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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1990

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, 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. Sibbeston, Mr. Whitford, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo): Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 20, 1990. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to read a Ministers' statement in reply to a commitment that I made at the last sitting. I failed to have this statement completely translated on the deadline; however, it is translated now and I would like to seek unanimous consent to proceed.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is correct in that the statement was not filed. However, the honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to give the Ministers' statement today. Are there any nays? Proceed, Madam Minister.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 35-90(1): Government Of The Northwest Territories' Outline Of Deficiencies In Urangesellschaft Canada Limited's Kiggavik Environmental Impact Statement

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, just before this House recessed on March 2, I made a commitment to outline the Government of the Northwest Territories' statement of deficiencies on the Kiggavik environmental impact statement.

Mr. Speaker, the document is made up of the separate deficiency statements prepared by 11 Government of the Northwest Territories departments including: Culture and Communications; Education; Economic Development and Tourism; Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources; the Department of Finance; Health; Municipal and Community Affairs; Renewable Resources; Safety and Public Services; Social Services, and Transportation.

The deficiencies were identified as a result of each department's review of the company's environmental impact statement. The information provided in the statement was compared with that requested in the guidelines which the FEARO panel sent to the company. Our document identifies missing information as well as inaccuracies.

Although the GNWT document contains over 70 pages covering most sections of the company's 17 volume environmental impact statement, all deficiencies fall into one of three categories: General deficiencies are those which are not tied to what the company says in its environmental impact statement but rather, how it presents the information; the second type is related to the factual content of the environmental impact statement, this includes gaps or omissions of information that were requested by the panel in the guidelines; the last type of deficiency includes inaccurate statements and the use of wrong or inappropriate data or information.

Examples of the major deficiencies in each of these three areas are: First, general deficiencies. On translation, the environmental impact statement has not been translated sufficiently to enable the people of the Keewatin to review and understand it. Without this understanding, a public review and truly effective local participation, a key feature of any FEARO review, is clearly impossible. Translation is required for more information than just the summary. Another deficiency was that there was no index of subjects or topics. In this matter it is difficult to find information in the 17 volume environmental impact statement because it is so complex. Many topics and issues are scattered throughout several volumes. The environmental impact statement does not follow the same question and answer format as the guidelines document, nor are similar topics linked together in the same section or volume. The environmental impact statement must be indexed or cross-referenced to the guidelines so that the reviewers can access all information on each topic more easily.

Second, the matter of gaps and omissions. In economic rationale the critical information demonstrating the economic rationale for the project is inadequate. Without this information there is no way of judging whether and at what level the project is viable. In the matter of baseline data, health, social, cultural, environmental and employment/training baseline information requested in the guidelines have either not been provided or were provided only in part. Mr. Speaker, without a sufficient baseline, company commitments and government and public requirements for day-to-day management, evaluation and monitoring cannot possibly be carried out because there are no criteria or benchmark for critical management decisions. In the matter of background information, information is either missing or incomplete in areas such as socio-economic structure, camp arrangements, renewable resource use, worker health and safety baseline and impacts, public health and safety baseline and impacts, effects of change caused by the mine, consumption of country foods, risk management, tailings management, site decommissioning, monitoring and post project analysis. This information is required to assess impacts and judge the effectiveness of mitigative measures. In the matter of projection of impacts and formulation of responses, the environmental impact statement is deficient in its description of the likely effects of development on the people and systems in the region, and in its identification of measures to minimize or remove the negative effects of the mine development.

Third, in the matter of inaccurate or wrong information. On the topic of community make-up and authority, the company does not appear to clearly understand the structure, make-up and powers of local government. For example, the environmental impact statement document does not recognize that the proposed dock site lies within the municipal boundary and is therefore under the planning and zoning authority of the hamlet of Baker Lake. The dock/staging area may be judged to be a non-conforming use under the present town plan. In the matter of up-to-date data, in several places limited or old and outdated information is used as a base for projections. The company should ensure that it is working with relevant and up-to-date information. In the matter of

projection of financial benefits, because the company did not state its base assumptions, there is a concern that the projections of royalties, taxation and other fiscal benefits from the project may be inaccurate. Since the Government of the Northwest Territories does not receive royalties from mining, or the full benefit from certain taxes, this project may result in a financial liability to the North.

This statement is being submitted, along with the complete package of Government of the Northwest Territories departmental deficiencies, to the Kiggavik FEARO panel for inclusion by them in an overall comprehensive deficiency statement. Mr. Speaker, the complete package will then be sent to the proponent, Urangesellschaft, so that they can respond to the deficiencies before the public review proceeds to hearings in the fall. The final package of GNWT deficiencies is being prepared and will be distributed to Members of this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, because of the scope, scale and seriousness of the deficiencies and the importance of the Kiggavik issue to the people of the Keewatin and the whole of the Northwest Territories, this government is not prepared to support the Kiggavik project as it is outlined in the company's existing environmental impact statement.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, it is extremely important for our government to maintain its commitment to the FEARO process. We are not prepared to jeopardize the review of the Kiggavik project by taking a premature stand prior to the public consultations scheduled to begin this fall. Such action would undermine the effectiveness of one of the most effective tools the government and the public have to formally present their concerns about environmental issues in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Success Of 1990 Arctic Winter Games

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The past week has been an exciting and challenging time for the people of the Northwest Territories and for the residents of the city of Yellowknife, who again played host to the Arctic Winter Games. Not only was this year the 20th anniversary of the games, Mr. Speaker, but it was also the 20th anniversary of Yellowknife as a city.

We in the Northwest Territories can be especially proud of the Arctic Winter Games. In 1970, out of a desire to have a truly northern games competition, we founded them; since then we have continually increased the quality of hospitality and competition. This year for the first time the USSR sent a delegation, not of athletes but of cultural performers, who undoubtedly will report back on the success of these games and promote the requests for athletes at the next games in 1992. With the active participation of Greenland in this year's games we moved yet another step closer to truly circumpolar sporting activities.

We can also be very proud of the accomplishment of the Arctic Winter Games organizations and the volunteers who worked for the past 18 months for the success of last week. When you look at the logistics of moving 1200 athletes, scores of officials and countless volunteers from three countries and 50-odd communities across the Northwest Territories into this

city for seven days, of housing and feeding them and returning them home without a major mishap, we can indeed be thankful. But, most importantly, we must salute the athletes themselves for the calibre of competition, fair play and for the spirit to compete in spite of the odds.

I had the good fortune to visit many of the venues during the Arctic Winter Games and I must say to the parents of these young men and women who were not able to be there in person, that you can be proud of your children. They did their best. It is unfortunate that not every athlete went home with an ulu but there is little doubt that they were all winners after having competed to the best of their abilities with good sportsmanship and spirit.

To the more than 150 competitors of this city, we are proud of you all. You did a magnificent job on and off the field. To the sponsors, organizers and the countless volunteers, Yellowknife South and, indeed, all of Yellowknife salute you for a job well done.

--Applause

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

Member's Statement On Lack Of Capital Moneys For Kitikmeot Region

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having sat in this House during part of the budget session, I find it quite interesting at times. This budget session has given me a pretty clear reflection of how the money is allocated up to this point in time. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that if you are a Member of the cabinet you get a lion's share of the budget...

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame, shame!

AN HON. MEMBER: I agree with you.

MR. SPEAKER: Order!

--Laughter

--Applause

MR. NINGARK: If you are an ordinary Member, however, you become a scavenger and hunt for leftovers. I know that I have not been here for long enough to make a fair assessment, Mr. Speaker, of the budget situation but yesterday's budget session has provoked me to make this kind of a statement. For example, the Keewatin Region under the capital estimates of the Department of Education is getting \$575,000. On the other hand, Kitikmeot Region is getting only \$10,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Members' statements. Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Member's Statement On World Wildlife Fund

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the Arctic Winter Games were on I had the pleasure of meeting representatives of the World Wildlife Fund and they agreed to send every Member of this Assembly a copy of a book called "Endangered Spaces", which Members have probably already had a chance to look at. There is one very good article in it, for example, by the only northern representative, George Erasmus, who agreed with the perception that throughout the world right now there are many very important parts of our

environment that need to be protected from industrial activity, and so on.

I would urge the government to co-operate with a venture which each province has agreed to participate in; to examine this part of the world, this very, very large part of Canada, to identify some ecological system which could be in danger unless we begin now to plan ahead so that those slices, those small slices of unique ecological systems could be set aside for future generations to see and enjoy because they are a very important part of the world that we live in. I would urge the cabinet, in fact, to examine this as a very worthwhile initiative which is already being joined by most jurisdictions of the rest of the world. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Band Status For Community Of Kakisa

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, it was on May 19, 1989, that the community of Kakisa sub-chief, Margaret Leishman, submitted an application to the federal government for independent band status for the community of Kakisa. On June 22, I wrote a letter to the Honourable Pierre Cadieux, supporting Kakisa in its desire for independent band status. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to say that on July 22, 1989, the community, by way of resolution, agreed to seek independent band status under Treaty 11, which specifically states that signatures of 30 members are required to apply for band status. This supersedes any policy or direction that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development may establish. By signing this petition the people of Kakisa met their obligation for an application for independent band status. I was happy to hear on March 6, 1990, that beginning in April we should see the creation of two new bands in the Northwest Territories; the two communities being Lac la Martre and Kakisa.

At this time I would like to thank the federal government Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for their support to the band in the creation of independent status. And further, I would like to commend the community of Kakisa for their determination and I congratulate them on their accomplishment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Letter To Mikhail Gorbachev

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to share this letter with you and Members of the Legislative Assembly, which I wrote to the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, dated March 8, 1990:

"Dear Mr. Gorbachev: I would like to take this opportunity to thank your government for allowing the Soviet Yupik to participate last year in the Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Sisimiut, Greenland. More specifically I would like to thank your government, on behalf of all Inuit, for allowing Soviet Yupik to participate within the ICC with full delegation status. Their first time participation helped and will bring the Inuit of the circumpolar world closer together. It was a positive first step in helping to create the Arctic peace zone which you called for during your Murmansk speech in October of 1987.

"I am the elected Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories for the central Arctic constituency of Aivilik. As a result, I am interested to have greater contact between the northern people of both countries so that we can discuss common problems. I know that in the Soviet North,

within the various autonomous soviet socialist republics, autonomous Okrugs, Oblasts and Krays, as in the Northwest Territories, the people and, in particular, the indigenous people are trying to cope with comparable types of problems, be they economic, environmental, cultural, social or educational. I understand that within the Soviet North alone there are 26 different groups of indigenous people who live primarily by the traditional ways and contribute significantly to its well-being. It is therefore essential that the indigenous people of the circumpolar world be involved in resolving the many problems which they face.

"Your progressive action in recognizing the Inuit will help in a greater understanding between our people. I am hopeful that the success of the Inuit will also lead to greater contact between our Dene people and the various Soviet indigenous northern people.

"Again, thank you, qujannamiik, and I wish you every success with your perestroika.

"Yours sincerely, Peter Ernerk, Member of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, Aivilik." Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. This new clock system does wonders for Members' statements. Members' statements. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O314-90(1): Fuel Tank Leakage, Rankin Inlet

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to correct a response I made yesterday to the honourable Member for Aivilik. I indicated in response to his question regarding a report carried out on an old spill at Rankin Inlet that the report was not completed. I understand that the report was developed through the auspices of my colleague, the honourable Minister for Renewable Resources, and that report has been completed and I believe has been provided to the Rankin Inlet council, the mayor and her council. I will attempt to see that the Member receives a copy as well.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O317-90(1): Proposed New Residence Program

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listened with great interest yesterday to a very long discussion about the proposed new residence program from the Minister of Education. As I listened, I paid particular attention to the fact that the Minister was not able to identify where exactly in the budget Members of this House could find the figures, the amount of money that would be needed to set this program up. I also note, Mr. Speaker, that this thing has never been approved yet. It depends upon approval by the Executive Council, a policy, and so on. My question to the Minister is, does he have a policy, backed with a specific amount of money, for this program?

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

Return To Question O317-90(1): Proposed New Residence Program

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the suggestion was

made a year ago by some of the Members to look at developing some sort of residences or private schools to cultivate the development of young students, young leaders in the communities. In January, I began to speak about it outside of the Legislature to solicit comments and views from the general public on the idea. As a government, we have not yet put together a proposal on how and when we will try to deliver such a plan to the public but I hope by the end of this month we can do that. It is perhaps an unusual approach to getting a job done, but because the suggestions came from this Legislature I think it was something that we wanted to get some reaction from the communities and the constituencies that we represent. The suggestion was made publicly on how we thought it could be done, so the Member is right, we have not identified specific amounts other than that it will come from under the schools budget, that it will come from the money that we use to support students in residences and home boarding. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O317-90(1): Proposed New Residence Program

MR. LEWIS: I would like to ask the Minister then why we are taking so much time at this budget session about an issue that the government has not taken a position on and not identified any money for, and yet we spent an exorbitant amount of time yesterday discussing this as a budget item that obviously is not in this budget.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I did not hear a question. However, if the honourable Member wishes to respond.

Further Return To Question O317-90(1): Proposed New Residence Program

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the issue is one that has, in my view, a lot of support from the MLAs in this Legislature. The issue is one that has support and Members want to get some action on it. We do not have, as I said, a specific proposal but there is a general outline of what it is we are going to try to do and that was outlined yesterday. I was not asking myself the questions, I was responding to questions from individual MLAs in the Legislature. I would be quite happy to be finished with the Education budget, but as you know it has been deferred.

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

Supplementary To Question O317-90(1): Proposed New Residence Program

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, Members of the standing committee on finance are very concerned because activities within budgets seem to be getting bigger and bigger and bigger and we can not identify which parts of it are for what purpose, so my question to the Minister is, why is it that we have now dropped the activity called "residences", which existed for a long period of time, when there is now, at least in the thinking of the Minister, a renewed interest in the residence program which could be a separate activity the way it was when residences were an important part of the education program?

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Pine Point.

Question O318-90(1): Location Of Residences In Baffin Not Shown In Budget Document

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice and it relates to the issue we discussed in oral question period yesterday on the residences which were going to be put in the Baffin by the Department of Education. The budget document before us does not show the locations as outlined by the Minister. A similar situation occurred a couple of years ago on the highway system with the reallocation of money from the Fort Smith highway to the Fort Providence access. I would like to ask the Minister, is a similar amendment needed now, as was needed at that time, which took place in the committee of the whole, in order to make the budget document correct before it could be finally voted on?

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

Return To Question O318-90(1): Location Of Residences In Baffin Not Shown In Budget Document

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can not immediately recall the example from two years ago, and I will look into that particular one. In this item, it was felt that because the Minister of Education came to the FMB fairly late in the game, it was too late to make changes in the budget book. The important thing -- and I am speaking here as Minister of Finance, not a Minister of Justice -- to the Auditor General's disclosure, it is the same activity and there is no legal requirement to make that change. The important element here is that before the Legislative Assembly approves that expenditure, they should know that the change is happening. We thought that would suffice; that the Legislative Assembly could make their decision, because they know exactly what the Minister is intending. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O318-90(1): Location Of Residences In Baffin Not Shown In Budget Document

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a follow-up then, I would like to ask the Minister about this Financial Management Board decision. At what stage in the process was it made? Was it made before the standing committee on finance saw the documents, or was it made between then and when the documents came to the House, or was the Financial Management Board decision made after the session opened and the main estimates were tabled?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Again, Mr. Speaker, I have already said I would take part of the response as notice. I do not have the exact date. My recollection is that it was between the standing committee on finance meetings and this session. But I will confirm that for the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

Question O319-90(1): RCMP Policy On Hiring Special Constables In The North

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of

Justice who is responsible for the RCMP. I would like to ask the Minister what is the RCMP's policy with respect to hiring special constables in the North, particularly with regard to the hiring of native people in the North who join the RCMP?

