatively new; it has only been done in the last two years, I believe. I would encourage the community members to be guides for the bison hunts, but at the present time, because hunting is new in that area, we would still use the renewable resources officers to accompany the hunters. Our department is willing to look at training local people to be guides. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O183-90(1): Use Of Local People As Guides On Bison Hunts

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The guiding program that the community of Fort Providence went through was sponsored strictly by the community itself, without any government grants. The Minister has indicated that he has some concern about the hunts in the bison sanctuary. I would like to ask the Minister what those concerns are. Is it because of incompetence of the guides, or is it because of the number of animals killed? He expressed a concern but I am not too sure in what area he is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: That is a new question. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Further Return To Question O183-90(1): Use Of Local People As Guides On Bison Hunts

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, first of all the wood bison in the NWT is considered to be an endangered species and it is very important for our government to show members of CITES, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, that our management is adequate to look after the wood bison in the NWT. We have been lobbying the Canadian government in representing us and lobbying CITES members that harvesting should be allowed under a quota system. It is very, very important at the present time that the management of wood bison is seen as credible in other countries. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Honourable Member for Baffin South.

Question O184-90(1): Issuing Of General Hunting Licences

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of Justice in regard to general hunting licences, my licence personally. I had to replace my old licence and I have had the new one for two months. I made an application for it and it took a long time to get. It had a proper name on it at the bottom. But the name has already faded on this new one. Are these general hunting licences for real?

---Laughter

Can we use them for identification? The writing fades quickly and the names should be permanent. What is wrong with these cards?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I am not sure if I am the one to answer this question. I know there are some who think that government is so paranoid that they use invisible ink on all their documents, but this is not the truth. But I will take the question as notice and find out if there is some change to the quality of documents that we are issuing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Question O185-90(1): Native Communications Eligibility Under Business Incentives Programs

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Economic Development. In his economic development incentive strategy announced this past week, would the Native Press and the Native Communications Society be eligible under this particular type of programming for small business incentives, to get a small business going?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O185-90(1): Native Communications Eligibility Under Business Incentives Programs

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not able to tell the Member at this point in time whether they are eligible or not. The first step would be for officers of the Native Press to sit down with departmental officials and take a look at the commercial viability of the operation. Our programs are designed at present for small companies with some commercial viability, so there may be some assistance possible. But I think the first step would be for the individuals to get together with my officials and take a look at their financial statements and business plans and see what we can do.

Oh, by the way, I want to say "Hi" to my daughter. She just came into the House, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: That is unusual. However. Honourable Member for Tu Nede.

Question O186-90(1): Hiring Of Natives By Neptune Mines

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. Government Leader, what is our government doing to ensure that Colomac, Neptune Mines, is hiring more aboriginal people? I realize that they do hire people from Fort Rae but there are also other aboriginal people in the other regions in the NWT who are having a very hard time to get jobs and they are bringing in southerners, even though these aboriginal people have been trained, for example in Pine Point Mine where they worked for years. Pine Point no longer exists and these people are out of work and looking for work and are residents of the NWT. What are you doing to help these people get employment at Neptune instead of hiring southerners? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Return To Question O186-90(1): Hiring Of Natives By Neptune Mines

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the Member has already spoken to me about that issue. Right now we are doing an assessment of the agreement that Neptune/Colomac has with the Dene people from the Fort Rae area to see if there is any way that we can develop an approach for people who live outside the agreement area and who are not able to

seek employment under the general agreement that Fort Rae has. So I have not yet concluded the search and evaluations to see what is happening over there.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Tu Nede, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O186-90(1): Hiring Of Natives By Neptune Mines

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Madam Minister, is it acceptable to this government for a mining company to operate in the NWT and to bring in southern employees when you have qualified northern residents looking for work?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Nunakput.

Further Return To Question O186-90(1): Hiring Of Natives By Neptune Mines

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that it is not acceptable. If we have qualified people and the jobs are available, this government certainly does its best to support those people in securing jobs. However, I have not been able to analyze what is happening at this time to ensure and to be able to meet with the company to see what...

(Technical problems with sound system; House recessed to rectify problem).

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call the House back to order. Oral questions, with the conclusion of the answer to the question by the honourable Member for Nunakput.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, as I began to mention earlier, the question was put to me before, and I have not had time to do an analysis and an update on just what is happening with respect to the socio-economic agreement signed already between the Dogrib and the mining company. When I have had a chance to analyze that and see where we are, I will be prepared to give that report to this Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The time period for oral questions has expired. Item 6, written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W15-90(1): Revision Of The Northwest Territories Statutes

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Justice. The last revised statutes of the Northwest Territories were published in 1974. A commitment by the government was made in 1987 to revise the statutes from 1974 to 1987. These revised statutes have not been completed yet. Would the Minister of Justice indicate how much money has been spent already in the revision of the statutes? Would the Minister indicate how much money has been expended in the translation of the revised statutes? Would the Minister please indicate when the revised statutes will be completed? Would the Minister indicate what the total expenditure for the production of the revised statutes will be?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Written questions. Written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, return to Question W3-90(1), asked by Mr. Pedersen to the Minister of Personnel; return to Question W5-90(1), asked by Mr. Whitford, also to the Minister of Personnel.

Return To Question W3-90(1): Cost To Government In Wages For Granted Time Off

Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell's return to Question W3-90(1), asked by Mr. Pedersen on February 12, 1990, regarding the cost to government in wages for granting time off: The value of wages, for those employees who were granted time off December 22, 1989, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and December 29, 1989, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., was approximately \$225,000.

Return To Question W5-90(1): Appeals, Time Limits And Outstanding Cases

Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell's return to Question W5-90(1), asked by Mr. Whitford on February 14, 1990, on appeals, time limits and outstanding cases: As prescribed in the staffing appeal regulations, the unsuccessful candidates must initiate a staffing appeal within four days following the announcement of the proposed appointment from a competition. The staffing appeal committee shall hold a hearing within two days of receiving an appeal application and recommend to the Minister of Personnel whether the proposed appointment should be made. Once the Minister has considered the recommendation, written notification is given to the applicant. There is no prescribed time frame in which the Minister must arrive at a decision on the appeal. If, as in the current situation, the union does not participate in the process, there is no mechanism to allow the appeal process to conclude.

The Union of Northern Workers withdrew from the staffing appeals process in January 1989. At the present time there are 34 outstanding appeals across all departments in the GNWT, which affect 31 positions.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to written questions.

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

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have Petition 3-90(1), a petition from the community of Baker Lake, signed by 74 individuals with regard to Judge Bourassa's comments in the Edmonton Journal. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 26-90(1), a document entitled "Governor General and Minister of Supply and Services Unveil 1990 \$100 Gold Coin". I wish to make reference to the statement which says, "As we move more and more toward the information society, the ability for all to read and write becomes absolutely essential," said Minister Paul Dick." Thank

you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motion. Notices of motion.

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

Item 14, motions. Motions.

Item 15, first reading of bills. First reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Second reading of bills.

Prior to proceeding to Item 17, I just want to bring the attention of Members, including the honourable Member for Kivallivik, to visitors in the public gallery of grade 12 English students from Sir John Franklin Territorial High School and their teacher, Marilyn Colbourne.

---Applause

Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Committee Report 1-90(1), Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on the 1990-91 Main Estimates; Bill 9-90(1), Appropriation Act, 1990-91; Committee Report 2-90(1), The SCONE Report: Building Our Economic Future, with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

Bill 9-90(1): Appropriation Act, 1990-91

Department Of Economic Development And Tourism

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Yesterday when we concluded, we were discussing the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, general comments. Does the Minister wish to bring in witnesses?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister, for the record, would you introduce your witnesses, please?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Mr. Dwight Noseworthy, deputy minister, Department of Economic Development and Tourism; and Mr. Jim Kennedy, director of finance and administration, Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, very much. Department of Economic Development and Tourism. General comments? Mr. McLaughlin.

Loan Collecting Better Done By Banks

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a comment and a bit of a question for the Minister and his officials, basically concerning the loan collection capabilities of this government and his department. When we give out various loans from the different boards in your department, what we actually do when we give that loan out, because it is our own money, we are basically, in a way, taking a total risk of not getting any of that money back, in the worst case scenario. I saw a lot of this when I was a Minister, when we had to write off debts at cabinet meetings. We even had situations where companies that owed us money from some other experience were being paid to do a contract somewhere else and we were not deducting what they owed us from the

payments we were making to them on a new contract. So I just do not believe that our government has the capacity to be a good loan collector. People leave the Northwest Territories, sometimes, when their businesses fail, and we are unable to track them down.

On the other hand, I think banks are in the business of loaning money and they have a collection system with branches all across Canada and they are able to collect this money. People are more likely to pay a bank back because if you have a bad credit rating with one bank it means you have a bad credit rating with them all. If you owe the GNWT money, then it does not really affect your credit rating at your bank too much. I think that when we loan money out, we are entirely at risk anyway; we would be better off guaranteeing loans at banks and holding back the money that we have on hand so that the money that we loan out would be accessed through a bank rather than directly through our own government, and the banks could handle the overseeing of these payments. They could see that the payments are made on time and do the collection process when necessary. So I would really like to get the Minister's comments. I know that he has heard me talk about it before and I would like his comments on why we should not be using the banks as a vehicle, rather than doing it directly ourselves.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I have a couple of comments. Pre-1986 there was a fairly large number of loans that we were unable to collect on. Since then, we have tightened our procedures immensely and our bad loans now are minimal.

Banking Services Uncommon In Communities

With regard to why we do not use the banks more, very simply it is because banking services are not available in most communities. By and large, where people can access commercial financing, such as in Yellowknife, Hay River, Inuvik and Fort Smith, we try to steer them toward commercial banking enterprises. But in the smaller communities where bank financing is just not available, we have no choice. For example, in the Keewatin Region, while we have a bank in Rankin Inlet, I can tell the Member from personal experience that if you are a resident of Baker Lake or Arviat you have an extremely difficult, if not impossible, time accessing commercial loans from the bank in Rankin Inlet. The same holds true in most other regions. That is primarily why we do not use banking services as much as, perhaps, we could or should; simply because they just do not exist.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I am not suggesting that we go out of the business of giving out loans and just strictly rely on the banks. What I am suggesting is that when we decide to give a loan to somebody, we make that money available to the bank to loan out and let the bank do the collections, let the bank work on that. We do not have that type of capacity. The same with Canada Student Loans, those types of things, where it was the government's money that was at risk if the people did not pay their loan back but the banks handled the payments and went after the defaulted payments. I think that is what we should be looking at using banks for. It does not make any difference whether they are in the community or not; the people that write out the letters here from Yellowknife to collect the bad loans do not live in those communities either. I just think the bank is a lot better system to use to make loan collections and to handle loans since it is that business that they are in.

I would like to ask the Minister how many of his employees in

the Department of Economic Development and how many employees in the Department of Finance are involved in collecting these loans?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. First of all, we do have a loan guarantee program. That is the closest we have been able to come with the banking industry; where we will guarantee loans. However, from a departmental point of view, we still have to set the money aside; so it makes no difference to us.

Secondly, in terms of the banks actually loaning the money in the smaller areas and collecting; they want nothing to do with it. They have told us that they do not want to have anything to do with it. We have tried to negotiate those kinds of services with the banks and the closest we have been able to come is the loan guarantee program that we do have.

With regard to actual collections, I cannot answer for the Minister of Finance but within the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, from the local economic development officer up, they are all involved in collections. We do not have people allocated, per se, to do collections. We use many departmental employees: local economic development officers, regional offices and the people within headquarters in the small business division.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. Are there any further general comments? Does the committee agree, then, that we go to the details? Mr. Minister.

Minister Clarifies Statement Regarding Tourists

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Chairman, before we get into detail, with your indulgence, I would like to clarify a statement I made yesterday which has caused some concern because of the debate yesterday and it was the only one reported through the media. That was a statement I made, and I did make it, and my words were: "When tourists come we should try and take them for everything that we can." Some people have indicated to me that was a rather unfortunate choice of words and in reviewing the transcript this morning, I think it was.

I no way implied that we should be looking to try to rip off tourists, or cheat them; but the point that I was trying to get across is that if a tourist comes here with "X" amount of dollars in his pocket, we should be in a position, or be prepared, to try capture as much of that money as possible. That is what I was trying to say. Unfortunately, it did not come out that way.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Page 17.10. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I would still like to pursue this further with the Minister because I think you and the cabinet are in a position to do something in this banking area. I think you should expand loan guarantees as much as possible. The GNWT is a big customer of one or two of the banks up here and surely we have enough clout to get some bank to co-operate with us to provide those services across the North. There could be bank visitations by some of these branches, like they do in the Yukon. The branch in Whitehorse takes banking out into the outlying communities on a basis of at least one day a week. CIBC in Hay River did that for Pine Point by going there once or twice a week when there was not much business. So it can be done. I think that with the amount of money that this government has on hand, if we cannot get the existing bank that handles our money up here to co-operate with us, maybe we can find another bank that

will.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I am advised by my officials that discussions have taken place with banks and what we have essentially been told is that even with a government guarantee, if the bank does not think the loan is collectable, they will not take the loan, even with a guarantee, because we only guarantee 90 per cent of the loan.

So I will obviously pursue the matter further because I am not happy with the level of service provided by commercial banking institutions in the North and when I think of the business that government gives them in general, I think they could be a lot more conscious of their responsibilities as corporate citizens. But we have not had much success to date. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): General comments. We will take a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will now come back to order. We are on the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, operations and maintenance. General comments. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, I was quite pleased with your economic strategy. To me it seemed to answer quite a few of the concerns that were brought forward to the special committee on the northern economy when we travelled throughout the NWT and visited every riding in the NWT. I was quite happy to see that you considered our report and read it. As a Member of the special committee on the northern economy, I put a lot of energy into it and made a major commitment to seeing something happen. I took many hours away from my family, my riding, to visit other communities in the North, to see how they live. It was very educational for me to visit the Eastern Arctic. I was never there before and it was good to see how the Inuit people live and hear their concerns.

I was quite happy to read in your economic strategy and to hear in your opening remarks that most of the concerns were addressed, although through your department and only your department we cannot look at all the concerns that need to be addressed. Regarding our recommendations one to five, you may have spoken of them but they were not addressed. But I understand that hopefully government, and especially the Executive at deputy minister and Minister level, will get together and meet and try to address the other problems and look at it, so that if we do have a developing economy that education will play an important role in it, as well as other things. Training is one of the most important aspects. No matter how good the programs are that we set up or how many dollars are available for our people in the communities to apply for, if they do not have the training or they do not have the capability of doing it, we are not going to move ahead.

Harvesting Support Program Essential

The one recommendation that I did not see addressed in your strategy is the harvesting support program. I think this is a key implement. This is a very key portion of our economy. I realize that not all aboriginal people want to stay on the land, make their living from the bush, but the ones that do, we should encourage it. The NWT is a unique place. One of the main reasons for tourists to come north is to see aboriginal people and see how they live and make their livelihood off the land. If all we have to offer is aboriginal people living in row housing and on social services, the tourist industry is not

going to grow too much. You can see that in the South; you do not have to come to the North to see it.

The harvesting support program as far as I am concerned, is a must. Without support from our government we are not going to have aboriginal people living on the land too long. Renewable Resources has not done a whole lot to rectify the problem. They have only added to the problem by cutting the fur incentive program. When the Minister of Renewable Resources first mentioned that that program would be cut, he also mentioned that another program would take its place. To this day there has never been another program to take its place. So that is as much of a threat to a way of life as those anti-fur movement people I met with yesterday. Our government does spend money on fighting that but they also have to spend money on helping people stay in the bush. So hopefully there may be some documents to follow so that you will be able to work out with Renewable Resources as well as Social Services, a good harvesting support program.

Funding For Development Officers

The other thing that I did not see addressed in your economic strategy was the recommendation that our committee made to provide funding to communities to hire development officers, basically to take the place of your project officers through Economic Development. However this government perceives to do that -- it may mean meeting with Indian Affairs to see if Indian Affairs has some money available, to work with our government so that you can put these people in the community -- the rest of it is not going to work without that person in the community. You need a community development person to help people to apply for all these good programs you are talking about and to help them once they are in business to be able to carry out business. That is the very key to economic development and that is what we heard throughout the communities, that is what is lacking -- the availability of expertise in the community. That person should be answerable to the community. So possibly a direct funding relationship could be there. That was said time and time again in every riding we went to, that that type of person was needed. Except for the big ridings, they did not really seem to say that because they had those types of people.

Mr. Minister, you could see from the growth of the Hay River Reserve, for example. The Hay River Reserve was at a certain level economically for many, many years, until they got those types of people to assist them and as well, technical assistance and expertise from the town of Hay River. That reserve seems now to be flourishing and doing well, compared to Snowdrift, for example, where we do not have that type of person. I would like the Minister to answer me on how those two issues could be resolved; the harvesting support program and providing funding to communities to hire development officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased that the Member is generally in agreement with our strategy. In my opening statements I said that in our response to SCONE and in the development of this strategy, it is one of the few times since I have been in government and since I can remember, where government departments actually sat down at several levels to try to integrate the response, to try and divide the responsibilities. I think there is certainly no disagreement from the Executive Council and in fact at Executive Council direction, the Executive is determined that the development of the economy and our economic strategy must be integrated and must be a broad-base response. Because the Member is absolutely correct when he states that you cannot have an economic strategy for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism alone. Education,

Renewable Resources, Energy, Mines and Resources, Public Works, Housing, are all very important and integral parts of the strategy.

With regard to the first comment on the harvesting program. The Member will see in the government's strategy that in fact we are at this present time attempting to address that whole concern through a committee headed by the Department of Social Services, which also involves Renewable Resources, Economic Development and a couple of other agencies, in terms of looking at social reform, welfare reform; and one of the main components of that committee's work which has been delegated to the Department of Renewable Resources, is the whole question of our hunter income support program. That work is under way at present. It is not as easy for those agencies to change course as it is for us, simply because they are tied in with a lot of things, including federal assistance plans and it is part of the land claims. It is a little bit more complex, but that work is being undertaken and hopefully in the next 12 to 18 months we will have a strategy.

With regard to assistance to communities, the Member for Baffin South has raised the same concern. I indicated to the House yesterday and again today that it is a major problem. We just do not have enough bodies out there to work with the communities to deliver our programs, to work with individual businesses, to work with individual groups, to work with bands, to receive applications, to help businessmen, and ongoing problems; we just do not have the bodies.

The financial restraints that we are under have caused us severe problems, and also the fact that we were able to access, until recently -- and I believe Hay River was the beneficiary of some of the programs -- the applied planning subagreement with EDA. That was not a permanent solution, but at least we could access money to provide economic planners for up to a year. That money has gone now. We do not have that available to us any more. Obviously in our discussions with the federal government leading up to renewed negotiations for a new EDA, that will be a subject of discussion. Again, that is going to be a fairly cumbersome and complex process.