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

Return To Question O319-90(1): RCMP Policy On Hiring Special Constables In The North

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I have, in this House, stated on a number of occasions that the RCMP is aggressively pursuing, now, aboriginal people to join the force, not just as special constables but also as regular constables. I am prepared to, in a Ministers' statement this week, outline the steps that have been taken to encourage aboriginal people to join the force.

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

Supplementary To Question O319-90(1): RCMP Policy On Hiring Special Constables In The North

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister how he can stand before the House here and say that the RCMP are pursuing aggressively the matter of trying to get native people to work for them. I have a case of a young man in my constituency, Trout Lake, who initially applied to join the RCMP two and a half years ago. He did not hear from the RCMP for two years, after which there was some response and to this date it has been about three years where the person has had no success in even getting to the point where he is seriously being considered by the RCMP. I also know of two other native persons in the North who have applied; in one case it took two years for the person to be given a chance, and for another person it has been a year or so and he still has had no success in getting on with the RCMP. So how can the Minister stand here today and say that the RCMP is aggressively pursuing the hiring of native people?

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

Further Return To Question O319-90(1): RCMP Policy On Hiring Special Constables In The North

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can quite honestly say the RCMP are pursuing the policy aggressively. There may be cases where people are frustrated. I am not saying that the system is perfect. In every community there is a process going through the local detachment. Perhaps the system has broken down in individual cases. I am prepared to look at those cases to see what we can do to expedite them. But, generally, the RCMP, I think, has been very successful in the past few years as far as recruiting aboriginal people into the force.

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

Supplementary To Question O319-90(1): RCMP Policy On Hiring Special Constables In The North

MR. SIBBESTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have to dispute and say that the Minister is not correct and that the RCMP are not that interested in hiring aboriginal people from the North. From the experience and the information that I have, in three instances that I know, native people have applied to become

special constables and it has taken years. In one instance there was no response for two years. I wonder if the Minister, then, could check into the case of a young gentleman, young man, in Trout Lake who has persistently tried to get on with the RCMP but has not had any success to date. I can give him the particulars of the case. In fact, he has spoken to his deputy minister regarding the matter a month or more ago but still with no success at all. I wonder if the Minister could check into this one instance as a start, of this young man in Trout Lake.

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

Further Return To Question O319-90(1): RCMP Policy On Hiring Special Constables In The North

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Again, I repeat, I think the RCMP generally have done a good job. The special constable student program we have had the last two years has meant four of the class of 16 last year have joined the RCMP; of the class the year before, four joined the RCMP; in fact, one step better, because of some of the influence that we have had with Ottawa, they have made more flexible their requirements. We have actually had four special constables become full constables in the last year and a half. So I think we have taken considerable steps.

On the particular subject that the honourable Member is talking about in Trout Lake, I am aware of it and I am pursuing it. I understood there might have been some medical problem with hearing, or eyesight -- that is right -- and we are pursuing that one. I am not aware of the other two but I would appreciate if the honourable Member would give me information. I will definitely try to give him answers as to why these people are not receiving the attention they should get.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Just prior to proceeding. I was a bit lenient about preambles previously with the honourable Member for Nahendeh. However, please keep in mind that in supplementary questioning, the preamble should be as short as possible. In leading up to the original question you can expound on the issue. However, that is just a reminder. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O320-90(1): News Report Of Gold Discovery Near Baker Lake

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for mining. In Nunatsiaq News there is an article reporting that 60 miles out of Baker Lake there has been gold discovered by the company, Lucky Eagle Mines Limited. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister can definitely state whether this is so or not.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a little correction. It is the Minister hoping to be responsible for mines. The jurisdiction is still within the federal purview. In answer to the question, the MLA from Baker Lake had just asked me about that particular news report in the Nunatsiaq News, so I am pursuing that information and will be providing the information for anyone else who wishes to have it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: You are taking the question as notice? The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral

questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Question O321-90(1): Secure Facilities For Young Offenders In Yellowknife

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for Social Services. There appears to be a lack of suitable secure facilities for young persons in conflict with the law here in Yellowknife. Young persons who need secure facilities are placed in the RCMP cells, right next to the drunk tank, while awaiting trial or awaiting court appearances. The question I have for the Minister is, what plans does her department have for obtaining secure facilities here in Yellowknife, where the courts are located, other than the RCMP cells?

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

Return To Question O321-90(1): Secure Facilities For Young Offenders In Yellowknife

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I am trying to deal with that particular issue but I want to make it clear to the Member that the Department of Social Services, who is responsible for young offenders, is not responsible for retaining young offenders until the courts sentence them. So until they are sentenced they are not the responsibility of the Department of Social Services. Thank you.

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

MR. WHITFORD: It catches me in a bind, Mr. Speaker, because I cannot redirect my question to the Minister of Justice, the same question. Somebody has to be responsible. Can I ask the supplementary to a different Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you can ask the supplementary to the original question.

Question O322-90(1): Secure Custody Facilities For Youths

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your indulgence. To the Minister responsible for Justice then, does his department have any plans for obtaining secure facilities for young offenders awaiting trial? Those are young offenders from out of town who generally come from smaller communities and have to be held over for a day or two but are placed in the cells here in the RCMP detachment right next to the drunk tank.

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

Return To Question O322-90(1): Secure Custody Facilities For Youths

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. The whole question of pre-trial custody is a question that presently my deputy minister, Social Services, and the RCMP are studying. There is a problem in trying to come to grips with that problem. I hope to have more of a response before the end of the session.

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

Supplementary To Question O322-90(1): Secure Custody Facilities For Youths

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention

that there is a 16-year-old who has been in the cells for over a week, without a shower or other basic necessities. In the meantime, while they are studying this -- this is the second incident within two months -- what is your department going to do with these people while you are studying this problem?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I am not familiar with the specific case so I will look into the facts of that case. All I can say is that we will hurry up the study.

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

Question O323-90(1): Power And Utilities Rebates In Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance with regard to rebates for residential and commercial power and utilities in Fort Providence. I would like to ask the Minister, under whose direction has this change to the rebate occurred? Was it done under direction from the Department of Finance or was it done under direction from the Public Utilities Board?

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

Return To Question O323-90(1): Power And Utilities Rebates In Fort Providence

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. It was not a Public Utilities Board decision. The way we did it, it was a Financial Management Board decision.

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

Supplementary To Question O323-90(1): Power And Utilities Rebates In Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, through the process that this government is using regarding the rebate, commercial power users have a lot more to gain by doing it through that process, as opposed to residential. I would like to ask the Minister, since this government does have a lot more to gain through the commercial rebates, did this government follow its own guidelines with regard to conflict of interest since, Mr. Speaker, this government through that rebate policy has a lot more to gain by rebating themselves rather than rebating the residents in my constituency?

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

Further Return To Question O323-90(1): Power And Utilities Rebates In Fort Providence

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: We were talking about our rebate of federal taxes paid. A philosophy followed by this government is that they should be rebated in the same proportion as they are paid. So if businesses pay 40 per cent, they should be rebated 40 per cent. If domestic consumers pay 60 per cent, they should be rebated 60 per cent. So we did it exactly according to the proportion that they paid. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O323-90(1): Power And Utilities Rebates In Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, under the existing rebates system the commercial power users do get a subsidy on the power that they utilize in the existing Income Tax Act. At the end of a year the commercial user does apply, based on the amounts that they spend on their businesses. So they do get the rebate through that process. I would like to ask the Minister, under the existing process do residents also get that same kind of break as commercial users do?

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

Further Return To Question O323-90(1): Power And Utilities Rebates In Fort Providence

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: As the Member knows, residents, ordinary domestic and non-commercial users, are subsidized to the Yellowknife rate. So they, in fact, get a fairly significant subsidy, the non-commercial users. Does that answer your question?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Final supplementary, the honourable Member for Deh Cho.

Supplementary To Question O323-90(1): Power And Utilities Rebates In Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, then, if I am correct in saying that not only are the commercial users being subsidized, based on the way they file their income tax returns, but on top of that this government is also rebating them through the income tax rebate on certain public utilities companies. Am I correct in saying that they are, in fact, being rebated or given rebates twice as opposed to residents which only get that rebate through the Income Tax Act?

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

Further Return To Question O323-90(1): Power And Utilities Rebates In Fort Providence

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I will try to put it more clearly. For non-commercial users, ordinary domestic users, get a subsidy to bring their rate down to the Yellowknife level. Secondly, they get a proportionate rebate from the tax paid. So the ordinary user gets two breaks. The commercial user gets a rebate from the federal tax paid and, I think -- I am not sure if the Member is asking whether on top of that there is another tax break and whether that tax break is more than the breaks the non-commercial user has. What I can do is bring back to the House a breakdown of subsidies and rebates for both commercial and non-commercial users so the Member can see the evaluation. We think the way we handled this was quite fair, but I will bring back those other facts to the Member. Thank you.

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

Question O324-90(1): Policy On Travel Warrants

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, when the special committee on the northern economy was travelling we found that very often the government was working at cross purposes. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, on what basis the decision was made that any travel warrants given to people can only be

given 10 days in advance of the proposed travel. That is apparently the policy of this government.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I will take that one as notice. Thank you.

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

Question O325-90(1): Access Road To Yellowknife Forward Operating Location

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Minister, it has come to my attention that there has been a land-use application for an access road to the Yellowknife forward operating location. This application is across Commissioner's land, and it is also my understanding that an environmental review of this forward operating location has not been completed. It is also my understanding that the Dene/Metis have asked this government to refuse this land-use application until such a review has been done. Are you going to do that, refuse the land-use application? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O325-90(1): Access Road To Yellowknife Forward Operating Location

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I have had a request from Mr. Blondin of the Dene/Metis Negotiating Secretariat. I will be responding to Mr. Blondin's request in a matter of hours and when that response is in Mr. Blondin's hands I will advise the Member of my response.

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

Question O326-90(1): Environmental Review On Access Road To Yellowknife Forward Operating Location

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Government Leader. Mr. Government Leader, you just heard my question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I know from past experience that this government has always insisted and always fought hard to make sure that environmental reviews are done and that full public participation is permitted on any project. We have threatened to take other governments to court to ensure that this is done. As a government, will we follow our own example of doing this and ensure that an environmental review is done before we allow any projects such as this to go ahead? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a new question. However, I will allow the honourable Member for Iqaluit to respond.

Return To Question O326-90(1): Environmental Review On Access Road To Yellowknife Forward Operating Location

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that in principle the government agrees entirely with the recommendation of the honourable Member. That is the way projects should ideally proceed, as he outlined, Mr. Speaker. I agree with that approach. Thank you.

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

Question O327-90(1): Secondment Of GNWT Employee To Pipeline Company

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, last December there was news in the northern media that Ms Gay Kennedy of the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources was being seconded to Foothills Pipeline Limited for a two year period. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, considering that such a secondment really raises some doubts about the impartiality of our government in dealing with pipeline proponents, and that it may even give a competitive edge to one of the pipeline proponents, how can the Minister justify such a secondment?

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

Return To Question O327-90(1): Secondment Of GNWT Employee To Pipeline Company

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, these secondments take place quite frequently. The Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has also seconded one of its workers to the Dene/Metis. I believe these secondments are very good for employees to gain additional skills since they are long-term residents. I do not believe that there is going to be anyone given a competitive edge. The Government of the Northwest Territories makes decisions representing the people of the NWT and this Legislative Assembly, and I believe that any indication that one individual being seconded to a certain company or group could jeopardize the decision-making of the government is really not valid. I believe that the individual being cited has very little relationship with this government and has gained experience in addition to what she knows already. I believe we should encourage that type of interchange, whether it is between the different organizations or between companies perhaps seconding to the NWT. However, I do not believe that a secondment such as that has anything to do with giving preference to any company or organization. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O327-90(1): Secondment Of GNWT Employee To Pipeline Company

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, again I have to disagree with the Minister when she makes this out to be an innocent small little matter. I know secondments occur frequently in our government, but generally they go to native organizations, it happens with the federal government. But I would say, Mr. Speaker, that it is very unusual for our government to second someone to private industry such as a pipeline company that is proposing to build a pipeline down the Valley. There are so many issues that this government has to deal with. There is the land claims issue, Dene/Metis land claims; there is the Northern Accord; there is the question of our government setting terms with respect to socio-economic matters should a pipeline be built. For the Minister to think that there is no conflict of interest, and that this government will appear to be fair, and there is no question of impartiality, I figure is naive on the Minister's part to slough it off as an innocent common little secondment.

I wonder if the Minister, considering the seriousness of the situation, would consider reviewing the secondment and if Ms Kennedy wants to work for Foothills Pipeline Limited, let her leave the employ of our government. If she wants to return in a number of years then she can apply for a job. It just seems to me that that is the appropriate way. So I ask the Minister if she would reconsider the secondment of Ms Gay Kennedy.

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

Further Return To Question O327-90(1): Secondment Of GNWT Employee To Pipeline Company

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, we can review and review and review. I do not intend to do that, but I would just like again to assure the honourable Member that in looking at the situation there is no conflict. There has been hardly any relationship at all with this government and the person in question has been kept quite busy in her particular position. On the matter of the secondment -- it may be in using that word that we have not gone far enough -- but actually what Ms Kennedy has done is take a leave of absence. I felt this was an old issue which we have dealt with before. This is routine practice with government and industry. The federal government does it. I think it is good experience for people to move into different areas so that they can have that experience and they become more valuable employees in the long run. Mr. Speaker, I can look at it, I can see if there is a conflict, and to satisfy the honourable Member I will do that. However, I do not think that at this point in time I would like to waste a lot of time in going over and over something that is a fairly routine matter that takes place between the federal government and provincial governments. Thank you.

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

Question O328-90(1): GNWT Policy Re Staff Secondment

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could pursue this matter then with the Government Leader. The Minister responsible in this case is really sloughing off the matter, putting down, making light of the issue and in the end saying something about secondments between federal and territorial governments. This is not a normal secondment. It is a secondment from our government to a pipeline company that is interested in building a pipeline in the North. There is a lot of conflict. I see a conflict. The News North sees a conflict. In the editorial, December 4, 1989, there is an editorial which says "Poor judgment in job swap". I have heard it from the Dene/Metis, too, that they are concerned about this secondment. So, obviously, it is not a normal, ordinary secondment. I would like to ask the Government Leader what the practice of government is in secondments in terms of secondments from our government to other federal, other government agencies? Is it normal practice to second from our government to a pipeline proponent?

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

Return To Question O328-90(1): GNWT Policy Re Staff Secondment

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member is attacking the principle of allowing our employees in the Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources department to get experience with industry. That is the principle the Member is attacking. Mr. Speaker, if this government is to provide its employees with experience in industry, then I would venture to say there is no major oil company in this country that does not have interests in doing work in the Northwest Territories. So there is always going to be the possibility of charges of the kind the Member has brought forward. Mr. Speaker, I would endorse the comments of my Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources that this should not be seen as a secondment as much as a leave of absence.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I think that if we are to cultivate good relations with industry and if we are to become aware of

practices in industry, like other provincial governments and the federal government in this country, we should not be afraid to give our employees this kind of experience. Mr. Speaker, I would reiterate that the practice is -- I would almost say -- routine with other governments. It is something that is beneficial to both industry and governments. I think if we are to have credibility with the oil industry and if our employees are to get broad experience and not just look at things from a bureaucratic point of view, then this kind of an experience is valuable. I would say that it is common place and not unusual. I cannot find any reason for questioning this particular employee's gaining of experience, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I just want to again remind Members that I realize that the intent of preambles may be to clarify some of the questions that are being asked but once a question has been asked, you should shorten the preambles to the supplementaries that follow so that there is some consistency with the original question, rather than getting into new questions. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O328-90(1): GNWT Policy Re Staff Secondment

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I say to the Government Leader and the government on that side, that the government has now engaged in a lovey-dovey sweetheart arrangement with Foothills Pipelines. I now seriously question this government's impartiality and their ability to protect the public interest in the North. I ask the Government Leader if that is the case that he does not think that the government has done wrong in the secondment, when another company comes along, is the government then going to be open to seconding people to pipeline companies? Are we going to have a government that is now in bed with the pipeline companies in the North, seconding people to them? Does the Government Leader not agree that when the time comes to make decisions, big decisions about the North, protecting the people of the North, the land and everything else, that they feel that they can make those decisions being in bed now with the pipelines?

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

Further Return To Question O328-90(1): GNWT Policy Re Staff Secondment

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I guess this is the second time this session that there have been public accusations that we have been in bed with companies. The last one I heard was from the president of the Keewatin Inuit Association who charged we had cut a deal in the back rooms with Urangesellschaft. Maybe the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources' statement on the Kiggavik project today has helped to dispel that suggestion. Mr. Speaker, I think that the position that this government took on the gas export hearings of the National Energy Board, if the Member were to examine that statement, it would show that we certainly do not have any special relationship with Foothills. In fact, I think our position generally in those matters speaks for itself. Mr. Speaker, I would like to just categorically assure the honourable Member that while we are interested in developing a dialogue with the oil industry, while we are interested in being open to consultations with the oil industry, while we have worked hard to cultivate relations with the Canadian Petroleum Association, we are doing so in the same manner that other governments which have responsibilities or are seeking responsibilities in oil and gas matters are doing.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, categorically to the Member that we

have made it very clear in our relations with companies that our primary interest is the interests of the people and the communities of the Northwest Territories. That comes first. In no way are we interested in getting into a cosy relationship with companies or a compromising relationship with companies. But if the position the Member advocates requires that we cannot discuss with companies actions that they could take to be of benefit to the people and the communities of the Northwest Territories then we would not be fulfilling our responsibilities in dealing with matters like pipelines and energy projects. So Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear to the Member we have no cosy relations with companies. I would say we have open communications with companies and I would say there is a healthy respect on the side of both companies and industry and this government about our respective roles. The companies have interests which are different from ours but our interests are in protecting the rights of citizens and communities in the Northwest Territories. We are discharging that responsibility with vigour. Even if it means talking to companies now and then and even if it means acquiring valuable experience as to how industry thinks and operates. Thank you.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I was just going to say something on a point of order rather than a supplementary. The government did not answer my question. Having now engaged in some kind of a relationship, cosy relationship, with Foothills and having given them the edge, as it were, if another company comes along is this government also going to second people to the other company now to be fair to this one company?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member indicated that he wanted to raise a point of order, or did you want an oral question?

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, my point of order was that the Government Leader did not answer my question and if he would, please.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nahendeh, that point of order is not a point of order. It might be a point of grievance if the Minister does not answer your question but it is not a point of order. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh. The honourable Member still has an opportunity, in supplementary, to pose a question again if he so wishes. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O329-90(1): Origin Of Brucellosis In Caribou

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to direct my question to the Government Leader. The Minister of Renewable Resources is not in the House so I think the Government Leader can answer my question. It is with regard to the caribou having brucellosis. I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, where the disease comes from? Is it the vegetation that they eat that causes the brucellosis? I wonder if I could get some response with regard to that.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Renewable Resources is representing this government at the Globe '90 Environmental Conference in Vancouver, he is not able to answer that question today. I am afraid that I will have to take it as notice. It is a technical question and I am afraid that I do not know the answer. I am not sure if the cause of brucellosis is known but I will attempt to get an

answer to the honourable Member as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for -- one moment please, there seems to be some technical difficulty here. Can you hear the translation? Oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

Question O330-90(1): Removal Of Civil Servants From GNWT Positions

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. Mr. Government Leader, it has come to my attention that our government has paid quite a sum of money to get rid of some dead heads or dead meat civil servants that are no longer useful in their jobs. I guess, due to the union agreement our government has had to pay upward of a quarter of a million dollars at some points just to have a civil servant leave his position so you can fill it with a useful person that can accomplish something. What I am wondering is if you could table in this House the names and the money that our government has paid in the past 10 years to get rid of these types of people. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O330-90(1): Removal Of Civil Servants From GNWT Positions

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member is fishing. He is speculating and asking hypotheticals...

---Laughter

...and Mr. Speaker, the matters upon which he seeks information are privileged matters between employer and employee and even if the allegations were true they should not be tabled publicly.

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

Supplementary To Question O330-90(1): Removal Of Civil Servants From GNWT Positions

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary, Mr. Government Leader. I usually go fishing in July but will the Government Leader answer whether or not in the past there has ever been a pay-out to civil servants so that they would leave their positions?

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

Further Return To Question O330-90(1): Removal Of Civil Servants From GNWT Positions

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I do not know quite what the Member means by "pay-out" but I can confirm that there is a well-established practice within the public service that there are arrangements made when employees terminate. One common arrangement is referred to as severance pay. There are other situations where employees may retire early for health or other reasons. Those measures are provided for in the laws and policies of the Department of Personnel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O330-90(1): Removal Of Civil Servants From GNWT Positions

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary, Mr. Government Leader. Can you make available to this House this well-established practice of severance pay that is paid to the government employees that terminate their positions or take early retirement?

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

Further Return To Question O330-90(1): Removal Of Civil Servants From GNWT Positions

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am advised by the Minister of Personnel that these matters between employer and employee are privileged, they are private and that it is not appropriate for such matters to be discussed publicly. It is neither appropriate and perhaps it is not ethical and undoubtedly we would be breaching some requirements of the law in revealing that kind of information publicly as well, Mr. Speaker. So the answer to the Member's question would be, no. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O330-90(1): Removal Of Civil Servants From GNWT Positions

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Final supplementary, Mr. Government Leader. It is government money that is being spent and the public should have the right to know, as well as Members of this Assembly. Once again, since you spend government money paying out and terminating or whatever you do to these golden handshakers or whatever you want to call it, will you not table that and make that information available to Members of this Assembly?

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

Further Return To Question O330-90(1): Removal Of Civil Servants From GNWT Positions

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the government spends public money in many areas in which it is critical that confidentiality and privilege be maintained. We spend money on legal aid but I am sure the honourable Member would agree that it is not appropriate that we provide information that is divulged between a lawyer and his client. We spend money in economic development in assistance to business and I am sure the Member would agree that it is not appropriate that we divulge information provided by loan applicants. I can cite the health field, Mr. Speaker. So the fact that we spend public money is not necessarily in itself a requirement that there be full public disclosure.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate again that the area of Personnel that the Member refers to, which involves arrangements made between employer and employee, in my opinion is privileged and it is not in the public interest that such matters be revealed publicly in this Legislature. We are accountable to the Auditor General for the expenditure of public funds but it is not appropriate that these privileged matters become public knowledge. So I am not willing to agree to the Member's request for those reasons. I think this is a well-established practice in other legislatures and with other public governments in this country. Thank you.

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

Questions O331-90(1): Severance Packages In Budget

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is to the Government Leader. Seeing that the programs that he just mentioned are in fact appropriated items in the budget, such as loans, et cetera, and seeing that our government is only allowed to spend money that has been appropriated and identified by this Legislature, could the Government Leader tell us from where in this budget the money to pay out these severance pays or whatever, come from?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, that is quite a technical question and I will have to take it as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that we extend question period and seek unanimous consent to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Question period has been extended. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Question O332-90(1): Hiring Decisions For Senior Civil Servants

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government Leader would know that I lived in Iqaluit many, many years ago, long before he arrived, and I happened to meet several people from Iqaluit recently who told me that the next deputy minister for the Department of Personnel would be Mrs. Louise Vertes; that the regional director from Iqaluit would become Mr. Patterson's deputy minister for the Executive Council; and that Mary Wilman, a regional employee in the Department of Personnel, I believe, would become the regional director in Iqaluit. So I would like to ask the Government Leader whether these decisions have already been made and whether in fact he has made at least two of these appointments by direct appointment and not by competition?

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

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the Member's intelligence needs to improve.

---Laughter

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: That's good! That's good!

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

Supplementary To Question O332-90(1): Hiring Decisions For Senior Civil Servants

MR. LEWIS: Since the Minister refuses to answer my question, I would like to ask him this then. Since he is not aware of these facts, as I understand them, is he then not aware what goes on within his own department in making

these various appointments, or has he in fact made these appointments and just does not want to divulge them yet?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O332-90(1): Hiring Decisions For Senior Civil Servants

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish the honourable Member would not talk to any of my constituents from here on in.

---Laughter

Or at least talk to people who know what is going on, Mr. Speaker.

The Member asked me if I am aware of what is going on in the Department of Executive. Yes, I am. The speculation of the Member about the careers of public servants whose names have unfortunately been mentioned in this House, is mere speculation; it is irresponsible and furthermore, it is inaccurate. The rumours are nothing more than rumours, Mr. Speaker, and they are way off base at that. Thank you.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: If it was accurate it is not any more.

---Laughter

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

Supplementary To Question O332-90(1): Hiring Decisions For Senior Civil Servants

MR. LEWIS: Since the information about these very important appointments has been deemed inaccurate by the Government Leader, does that mean that he has to make new appointments then?

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

Further Return To Question O332-90(1): Hiring Decisions For Senior Civil Servants

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: No, Mr. Speaker. There is a position vacant as deputy minister of Personnel which the Member knows about but otherwise there are no vacancies in the positions that the honourable Member mentioned.

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

Question O333-90(1): Nature Of Privileged Information Re Severance Packages

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to pursue the matter that was raised by my colleague, Mr. Morin, to the Government Leader, with respect to the paying off of civil servants. The Government Leader in his response indicated that the matter was privileged information. I would like to ask the Government Leader what principle of law is this privileged information based on. I am aware of some privileged information between lawyer/client, doctor/patient, those sorts of things, but I am not aware of any rule or law or any principle in government which makes any information privileged. Could he provide that? We are trying to be accountable. Perhaps we could be told then, how we can make the government accountable for some of its actions.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O333-90(1): Nature Of Privileged Information Re Severance Packages

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would first of all like to respectfully suggest to the honourable Member that there is an appropriate role for the Legislature and there is an appropriate role for the Executive branch. Mr. Speaker, the Executive, as I understand it, is entrusted with the responsibility of day-to-day administration of the government by the Legislature. That includes the responsibility for administering the government, dealing with employees, matters of discipline, salary, promotions, dismissals and the like. So Mr. Speaker, the first regard in which this matter is privileged, I believe, is that it is privileged as a matter which properly belongs in the province of the Executive and properly belongs in situations like decisions which would be made by cabinet, and therefore would be privileged as being cabinet secrets.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I think that the relationship between an employer and an employee is a privileged relationship. It is not in the interests of good morale or good confidence of our employees to know that at any moment details about their salary, their discipline, their promotions, their careers, would be discussed in a public forum. So, Mr. Speaker, I have always resisted questions of that nature because I think they offend the trust between an employee and an employer, the trust that matters of salary, for example, to begin with, would be private matters and would not be revealed publicly. Mr. Speaker, I think it is a well-established principle of public government that these sorts of matters are not discussed in public in the interests of the morale and protection of the rights of public servants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O334-90(1): Selection Of Deputy Minister Of Personnel

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Government Leader and it is following up on the position of deputy minister of Personnel. Because of the importance of this position, and the particular time that it has been vacant, can the Government Leader tell this House when he expects that this position will be filled?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O334-90(1): Selection Of Deputy Minister Of Personnel

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Personnel informs me that the position has been vacant for approximately six weeks. Normally, Mr. Speaker, the advertising and competition process can be expected to take up to three months. The position has not been vacant an unduly long period of time. However, I can assure the honourable Member that I am working with the Minister of Personnel to fill the vacancy in this important department expeditiously and I think that we could expect to have the vacancy filled, at the outside, within the next month or so. Thank you.

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

Question O335-90(1): Moving RCMP Hiring Responsibility To The North

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Justice. I think the Minister will have to agree that the matter

of hiring of people from the North with the RCMP is a lengthy and clumsy process. I am aware that the Minister is beginning the process of negotiating with the RCMP for a new agreement, and I wonder if the Minister would raise with the RCMP the possibility of moving their hiring mechanism, their hiring function, to the North so that hiring can become a much quicker and expedient type of process.

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

Return To Question O335-90(1): Moving RCMP Hiring Responsibility To The North

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I think the suggestion is a good one in this area, and in many other areas, to have the decision making in the North rather than the fairly rigid central decision-making process that happens right now for the RCMP. I will definitely be making suggestions along those lines. Thank you.

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

Question O336-90(1): Adapting Northern Clothing For RCMP

MR. SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We recently heard, and it has been announced by the federal government, that Sikhs, people like that, can join the RCMP and wear their native dress. I am just wondering if the Minister would raise with the RCMP the whole matter of the RCMP clothing and decor and so forth, and whether they would begin to take on and adapt some of the northern clothing and northern things.

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

Return To Question O336-90(1): Adapting Northern Clothing For RCMP

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I understand that a certain amount of that takes place now with the RCMP in the North, but it is definitely an issue that could be explored. Thank you.

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

Question O337-90(1): Responsibility For Monitoring Environmental Impact Of Mines

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering which departments in the Government of the Northwest Territories, or within the Government of Canada, are responsible for monitoring the environmental impact of mines in the NWT.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, when we went forth to request the FEARO process, we went to Indian Affairs and then Indian Affairs proceeded to deal with Environment Canada, so I am not quite clear who else is involved. I will take the question under advisement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Question O338-90(1): GNWT Policy On Direct Appointments

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, a long time ago I worked for the federal government and direct appointments were made, but it was very clear that if a job vacancy had to be filled that required very special talents, and if someone was available that had those, that you knew about and could hire, then there was no point in looking elsewhere because it was such a rare commodity anyway. My question to the Government Leader is, what is this government's policy on making direct appointments to the job? Is it because this is the only person who could do it and there is no point in looking elsewhere?

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

Return To Question O338-90(1): GNWT Policy On Direct Appointments

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier in this House, direct appointments are taken into account for many different reasons. Sometimes we have made commitments to individuals that have taken training positions and have completed their training, and we feel that it is necessary to ensure that we make use of their skills by placing them in positions with the government. Therefore, that is done by direct appointment.

There are many other reasons, such as trying to enhance the affirmative action candidates within government, and as a result we possibly go through the process of possibly applying the direct appointment route. Mr. Speaker, it is not one specific item with regard to direct appointments; there may be many different reasons. For example, there may be one individual identified with fairly high technical skills who is available to take the position, and a direct appointment may possibly be considered. However, I want to indicate to the Member that all Members of cabinet decide on whether or not direct appointments shall be approved and applied. It is certainly not just isolated to a certain criteria. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O338-90(1): GNWT Policy On Direct Appointments

MR. LEWIS: I find the Minister's response incredible, Mr. Speaker. I find it incredible that we have a political decision by eight people about a direct appointment and that this is not something where there is a policy, a clear policy, about direct appointments. I would like to ask the Minister, could she table in this House the policy on how these appointments are made?