There may be some relief, or there may be some possibility that communities may be able to access some kind of funding through the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy program for that type of assistance. But the CAEDS program has not been that well defined so that is still up in the air as well. I cannot answer the Member in terms of something definite happening, but merely to indicate that there is a serious problem for us, and a major concern, and that we certainly are not going to be forgetting about it or letting it lapse. We are going to be pursuing different ways of getting the kind of resources that the Member is talking about. Thank you.

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

Communities Should Profit From Local Renewable Resources

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is good to hear that the Minister will continue to work on those two problem areas. Possibly you may be even looking at coming back to this Assembly with the costs of providing the smaller communities with an economic development officer for economics in the community, as well as community development, and possibly looking at restructuring your organization.

The other thing I would like to touch on is that I realize that the strategy is community-based and it is aimed at the smaller

communities. Am I reading this properly, that local communities should have first right to economic gains on renewable resources in their area? Is it fair to say that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: That is a difficult question to answer. I think when you look at renewable resources, we have to take into account what agencies are involved. While Economic Development and Tourism is certainly one part of the picture, there is major involvement by the Department of Renewable Resources. We also now have to take into account that, with the land claims, the various native organizations have a major stake and say in allocation of resources through their wildlife conservation boards and through the local wildlife committees. There is still federal involvement. For example, in the fishery with Fisheries and Oceans, who still have the responsibility for major areas of the fishing industry. It is a very complex question, and it is one thing that I must admit worries me about the development of renewable resources. When I look at all the agencies that are going to have to be involved and all the levels of bureaucracy and approvals that are going to have to be sought, my gut feeling is that the development of renewable resources is going to be a lot more difficult, complex and time-consuming than perhaps the development of arts and crafts and tourism, which are easier subjects to tackle.

I would say, particularly with the land claims and the AIP, and if the land claims are signed, then the communities, through their local representatives and through their wildlife conservation boards -- the Denendeh and the Nunavut wildlife management boards and the regional Inuit associations -- are going to have a major say and a major stake in who gets what resources and who is going to be allocated what, along with the involvement of the Department of Renewable Resources. That one is not that easy to answer, quite frankly. It will unfold as we see how these agreements come along.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I will rephrase the question, Mr. Minister. Your department, just your department alone, will it give a higher priority to the community? For example, community A has a renewable resource at its doorstep. It wants to harvest it or process it. Community B is 100 or 200 miles away. It wants to do the same thing. They both apply to your department for funding. Who gets the funding? Who has the top priority?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: That is a loaded question, Mr. Chairman. It is also asking me to respond to a hypothetical situation. I do not know, it would have to be specific. I would have to have a specific case before I could make a decision. What I can say is that obviously what makes the best economic sense would prevail. Obviously those closer to resources have a better chance of economically cultivating those resources than individuals or groups who are further away, as a general rule. Other than that, I would be loathe to try and answer that question, quite frankly.

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

MR. MORIN: Does your department look at all aspects when they fund projects? For example, community A has very little economic development per se and high unemployment. Community B has a very high economic activity in the community and a higher employment rate. Would that reflect on your decision? Would you award the money to the community that really needs it?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: If you had stopped about a sentence back, it would have been easier to answer. The bottom line is that, yes, we will take into major consideration the economic circumstances of a community, and where the need is greatest.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I guess you are aware of how renewable resources are being harvested now in the Territories. You are quite aware of it, being a long term Northerner and being involved as an MLA and as an Executive Member. Do you believe that the process that is being used right now to harvest and manage the buffalo herd in Fort Providence is smart economically? Is it being used to its fullest potential?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: I do not have enough details to form an opinion on that subject.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I could rephrase it, Mr. Minister. Would it not make better economic sense to bring in \$5000 from outside the Northwest Territories, through a tourism hunt of the buffalo, than just giving it to residents and non-residents? You have 12 buffalo that are to be harvested for management. Does it make more economic sense to give that to a tourist and have the meat stay in the community and bring in \$5000 into the Northwest Territories, or into the community -- whatever the price is, \$5000 or \$25,000, or whatever? What makes the most economic sense?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. Really, without seeing a detailed analysis of the economics it is impossible for me to comment. What I will say is that there are many things that we could do in the North that make economic sense but we do not do, for social, political or cultural reasons. So you cannot always judge everything strictly by what makes economic sense. There are other factors that contribute to the decision making. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Mr. Minister, your department, as well as other people in the Northwest Territories, are involved in an East Arm management study on Great Slave Lake. I understand you, as Minister, played a leading role to bring that all out into the open and try to get the situation addressed where the people of Snowdrift are unable to get licences to take tourists out on the lake. It seems that whole process has come to a standstill. I do not know if it is from the lobbying of the fishermen or the lobbying of the tourist establishments, but I realize that your department is moving to have the mountain outfitters hire more local people. Would you be willing, as the Minister, to try to give these people who are doing that management study a kick or a shove to get it back on the road and get it happening so that we can, hopefully, get the East Arm of Great Slave Lake open to people that live there to have the right to benefit from the resources economically?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, although I am not the lead Minister -- Mr. Alloo is the lead Minister for our government in that issue -- I will not kick them

because I have given up that way; I prefer to negotiate now and to discuss. I will see what I can do and provide whatever assistance I can to Mr. Alloo in that regard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, yesterday we went to Vegreville; there was a trap research there and we met with the European Parliament people. As far as I am concerned it is always good to try and fight that battle on that front, but I think even if we do win that battle where we get a humane trap developed, which they want, I think that is just the start of their fight. Once that is done, the next thing they are going to say is, "Well, maybe it is killing the animals too fast", but their main thing is to stop trapping, stop killing cows, stop eating meat and all these other crazy things that they want to do. That is the main thing that they are after.

I understand, through your economic strategy, that you are looking at alternate ways to benefit from the renewable resource that is harvested. Do you see the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories being involved in developing any sort of tools -- not necessarily big machines, but tools to assist in the tanning process of hides? I am not interested in a massive tannery, at a regional level. What I am interested in is something to help women to tan hides. Mr. Minister, I have sent caribou hides south for tests and there is a market for white caribou hides which could be used for inserts in fashion. The ladies in the communities are saying that it is a lot of work. Possibly your department could assist in developing hand-held tools that use traditional methods to process the hides to the next stage. Is that going to become available and are you going to have people to assist?

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

Two Animal Rights Movement Groups

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. Yes, it is our intention to look at a whole host of things like tanneries and research and development on better ways in which to acquire the resources and to harvest the resources. Those things will be kept in mind when we finally get down to renegotiating the EDA.

I would agree with your statement that even if you win this trapping issue, something will come at you from a different angle. You have clearly two groups within the animal rights movement. You have the animal rights people, the crazies who not only want to stop trapping but they do not want us to eat turkey; they do not want us to eat chicken; they do not want us to have beef; they want us all to be vegetarians. They are the ones that go around and blow up labs and spray windows; the crazy element because they are; they are crazy. Then you have a group of people who are genuinely interested in animal welfare; in making sure that in these facilities, whether it be in slaughter houses or in trapping, that animals are treated as humanely as possible and put out of their misery as quickly as possible, if I can say that.

The problem that you have is that in Europe, where a lot of the attention is paid to because a lot of this seems to come out of Europe, particularly from the United Kingdom, and coming from there I know that you are not going to win -- you are never going to convince those people that what you are doing is right. Particularly in southern England, not so much in Scotland, Ireland or Wales, you have a great many people who are just, quite frankly at times, more interested in animals than they are in human beings. It is no secret that there is a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; there is a Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. There

are stricter laws, in many cases, in Britain with regard to animals than there are for children. There are stricter laws with regard to food for animals than there are for human consumption. You are just not going to convince them. You can try and educate as many people as you want and you can try and convince, perhaps, some of the people on the fringes, but there is a very large hard core dedicated group of people that you will never, never win against.

The problem I see for us, and the main danger, is that trapping for us has become less and less economically important and more and more socially and culturally important. In terms of dollars it is not a large amount any more but it is very important from a social and cultural point of view. We do have some allies among the Scandinavian countries like Denmark and Norway, who have the ability to stop certain actions going through the European Parliament, but 98 per cent of all fur now is from fur farming. At some point in time I see those fur farmers dropping their support of the trappers because it is causing them too much hassle. The mistake that they make is they think that if they sort of throw trappers to the wolves then it will die down and maybe people will back off from the fur issue.

What they do not understand with these people, the people that I was talking about, is that, so you get rid of the trap skins, they just turn their attention to the fur farms and they will go after them. If they get rid of them they will go after farmers. You will never stop these people. It is going to be a long and bitter fight and I think that it is one that we are going to have to be prepared to deal with for a long time to come. Thank you.

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

Producers Should Benefit More From Arts And Crafts Sales

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the comments that the Minister made yesterday regarding Mr. Sibbeston's question on arts and crafts. The Minister did reply that arts and crafts gets more money than does fur and fish and lumber combined. When he refers to arts and crafts, is he referring to the sale of arts and crafts or is he also referring to the production of arts and crafts?

For example, my mom does moose hair tufting and moccasins and mukluks. What she gets for that sale is about one-third of what it costs when it is bought in the store. So I just want to bring that up because although it might seem kind of rosy by the reply that the Minister gave, you have also got to remember that the women out there that are producing those arts and crafts are not getting their dollar's worth for the products that they produce. Could the Minister clarify that so that we do not get the feeling that it is the people out there that are producing those arts and crafts that are the ones that are benefitting, as opposed to the people that are selling those arts and crafts that they buy from the local people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: The Member makes a good point. It was one of the questions I asked when we did this first go-around two or three months ago. The figures that we use in all areas, fur, lumber, fish and arts and crafts, are the retail figures. So they are still meaningful because they are relative to one another. All of the figures we use are retail figures. I agree with the Member that we have a major problem inasmuch as a lot of the producers are not getting a lot of the benefit from their goods that are being sold and resold and resold. One of the main elements of our economic strategy is to build a proper data base so that we can actually track

what producers are getting, but also to do major educational work with the producers in terms of what their rights are and to show them and explain to them marketing; to explain to them copyright; to explain to them what their work is selling for; to explain to them how the laws of supply and demand work; and hopefully educate producers as to what their work is worth and what they should be asking for it.

But I would not totally write off the fact that the people who retail it are making money because a lot of their work is retailed through the co-ops, for example. The co-ops put almost all their money back into the North anyway. They use that money to expand their businesses, hire people, provide services. So a lot of the profit that is made does go back into the North. But it is a problem. But in terms of the figures, the figures are relative. When I said that in the West lumber, fish and forestry were about \$7.5 million and arts and crafts were seven million dollars, both of those figures represent retail value, so they are relative to each other.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. Would you by any chance have a figure on what it would cost once those products are store-bought?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: That is the really hard part to come up with because -- particularly arts and crafts -- they can be sold and resold so many times. We have our figures from the first source, when they are initially bought from the producer. But I know carvings that have been sold at the community level for \$400 and three or four years later I will see them being resold for \$4000. In fact, there are carvings now selling for \$25,000, \$30,000. I know that in all probability the carver probably only got \$1000 or \$2000 out of that money. But that is a perennial problem for artists all over the world. I am sure Picasso did not realize that his art was going to sell for \$50 million one day. That has always been a problem for artists.

Generally speaking, most of the medium-priced art is probably marked up 50 or 100 per cent, in some cases 150 per cent. But it is very, very difficult to track simply because of the numbers of times they are sold and resold. It is very difficult to track.

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

Manufacturing Voyageur Type Canoes In Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Minister. I would like to thank the Minister for supporting the community of Fort Providence regarding the canoe race that we held. One thing that came out of that is that we created quite a bit of excitement in the communities enroute to Inuvik. We also created quite a bit of excitement from southern tourists that came to Fort Providence, not expecting an event of that magnitude to occur. The community incurred just about all the costs with regard to prizes, gas, transportation back, and we ended up with a large deficit. We also had responses from southern people, individuals that made contributions, donations, to offset our deficit, in appreciation of what they witnessed in Fort Providence. There is a lot of potential there.

Unfortunately, the community lacked the necessary support to really make it a complete success. We did not get any help from Inuvik or Norman Wells with regard to the prizes, or even transportation for that matter. There were also people disappointed that they were not able to participate. We had canoe associations across Canada express their disappointment and we would like to see this event go again. There are demands right now out there, especially in the

Mackenzie Valley, for canoe building by the committee at Fort Providence. The community now only has one way of doing it and that is to sell the stock that they have and then use that money for material and labour. Could the Minister advise if there is a program where we might be able to get an actual building and required capital to make this, not just a seasonal thing, but an ongoing thing that is in demand. Norman Wells is requesting a number of canoes; Aklavik is doing the same thing; and there are different communities that hold events when they would like to rent the canoes. The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre is also interested in purchasing canoes. Under the agreement with Canada Employment we cannot do that. I would like to ask the Minister if we could retain those existing canoes and also actually build a small factory for the manufacturing of these voyageur type canoes.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is very difficult for me to respond to individual Members about whether money is available for a certain activity or not, simply because I do not have enough information. I have not seen proposals. I do not know whether or not they would fit under our business development program criteria, whether it would have to go to the Business Loans and Guarantees Fund. I really cannot respond to questions like that. What I can do is say to the Member that I think within the new economic strategy we are prepared to recognize events such as the Mackenzie canoe race, Folk on the Rocks, or other events which have the potential to draw tourists here, and it may very well be that a biennial or a yearly race -- not the whole length of the river but certain sections of the river -- could be developed as a major tourism attraction.

I am sure when they started the Mardi Gras in New Orleans nobody ever thought it would be a major tourist attraction, but it has become one. I think we have tended to overlook events such as that, even major sporting events. We are going to keep a very open mind on those things and the idea of the Mackenzie canoe race is something that should be pursued and taken a look at to see just how viable and feasible it is.

With regard to the other part of the question, really until my officials see the proposals and money involved, I cannot answer those questions, Mr. Chairman.

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

Tourist Attractions In Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Other things that are maybe lacking with regard to tourist attractions are audio-visual presentations, maps, traditional foods. Mr. Chairman, in a lot of my travels in Canada, when you enter a historical site there is background on what exists and what is offered. We do have a small booth at the border which gives out pamphlets and stuff like that, but I think we should go beyond that. In Batoche, Saskatchewan, for example they have a theatre that offers different tour packages, shows the history of the people there, with maps showing historical sites. They also have arts and crafts for sale in that facility, and a restaurant. This is something we have to consider.

Fort Providence has always been interested in that area, but it is difficult mainly because it is not a money-making thing; it is an information centre that will provide maybe moneys for other groups, organizations and lodges to attract tourists. Does the Minister support that concept, and might the community, through a process, be able to get a building big enough to accommodate a number of people for the sampling of traditional foods and the sale of arts and crafts; where tourists could sit down and view different options they might consider going to if that information was there to convince

them to go, whether they are in the West or the East? So far I do not know if we have that, but it is one area that I have always been interested in and would like to see some sort of a facility run by this government to accommodate that kind of program. Has the Minister any comments on that?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely, we have a very ambitious plan to develop those kinds of attractions. The only thing stopping us from doing it on a massive scale is money, but we have money set aside and we are going to start doing things. We have our own little corners where there has been some history; in Fort McPherson we are looking at some displays around the lost patrol and things like that. The problem we have, and the Member raised Batoche as an example – Batoche is a national park and all the money that you saw there was federal money, just like Quebec City and Louisbourg.

I agree with the Member and that is the thrust of our strategy. We have spent a lot of money in the past in marketing and building hotels and things like that. We are now slightly changing the focus and moving toward attractions for the tourists once they get here. That is where we are going as a department. Obviously we do not have a lot of money available to do all of it at once, but that is where we are going.

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

Arts And Crafts Potential In Keewatin

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation) I would like to make this brief. I would like to comment on some of the remarks made by the Minister. In some of the communities we represent, economic development is very good and there are a number of people involved. At the Keewatin Regional Council meetings they make motions and they make recommendations about correspondence regarding the development in the Territories. There is also some correspondence that is directed to the Government of Canada. I agree with them and I supported them.

On the other hand, some of the programs that are in our communities have to be updated. I do not think the groups really understand who to approach or which department is responsible for the programs. So when those things happen they do not know where to go. Most of the time when I have conversations with individuals in the communities that I represent, they tell me that when they want to borrow some money to start up a business, when they approach the government for those kinds of things, to start up a small business in their community, they get rejected. For example, the Minister, during the week, was talking about having a handicraft shop or carving centre in some communities in the North. Sometimes the people in the communities approach me about starting a private business to get soapstone, for carvings, but the problem is that the government does not seem to want to recognize that as a form of business. Again, when they are asking for an incentive program or subsidy program -- and this person has a blasting licence but it was not supported by the Government of the NWT. This has been going on for at least five years now.

In our communities the Minister knows that carving and handicraft facilities have to be upgraded. I fully support the Minister of Economic Development in that because the carvings and handicrafts have been around for a long time, especially in Repulse Bay. I think the Minister will agree with me that up until today they still do a lot of carvings in Repulse Bay. We used to sell the carvings but nowadays the buyers

are slower than in the past. I was happy to hear the Minister's comment that he wanted to put more funding into carvings and handicrafts.

Imitation Inuit Carvings And Parkas

The imitation carvings are starting to come around to our communities and perhaps the government should come up with something so that those imitations, or fake carvings, do not come into the NWT. They are destroying the carving market in the NWT. You can even see the imitation carvings in Yellowknife, in some of the stores. I do not agree with those stores who order those imitation carvings because there are carvings from the communities that they could get.

First of all the sealing industry was destroyed by the European people, then trapping and now our carving industry is slowly being destroyed. They make those synthetic materials, such as fake furs, and people buy those things because some people do not want to buy the real fur because of the anti-fur movement. This is very hard for the Inuit to take; it hurts our hearts.

I do not really know what direction I am going on this but I would like to say that the Government of the NWT has to try and support the people of the NWT. At the same time I am trying to say that the people who are trying to start small businesses should be supported by the government. For instance if a person wanted to start a komatik-making business, it would be a very good business because there are a lot of people who do not know how to make komatiks. The komatiks could be transported to people who buy them. The Hudson's Bay in the South make these komatiks in the South and send them up North and sell them to people.

Arts and crafts are a major income source in the NWT. But a lot of the shops have been closed by the Department of Economic Development. The sewing centres which mainly employ women and mainly make parkas and other handicrafts, even before they were closed down the Hudson's Bay in Winnipeg was starting to make parkas and other handicrafts which originated in the NWT. They are not even made by Inuit. The NWT could make more money if the handicrafts were not made in the South. For example, it seems that the GNWT is supporting the southern centres more than the northern centres.