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

Further Return To Question O338-90(1): GNWT Policy On Direct Appointments

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

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

Question O339-90(1): Funding For On-The-Land Program, Fort Simpson

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Education a question. The education society in

Fort Simpson is working on developing an on-the-land program which is, essentially, a three week experience in the bush, in the fall, winter and the spring and perhaps as part of its northern studies that is going to be introduced into the schools this coming fall. I wonder if the Minister would consider making funds available to the Fort Simpson society in this case.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, once I look at the proposal I will be able to respond to the Member.

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

Question O340-90(1): Water Truck For Trout Lake

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of MACA a question. This morning I received an urgent phone call from Trout Lake. They cannot become special constables from there but they are interested in getting some kind of a wagon or a water truck to carry water throughout the community for delivery to the houses. At the moment they are using a loader with a wagon and some rusty old barrels. I wonder if the Minister is able to help them out, considering that there are only 10 more days during which the wagon or a vehicle can be transported to Trout Lake.

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

Return To Question O340-90(1): Water Truck For Trout Lake

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, in view of the Member's courtesy for giving me notice I did check out the situation with regard to resupply of Trout Lake and there is backup equipment scheduled to go in over the winter road on the 28th of this month. More adequate equipment will be put in over the next fiscal year but alternative equipment will be delivered.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: I want to commend the Minister for his quick response and quick answer and I ask, why cannot all Ministers respond so promptly, quickly, positively and clearly as this Minister has?

MR. SPEAKER: I assume that question is asked in every House, every Assembly and every parliament. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O341-90(1): Error 1990 Explorer's Guide

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should have one question answered today. I read this book; I have been reading a lot of books lately and I read this book called "Northwest Territories Within Reach Yet Beyond Belief - 1990 Explorer's Guide" and my question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. On page 44, under the Keewatin section, under this Inuk picture with a drum I am hoping that there is a typographical error in here because the caption reads, "The Inuit Skin Drum". I have heard of caribou skin drums but not Inuit skin drums.

---Laughter

Could the Minister indicate to this House that the department

will make a correction? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O341-90(1): Error 1990 Explorer's Guide

HON. GORDON WRAY: I can assure the Member that in next year's Explorer's Guide there will be no reference to an Inuit skin drum. There may be reference to a caribou skin drum,

maybe a seal skin drum, but certainly not an Inuit skin drum. Thank you.

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

Item 6, written questions. Written questions. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W20-90(1): Funding For Inuktitut Teachers, Natilikmiot Region

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Education. Since the Inuktitut language is the first language of the majority of the parents who send their children to schools in Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay and Pelly Bay, I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, if some funding could be made available to hire Inuktitut teachers for these communities, according to the need assessments by these communities. Thank you.

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

Question W21-90(1): Young Offenders Facilities Statistics

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a series of written questions on one subject for the Minister of Social Services: 1) How many bed days have been utilized in each of the young offenders secure custody facilities in Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife and Iqaluit in each year since the Young Offenders Act came into effect? 2) Since the closure of the Yellowknife facility, how many young offenders nights have been spent in total in Yellowknife and what various facilities have been used for these purposes? 3) How many positions have been allocated to each of the existing young offenders accommodation facilities and what is the minimum level of qualifications required for each of these positions? 4) What are the qualifications and experience of the individuals currently holding each of these positions? 5) What is the average of the young offenders currently being held in each of the existing secure custody facilities? 6) How many trips have been taken by young offenders from Fort Smith, Hay River and Iqaluit in order to appear in court or for other reasons such as counselling, medical, or psychological assessment in Yellowknife and what is the total cost of this, including the airfare, accommodation of the youth in custody and the officer escorting him as well as the total salary or person years expended on these trips? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question W22-90(1): Secondments Of GNWT Staff

MR. SIBBESTON: Could the Government Leader provide a list of all secondments made from our government to other governments, agencies, organizations, and businesses listing

the length of employment, sundries, pay involved and any other special provisions?

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, return to Question W6-90(1), asked by Mr. Pudluk to the Minister of Social Services, concerning the lowering of old age pension plan eligibility requirements; return to Question W11-90(1), asked by Mr. Gargan to the Minister of Health, concerning research on the effects of radiation from the Chernobyl accident.

Return To Question W6-90(1): Lowering Of Old Age Pension Plan Eligibility

Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell's return to Question W6-90(1), asked by Mr. Pudluk on February 14, 1990, regarding lowering of old age pension plan eligibility requirement: The federal old age security pension is paid to all Canadians 65 and older. These individuals are currently receiving \$340 on a monthly basis. The NWT senior citizens' supplementary benefit is paid to all seniors 65 and older who receive the guaranteed income supplement. The seniors' supplement is currently one hundred dollars per month. The federal government is preparing legislation to lower the old age security age requirement from 65 to 60. In light of the current federal spending cuts as announced in the recent budget, it is unlikely that the federal government will proceed with the legislation at this point.

Return To Question W11-90(1): Chernobyl Radiation Effects

Hon. Nellie Cournoyea's return to Question W11-90(1), asked by Mr. Gargan on February 19, 1990, regarding research on the effects of radiation from the Chernobyl accident: Following the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986, Health and Welfare Canada conducted research into the levels of cesium-137 in caribou in the Northwest Territories. Between 1986 and 1988 all of the major herds were tested. The levels of cesium-137 found in the caribou were not considered high enough to pose any short or long-term risk to the consumers of caribou meat.

In early 1989 Health and Welfare Canada carried out surveys to measure the radiocesium levels in the populations of Baker Lake and Rae Edzo. These surveys found the levels of radiocesium to be within very safe limits. Therefore residents are encouraged to continue consuming the highly nutritious caribou meat.

Information from Health and Welfare Canada concerning the research and surveys on radiocesium levels in the NWT conducted between 1986 and 1989 will soon be available. The Department of Health has reviewed this information and concurs with the report.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions. Petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 43-90(1), an article from last months' Rotarian magazine. It is entitled "Too Young To Die" and deals with the subject of suicide. This article highlights some of the sensitivities to be aware of, some of the warning signs that parents and other persons ought to be aware of, and the do's and don'ts when suicides are suspected. It provides the reader with insights of what to do, along with footnotes with where to seek help.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 44-90(1), a letter from myself to Mr. Brian Weir, Director, Northwest Territories Chamber of Mines. It is with regard to the article which appeared in the Yellowknifer on March 2, 1990, in which the headline read, "Kiggavik Motion Angers Chamber of Mines." This is my reaction to their anger.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Rule 57(10) I wish to table Tabled Document 45-90(1), a response to Petition 4-90(1) tabled by the Member for High Arctic and responded to by the Minister of Education.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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.

Speaker's Ruling

Prior to proceeding into Item 17 I wish to provide a ruling with regard to a motion that was introduced by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West. I indicated yesterday that I would provide to the House my ruling on the challenge made in committee of the whole. The question before the Chair concerns a committee motion, proposed by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West. Mr. Pedersen moved the following motion, and I quote: "I move that principals of schools in the Northwest Territories be excluded from the student/teacher ratio." This motion was ruled in order by the chairman and it was subsequently challenged by the Government House Leader, the honourable Member for Yellowknife North. I must note that when the Government House Leader challenged the ruling of the Chair he stated, and I quote: "The cabinet thinks that this motion has financial implications and I challenge the ruling."

The Chair, when making a ruling, has to review the motion as presented and must not try to guess the intentions of the Member by the wording of the motion, or any consequences that may occur if a motion is adopted. Similarly, the Speaker must also not be influenced by other Members in attempting to make a ruling, as I am sure I could get a different interpretation of the effect of a motion from all Members.

To the question before me, I have ruled in this session on similar types of questions. I ruled on those matters based on

the provisions of the Northwest Territories Act, the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and the Rules of this House. The Executive Council is responsible for the overall management and direction of the executive government of the Northwest Territories, including matters of policy. This authority is given in section 56 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

I have relied on these provisions again in making my ruling on this matter. The motion, as presented, has caused the Chair to rule by the strict interpretation of the Rules and precedents. I find that the motion, as presented, may have policy implications but it is not clear to me that it will have direct financial implications. I therefore uphold the ruling of the chairman of the committee of the whole and order that the motion be proceeded with in committee of the whole.

---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), Special Committee on the Northern Economy Report: Building our Economic Future; Consideration of the Issue of Family Violence and Abuse; Motion 5-90(1), Opposition to Exploration and Mining of Uranium in the Northwest Territories, 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 Education**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come back to order. We are dealing with the Department of Education, with Mr. Pedersen's motion. We will proceed with this motion but prior to that we will take a 15 minute recess.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will now come back to order. We are dealing with the Department of Education. Mr. Pedersen's motion is in order.

Motion To Exclude Principals From The Student/Teacher Ratio

For the record, I will read the motion: I move that principals of schools in the Northwest Territories be excluded from the student/teacher ratio.

MR. WHITFORD: Point of order, Mr. Chairman, we do not have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We do not have a quorum. Would the Clerk ring the bell to get a quorum in the House? The Chair recognizes a quorum. Mr. Pedersen, to your motion.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion in front of the committee is very short and very direct and I do not think it can be misunderstood by anybody. The intent of the motion, Mr. Chairman, is to respond to the most often heard criticism of the operations of divisional boards and school boards, and that is the staff shortage. The department and our government have, for several years now, refused to change the pupil/teacher ratio which is the primary tool for deciding and determining how many teachers any given school is eligible to be funded for. This motion would increase the number of teachers allowable in any school

district in any jurisdiction by the number of principals that work in that school district or board of education, whichever.

In the case of my own region, the Kitikmeot Region, I have been assured by the divisional board of education that if this motion passed and the eligibility therefore in my particular region for numbers of teachers would be increased by six in the entire region, that that would adequately allow the schools to function as the boards would like to see them function. I will not spend a lot of time arguing the merits of this motion. Those who feel the same as I do, that we need more staff, I am sure will support the thing, and I hope that will be the majority; and those who think that we already have enough staff and do not need any more I am sure will oppose it and anything I can say will not change their mind anyhow. Mr. Chairman, with that perhaps someone else would like to comment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, it is a little bit of an unusual procedure. The Speaker was very clear in his ruling. He did not want to anticipate the motive of the mover. The mover has just clarified to this House that he would like the government to spend more money, and in that light, Mr. Chairman, I think that the Speaker might want to review his decision. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. With regard to the Speaker's ruling, there is no point of order. Members cannot challenge the Speaker's ruling. To the point of order, Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not think it is proper parliamentary procedure for the Member opposite to read motives into what I said. I never mentioned anything about the expenditure of funds. The only thing I mentioned was obtaining more teachers. Yesterday in debate on the Minister's budget I pointed out to him how he could achieve that without, in fact, allocating any more funds to his department. The Member opposite should not read...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. You have a point of debate, it is not a point of order. To the motion. Are there any further comments on the motion? Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, if the motion is interpreted one way, which is the motion saying that every school should have a principal and the principal not be included in determining the ratio between the students and the teachers, in a place like Colville Lake in my constituency where there is presently one teacher and I think 18 students, there will be, in a place like Colville Lake for instance, one teacher for the students, plus one principal, to administer to the needs of the teacher and the school, then it does have financial implications. Our rough estimate is that, if we take the teachers, basically we are adding one teacher to all the schools in the NWT. If you look at only the salary costs and the housing requirements for these people, not including the classrooms, we are looking at about \$9.3 million. If you are looking at the classroom requirements for doing this, then you are looking at, according to our estimates, 40 new classrooms, about \$12 million. If the intent is to make more teachers available by not including principals in the ratio, then it does have very clear financial implications. Whatever the Speaker thought, or the mover, I would be interested to know how you would not have financial implications, that is an additional cost to government, by excluding principals from the ratio.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not think that you have to take this motion and read things into it that Mr. Pedersen has not put there. Right now we have, for example, principals in small communities who teach, so therefore they do both jobs. When you look at a situation where you have only one employee in the classrooms in a small school, you can probably figure out that if that person spends one-quarter of his time being the principal and three-quarters of his time being the teacher, then you are not talking a person year, you are talking one-quarter of a person year. So you can take that one-quarter of a person out and if the three-quarters of the person year that remains, if you put that in the pupil/teacher ratio and if there is only eight or 10 students, then you have still met the pupil/teacher ratio of that community. So no extra person year is required. So you are reading things into it that are not there. The second thing is, you people have the ability as a cabinet to make a management decision to slightly adjust the pupil/teacher ratio in order to effect this as well.

Another point I would like to make and another reason why I am going to support this motion beyond its intent, is that it has always been my opinion that in schools where the principal's job is virtually a full-time job as principal, he virtually does not teach any classes at all, or if he does so he only teaches one class just to keep his hand in the teaching profession. I believe those people are managers and they should not be in the NWTTA as well. So I think this would be a step toward that objective of getting the managers of the schools out of the NWTTA where I think there is a conflict of interest situation when it comes to a principal assessing other teachers in their capacity and supervising them when he belongs to the same union they do.

So I am going to support this motion for the purposes intended by Mr. Pedersen and also because I think it is the first step we have to take to remove principals from the NWTTA and put them into management in our government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the motion I believe was deliberately vague in order to get past the rules of this House. I mean it is a cute way to do it and it is politics, so I guess we can accept it. But the point is that this is not a recommendation to the Executive Council, this is direction. Now while I welcome direction from the Legislature, I think it has to be understood and has to be accepted by Members that that direction should be as clear as possible. What we have here is a situation where we are not getting clear direction. As I read the motion and unless I am missing something, there are only two things that the Executive Council can possibly do. One is to increase the allotment of funds to the Department of Education in the neighbourhood of seven to \$12 million, as well as ongoing O and M implications for those teachers and for staff housing, or reduce the student/teacher ratio to try and find these extra positions. Now those are at opposite ends of the spectrum and we are not being given clear direction on what is expected of us. Do you want us to increase Education's budget to hire these extra people or do you want us to reduce the student/teacher ratio or is there a third option? But I have not heard any coming out.

I guess what I am saying is that if the Legislature wants to start giving direction to the Executive, then it should be clear direction. We should not have to try and figure out what you want us to do if you want to give us direction. We should not have to try and figure out motives. We should not have to try and figure out cute motions to see what it is that you want from us. I would really appreciate some clear, honest direction on which course of action you wish us to take. I do

not think that is unfair to ask. If the mover of the motion wants us to do what he suggests in his motion, then he should give us a clear indication of how he expects us to achieve it.

I think the other problem is that sometimes I get confused because I sit in here and I hear the chairman of the standing committee on finance and several Members give us heck over what they call a budget deficit and they say, "You cannot run a deficit", and here is a motion that has perhaps seven to \$12 million in O and M implications as well as capital implications and that money is going to have to come from somewhere. Some other programs are going to have to get cut. Something is going to have to give. Because if it does not give then we add to the deficit. So what are you telling us? Do not run a deficit unless we happen to want something that we like, then it is okay to run a deficit?

The direction we are getting is vague and unclear and I think it is deliberately so because the rules of the House maybe forced that. But also I think if the Legislature wants the Executive Council to act, then it is incumbent on the MLAs to give us a clear indication of what direction you want us to go in. What is it that you want from us? Because the motion as it is worded is not good enough. That just tells us a statement of principle -- no pun intended. It does not tell us what you expect us to do. This is not a recommendation, this is direction. It is different. Thank you.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In principle I support the motion, but what concerns me is the outcome of the motion. This government has demonstrated previously its wish to raise the number of pupils per teacher. In fact this Legislature fought them to a halt two years ago, I think it was, when they wanted to raise it to 21. So there has been a demonstration by this government before that they wanted to raise that number. If we pass this motion that would be signing a blank cheque for the government to go out and do that. I am concerned that when we are talking about seven to \$12 million, even if we were talking about two million dollars, Mr. Chairman, that that might add to the deficit that I am already concerned about which is \$17 million right now and I have some concerns about that. I think that if we were to go ahead with this motion it is open-ended. Mr. Wray is correct, it is not really giving specific direction to the government.

So while I agree, I would like to see the principals removed from that ratio and I would like to see the ratio of student/teacher remain at 19 to one, but if that is going to cost a whole lot of money, Mr. Chairman, I do not think this is the year to do it. So I am going to be voting against the motion and I would encourage other Members who are concerned with the finances of the government or who are concerned about the pupil/teacher ratio, to vote against this motion as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak in favour of this motion. I think it is a good motion and in no way in this motion does it say to increase the student/teacher ratio. If anything it would decrease it. I think if the government basically had a suicidal wish it would do that, it would increase the pupil/teacher ratio. They know what Members on this side of the House feel about that. We have had that battle here before.

I think the government is basically using scare tactics to try to

convince Members to vote against this motion, saying it is going to cost \$75 million and things like this and I really do not believe that. When you take a principal out of the student/teacher ratio, that does not mean you have to build 40 new classrooms like Mr. Kakfwi has said. I know that in my riding we have classrooms that are empty. We have shops full of equipment and there is no teacher to staff them; gymnasiums that are not being used to their fullest during the school hours because you do not have proper physical education people. You do have a lack of teachers in the community and I do not think, especially in the small communities, that you should include the principal in the student/teacher ratio. I do not believe it is going to cost us \$75 million.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is not \$75 million it is seven million.

MR. MORIN: Whatever -- he says nine and then 40 classrooms. I do not think those are proper figures to use and I think the facilities are there, it is the teachers we are lacking. If it is clear direction that the government wants, they are getting it. We want more teachers in the communities. Our communities need them. We do not want the principal to be included in the student/teacher ratio. What is more clear than that? That is cut-and-dried and the motion says that.

Right now in the communities, even the learning disabled, we have a problem with that in the communities and we do not have enough teachers to fill those positions and possibly this could help to do that. So I for one will be voting in favour of this motion and I think that the government, if it used a little bit of imagination and a little bit of hard work, they may be able to find that money in the Education department. You may have to look and do some work, but you do not continually come back to the Legislative Assembly all the time and say you need more money. Look at what you have and look at what is not working. Maybe you have to redirect some funds. It does not have to happen yesterday, it can happen over a period of time. That is my feeling, Mr. Chairman, and I will be voting in favour of the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Morin. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For years now the teacher associations of various school boards have asked that there be some change in the way teachers are allocated to school populations. This is not the first time that this issue has come up. However, the motion the way it reads, with no clear financial information or financial impact, if you like, the way it is written, leaves the way open for the government to say, "Sure we can be responsive to this motion, it is very simple. We will just simply not include the principals and once we have done that we will just go back to the old days where we have 30 or 40 kids in the classroom. That is the way we will solve it because it has already been judged that this has no financial implications, it is just simply that we will just do things in a different way and not include the principals but just simply change the student/teacher ratio."

That is the fear that I have, as well. Although I would like to see some improvement, I suppose, in the way in which staff is allocated so that a better job can be done, if we pass this motion the way it is it leaves it wide open for the government simply to look at it and say, "Well, all it says is that we have to not include principals. We will just simply not do that and we can have big classes again and we will not make any concessions to improving the system and improving the number of teachers, or increasing the number of teachers." That is the fear that I would have if the government decides to take a literal look at the way the motion is written and take it literally and say, "Okay, we will not include principals any more, we will just give teachers more kids to teach." For that

reason I will be voting against the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Lewis. To the motion. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief comment. I clearly understand this issue and the motion and I am thinking of the Baffin Regional Divisional Board of Education. The divisional board, as I understand it, always has housing shortages for their staff. They have never indicated a shortage of applicants but it is the housing shortage that they always come across as a problem. Not having spoken with the divisional board of education I, myself, cannot support the motion. At the same time it is important for those communities to have this ability, especially in the smaller communities where it is required, where there is a need for it. I would think about the smaller communities where they need more teachers and because of that I like it in that sense. As far as our divisional board of education is concerned and not having any contact with them I cannot support this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): To the motion. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion that has been moved, I understand it both in English and Inuktitut. The mover of the motion seems to have the idea that the principals should not be counted, not so much with the budget in mind but because he seems to think that it will not affect the budget very much. Whenever we speak our first language in our community we encourage them for their future, within the schools. I have also noticed that within my community that one teacher has to teach many students. When that is the case, where a great many students are being taught by one teacher, it becomes very difficult to give them the proper education they require. This happens in our communities. As far as the motion, if I understand it correctly, I understand that the principals will not be counted in the student/teacher ratio and I do not believe it will greatly affect the budget for education even if it increases the number of teachers. The way I understand it, this is what I foresee. Mr. Chairman, I will personally support the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, earlier I had given you one possible intent of the motion. As Mr. Wray has said, we are unclear as to what the intent of the motion is. I will give you another interpretation of the motion which falls in line with what the Speaker is implying, in my opinion.

If it is not going to cost us additional money and all we are doing is taking the principal out of the staffing formula without additional cost then what we are, in fact, doing is increasing the ratio and our calculations is that it would go roughly for kindergarten, 21 to one. For the high school, 17.5 to one. If, in fact, the Speaker is right to say that in his opinion the motion has no financial implications, then this is what the motion could be interpreted as by this government, and I do agree with Mr. Pollard and Mr. Lewis that I do not think the public is expecting us to do this.

You are moving a motion, in fact, that you fought like mad men to defeat two or three years ago. This is the one way to interpret it if, as you say, there are no financial implications. I had taken the other interpretation, which is that you are taking the principals and not including them in the staffing formula, and so you have 19 to one of teachers only, excluding principals from that ratio in the schools. Even if we did as government interpret it to mean that it does not apply to schools under 300 students or whatever; what if we do?

The implications are still quite clear that it means for salaries and for housing alone about \$9.3 million. For the additional classrooms that would be required it would be another \$12 million. These are not scare tactics, but this is the reason why it is very difficult to change the ratios. We might look instead at increasing the number of people to work in aboriginal languages, in the area of special needs, so that we provide additional support to the present staff under the present staffing formula, rather than incur still more costs, enormous costs, that would take away money that would be available for making improvements to the school system.

Because the mover has not stated what it is he intends to accomplish, and without that, if the motion passed it could have some dire implications for everybody in this Legislature. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel I have to make some comments because there is a great deal of imagination used on the other side of the House at the ministerial end of the table in attributing motives to the motion. The intent is to allow principals to manage schools. That is basically what the intent of it is. The intent is to provide one more teacher per unit that has a principal. I find it an absurd argument by the Minister of Education that we need 40 new classrooms. Does he intend that these principals now released through this motion would stand in an empty classroom and yell at themselves? What do we need them for? We have enough classrooms. If we need 40 new classrooms merely because we changed this formula and take the principals out, then I submit to you that we are 40 classrooms short right now, and you should address that elsewhere. But that is not as a consequence of this motion; certainly not.

To suggest that we necessarily need housing for everything is merely to accept that what we have been doing in the past is so wonderful, and if that is what the Executive Council feels then obviously they have not been listening to us. Use your imagination to listen to this side. There is an awful lot of unhappiness with the way things have been going in the past. Maybe we could rent housing for staff. I think it is very clear that if there is any direction, such as Mr. Wray is looking for, it is a direction for the department to do things in a different way. To force the department to manage funding better than it is now funded. It is in no way a direction to increase the teacher/pupil ratio. I think Mr. Morin put that quite clearly. You can come in with that and watch what happens. It is to manage funds better.

We looked at a budget, I believe, of some \$134 million in one activity under schools. There is a tremendous amount of room for better management in there. If you had bothered to read Hansard, or listened to what I for one said yesterday, I had a great many suggestions on how the number of teachers could be increased from what it is now by allowing boards to manage the funding on a different formula basis than what we have used in the past. The intent of the motion is quite clear, Mr. Chairman, it is to allow principals to manage the schools. If there are any financial implications, then it would be to force the department to manage the funds better than they have now; perhaps by letting that management go out to divisional boards for staffing, as was suggested yesterday. I do not foresee, and I would not wish to see, that as a result of this there should be an increase in the ratio of teacher/pupils, and I certainly cannot accept that there should be any requirement as a result of this motion for even one additional classroom. It has nothing to do with classrooms. The number of people teaching in classrooms would not change, it would merely

take the principals out of the equation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I find the motion to be ambiguous and nothing the mover has just said has helped me to understand the motion any better. Mr. Chairman, the mover says that he did not mention spending money, and he has just said that he has given suggestions to the Assembly yesterday as to how we could accomplish the intent of his motion, or the apparent intent of his motion, without spending more money. As I understand it, what he is saying is, allow the boards to absorb the costs of hiring these additional teachers, but do not give them any more money to do it. This provides me with some comfort, I suppose, in that he does not expect the government to come up with more money, but I find it hard to believe that we can tell divisional boards throughout the Territories and school boards throughout the Territories, "You are to hire more teachers but you will not get any additional money; you are to make do with what you have." If they can absorb the 40 some teachers that I believe the Minister of Education calculates are required without any increased funding, then I will be impressed. Perhaps we will be hiring teachers who are working on a voluntary basis, perhaps teachers will work for less money than they are accustomed to being paid, and if this can be accomplished then I would be surprised.

Mr. Chairman, the Speaker's ruling states that this motion is a matter of policy and does not involve the expenditure of money. That, too, is somewhat comforting and quite in keeping with the advice of the standing committee on finance that the deficit should not be increased.

Mr. Chairman, the other aspect of the motion that I find very confusing is that it does not seem to contemplate the fact that we have so many different situations in the NWT. Mr. Pedersen says the motion is to allow principals to manage the schools. Mr. Chairman, is he thinking of the school in Trout Lake? Because in the school in Trout Lake, the principal is the only teacher in that school. By this motion, at least by one interpretation of this motion, then the principal in Trout Lake will be free to manage the school full time. I do not even know if he has a phone in that school. But he will be free to manage that school full time and there will be another teacher, I presume, looking after the class. Some principals in the NWT teach. Some of them teach almost full time. I am thinking about the principal in Grise Fiord, the principal in Snare Lakes and even principals in communities the size of Lake Harbour or Sachs Harbour or Resolute Bay. They spend part of their time teaching. So I wonder if the honourable Member really intends to prevent principals from those many small communities in the NWT from spending part of their time teaching?

There is another aspect of the motion that I find confusing and ambiguous. Mr. Chairman, I think that the other interpretation that can be put on this motion, especially in light of the Speaker's ruling, is that the Member is asking us to restate the pupil/teacher ratio in another manner, so as to exclude principals. This we are to do without financial implications. In other words, revise the student/teacher ratio in a way which does not include principals. Review the student/teacher ratio, review the financing formula and treat it merely as a policy matter and not as a financial expenditure. That we could consider doing if we were clear that that is what the Member and this Legislature wants us to do.

Mr. Speaker, the upshot of my comments on this motion is that contrary to the honourable Member's assertion that the motion is simple and clear, I find it not to be simple nor clear, I find his own comments to be ambiguous. He says he did

not mention spending money and yet in the same breath he talked about, I believe, six additional teachers in his riding. So, Mr. Speaker, if only because this motion is so confusing and because I think the honourable Member has not, with respect, considered the situation of teaching principals in small communities such as the ones I have mentioned, I find this motion to be so ambiguous as to be unclear and very difficult to understand as to how to implement, especially, as the Member says, we are to do so without increased funding.

The other comments that the Member referred to yesterday and I have been carefully reviewing the transcript, the Member talked about capital expenditures which he felt were unnecessary. I am sure the honourable Member would not confuse a capital expenditure in the budget with the ongoing operation and maintenance expenditure that the hiring of teachers and the leasing of houses and the maintenance of additional class space would cost.

The other point, Mr. Chairman, that I want to make is that we may, in some schools, not need classrooms, but my experience is that in most communities we have a severe shortage of housing and I think for sure we should be aware that this motion would be impossible to execute if we are not to spend money and we are not able to provide housing in a community for the additional staff required.

The motion also has no time frame. Perhaps that was deliberate on the part of the Member, but I am sure the Member knows that the logistics of building houses in sealift communities prevent any quick action to add houses unless there is a great deal of prior notice.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, contrary to what the honourable Member says, I do not find the motion clear, simple, and if he believes, in accordance with the Speaker's ruling that we can do this without spending additional money, then I think we are going to be recruiting a lot of volunteer teachers. Perhaps we could recruit them from CUSO or some charitable organizations, but I am not sure we are going to be able to recruit them in any great numbers to work for free. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make some comments about what the Government Leader just said concerning a small community. If you take a small community for example where there are only 12 students, it is obvious that the person year that is there is not 100 per cent designated as principal. He is also designated as teacher because he does both jobs. We all know that. Let us say for the sake of argument that he spends 20 per cent of his time being a principal and 80 per cent of his time being a teacher. If you people use some imagination and manage the situation, you can then say that 80 per cent of 19, which is the pupil/teacher ratio, equals something like 16. There are only 12 students in the community and it still meets the pupil/teacher ratio. You do not have to hire anybody else. So you can manage those situations. Where you have a full-time principal or a person who is three-quarters of the time principal, do it like that and you can make it work.

If you come back to us and say you are going to have to find \$500,000 or maybe even one million dollars to make this work in some of the larger communities like Yellowknife or maybe even Hay River or Fort Smith or Inuvik which might be marginally affected by this if you end up having to change the pupil/teacher ratio, then you can come back with a supplementary estimate, shopping around in some of the non-program departments for the necessary funds. Maybe we can make some recommendations to you near the end of the

session of where you can find some money, in some of the non-program departments to offset this, because I am convinced that the growth in some of the non-program departments is unwarranted and should be changed over to some of the program departments anyway.

So I think that you can use your imagination and manage this. It is ridiculous to say in a community where there is 30 students right now, and two classrooms, with a teacher and a principal, and the teacher is only working at the most a quarter of his time as the principal, that you are going to have to build another classroom in the school. There are still only going to be two classes. Some of the arguments you are making, you are not using your imagination.

We are not telling you to go crazy, we are telling you to take the person years that are dedicated as being principal out, even if means taking the principal and saying, you are one-quarter principal and three-quarters teacher when you are in a small community, taking a quarter person year out of the formula. I am sure if you use your imagination you could manage this. If you come back and say it is going to harm some communities unless we find a million dollars somewhere, I think you can find it. One million dollars in a billion dollar budget is not too hard to find. We usually lapse that every year. That is why we have an accumulated surplus.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though I was not present yesterday I would like to make a few comments with regard to this subject. I have not gotten around to reading the documents that were handed to me, but I understand the motion states that the principals should be excluded in the student/teacher ratio in the schools in the NWT. If that is the meaning, I will be supporting the motion. If we are going to designate non-aboriginal people as principals, I will not support the motion. If we are going to push the hiring of more aboriginal people as principals in the schools, I would definitely support this motion. As you know, as a government that is our policy. If the principal is to be excluded in the student/teacher ratio, how will we define his position? Should we say that he is just an employee? How are we going to go about this if we are going to make changes to the student/teacher ratio?

Getting back to Mr. Arlooktoo's statements earlier, I agree with his comments and I feel that we should further contemplate this matter. Perhaps we should consult with the divisional boards in each region in order to reach a conclusion. We will not be able to solve this right away. I feel that as representatives we should consult with the boards first. In our decisions we might be contradicting the views or needs of the regions.