Does economic development mean those people who want to start small businesses? There have been some good comments made about economic development, but there has to be better economic development opportunities than what is available today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. I do not think there was a question in your comments. Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I do not have any answers because I did not hear any questions. I heard Mr. Ernerk making the same statements that I have made over the last two days; that we have to create more economic opportunities for our people and that is what the economic strategy is designed to do.

As to closing sewing centres, I am already on record as disagreeing with that. I said now and I said two years ago that it was a mistake.

With regard to the Hudson's Bay making and selling parkas, there is absolutely nothing I can do about that. I cannot do anything about imitation carvings. It is quite within peoples' legal right to make those and sell them. What we can do and what we have been doing is to label our own work as being genuine products, handcrafted by people in the North. I

suppose if anybody tries to pass these imitations off as being genuine, then I guess they could be sued or taken to court for false advertising. But other than that I really do not have much to say with regard to the Member's comments. I agree with most of the things that he said.

With regard to small businesses, we have to assess every proposal that comes in front of us and hopefully more small businesses will start up. With regard to carvings, yesterday I told the House that I recognized that -- I think it was in response to a question from the Member for Baffin South -- we had major problems with soapstone and that is why we were increasing the budget from \$10,000 to \$400,000 to acquire soapstone. I am not aware of any individual, other than one individual in my own constituency, who has made a proposal to get soapstone as a private business and that proposal is being studied. So other than that, Mr. Chairman, I agree with most of what the Member is saying. I think it is what people have reiterated around the territory for years and certainly what came out during the special committee hearings and our economic strategy is designed to address some of those concerns.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I guess my comments are similar to that of a year ago and the year before, especially with regard to the issue of sewing centres. I know the situation with regard to the Canadian laws and Canadian Charter of Rights when it comes to doing your own thing. It sort of disturbs me to see a certain company in Winnipeg, I think it is called Kelsey Trail or something -- they make jackets with zippers and they also make an imitation of Inuit parkas. They make them and sell them to the Hudson's Bay Company and in turn the Hudson's Bay Company sells them in the communities. What disturbs me about that is that here we are closing down sewing centres a few years back and yet the Hudson's Bay Company brings these parkas from southern Canada, when we should be supporting sewing centres, selling them to the Hudson's Bay Company and let the Hudson's Bay Company sell them to the public. That would make some sense because sewing centres do employ a certain amount of people at the community level.

So Mr. Chairperson, I guess my question to the Minister -- I think he indicated that he agrees with me and I was somewhat frustrated with the closing of these sewing centres: Would the Minister or the department consider reopening some of these sewing centres in the communities in places like Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet and other places in the NWT where the sewing centres existed?

"Buy North"

The other thing I was trying to emphasize was the issue of "Buy North". "Buy North" is really important. "Buy North" makes sense. The other example that I gave, aside from fake carvings as well as synthetic furs, is that somewhere in Winnipeg or somewhere in southern Canada they start to make komatiks and sell them through the Hudson's Bay Company again. I mean I can tell you that we make good komatiks designed for northern conditions, Arctic conditions.

I am probably telling this to the converted, but I want to make a little point here, that when we talk about the establishment of small companies, which I totally agree with, and the fact that we are talking about the issue of "Buy North", I think it would make good sense for someone to start a company making komatiks, because not everybody makes komatiks. Instead of buying komatiks from southern Canada, they are normally either nailed or bolted anyway, why not get some people to establish a company and start a business making komatiks and sell them throughout the communities in the

NWT. I think it would be a fantastic idea.

The other thing I want to ask the Minister about is this idea of fibreglass boats. A few years ago there were a number of people involved in Repulse Bay, making fibreglass boats, and they were selling them throughout some of the communities in the Keewatin Region. I do not know how far they went, but a few years later the fibreglass canoe factory shut down. I understand there are a couple of people in Repulse Bay who have the know-how to start making fibreglass canoes. I am wondering if the Minister would indicate to me and to this House as to what can be done to start that fibreglass canoe factory again?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the issue of sewing centres. The sole reason for the development or creation of the NWT Development Corporation is to do exactly that; to begin and to look at running enterprises such as that. The Member talks about his frustration over the government closing these centres down, well I can tell him that nobody was more frustrated than me because the government decided to close the Baker Lake sewing centre right in the middle of the last election campaign.

--Laughter

You can imagine the questions I had to answer on that one. But I said in my opening speech, by judging these enterprises by the bottom line, we made a serious mistake. We lost 1200 jobs and replaced them with almost none. I think that we have to take a whole look at what we are doing in that area.

With regard to the various enterprises that the Member mentioned, like the construction of komatiks for resale. Certainly, if there is somebody who wants to do something like that and it is a small enough scale and they can break even or make a little profit, then yes, we will obviously assist them.

With regard to the fibreglass boats, the project in Repulse Bay, if my memory serves me correctly, was shut down primarily because of health reasons. The fact that where they were making the boats was not ventilated well and there was some health problems. As to whether or not a plant like that would be viable in such a high cost area is a whole other question. I know that there are other groups within the North pursuing the idea of fibreglass plants. In fact I believe we have one or two proposals on the table now from various groups to do that. But anything is possible, it just depends on having an individual or a group of individuals in a particular community who wish to pursue a venture and we will be there to try and assist them and at least tell them if it is feasible or not. I think that is the first thing to do. But I am not ruling out anything. I think that we have to be very open minded, we have to be creative, and if we have to maybe eat a little bit of money for two or three or four years until these things do break even or make a profit, and in some cases we maybe start things that we never make a profit on, that we clearly indicate that this is being done to create employment and we are willing to subsidize employment. So I think all of these things are possible, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ernerk.

Potential For Leather Products In NWT

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. During the general comments one of the things I wanted to comment on was the leather products. Yesterday members of the European Parliament indicated to me that as long as leghold

traps are around, they are going to go ahead with their proposal within the European Parliament to ban the use of leghold traps. I guess in so many ways I agree with that idea because we should be prepared to look at the leghold trap and find some other alternatives. I really do not like it myself but that is what I still use at home when I do go trapping, because that is what the land requires me to do, that is what the snow conditions require me to do. But if there are some other traps, fine, we always take a look at those kinds of things as part of the changing world.

They were telling me that the fur sales are down in many parts of Europe. I have seen that happening, especially with sealskins. They told me something yesterday that I heard before when I was in Europe two and a half years ago, with regard to leather goods and things like that, sealskins, full grown seals and other goods, items that are made from sealskins, they told me that if the aboriginal people of Canada, including Inuit, could establish their own companies and start some sort of leather goods factory of some kind, indicate to the world that this sealskin is made from a full grown seal that is not endangered, Europeans will support that kind of move.

This was not the first time I heard about this. I heard about it from certain people that I met in both England and Germany a couple of years back. This leads me to believe that if we could get into a good leather product company, I think sealskins, leather goods, could become very successful businesses, providing we could find the market in the national, as well as the international community. I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to pursue something like this, if he has not already done so.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. Actually I thought we had. We have done quite a lot of work with Nunasi and Amiq leathers and put quite a bit of money into it. As well, we are funding a project now in Broughton Island to construct a tannery. There will be other opportunities, but we have put a lot of time and effort into Amiq leathers and discussions are continuing with Nunasi on that particular company.

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

MR. ERNERK: I know, Mr. Chairman, that the department has done some work with Nunasi Corporation as well as with Broughton Island. I am really talking about good quality finished products such as briefcases, wallets, purses, things like that. Providing we make really good quality items equal with those of Dunhill products, I think we could really sell what we have, as long as we do it the right way and find the right markets. At least that is what the European Members of Parliament told me yesterday. Thank you.

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

Harvesting Musk-Ox On Banks Island And Victoria Island

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I made a lot of general comments yesterday. I will be a little more specific today, Mr. Chairman. I notice in the Minister's publication "Renewable Resources, Building On A Tradition" references to establishing an abattoir and processing facility for musk-ox on Banks Island and the establishment of a model tannery in each of the Western and Eastern Arctic. In my own region, Mr. Chairman, and also in the Nunakput area, I do not think there can be any question, certainly not in our mind, those of us who live up there, that the mainstay of renewable-resource-based economic development has to be the vast musk-ox herds that we have, not only on Banks Island but also on the

north-western part of Victoria Island. The latest estimates from the biologists on the size of the herds is some 35,000 on Banks Island and some 25,000 on north-western Victoria Island. Those two areas, in fact, are separated by very narrow straits so one might be tempted to call it one herd. Certainly the harvesting of it could easily be done with a one plant type operation.

Mr. Chairman, this particular herd is growing at an alarming rate and it is not like the resources in most other parts of the NWT where we may see opportunities develop. This particular resource is one which if we do not develop it, we are going to be in trouble. Our biologists tell us quite clearly that if we do not start harvesting that herd we may well end up with another wood buffalo type herd on Banks Island and on Victoria Island, a huge herd of diseased animals. Not only would this be disastrous for us in our own country, but it would also probably be an irreparable black eye on our international reputation of wise management of our wildlife. The musk-ox herd up there is, and I stress this, not something which can be developed or something which may be developed, or an opportunity, it is something that we must do something with or we are going to be in trouble with it.

Although I do notice in the Minister's publications some references to it, I am afraid they are a little bit vague. For instance, tanneries and the leather industry are really not mentioned — the meat is mentioned, there is a mention of looking for methods, etc., for handling the qiviut but handling skins is not something that really is emphasized. We should probably be harvesting a minimum of 4000 animals per year from the combined herd.