I understand the comments that were made with regard to this motion, but if you include that we should hire more aboriginal people as principals, I will definitely support this motion. To this point I will not be able to support this motion and at present we cannot do anything now without using funds. We will have a hard time hiring volunteer workers. I feel that we will have to make amendments or additions to the wording of this motion.

If we exclude the principals in this student/teacher ratio, the hours will go to only two or three hours a day, and I disagree with this. I feel that the principal, when he is only asked to work a few hours a day or part-time, it might be too monotonous for him or her, and I will not be supporting this motion, foreseeing the future. The regions are used to this system now and if we make changes there might be negative ramifications. The Arctic College is now in place in each

region and if we make changes to the student/teacher ratio now, we might stir up more problems, especially in the small communities.

I am concerned about my people that I represent. As I stated earlier, I will be supporting this motion only if they change the wording stating that we should hire more aboriginal principals in the schools. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. To the motion. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at my community of Pelly Bay -- I am not very familiar with the other small communities -- at times we have this tendency to debate on minor issues and sometimes we blow everything out of proportion unknowingly. Sometimes when we are trying to make decisions we say that it might change the financing formula within the NWT. The principal in the Pelly Bay has his own office and when the principals are teachers as well as principals they have to be interrupted occasionally for telephone calls, or when the parents visit the school. Also, he has to talk with the board members and he always has to use an interpreter so that he will be able to communicate with the parents. Looking at my community -- I am not degrading the white people -- but I believe that we should be pushing to hire more aboriginal principals in the schools. If we make changes to the wording, I will be able to support this motion moved by Mr. Pedersen. Thank you.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The longer it goes the more confusing it gets, quite frankly. Listening to some of the previous speakers, some more information is coming out as to what people perceive the intention of the motion to be. Now we are looking at three options, we have the obvious option, the two options that we spoke about before, that the student/teacher ratio is going to have to be changed, which puts us in direct conflict with the direction of this House of two years ago and in direct conflict with our constituents. So anybody supporting this motion should understand that you could be going against the wishes of your constituents.

Or we can increase the budget of the Department of Education. Because it is not scare tactics, as Mr. Morin has suggested, Mr. Chairman, we have had 24 hours to look at this and assess the financial implications. We know that it is at least a minimum of nine million extra dollars. It is about an average of about \$120,000 every time we hire a new civil servant. That is the average cost. Because we have salaries, we have house leases, we have removal costs, we have all of those costs. So we know it is about nine million dollars that we are going to have to add to Education's budget, which puts us in conflict with the direction that we were getting four weeks ago about not running up the deficit. So now we have direction that is putting us in total conflict with two directions of the House.

Or we have the third option that Mr. Pedersen has now put out and that is to find the money from within. So that means that we have to go back and tell Education that they have to cut their O and M budget by an additional 6.5 per cent from within. Now I suggest that if you want to cut Education's budget by 6.5 per cent to achieve this, then you are going to be cutting other programs, some very vital programs, and it is going to put us in direct conflict with divisional boards of education. There is no question that that is what is going to happen.

Then I listen to Mr. Pedersen in terms of the goal and the

intent is that we want principals to manage and we want them to do that and then I listen to Mr. McLaughlin who is supporting the motion, but he is saying something totally opposite. He is saying in communities where there is only one teacher, then we should assign the teacher three-quarters time and the principal a quarter of the time. But it is still the same thing. The teacher is still being the principal, so it is not achieving the intent of Mr. Pedersen's motion. So Mr. McLaughlin is obviously confused and he is supporting the motion.

Then we look at the situation if we read it literally, does it mean that where we have 12 people in a school that now the principals are out, that school is entitled to one teacher and a principal. Because it does not make sense to have two people running a school with 12 people in it. But if you leave it the way it is then the intent of the motion in which the principal is going to manage the school, separate from being a teacher -- well it does not mean that either.

So I think people should be very careful about jumping up and supporting this motion because I think what you are going to find is that no matter what you do, you are going to be in direct conflict with, first your constituency and secondly you are in conflict with what you are saying in this House. Because you are saying to not change the ratio but on the other hand you are saying to not change the deficit. This cannot be achieved without one of those happening, unless we go into the Department of Education and find 6.5 per cent of their budget. And you are going to be cutting programs. There is no question that that is going to happen. So that is it. Make your decision based on that, but do not be under any illusions that this can be achieved without some cuts being made or money added to the budget. It cannot be achieved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Wray. To the motion, Ms Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I have very much of a difficulty with the actual motion. If the motion had come forward and said that we want more teachers in the schools I probably could understand that, but I believe in a lot of instances, principals are part-time teachers. In most of my constituency communities we have a principal who basically works three-quarters of his time as a teacher. I can see this particular motion, giving the impression to that principal that he should only be a principal. I feel that in some instances we have only one individual in a community and that person is both a principal and a teacher. Now to say we will just remove one-quarter of that because that is how much time he spends at his work as a principal -- it is not as easy as it appears. So if the idea was to perhaps lower the pupil/teacher ratio, fine; or if the idea was to move that half-time or quarter-time principals of schools be excluded, but his motion says "principals", so anyone that is a principal is excluded from the category of being a teacher. That would be the way it would be viewed, and I am not prepared at this time to give that impression to an individual who is working in a small community and generally does two functions.

I certainly can sympathize with some of the statements that in some communities the principal should not have other duties, however this varies from community to community. In many small communities it does not take a full day five days a week to be a principal. So I cannot support the motion. If I read behind the intent or take some of the good points out of it, I would prefer to be looking at a motion that more clearly states the fact that the mover of the motion wants more teachers in the school, but not necessarily be removing the principal. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): To the motion. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I am not planning on saying any more with regard to the motion but I do have a question to the Minister of Education.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ernerk, you must talk to the motion. This is not a question and answer period. To the motion, Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to comment very briefly on why something that was asked for was not in the motion. It is, in fact, a policy of our government and has been stated very strongly, to hire more aboriginal people, and therefore I did not feel that that should be added to the motion.

Mr. Chairman, I have obviously been off what is called this side of the House for some time and that may be why I am confused with what the government really wants in the form of a motion. I do know that if ordinary Members make a motion that is so specific that we tell the government what to do in every detail then we are accused of dictating details and taking your management prerogatives away. In this case, when we give you a broad policy motion, then we are accused of lacking details in the thing. What I wonder is, what you are supposed to do over there. We pay you ministerial salaries and we give you executive assistants and departments to run, and you want us to give you details?

If we want to be specific to that extent, if I made a motion for you to breathe in and to breathe out, I suppose you would say that it was not specific if I did not tell you how deep to breathe too?

---Applause

As I said, the intent of the motion, when I spoke first to the motion, I thought it was quite clear. It was simply to try to achieve more teachers in the communities, as has been asked for by virtually every divisional board and school board that I am aware of. As to the funding implication, that is something that others brought out, but again to inform the Government Leader that when, as he said, he took a very detailed look at what I said yesterday about capital, maybe he should have gone to the O and M side where I did, in fact, come up with a possible formula and the Minister even said he would look at it.

I am going to leave it at that but, Mr. Chairman, I would like, when it comes to a vote, to ask for a recorded vote. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Exclude Principals From The Student/Teacher Ratio, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question has been called and a recorded vote has been requested, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Morin, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Ningark.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): All those opposed, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Kilabuk, Mr.

Pollard, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Wray, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Butters, Ms Marie-Jewell.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): All those abstaining please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Arlooktoo.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The motion is seven in favour, 11 against and one abstention. This motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Total O And M, Agreed

We are on page 18.09, Department of Education, total O and M, \$152,167,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): This concludes the Department of Education.

Department Of Energy, Mines And Petroleum Resources

We are on page 16.07, Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. When this department was concluded yesterday, the Minister had made her opening remarks. I will now ask the chairman of the standing committee on finance to make a statement.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, Mr. Chairman, the Minister responsible for the department said she would like to read her opening statement again and do it in a more punched up fashion. No? We have a short report, Mr. Chairman.

With regard to mining and the economy, the standing committee on finance strongly supports the department in its efforts to encourage and develop the mining industry in the NWT. The department can assist this development and its positive effect on the NWT economy by providing co-ordination. This co-ordination, Mr. Chairman, would include ensuring that Northerners are aware and capable of providing the manpower and goods and services required by the mining industry.

With regard to prospecting, Mr. Chairman, the committee supports the development of a prospectors assistance program, or educational assistance for trappers and hunters to encourage those who work on the land to identify and report locations of various minerals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Does the Minister wish to bring in any witnesses? Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We are on general comments on the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Madam Minister, would you like to introduce your witness?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, Pierre Alvarez, the deputy minister of the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to discuss generally the situation that this territory finds itself in with regard to the development of the oil and gas industry in general, and how it affects us up here. I basically want to make some comments, and hopefully the Minister will make some back. We have had discussions on this outside the House, but I would like to get it on the record.

Construction Of Refinery In NWT

Several years ago when the Norman Wells pipeline went ahead, I was one of the Members who said in the House at the time that we should do everything in our power, even though we realized it was a federal government power, to ensure that development of resources in petroleum, oil and natural gas in the NWT would be coincidental with the construction of a refinery in the NWT. At that time, I got figures -- actually Esso Resources figures at the time because it was an Esso pipeline that was being built -- and basically if you used the figures that I was provided with as to what type of petroleum products, aviation gas, car gas, etc., you get out of a normal barrel of crude oil, that the NWT, through purchases by the territorial government, the federal government, the private sector and individuals up here, approximately equalled what Esso proposed pumping out in the pipeline.

What I said at the time is that no jurisdiction that had the power over its own resources would have allowed a pipeline to be built to ship the petroleum resource, the crude oil, into another province for refining and then have its residents having to buy that back at Edmonton refinery gate prices, plus transportation. So basically our resources in Norman Wells are being pumped out in the approximate amount of crude oil that the Northwest Territories would need to refine to meet its own needs. You can argue the figures 10 or 20 per cent here and there, but I do not think it is as important as the principle is of what is being done. What is happening is that our resources are being pumped out from underneath us, sent down to another jurisdiction, and we buy it back at really expensive prices. The proof is in the fact that the refinery, such as it is in Norman Wells, is able to produce aviation gasoline and other forms of gasoline for use in the Norman Wells community and nearby communities at way less cost than anyone has to pay in the Territories; almost as cheap as Edmonton because the pipeline is not added into the factor there, or should not be added into the factor.

I would just like to state again, as I did then, that it only seems to make sense that this jurisdiction use its existing clout, that I realize is limited, and the enhanced clout of the Minister to get a regulatory agreement with the federal government to get a refinery built on the pipeline route, close to the highway system near Fort Providence or Fort Simpson or Hay River, so that our petroleum needs, at least in the Western Arctic and the High Arctic, through NTCL transportation can be moved into Hay River for transportation by NTCL and moved into communities directly on the road from that refinery.

Last year we went to Alaska and saw a refinery just like that, that took crude oil out of the pipeline that was running by it and used only the parts of the crude oil, mostly the lighter fractionating elements out of the oil, to make the products that were needed in the North. Most of the heavier stuff which might be used for paving or something like that and would

normally not be used all year in Alaska was pumped back into the pipeline. In fact, an interesting thing is the pipeline even benefited from this because during the process the crude oil was heated up and when the oil went back into the pipeline it helped the moving of the oil through the pipeline system. Most people are aware that if you have a heavy enough crude oil you actually have to heat the line in order to keep the oil moving.

Refineries Need Not Be Large

It did not have to be a big 100,000 barrels a day plant which the petroleum industry was telling us we had to have to make things efficient. I think there was as small as a 20,000 barrels a day plant and one around 40,000 barrels a day operating and making a profit. So I would just like to put on the record again my frustration in general that our present only known source of light crude oil, some of the finest grade of crude oil available in North America, in fact, light crude oil which is easy to fraction and break down into other components, is being piped down to Edmonton. The jobs of refining it are down there; that is, the permanent jobs that could stay in the Territories and help us. Also, if the refining was located up here we would not have to pay the high transportation costs of actually bringing our own oil all the way back to the Northwest Territories.

The benefits of a refinery up here would be excellent. In fact, a refinery built in Fort Simpson, Providence, Hay River area, wherever it is most economically feasible to do so, would benefit every community up here. The excess that we did not use up here could be sent down the highway to communities like High Level, in northern Alberta, because it would still be a shorter transportation cost. So I would just like to make the comment that I hope that our Minister responsible in this area and our cabinet takes a firm stand with the petroleum development companies to get our resources in petroleum, in crude oil, refined in the Northwest Territories and delivered up here. I cannot emphasize how important that is to the future. If we do not do it now, the next thing we know in 20 years or 30 years from now the pipeline will be extended from Norman Wells north up into the Mackenzie Delta and they will still be telling us, "The plant is not big enough, the population is not big enough" and I think we have to take a stand and say that the long-term effect would be good for us, even if it means that our government has to form a Crown Corporation to go into partnership with whoever owns the oil fields or the pipeline and has to be a part owner of the refinery, which I think is definitely needed up here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

Northern Accord Would Bring Resource Benefits To Northerners

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, it is difficult to comment because I certainly, over the years, have had the same opinion of benefits coming to the Northwest Territories on a non-renewable resource harvested within the Territories. I guess the only thing I could say to follow that up and in trying to take a more positive attitude toward it is that this is one of the reasons why we have specifically taken the initiative to negotiate with the federal government a Northern Accord, so that the resources would be much easier to organize for the benefit of the Northwest Territories. That is a specific reason for trying to get the decision-making and resources handed over to the Northwest Territories, so that the priorities can be set as the honourable Member indicated.

At this time certainly we have made big, big pushes on gas -- not oil -- and certainly we have made a clear statement that

natural gas should be made available to the communities in the Northwest Territories as well as indicating very strongly that the use of propane could be enhanced greatly once we have the gas being moved through a pipeline. So certainly we are looking positively at redirecting a lot of the resources that come from the Northwest Territories to benefit NWT residents.

All I can say is that I am in full agreement with the honourable Member but we have to take a stand where we can make those decisions. The only way that I see that the people of the Northwest Territories can direct more effectively the use and supply of non-renewable resources is by having that jurisdictional control to do so. All I can say is that I agree with the honourable Member. We are attempting to conclude the Northern Accord. We are attempting to set up a process where the decisions are made to answer the questions in a more positive way, rather than sitting on the side and hoping that our wish list is going to be met. We are taking it one step further, and I believe that those decisions would be much more easily made once we have control of the resources in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: I just wanted to ask the Minister about the possibility of a power transmission line to Fort Simpson from the South and I noted in her opening statement yesterday that she talked about the possibility of the construction of the Taltson transmission line from the Taltson down around the west end of Great Slave Lake to Yellowknife and there would be benefits to the southern part of the NWT. Does that mean that there is a real possibility of a transmission line to Fort Simpson?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, what we see in bringing the power around the lake is eventually to serve Fort Simpson. We have not got that projected in the first phase of the Taltson line around the lake, but as we go along we find that we will be developing a plan for a further section on phase two of the Taltson line.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Could the Minister provide more detail? Maybe not here but in terms of the possibilities of an eventual transmission line to Fort Simpson, because the residents of Fort Simpson would benefit greatly by this, in part because of the fact that the power corporation is situated right in the middle of town. It is noisy, and it is taking up what could be good residential land in the community. So it would be advantageous and an improvement to have a noiseless power source. I know that the people in the Simpson area would be anxious to know and just even to have it on paper, in terms of what the eventual possibility is and what year we, the people in Simpson, might expect such a transmission line to be stretched down to Fort Simpson.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Certainly we can bring the honourable Member up to date on what has been done, the work on how the Taltson line will be phased in, plus on the second stage that we probably have to build another small part of the dam on the Taltson to get the amount of power that would be required to feed the second stage of the system. We can give the honourable Member the update on where we are now and also some estimate of the time frame

for phasing in the first part and the second part.

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

Possibility Of Hydro Line To Jean Marie River

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the standing committee on finance review it was noted that Jean Marie River is getting fuel tank increased capacity from Government Services in excess of a million dollars this year, sir. If this line carrying hydro is going to go around the west end of the lake, we asked the Minister -- or perhaps it was the Government Leader, but I believe he passed it on to the Minister -- we asked the Government Leader about the line going into Jean Marie River and perhaps saving the one million dollars for the fuel tank increase there, and at the same time providing residents with stable power without the necessity of having to fill up their tanks every year. I wonder if the Minister did investigate that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, I did go over that particular issue. I am not quite sure whether after the discussion the Jean Marie tank farm has been frozen. But I am not quite sure; I would have to get you that information. But because we were not that far along with the development of the time frame for the line to reach Jean Marie River, I do not think we have concluded whether the tanks would be required in any event as a backup. So I just do not remember right at this time. I will have to get back to the Member on that because it has totally slipped my mind. I know we have discussed it and we had not got along that far in giving the details of the staging of the Taltson at that time so I am not quite sure where we ended up, whether the tank farm was to be frozen or whether the study showed that the needs in Jean Marie were such that it was required in any instance.

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

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I just want to emphasize to this committee that it was not the intention of the standing committee on finance to prevent Jean Marie River from getting a tank upgrade. What we were asking is, could that money be put toward running the line into Jean Marie River and ultimately saving the government down the road and providing a better service to residents of Jean Marie River. I just want to make it quite clear; we are not trying to stop that extra capacity going in there. If the Minister is unable to say, "Yes, we will put a line into Jean Marie River" and the Minister of Government Services is unable to say, "Yes, we will give you the million dollars toward the line", then I think we certainly do not want to cause Jean Marie River any disruptions. So I would seek from the Minister an answer in that regard as soon as possible. I want to make it clear that the standing committee on finance does not want to be used as an excuse for the government to save a million dollars this year and then no line goes into Jean Marie River. Perhaps the Minister could make that clear.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, yes, it is very clear because I think the standing committee had indicated that the intention was not to deprive Jean Marie River if we could not come to a conclusion. At this point in time, in terms of the Taltson, all the estimates on the cost of the line have not come in and the final decision at the corporation level has not been made at this time. So even though there was a suggestion perhaps that could be dovetailed in, it might have been too far down the line. So certainly, if we cannot answer

that question, it has been made very clear to us that it was not to cause us not to proceed with the tank farm as an excuse to save money or because of a lack of a decision. We understand that and we are very clear on that.

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

MR. POLLARD: I think the other situation that was raised in this regard with hydro was in the vicinity of Coppermine. I think, again, the standing committee on finance was saying, why not take a long look at hydro for that particular area? I guess it is feasible and we might have to spend some money now but we would save quite a bit of money down the road. I wonder if the Minister has made any progress in that regard. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, the accumulation of the material that was put together in previous years has been brought together. The Department of Public Works, Energy, Mines, and the Power Corporation are presently pulling together and expanding on that possibility of hydro power for Coppermine. The previous study that was done was very favourable on a certain area of the falls. It looks optimistic. We are going to try to build in some extra information so that we can come up very quickly with a decision on how we are going to go on that particular project. Certainly hydro power in the long term is much more beneficial, both in environment and cost. So it looks like a very promising site to be developed. We have not gone to the community to generate interest in that particular project again, but our intention is to proceed as quickly as possible in trying to conclude a decision on how we go and in what location and what the costs are going to be.

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

Cameron Hills Discovery Not Benefitting North

MR. POLLARD: On another topic, and we have been over it at noon when we were getting the briefing on the Northern Accord, but for the record, the Cameron Hills -- I think it is in your riding, Mr. Gargan, so you will forgive me if I am talking about your constituency, sir, but there has been quite a lot of activity down there in the last winter. Mr. Alvarez is very familiar with it. The point that was brought to my attention in October and November was that although there was going to be a lot of activity, drilling there, there were going to be contractors required, and there were going to be facilities that had to be made available, not a lot of those contractors were being sought from the NWT. In fact, the greatest number of contractors were coming from High Level. I want to report to the House that Mr. Alvarez was successful in convincing Petro-Canada to do as much business as possible in the NWT, and I would say that Petro-Canada did as much as it could in the NWT. But Paramount Resources, who were doing the lion's share of the work, certainly were not good corporate citizens to the NWT. They brought in most of their help from High Level. I think at one time they might have been bringing in fuel without paying the NWT fuel tax. I think the Minister of Justice got that straightened around. But they were not good corporate citizens.

Now I understand from information received this morning from the department that what they have discovered in the Cameron Hills is in fact oil, which is what they were looking for, Mr. Chairman. I am of the understanding from people in my constituency that some of that oil is now leaving the NWT by tanker and is being shipped south into Alberta. It may be for testing, but for whatever reasons, more of the resources of the NWT are leaving the NWT and there are not benefits accruing to residents of the NWT. This sounds a little to the

left, and my friend Mr. Lewis is not here to accuse me of being a socialist, but I would encourage -- I should say by way of background, Mr. Chairman, that at one time Paramount Resources offered to the town of Hay River the opportunity to buy a gas well from them. So in the past they have indicated that they have wanted to sell some of their assets in the Cameron Hills.

I would encourage the Minister, through her department, to approach Paramount Resources and get a price on buying out their assets in the Cameron Hills: their oil, their gas, their gas wells, whatever equipment they have there, either doing it through Mr. Wray's new development corporation or some other vehicle. But I really feel that because the legislation is not in place right now to protect the NWT residents, that because the Northern Accord is not in place at this present time, the way we can protect the interests of the NWT and its people and its resources is to purchase the thing outright and eventually spin it off to a private company in the NWT or maintain it under Mr. Wray's department or maintain it under the Minister's department. I do not care. But I think once again we are going to see a leaking away of our resources with no benefits accruing to us. So I would like to know if the Minister would at least think about and perhaps do something about my suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I believe that the notion has been planted firmly in the department and it seems like a very exciting one and an ambitious one. Certainly I agree that the accord is not in place yet and it is very difficult to secure benefits through goodwill. So certainly we are going to take that suggestion very seriously and pursue it and do the necessary check on costs and amounts and the ability of this government, in whatever departmental capacity, to take advantage of that type of situation. So certainly we are very much excited to look at that prospect.

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

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, following up on Mr. McLaughlin's thoughts earlier, and I said this this morning as well, when Mr. Butters was on this side of the House and was in charge of ajauqtit, one of his suggestions to me at one time was that there should be a refinery at Fort Simpson. Mr. McLaughlin is now talking about a refinery. It is quite close to the pipeline. I see no reason why this government should not investigate that possibility, and I would be a little more specific and say that Fort Simpson should be the site, sir, because it is logistically close to the pipeline and there are ample roads in that area to move that fuel around.

Mr. Chairman, I know you are looking at me and saying, "What is wrong with Providence?" But I am trying to be economically responsible here. So I wonder if we could get some comments from the Minister on whether she is prepared to look at or to take to cabinet a suggestion that we, as a government, either in partnership with other people or on our own or through other means, encourage a refinery to be built in Fort Simpson. I must admit that there has not been an environmental study done on it, and Mr. Sibbeston may not be happy with the proposal, but I am merely following up on Mr. Butters' comments of a couple of years ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, certainly, Mr. Chairperson, we will look at that. I think we have already started some initiative earlier today after we got the suggestion on how we can approach that. I would like to say that it is only recently that we have begun getting from the Legislative Assembly

indications of some openness to having the government try to participate in joint ventures or in development companies such as this. I guess in any event we see probably the best way to do it is if we do have an accord benefits package that people can understand and we can direct; and companies will know what has to be done if they want to get into production in the NWT. I think we will aggressively pursue that.

Of course, given the suggestion that there have not been any environmental studies, I think that we just automatically understand that that has to be taken into consideration as the first part of any venture that is of this magnitude. So I think that since it has not been said, it is taken for granted that this government would want to make sure that the environmental issues are dealt with adequately.

I would like to say, thank you, for the two suggestions, because I always like to get into a new venture to see if it is possible. Certainly if the resources can be more beneficially used in the NWT, we will aggressively pursue that suggestion.

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

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister does not know how difficult it is to speak these words about the government getting into business.

---Laughter

I have to bite my tongue at times. But the problem as I see it at the present time in this regard, Mr. Chairman, is that there is not enough money in the NWT, there are not enough large corporations in the NWT with the expertise to handle these large projects. Although I am asking the Minister to ask the government to take the lead, I am certainly not ruling out the possibility of joint ventures and hopefully, if they are successful in any of these ventures and if they get them off the ground, eventually they would spin them off to the private sector in the NWT, or to other newly formed corporations. The Dene/Metis, the Inuit, after their land claims, may be interested in participating in those kinds of things, Mr. Chairman, so I certainly do not want to see it remain with government.

Problems With Titles To Lots, Hay River

Mr. Chairman, on another matter, there was a commitment made by the town of Hay River, when the Power Corporation went to Hay River, that they would not just simply accept the thing and then sort of abandon the new employees that had moved to town as soon as the first blush was over. I would like to draw to the Minister's attention a problem that some of them are experiencing. The town of Hay River has had land surveyed, has sold lots and those lots have been purchased, and some people now own those lots under interim financing. They are unable to get a mortgage because the lots have not been ratified by the Canada land surveyors. If there is anything the Minister can do to hurry up that survey so that the title can come from MACA to the town of Hay River so they can give it to the people who then can get a reasonable mortgage, it would surely be appreciated, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to confirm with the honourable Member that I have an excellent working relationship with the Minister responsible for MACA and I am sure we can come to some understanding that we will do everything within our abilities to move the request along.

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

Mr. Ernerk.

Training Courses In Prospecting

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask one or two questions of the Minister, and there might be a few more after that. I understand that there are some training courses for prospecting. Am I correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, to my knowledge there are none in the NWT, but there are in southern Canada.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How can we get more Inuit involvement in mining companies, more Inuit mining themselves in terms of Inuit in the Keewatin Region to do some staking of claims? How can we get more Inuit involvement with regard to being trained to become prospectors and geologists? I know that prospecting can be fun because I personally have a certain amount of training in prospecting that I took way back in 1965-66 when I was working for Cullaton Lake Mines. I know it can be a pretty good job if you want to look for gold or any kind of minerals. I am wondering, Madam Minister, how we could get more Inuit involvement with regard to those two things, staking claims as well as training to become prospectors.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we want to do, once the negotiations for the new mineral development agreement begin, which hopefully will be very shortly, is to build in a prospector development training component. We know there are a number of people that have an interest in that aspect because, as the Member says, it is very interesting and it certainly lends a lot to people's interest in the land. It is a good outdoor activity. I would think that the Inuit would be very interested in that particular kind of occupation. I think this last couple of years we have had two individuals involved with the mineral development agreement and the geologists while they were doing mapping. One was from Coppermine -- I cannot remember where the other individual was from -- and it is their intention to continue this summer on the program again. I see that as an area where Inuit would fit very well.

In terms of the overall program, the Dogrib people have been doing very well with Neptune/Colomac in terms of being involved with that project. There has been a training program set up for them and it has been very well received. Now that PCL constructors has concluded the construction part of the program, we will try to continue the training program with the new company, Northgate. I think we are seeing more possibilities and more openness for both Dene and Inuit who want to get involved, but I guess the way we do it is to make sure those programs are there for them to take advantage of. I will let the deputy minister just elaborate a little on that. I know there has always been some negativism, that people really do not want to take part in mineral exploration or development, but I believe it is more how you sell it, or the energy you put into encouraging people to be involved. I think there are some very positive signs that we have seen lately, and certainly we will try to develop that particular area within the new mineral development agreement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Alvarez.

MR. ALVAREZ: Just two further points. Last summer there were two local people involved in the camps. This year we

are going to try to expand that to six or eight, so that all the camps have local young people working for them. Secondly, the department will be putting out a benefits paper this year that we will use to talk to people, because we are finding that the big difficulty often is that people are not aware that programs are coming or what the requirements are going to be. What we would like to come out of the paper is a process which informs people ahead of time and gives companies a better sense of what work force is available.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ernerk.

Involvement In Mining Sought For Inuit

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that is very good, what the Minister has just provided with regard to the mineral development agreement. I understand also that there was a program where at least three people took part in this mining venture outside of Repulse Bay. I think they did this program through the adult education program in Repulse Bay, and they were enjoying it. I would like to see that kind of thing continue, and I would very much support any kind of move to get more Inuit involvement within the mining industry, more Inuit mining themselves.

I want to correct myself. I indicated that it was the Cullaton Lake Mine -- as a matter of fact it was Selco Exploration Company before it became the Cullaton Lake Mines that I worked with way back in 1965-66.

What about right now? How can more people get involved with mining companies at the community level? How can the people of Rankin Inlet, for example, get involved with mining companies right now if they wish to look for gold and other minerals themselves at the community level? Who do they go to right now?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: It is so easy to say that it is someone else's responsibility, but if the department knew who was interested -- because we continually monitor what the mining industry is doing in the NWT, who is coming in and who plans to be working, or has a work plan -- if we knew the group of people who would be interested, we would certainly be happy to work with them to couple them with whichever mining company is going to be working in that general area. The only thing I can say is that we are open to providing support and maybe some direction and help in getting people together with that common interest. If you could let us know if there is a group of people, we will be happy to do anything we can.

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

Undeveloped Mines In Territories

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to satisfy my curiosity, I would like to know if the Minister knows how many known undeveloped mines there are in the Territories that have been discovered, with potential for opening, but have never been developed.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: There are many, many, many, I know, but I guess the question is difficult to answer because, whatever it is, it is always true that the possibility of opening a mine depends on the price of the particular mineral. We have a map showing where potential sites are and we can provide that to the Member with the types of minerals that are in that area. To the best of our knowledge, we would

probably say at what stage the project was going to go ahead and why it did not. That information we can provide.

I guess it really has a lot to do with the price of the mineral and whether it is economic to bring out, but I know that in the area of Hood Lake and Hood River and the area below Coppermine and the Bathurst area -- we just attended a meeting with the Chamber of Mines and one of the people had had a proposal that shows where they felt there would be a very high potential for development. They also had suggested that if we wanted to develop or spend money toward developing the mineral industry, because most of their incentives have been taken away from them, that perhaps it would be in providing infrastructure support or road construction support. They had advocated that whole area -- that would be just in your area and the area of the Member for Kitikmeot West -- that whole area was shown as a very high potential for development. It was suggested that a road and feed-in roads to one central road would be needed and also the suggestion was made that a port could be supported if we could get that infrastructure developed in that area. So we can give you the information that we have, if you would like us to provide that.