We have many other skin opportunities to run a truly commercial-sized tannery. We have all the winter killed caribou in the NWT. The figures that I had when I was the Minister of Renewable Resources was 45,000 caribou winter killed every year in the NWT. How many in my region, I do not know precisely, but it is a good portion of it because it is good caribou country. Certainly we have a tremendous number of sealskins. We are not harvesting them now because there is not a market. To some extent we have some responsibility for allowing the market to disappear because when you allow others to control your product line, you lose control of some of the marketing yourself.

I think we have to perhaps not emphasize the European market as much as we have. I think we have to accept that the producer does not dictate to the market; the market dictates to the producer. If the market does not want to buy our products, we are not going to be able to sell to them. It is as simple as that, whether we want to or not. If Europe really does not want our product any more, maybe we should wave goodbye to that portion of Europe. Perhaps with Eastern Europe opening up we could be looking there. I am sure they are very receptive to fur, and of course we should put a lot of effort into the Pacific Rim market which is a huge, huge market, and large parts of it with very good economies.

Mr. Chairman, what I want to ask the Minister specifically is: What are the plans and are there any specific and separate plans to deal with this musk-ox herd, the combined herd of Banks Island and north-western Victoria Island? Are there any plans to deal with that total issue, not as a small experiment, but on the basis of about 4000 animals a year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are some very specific plans to deal with that herd. We funded a test kill of 100 animals this past winter. They are now in Edmonton. We are doing a marketing study, we are trying to find a market for those animals. If we do, we are

hopeful that we may be able to fund a hunt this spring which would take between 500 and 1000 animals. The problem that we have is ensuring that we have a market before we go out and slaughter so many. We must tie down our markets.

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

Existing Markets Should Be Looked At

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the answer from the Minister. Mr. Chairman, I think to a very large extent we have the market right in the NWT. Four thousand carcasses of musk-ox is certainly less than we import in beef up the Mackenzie highway every year into Yellowknife for further distribution. I do think that we have to pay attention to the market. In the NWT, I dare say not everyone, but most everyone, probably owns a leather jacket or a leather garment of some sort. Why is that not made of musk-ox hide? Buy north and produce north. The chairs we are sitting on in the Legislative Assembly here. There is a lot of leather furniture sold. I notice that the leather furniture sold in the stores in Yellowknife is made in Italy. Why are we not using our leather and selling it in our stores?

Yesterday, I think the Minister alluded to the fact that one of the reasons we should be optimistic is because we are just over 50,000 people. That is hardly anything and although we say that we have vast resources, compared to the southern market they are really quite small. One of the dangers that I think we are going to run into, and I think the Minister alluded to that yesterday too, is that if a market catches on and suddenly we start getting orders from the South, usually we cannot produce enough to fill the orders and the idea ends up being produced in the South because they have the capacity to produce the quantities required. One such product was place mats from Holman Island, some years ago. Eatons wanted to place an order around Christmas for around 60,000 place mats and Holman said, "Well, we cannot produce 60,000" and Eatons said "Okay, we will do it ourselves and pay you a royalty."

We must look at the existing markets; not only in the musk-ox thing but in other things too. Mr. Ernerk mentioned fake carvings. Rather than protesting against fake carvings – in a sense it is very much a compliment to the quality of Canadian Inuit art, that someone feels it is good enough to copy – take it as an indication to us that there is a market for a good quality type of product in that price range. As far as I am concerned fake carvings do not take business away from genuine Eskimo art, as we market it as. The person that buys a fake carving does not have the money to buy the genuine article and that is why he is buying the cheaper thing; because he has to take 17 souvenirs home.

The lesson that we should learn from that is that there is a good market for something in that price range and that we should produce it. We cannot continue exporting our raw materials. In a sense we do that even with the Nunasi production. It does not give me any great pleasure that Nunasi is playing around with sealskin products if it is not being produced up here, and we are not getting the employment from it. We have to always remember that every time we export raw materials out of the Northwest Territories, that we are exporting employment that ought to be carried out in this Territory, not only for the multiplier effect on the economy, of spending but also for taxation to government and for every other reason. I think we have to learn from the market and look at what the market wants to buy and then try to fill the slots that are there. If one market does not want our product anymore, we cannot force them, so let us look to places where they do want them.

As far as the musk-ox goes, I really do not think that we have to look that far for markets. We have to develop our own and we have to start to embrace the statement made yesterday of "Buy North". It is wonderful leather. Once you tan it into leather it is impossible to tell where anything came from anyhow. We can look for markets but initially we have to get the production going; let us look at what sells in leather and let us produce those things and then the market will take care of itself.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Do you have any comments, Mr. Minister?

HON. GORDON WRAY: Just to say that I cannot disagree with the Member. I agree with what he says, obviously.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to declare at the outset that I am in business outside of this Legislative Assembly and that this department issues me a tourism licence each year and I would like Members to be aware of that for the record. If there are any objections from Members I will not speak to this department, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Are there any objections? Go ahead, Mr. Pollard.

Budget Effects On Economic Development Agreement

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, this area may have been covered before but I am not at all pleased with the EDA agreement. I would first start off by asking the Minister, has that agreement been affected, or is it going to be affected by any federal cutbacks that were announced by Mr. Wilson? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: In contacts that my officials made with IST or Industry, Science and Technology staff and Indian Affairs and Northern Development staff yesterday, we were informed that the implications of the budget on the departments in the EDAs was not yet known because the estimates had not been tabled. They said they would be in a better position to tell us early next week. So we phoned them and they did not know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then in the event that EDA survives the federal government cuts, how does the Minister propose to better implement the EDA program in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I am sorry, I thought the Member was talking about future EDAs. The present EDA will not be affected, that is a signed contribution agreement and there has been no indication that that has been affected.

Secondly, I do not really know if I am going to do anything better to implement the present one. By the time I got agreement from the federal government to change what has to be changed to do that, we would probably be into the second or third year of our new agreement. I am just hoping that we can get through the present EDA as fast as possible and make sure that we do not repeat the same mistakes, if and when we sign a new agreement.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to hear that the Minister -- I think he realizes that some of the problems with the existing EDA agreement, perhaps, is that it is too bureaucratic and it does not have the right applications for the needs in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to some of the comments the Minister has made with regard to economic development in the different communities and areas across the Northwest Territories. I would, first of all, like to ask the Minister, the front line people or the economic development officers, are all those positions filled, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Difficulties In Recruitment Of Economic Development Officers

HON. GORDON WRAY: No, Mr. Chairman. We are having some difficulty in recruiting economic development officers nowadays because of the pay range that we offer and we are just not getting as many applications as we used to. I do not have the exact number of vacancies but I can get them for the Member if he so wishes.

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

MR. POLLARD: I guess my concern, Mr. Chairman, is I think the government has a great responsibility in the area of business development, economic development, job creation and many times, sir, the person who is on the front line is that particular officer. If the Minister is short-staffed in that area, or if the vacancy rate is high, then I would be concerned as to the reasons why those vacancies are not being filled, or those positions are not available, whether it is a matter of not paying them enough or we are not giving them enough benefits. It is fine to have an economic plan but if you have nobody out there on the front line to implement it, it becomes very difficult.

So I would ask the Minister, are there vacancies because of specific reasons, such as, trained staff not being available? Is it the wages, the benefits or the conditions? I wonder if the Minister could answer those questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I really do not know why people are not applying. I suspect it is a combination of low wages and not enough experienced people around. Maybe we run into competition from some other parts of the country. We really do not know. In the past we never had problems, but now we are running into problems. The economies in Ontario and Quebec have been booming. We always have to compete against that market. I really do not know, I can only speculate.

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

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, by way of suggestion, I would suggest to the Minister that if it is money, then he should look at how much he is paying those people in those particular positions because, as I say, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of those people to deliver the programs out there. Let us face it, every person that we get to work, or every benefit that we gain from doing more business in the NWT, ultimately the benefits flow to this government, either by way of getting people on to a payroll where they are getting moneys and paying taxes, or them ceasing to be a burden on the NWT government in another department like Social

Services. I would encourage the Minister that if that is what it takes, then he should look at it and come back to this House with some suggestions.

Problems With Negotiated Contracts

The other thing that I would like to explain to the Minister is that it is fine to try and increase the number of people employed in the smaller communities, it is fine to create more businesses out there and provide more services that are not available in those communities at the present time; but I would point out to the Minister that many communities in the NWT, like Hay River, Yellowknife, Inuvik, perhaps Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit, are providing services to regions and in some instances there are contractors in those communities who bid on jobs across the NWT. Inasmuch as creating services in the smaller communities is going to benefit the smaller communities, it may cut out and downsize the economy of the larger communities as well.

I would point out that in Hay River, for instance, and in Yellowknife, there were a number of contractors who bid on jobs all over this region and there is no question that they could not have survived on the business that was available to them in those large municipalities they came from. Over the years they bid out of the town and out of the city, and when negotiated contracts were entered into with people in other communities, it meant that we were over-populated in the larger communities with contracting companies.

I guess what I am trying to point out to the Minister is that while I am totally in favour of increasing the economic well-being of smaller communities, I would hope that the Minister would take into consideration that many of those services are being obtained from larger communities and perhaps if you are going to do those things in the smaller communities, we should look at ways of increasing the size of the economic pie in the NWT so that those people who are presently serving those smaller communities have a bigger piece of the pie to go around. Perhaps the Minister could comment on that, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Two comments. With regard to the pay levels, I have written to the Minister of Personnel and we have begun discussions on the classification levels of economic development officers and hopefully with her assistance the classification levels will be raised to the point where we can successfully compete in the southern market for our officers. I am sure that I will have her assistance given the high priority of economic development within the budget.

On the second point, I am tempted to disagree with the Member to a certain extent because I guess my gut reaction is that if maybe some of those contractors from the so-called larger communities had been a little bit more diligent in hiring people from the smaller communities and making sure that some of the benefits from those contracts stayed in the smaller communities, we would not have the problems that we have had. I think the Member will acknowledge that some of the worst offenders that we have in the North in terms of not leaving economic benefits in small communities are northern contractors from those very communities that he mentioned. That is part of the problem as to why at times there may not be certain sympathies toward some of those contractors. If a contractor from a northern community brings in 20 people from the South, or a contractor from a southern community brings in 20 people from the South -- people in small communities do not really care where you are from, what they see is that 20 people are coming in from the South, and whether you are working for a northern or a southern company does not make much difference to them.

I think what we have to try to do is make sure -- through Mr. Kakfwi's employment development strategy -- wherever these contractors come from, the money that they have in their contracts gets left in small communities by hiring people from those small communities. If we can train and upgrade the skills in the small communities so that they take work with these contractors, then maybe that is the way to go.

The negotiated contracts were, quite frankly, a political decision that was made to get certain native groups and native people involved in the business community. It was felt, I guess, at the time -- which was before my time -- that this was the kind of intervention that the government had to bring in to get people on the road to self-sufficiency. I do believe that there comes a point in time where you have to cut the apron strings and say, "Okay, you have had a negotiated contract for five, seven or 10 years, and you should be able to compete in the open market". But part of the problem, from what I understand, in the early days, was that it was unfair competition because many of the companies that were bidding on these contracts were companies that had been in existence for a while, they had no amortization payments on equipment, they had not much debt, and of course any new companies trying to break in, particularly native companies that did not have much money to begin with, were faced with borrowing large amounts of money for equipment and having heavy debt loads; and because the contracts were of a short-term nature the amortization payments were extremely heavy. The bottom line was that they could not compete; even if they wanted to compete on the open market they could not. That was why the decision was made to go with negotiated contracts.

As a rule of thumb, I do not particularly think that negotiated contracts are a great way to go, but they are necessary in certain circumstances. I think we should acknowledge that and acknowledge that we are going to have to do it from time to time, but also acknowledge that at some point in time you have to compete in the open market if you really want to stand on your own two feet. I do sympathize with what the Member is saying to a certain extent, but on the other hand there is another side of the coin that if you are in a small community you have to think about.

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

MR. POLLARD: I do not disagree with what the Minister is saying about the problems that have happened in the past, Mr. Chairman. That was before I was in this House and some of those problems occurred, as the Minister by his own admission acknowledges, before he was in this House. All I am saying is that in starting out on a new economic strategy, let us make sure that everything that is being done is interlocking and that we are not hurting some members of the business community in order to get certain things going, because all we are going to do is spread the same size pie around. Nobody is a winner in that respect. So what I am saying to the Minister is that at the same time you are doing this, let us try and see if we can make the economic pie in the NWT better.

Mr. Chairman, I have to be careful what I say here, but I do not share this government's love affair with tourism. Mind you, from the Minister's comments yesterday it was less than a love affair. I will tell you why, I have said this before and I will keep saying it. I hire 15 people in June, Mr. Chairman, and they are mostly from the Northwest Territories, and then I lay those people off again in September. While they work for me they make money, they make tips and there is a change in their lifestyle because they have a disposable income. They also have a lot of independence that they do not experience during the winter when they are not working.

So what tourism does is create a lot of jobs in the summer but you are faced with the fact that those people are left with nothing to do if they are not going back to school in the fall.

So while I appreciate the things that the tourism business does to the Northwest Territories, and I appreciate those people coming up here and spending their money, and I appreciate the fact that hotels and restaurants need that, I am saying to not forget that we need some year round jobs up here. We need some production jobs, some manufacturing jobs, some jobs that people can rely on year in and year out, as opposed to wondering whether they are going to get back on with tourism in the summer. It is also bad for us, because of the seasonal employment, that we do not seem to hang on to the best staff because they go on to other things if they are successful. If they are not they will drift away to other areas. So I think creating more of those summertime jobs, in the end, causes us a problem and how will the Minister address creating jobs that last 52 weeks of the year, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Winter Tourism Strategy

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I came from a town in Scotland called Oban, which is in the western highlands. From June 15th to October 15th that town has a population of about 27,000 people and there are somewhere in the neighbourhood of 33 hotels. On October 15th the population goes down to about 11,000 and we have four hotels. It is nothing but a tourist town. My attitude is that I would rather have a lot of jobs for five months of the year than no jobs at all, and I guess that is my attitude toward tourism; it is a not panacea. I agree with the Member completely that we also have to develop jobs in production and manufacturing; full-time, year-round jobs. But I think the Member will also agree that it is going to take us a long time. In the meantime we have to develop what we can, what we reasonably can. Tourism is one of those types of economies that take a long time to build; dozens of years.

In recognizing what the Member is talking about in terms of seasonal work, we have started to move in the direction of developing winter tourism. I personally think that, with the exception of fishing lodges or tourist attractions that are specialized in the summer, what is really unique about the North is our winter conditions. That is what we have that nobody else has. I am trying to move the department toward our winter tourism strategy. Last night, for example, I hosted 16 tour company operators from Japan who are over here looking at the aurora borealis tour and we showed them the Expo film on different parts of the North; they are in town for five days. I think that we do have a potential to develop our winter tourism as well as our summer tourism. The department does recognize that and we are looking at trying to expand our season so that it can be for more than just two or three months of the year.

It is a hard sell, it is a tough sell, there is no question. Obviously the Member is correct; full-time jobs in production and manufacturing are important and we should go after them but we are not going to be able to create them in every community either, so I think it is going to have to be a mix and match. Thank you.

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

MR. POLLARD: I guess what I am asking the Minister is not to put all his eggs in the tourism basket, Mr. Chairman. I am suggesting that, sure, tourism is great, there is no question about it, that is how I try to make a living too and I recognize that it is of a benefit to the Northwest Territories. But I am

also saying to the Minister not to lose sight of the fact that we have to create some of those full-time jobs too. I agree with import substitution and I would like to see the department doing more in that line.

Government Moneys Spent On Stimulating Economy

On another subject, and I am glad that Mr. Butters is out of the House anyway, Mr. Chairman. I just happen to believe in certain philosophies and I believe that the Finance Minister of this government is the man who looks after the money so then I only have one person to go to and discuss funds. I also happen to think that the Economic Development portfolio spans other areas. There are various government departments, Mr. Butters' in particular, Government Services, who spend an awful lot of money in the Northwest Territories. I am not absolutely convinced that Government Services does everything it can to improve the economy of the Northwest Territories.

So my question to the Minister is, does the Minister have any influence with other Ministers who are capable of spending in the Northwest Territories and stimulating the economy? Does he have any influence over the way they do their business in the Territories? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I can always throw a temper tantrum. Yes, I think there is a recognition, and I think you see it in the government strategy, that no one department has the exclusive domain of economic development. We are trying to more and more integrate government departments into that thinking. While maybe my personal influence is not that great, certainly cabinet influence is very great and ultimately it is cabinet that will direct the departments to do certain things. I think that by cabinet accepting this document and accepting the philosophy that is expounded in this document, what cabinet is saying is that more and more government departments are going to think economic development and not just their own narrow mandate.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to argue with Mr. Pollard because I realize what he was saying earlier about putting all your eggs in one basket, but just so that he is aware, in O and M there is eight million allocated for tourism but there is \$12 million allocated for business development. So I am trying to keep the pie split reasonably.

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

Government Departments Should Buy North

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, getting back to other departments. I have had complaints from people in Yellowknife, people in Hay River, Fort Smith, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, on their dealings with the Department of Government Services. I am sure that I am going to raise this matter with Mr. Butters when his department is up. But what I see is, here is a Minister who is trying to create more wealth in the Northwest Territories, and here is a Minister who is trying to get rid of some of the imports into the Northwest Territories, and I applaud him for that and I will support him fully in his efforts. On the other hand, I see a department that makes it very difficult for business people to take advantage of the funds that this government is spending and that is my frustration, Mr. Minister. One Minister works very hard to throw it in here and other departments are certainly not there with a shovel helping the Minister to throw it in here. So I have some real concerns in that area.

I would urge the Minister to impress upon his colleagues to spend money in the Northwest Territories, through their

departments, and the importance of trying as much as possible to deal with northern companies and trying, as much as possible, not to put too many roadblocks in the way of businesses who are trying to do business with this government through other departments. Perhaps the Minister can give me some comfort and say that he will readdress that problem with those particular Ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Just to indulge myself a little bit and for the Member's benefit, one of the reasons that I am sitting in front of you today is because in 1983 the Department of Public Works shipped in four spark plugs for a Yamaha skidoo to Baker Lake at a cost of \$32 when they could have bought them from my store for \$3.25. That is one of the reasons I ran as an MLA; I was so frustrated over what I saw as obvious waste and inefficiencies.

The Member can believe that I will, and have, pursued obvious infractions and obvious discrimination and obvious insensitivity toward northern businessmen wherever I have found it. I think other Ministers are the same. The problem is that we have a very large bureaucracy and sometimes they make mistakes. I do not think they do it deliberately; I do not think they do it with any malicious intent, but it just happens. We are never going to have a system where everything is done perfectly but I think, little by little, we are chipping away at the problems; we are chipping away where we find out where things go wrong. I guess I always have to be optimistic that yes, we are getting better at what we are doing. But are there still problems? Yes, there are still problems. There is no question there are still problems. I just hope that this document is just another nail in the coffin of a lot of those problems. Thank you.