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

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like Peter Ernerk, I would like to see some form of training for the native people in terms of mining because the Inuit people are unknowingly associated with minerals. So we might be sleeping over a rich mine up there, you never know. We, by nature, are a very curious people and we would like to -- sometimes I find myself looking for minerals. I do not know what I am looking for but sometimes I find myself looking for minerals in my area and if there is such a training initiated by the department I know there would be a number of people interested in this training from my riding. Thank you.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering exactly what we are talking about; is it energy? Are we talking about big generators as well? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I suppose in terms of the department, because we are presently in the process of negotiating a Northern Accord on oil and gas and also there is a devolution question of minerals and also because we have the Power Corporation now, I would suggest that we can talk about almost anything.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a question on the power plants in the communities. In Lake Harbour we were informed that we would get new generators for the power plants. I wonder if you have heard anything with regard to that or whether they will actually get a new generator at the power plant. Have they just left it hanging in the air? I would like to find this out, please. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, the Lake Harbour plant is still on time. All the plants that were scheduled for this year are being designed or adjusted to the communities that they are going in. So Lake Harbour is still scheduled to go in this fall whenever the barge gets in and

delivers the unit.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I want to comment a little bit on what the Minister said before in reply to Mr. Ningark. Some years ago, to be specific in the early 1960s, the area south of Coppermine was the location of, at that time, the largest mineral staking rush in Canadian mining history. It was known as the Hope Lake Rush. There were more mineral claims staked at that time than at any other time in any other area of the country.

The primary mineral that the exploration companies looked for then was copper but they did stake a lot of other base minerals as well. The ore bodies that were proven to exist then were certainly large enough that if they had been closer to the market they would have gone into production at that time. There were also some other international market forces that came into play in that copper prices were very high because of a civil war in what was then called the Belgian Congo, in Africa, which traditionally has produced the majority of the world's copper. When that civil war was settled the prices returned to normal and it became not quite as attractive.

The industry in those days did a great amount of work in this very large area. One of the things they did was they surveyed the country to look at the potential of moving the ore out, so they surveyed it for a road to the coast, to the Arctic Coast, and once on the Arctic Coast they did a very thorough search for a deep sea port. They brought in the best arctic and ice navigation company, recognized as the best commercial one in the world then; it was called the Lauritsen Line and they did most of the polar and Antarctic charters with ice reinforced ships. An area which is known as Expeditors Cove, which is only just slightly over four miles west of the community of Coppermine, was identified as being a natural deep sea port both for bringing in, at that time, the largest tankers in the world right up against the shore without any docking or dredging being required and also for safe anchorage. The Coppermine River and other rivers in the area were, at the same time, surveyed for hydro potential. Four sites between the community of Coppermine and what is known as the big bend on the river, which is 60 miles south, were identified as having a very large hydro potential. I know that Mr. Pollard asked the Minister a question on hydro potential on the Coppermine River earlier so I will not go specifically into that in great detail.

Long-Term Planning Required

Mr. Chairman, when our government took over NCP and created the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and then we set up the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources I felt very encouraged by us having done that and I supported it completely. I think it gives us an opportunity, finally, to do the kind of long-term planning that, as legislators, we should be doing. We really should not be playing around with three and five year plans. If we do not try to look at least 25 years down the road I do not think we are doing our jobs. The shorter term things tend to become reactions to specific needs and that is not good enough for long-term planning any longer. As an example I will mention the hydro potentials.

The methods of generating hydro have advanced tremendously in the last relatively few years. We can, today, build hydro plants on a much smaller scale than was previously thought economically possible. We can do it without disruption to water levels, without disruption to fish migration, without disruption and damage to the environment. In the past we have neglected to develop or even look at

developing these resources, usually because we have said that we do not have the capacity to utilize the large volume of electric power that would be generated through hydro. We have looked at our communities and have said, in the case of Coppermine for instance, the maximum capacity is 1000 kilowatt hours or whatever it may be now and that simply does not warrant a hydro plant.

Potential Use Of Hydro-Electric Power

I think it is critical that we stop thinking in those terms and that we start using a different criteria for judging the potential viability of long-term developments. The criteria that we should start using is not what is the maximum consumption today, but what could be the maximum consumption in the future if we switched to hydro-electric power for all the sources of energy that we now use. By that I mean that we should consider switching away from fossil fuels for heating and possibly even, because it is a small community without any highways and no great distances to travel, that we should switch away from fossil fuels for vehicular traffic within the community; delivery trucks, etc. There is no reason that they could not be electrically operated.

If we calculated the heating needs of the community into kilowatt hours we would then find that, in fact, we do have the potential capacity to use what a small hydro-electric plant would generate. I think we have to look at it, as I say, in the long term and we have to look at the benefits we gain from that. If we considered building a hydro plant now in a community like Coppermine, and I mention that because I know it so well and also because studies are available already on that river, we would be able to dispense with the consideration of increases to fuel storage capacity, the considerations that we are doing right now of increasing the fuel storage capacity in that community. Just for the increase, not what is there already, just for the increase of the capacity, we are considering an expenditure of six million dollars. We have put it on a temporary hold to allow us to look at other options.

We also would not be required to increase the capacity on the diesel electric plants that we now operate and we are operating plants that went into operation in Coppermine in 1967. They have been wonderful plants and have given us excellent service but they will be needing replacement, probably fairly soon; another potential saving.

Hydro-Electric Power Cleaner And Safer

I think we should also, in this day and age of environmental awareness, look at the fact that electric power would be a far safer and less polluting power than what we use now. Fossil fuels on any cold day in any northern community with no wind, we can all see the results of it. It just hangs like a fog down amongst the buildings and it does not move. The additional environmental concerns would be that we would have clean power but we would also avoid the potential pollution that we now have from the storage of vast fossil fuels in tank farms.

I really do think that we have to think much much further ahead, take a much broader vision and a much more overall planning process, to what we do in the communities and what we have been doing in the past. Let us try to look 25 years down the road, let us try to determine now what our energy costs are going to be for that period. We cannot do it with fossil fuels, we are totally controlled by world market prices on that. If we invest now and clean up hydro power, we know what our costs will be at least for the period of amortization we choose to calculate it over, which I think is normally 25 years.

Mr. Chairman, I would again like to say that I think that with this department, and having taken over the Power Corporation, we have that opportunity and I urge the Minister to direct her department to take really the long view of this and do some serious long-term planning so that the generations that come after us perhaps can look back and say, "They did do one good thing anyhow, they put hydro power in where it was possible and got rid of the dirty fossil fuels, which really we cannot control anyhow."

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

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have looked at the organization chart of the department and I note that they have 26.9 person years, and having gone through the departmental overview of all the things that this department is responsible for, I am trying to pin down exactly what we are getting for the 26.9 PYs. I have a whole bunch of questions and concerns.

For example, right at the very beginning of the overview, we are told that this department is responsible for policy and legislation. I am just wondering what kind of policy is being developed and what kind of legislation is being developed. Also, when I look at the job of co-ordinating the government's response for major development projects, I wonder what form that response takes because you cannot respond to something until it happens. If you are talking about preparedness for something, you have to have an idea of what you are preparing for specifically. I find a lot of words here which defy analysis as to exactly what the 26.9 PYs do in terms of preparing policies and legislation and responses to these various possible developments that may take place in the future.

Difficulty In Developing Policy When Future Not Known

I note that the department was responsible for the administration of the Minerals Development Agreement which supported work in the Bathurst Inlet and Whale Cove areas, but have found yet no indication of what was done there, exactly what was achieved in that particular research project. When we come to examining this whole business of preparing for hydrocarbon and mineral development, it seems to me that any government department has tremendous difficulty in pinning down a work plan and a work load simply because, as several Members have already pointed out, it is very difficult to know exactly where things are going to happen because they depend so very, very much upon the world prices in whether something is going to go or not and identifying priorities. I know, for example, that when we discussed the Northern Accord this morning there really was very great uncertainty about when this particular major development that we all talk about will take place and it makes it very, very difficult to pin down a deadline for getting a Northern Accord. For example, suppose next week we really find that things have to move very quickly because the time is right and so on. Would that just simply go ahead and would the government then have to change its deadline for getting its accord finalized so that it can take advantage of whatever development takes place?

I am concerned also when we hear about the need to work with small communities, local communities, to ensure that they are included in the planning processes and receive maximum benefits. If you do not know where things are going to happen then how can you work with local communities? Which local communities, in fact, is this department working with? Unless you have some pretty firm ideas about which particular places are going to be impacted and what are the priority areas, it is very difficult to do that.

In general, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask, I suppose, the Minister not to respond to all of the issues that I am raising in looking through the overview but what do 26.9 PYs do in the development of policy, if you like, developing policy and plans and contingencies and so on. Could she give us some ideas of what kind of policies and what kind of legislation these 26.9 PYs are working on? It seems to me that we have an uncertain and not clear responsibility yet for some of these particular areas, we are still working on some of them. For that reason it seems to me that although we would like to take on, as the Minister said this morning, more than we have and would certainly look forward to becoming responsible for minerals, it is very very difficult to pin down a work load for a government department where the mandate is still in the making. Those are just a few comments, Mr. Chairman, about this particular department.

I would like to try to get from the Minister some feeling about the people she has under her authority and what kind of work they really are doing. Looking through the list of people, and I certainly have not done that exhaustively, I wonder whether we do have people who are experts in pipelines. Do we have any pipeline petroleum engineers, do we have pipeline people, do we have a whole bunch of experts in geology and so on; or do we just simply have people that are no different to any other public servants, I suppose, that plan and so on but really do not have a scientific or technical training in the whole area of energy, mines and petroleum resources? Looking through the list, I do not see it, and I wonder how they could be developing policies on a very technical issue if they do not have the troops to do it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Both of us will attempt to clarify some of the points on the overview. Yes, it is difficult, we are not a big department, but I believe where a lot of the work gets done is setting up a working ability now before the eventuality of development. For example, we know that some time down the line there will be a pipeline. We also know from the concerns that have been brought forward, basically what we have to do. Companies will ask, "In the eventuality that the NWT takes on this responsibility, what are the rules?" Right now, we attempt to -- and a lot of work has gone into the Northern Accord on that issue -- answer those questions. The aboriginal groups ask, "Does this mean that the government will come in and usurp the type of institutions that have been agreed to between the aboriginal groups and the federal government in their land claims?" Industry asks questions, since it is getting very complicated according to themselves, on how they are going to be allowed to work in the NWT and what are the rules or guidelines going to be?

Rather than trying to make up the rules later, we have a very very difficult job in this period of time to put together the land claims institutions with the Northern Accord, and put together a package that has a lot of the individual questions, whether there is fiscal responsibility, whether there is a capability, so how do we do that? We have had to spend a great deal of time with industry to assure them that we are going to be able to present to them clear guidelines on what the rules are going to be if they want to operate so that they know what is expected of them. We have a number of people who are professionals who work in that area. As well, we have funded aboriginal groups who have also hired professional people to make sure that whatever the territorial government is doing does not take away from what they have been able to gain in their land claims negotiations and understandings on where they fit into the decision-making on development of non-renewable resources.

It is difficult for me to say that we have been able to

overcome all of the issues but I believe that in the short period that the department has existed with the small number of people, that we have been able to come up with some understandings with the aboriginal groups on exactly what the game plan is going to be and what type of structures and operating guidelines companies will have to adhere to. I believe we have done a lot of work in that area and these are the areas that we also have to co-ordinate, not only with the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources but also with the other departments of government to make sure that there is a gain in taking over these resources. I believe that the work is better done up front rather than later when we find that we are short of resources or we have miscalculated. I agree that there are a lot of uncertainties and what-ifs but I believe that if we know enough about how the provincial jurisdictions carry out this responsibility we also know what the expectations of people in the North are and I believe that there are certain premises that you can operate on and come up with a final plan. Say, for example, that the pipeline does not go ahead but at least we know what the operating conditions are going to be and what the territorial government is expecting.

So all these policies and guidelines and pulling together of different interests is taking a lot of time to do and a lot of effort. In the overall that is basically what we are attempting to do, rather than being a department that reacts after the fact. In the short term there are issues that we had to try to react to, even though we are looking at a long term. As Mr. Pedersen says, we should be looking at a 20 or 25 year plan and the corporation is certainly doing that. They are fairly well on their way but the department also has had to put some resources into the utilities area to make sure that the Power Corporation has been able to move and get on with the job, and has had to do a lot of tidying up so that they can operate as a corporation. Maybe the deputy minister would like to elaborate a little bit more and maybe be a little more technical, rather than just an overview.

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

Policies And Legislation Being Worked On By Department

MR. LEWIS: Just to make it specific then, Mr. Chairman, could the Minister, since the words "legislation" and "policy" are used throughout this, give us some specific examples of what policies and legislation this department is working on right now?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Actually, I was just going to have the deputy minister follow up specifically in that regard.

MR. ALVAREZ: Would you like any particular order? Policies first. The big one is the Northern Accord, which will see the transfer of oil and gas management from the federal government to the territorial government. Within that, there are two principal pieces of legislation that we are already working on. One is a territorial version of the Canadian Petroleum Resources Act, which deals with the exploration and policy side of oil and gas development. There is also the territorial version of the Oil and Gas Production Conservation Act, which will deal with the actual management of oil and gas resources. Each of those would contain a benefit section, which would rely largely on territorial policy, that will form the underpinning for our discussion paper.

The second component is the area of mineral devolution where there is primarily one piece of legislation which would see the conversion of the mining regulations of Canada developed into a Northwest Territories mining act. In the past year we have also amended the Northwest Territories Power

Corporation Act, as you know. We are actively involved in co-ordinating the government's work toward a new rate structure for that which will apply to the Power Corporation. We are actively involved with the claims with regard to the implementation legislation for land claim settlements in Nunavut and in the Western Arctic.

The other policy areas are that we have had the lead role in the submissions to the National Energy Board with regard to the Mackenzie Delta development. As you heard today, another key area is the Kiggavik project and the future of mining activities.

To give you an idea, to refer back to your first question, Mr. Lewis, of what type of people we actually have, let me give you an example. Of the 26.9 people, seven of those are mapping geologists who have either an MA or a PhD in geology, geological mapping, geo services; as to what product they produce, they will each produce at the end of this year's program, a one to 225,000 map which a number of companies have already used, both in the area south of Coppermine as well as in the area near Rankin, for extensive exploration programs. I can give you a list of those if you are interested. The two people who direct that are both PhDs in geology, one of whom has 20 years history with the Ontario government in managing the minerals program out of Thunder Bay and was a regional geologist. The other types of people we have, to give you an idea, the man who manages rights issuance was a land manager in Alberta for at least 10 years. The man co-ordinating our geological work or our geological and resource economic work spent 10 years up here with Dome and others in the Beaufort. He has got a geology degree as well as a Masters degree. I could go on and on.

I am delighted by the calibre of the people that we have been able to attract. The figure of 26.9 is deceptive. When you strip out seven of those that are temporary for the EDA program, we are under 20; and you can look at the list of major projects that are out there.

The last point I did not touch on is which communities do we deal with and which projects do we deal with. Here are a few good examples. With the Department of Education we were behind the training program at the Colomac mine, which has got 40 people out of the communities of Snare and Rae involved. We have been quite involved with working with the Sahtu region and the Good Hope development impact zone on their program there. Those are just two specific examples of where there is not development yet, but we think that is where the priority areas for development might be. That is why we have worked quite hard at getting, or will be working quite hard at getting, community liaison people to increase that even further.

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

MR. ERNERK: I move that you report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The motion is not debateable. I need a quorum. Mr. Clerk, please ring the bells. I recognize a quorum. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

I would like to thank Madam Minister and the witnesses. I will now rise and report progress.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call the House back to order. Item 18, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Chairman, 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. Item 20, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings for Wednesday, March 21: ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m. and at 10:00 a.m. a meeting of the standing committee on finance.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 21st.

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), 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); Consideration of the Issue of Family Violence and Abuse; Motion 5-90(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 Wednesday, March 21, 1990, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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