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

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, Members who attended the committee meeting yesterday and Members who attended the joint meeting of the standing committee on legislation and finance yesterday have noticed this "Gordon Wray Glow". There is a glow, an aura about the man recently and he is sort of like a man with a mission. I would applaud that and I think it is that kind of enthusiasm that has been lacking to a certain extent and it is encouraging to see it. I am not going to belabour the point because I do not want to get the Minister to think that I am sneaking up on him or something.

--Laughter

I appreciate what the Minister is doing; I like his enthusiasm; I hope he can carry that forward into his department and down into the depths of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. I would like to say thank you to the Minister and to Mr. Noseworthy and to Mr. Vaughan. They have always been very supportive of Hay River. I am not talking about in a financial sense all the time but they have always been there to support us in what we are trying to do and encourage us in trying to do things better. I would like to thank those people and I would like to wish the Minister the very best of luck with his new venture. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: I can guarantee that will not be on CBC.

--Laughter

MR. POLLARD: Gordon, I wrote out exactly what you told me

to say.

--Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): General comments. Does the committee agree we go to the details of the budget?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay. Page 17.10. Directorate, total O and M, \$4,794,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Policy And Planning, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Policy and planning, total O and M, \$915,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Tourism And Parks, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Tourism and parks, total O and M, \$8,132,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Business Development, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Business development, total O and M. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, is this the area that the money that helps the commercial fishermen on Great Slave Lake comes out of?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Yes, it is under the business development section, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister made an announcement earlier this week in the House in response to a request from the commercial fishermen on Great Slave Lake, and I would like to point out to the House that first of all this was at the suggestion of one of the commercial fishermen on Great Slave Lake, and I did bring it to the attention of the Minister and his staff. It is one of those sort of win, win, win, situations. I know they are hard to come by, but it would appear to be that way.

Mr. Chairman, the suggestion was that if the quota in area five on the lake at Simpson Island was taken out in the wintertime there would be fewer culls and there would be less spoilage of fish. In the summertime the freighting is 30 cents a pound. The fishermen were willing to go in and do it for 15 cents a pound in the wintertime, so it ends up that this department is going to save, in this activity, some 15 cents a pound on the amount of quota that they take out of area five.

What surprised me is the speed at which the department moved. Maybe when they see a savings to themselves, they move a lot faster, Mr. Chairman, and again I would like to thank the Minister for responding so quickly. I realize that it is a pilot project just for this year, just to see what the results are, but the commercial fishermen have asked me to thank the Minister publicly and I am doing that right now, sir, and I will endeavour to pass on to them that the Minister expects some results in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Business development, total O and M, \$12,589,000. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Seeing that this is the grouping where most of the development that we have been talking about is going to come out of, I believe, I would like to basically serve notice on the House and on the Minister that if I can see anywhere in the budget, as we go through it, that reasonable cuts can be made I will try to identify them and, if money becomes available, perhaps more money could be added to the pot here. I am certainly not arguing with the amount in there except for the other way around, there may not be enough in it, as I said earlier.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. Page 17.13, business development. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is money in here for co-ops and for arts and crafts; which co-ops or communities are you talking about here? Is it just in the Baffin Region, or Western Arctic? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. It is all the communities right across the Territories; it is every community.

Business Development, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Business development, total O and M, \$12,589,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Economic Development Agreement, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Page 17.14, Economic Development Agreement, total O and M, \$1,619,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Finance And Administration, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Finance and administration, total O and M, \$1,493,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Grants And Contributions, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Details of grants and contributions, total grants, \$245,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Contributions on pages 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, 17.19 and 17.20, total contributions, \$8,189,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total grants and contributions, \$8,434,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Page 17.21 is an information item, business loans and guarantees fund. Page 17.22 is detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Page 17.23 is detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, total department, \$262,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Pages 17.24, 17.25. Are there any questions? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Let us turn back to page 17.09, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, program summary, total O and M, \$29,542,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Tourism And Parks, Total Capital

Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will go now to capital. Page 17.10, details of capital, tourism and parks, buildings and works, headquarters, total headquarters, \$725,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Fort Smith, total Fort Smith, \$1,760,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Inuvik, total Inuvik, \$670,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Baffin, total Baffin, \$3,296,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) I just wanted to ask a question on the one for Iqaluit. I think I have asked it before, but is it directed to tourism and parks?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. This project is a combined project with Culture and Communications and it is a museum, a regional visitor's centre and museum. It was designed specifically for tourism, from a major point of view.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister says that this is a joint venture with Culture and Communications. The money listed here, does that represent the total to be expended on it or is there some in Culture and Communications' budget too?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: No, this is a total Culture and Communications budget that came to us.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the end destination of the majority of tourists arriving in Baffin Island?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

MR. PEDERSEN: It is very close between Iqaluit and Pangnirtung.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: I wonder if the Minister could tell us a little bit more on the detail. We are looking at close to a four million dollar expenditure in one community. Granted it is the regional centre but there are a lot of other communities in the Baffin Region. If he could just take us through it briefly of what it is going to contain so that we can be convinced that it is the right place to put another four million dollars.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. There is a regional library, a regional visitors' centre, a museum; it will also contain facilities for the Baffin Tourism Association offices. There will also be a little bit of stage and an area for groups to put on cultural displays for tourism purposes.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there now in Iqaluit a regional museum and a regional library?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: There is a museum, but it is in some old buildings and it is pretty small. I do not know if there is a regional library. I do not think there is, but I do not know for sure. I am getting a "no" shake, which means that there is no regional library.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, just one final question. Is it the department's intention, together with Culture and Communications and I suppose an Executive Council decision, then, that this is intended to be the first of a series of regional cultural centres in this price range?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Not that I am aware of. Baffin is a little bit unique inasmuch as it is the only region where really you go through one community to get to the rest. Iqaluit is clearly the entry point for the rest of the Baffin Region. In the Keewatin and Kitikmeot Regions we have different entry points. We have no one community that everybody goes to to get into the rest of the region. Much the same as in the West, there is more direct transportation into other communities than there is through one community. There will be other visitor centres and there will be other cultural centres, other facilities, I do not know if they will approach this cost, but in terms of regional centres I doubt it very much.

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Baffin, total Baffin, \$3,296,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Keewatin, total Keewatin, \$335,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Kitikmeot, total Kitikmeot, \$535,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total buildings and works, \$7,321,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total headquarters, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total equipment acquisition, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Tourism And Parks, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total tourism and parks, \$7,371,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Business Development, Total Capital

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Page 17.16, detail of capital, business development, buildings and works, Baffin, total Baffin, \$60,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total buildings and works, \$60,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Equipment acquisition, Fort Smith, total Fort Smith, \$30,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Baffin, total Baffin, \$350,000. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Would the Minister confirm that this \$350,000 is for an older, used, second-hand vessel and not for a brand new one?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: No, I cannot confirm that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Is the Minister open to looking at a vessel that may not be brand new?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Given what has happened in the East Coast, Mr. Chairman, I may be shipping some people off to the East Coast and I might buy five boats for that price with the way things are going. I was being flippant there, but seriously, because of what has happened on the East Coast

we are going to take a very close look at what is available in the East Coast in terms of vessels.

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

MR. LEWIS: I raise this issue, Mr. Chairman, because several times now we have asked departments if they would look at getting something maybe at a good price, something that is in very good condition. I note that when I fly in the NWT I am very often flying in very old airplanes, some of them that have been sold many times over and I am not afraid to fly in an airplane, even though it is an old airplane and may have been bought from some place in Africa. So I should feel the same way about a boat, second-hand and bought in Newfoundland or Nova Scotia.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Some of the indications we are getting from some of our contacts in the East Coast -- I guess I am almost ready to tell you that it will probably not be a new boat. We really think that we may be able to get -- and I am serious -- we may be able to get one, two or even three boats for this money. When we first planned this, this was the original estimate given to us but because of the major downturn of the fishery in the East Coast, we anticipate that there may be a lot of equipment available for sale at what you call fire sale prices. We are going to be taking a very close look at what is available there and probably will go to second-hand vessels.

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

MR. LEWIS: I do not think any Member in the Assembly would discourage the Minister from taking a trip to Newfoundland, Mr. Chairman.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Mr. Pedersen.

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we extend sitting hours, if necessary, to conclude this department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Baffin, equipment acquisition, total Baffin, \$350,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total equipment acquisition, \$380,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Contributions, headquarters, total headquarters, \$1,415,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Contributions, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total contributions, \$1,415,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Business Development, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total business development, \$1,855,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Going back to page 17.08, program summary. Total capital expenditure, \$9,226,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that we are finished with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, for the time being?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): I will recognize the clock now and report progress.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call the House back to order. Report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 9-90(1) and Committee Report 1-90(1), and wishes to report progress.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 19, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to request unanimous consent to return to tabling of documents.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to tabling of documents. Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Minister.

REVERT TO ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table Tabled Document 27-90(1), a letter from the mayor of Iqaluit, dated February 22, 1990. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Obviously the letter is providing us with important information.

Item 19, third reading of bills. Third reading of bills. Item 20, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings for Friday, February 23: ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Friday, February 23rd.

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: Bills 2-90(1), 3-90(1), 4-90(1), 5-90(1), 6-90(1) and 7-90(1)
16. Second Reading of Bills: Bill 1-90(1)
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Committee Report 1-90(1); Bill 9-90(1); Committee Report 2-90(1)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, February 23, 1990, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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