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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Speaker The Hon. Richard Nerysoo Fort McPherson, N.W.T. XOE 0J0 (403) 873-7629 (Office) (403) 873-5788 (Home) (Yellowknife) (403) 979-2668 (Home) (Inuvik) (Mackenzie Delta)

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

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

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

Butters, The Hon. Tom, M.L.A. P.O. Box 1069 Inuvik, N.W.T. XOE OTO (403) 979-2373 (Office) (403) 979-2373 (Home) (Inuvik) Minister of Municipal & Community Affairs, Government Services and **NWT Housing Corporation**

Cournoyea, The Hon. Nellie, M.L.A. P. O. Box 1184 Inuvik, N.W.T. XOE OTO (403) 873-7128 (Office) (403) 977-2405 (Tuktoyaktuk) (403) 979-2737 (Inuvik) (Nunakput) Minister of Health, Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources, Public Works and NWT Power Corporation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

McLaughlin, Mr. Bruce, M.L.A. P.O. Box 1320 Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 219 (403) 873-7999 (Office) (403) 873-6220 (Home) (403) 874-2884 (Hay River)

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

Ningark, Mr. John, M.L.A. General Delivery Pelly Bay, N.W.T. XOE 1KO (403) 769-6703 (Natilikmiot)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Officers

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1990

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo): Orders of the day for Friday, March 23, 1990. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to make a short, urgent statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed, Mr. Minister.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 41-90(1): Meech Lake

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by Prime Minister Mulroney's comments last night concerning the Meech Lake Accord and Premier McKenna's New Brunswick companion resolution.

It is significant that in making his address to the nation, Mr. Mulroney acknowledged that he believes, "It is possible to extend a hand to Canadians who feel they were overlooked by the Meech Lake Accord -- aboriginal Canadians, northern Canadians and certain women's groups -- without undermining the accord."

In endorsing the New Brunswick resolution, the Prime Minister also announced that he will be introducing it into Parliament next week and referring it to a special committee of the House. The committee will begin special hearings on the resolution at the earliest possible moment. Once the resolution has been given a full hearing, it will be brought to Parliament for a vote, with whatever suggestions for further improvements that emerge from the meetings.

Mr. Speaker, rapid developments over the past two days underline the important task to be faced by our newly-struck committee on constitutional reform. The Prime Minister's intention to refer the matter to a special committee of Parliament will give us the forum we need to ensure that Canadians and southern governments are well-briefed on our northern constitutional aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I will at the appropriate moment today be tabling the full text of the Prime Minister's comments last night. Thank you.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Pages In Assembly

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I stand up to recognize the young people that are here today who we call Pages. We in this society have often overlooked a very important part of our life. Today I would like to recognize

formally the young people that have served as Pages in this House. I would like to say to you, the Pages, that you are very special people to your parents, to your brothers, and to your sisters. I would like to give you a little advice which I have often told my own children. You are very special to your parents. This is sometimes very hard to see and understand because your parents are telling you from the inside. But remember, they know you are here and that you are a part of this very important society.

I would also like to tell you, you have a role to play. Within this House you have a role to play; you have a role to play to make our homes a better place to be for everyone; to make our community a better place to be for everyone; to make our country a better place to be for everyone. Thank you, Pages, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Whooping Cranes

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I, too, want to recognize special people that the North has known. As spring approaches, Mr. Speaker, flocks of migratory birds are massing for the long flight to the northern nesting grounds. Happily, most of those birds will find their way into the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the whooping crane will be among these birds coming back, not only for this summer but in population number as well. Returning with the migratory flocks of cranes will be biologist Ernie Kuyt, from the Canadian Wildlife Service in Edmonton, as he has done for the past 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, whooping cranes are on the endangered species list but they have been brought back from the brink of extinction by hard work, dedication and good luck. Once numbering in the millions in North America, the flocks dwindled to the thousands with the coming of the Europeans to the New World. By the mid-40s there remained only 30 birds in the wild, or in the whole world actually. Until the mid-50s little was known of the breeding habits and nesting grounds of whooping cranes but in 1954 a pilot flying out of Fort Smith on a fire patrol spotted some of the large white birds in a remote area of the Sass River, in Wood Buffalo National Park.

This remarkable recovery of the whooping crane since that time would not have been possible were it not for the hard work and dedication of Ernie Kuyt who has, since 1965, been involved with these beautiful birds and their comeback struggle. Mr. Kuyt now lives in Edmonton and is, in my opinion, probably the foremost authority on whooping cranes. He pioneered several techniques in egg recovery and incubation which greatly reduced egg mortality and increased the survival rate of hatchlings.

Thanks to the vision and dedication of persons like Ernie Kuyt and the Canadian and American wildlife service biologists, the

number of whooping cranes is now at 146 birds in the wild. They are not quite off the endangered list yet but they are well on their way to recovery.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Members' statements.

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O377-90(1): Funding For Hanging Ice Bison Ranch And Agriculture Canada's Proposal

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development. Mr. Minister, as the Minister responsible for funding the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch, can you tell me how Agriculture Canada's proposal to eradicate the buffalo herds in the Slave River lowland fits into the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch proposal? As you know, Mr. Minister, yesterday I tabled in this House a document, and it mentions the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch no less than 10 times in Agriculture Canada's proposal. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O377-90(1): Funding For Hanging Ice Bison Ranch And Agriculture Canada's Proposal

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that when I first saw the correspondence from the 38 chiefs and the resolution where they said that this was step one of Agriculture Canada's proposal to eradicate the bison, my initial reaction was to think that they were just using this to flog their opinion. However, as I read through the documents, and particularly that Agriculture Canada proposal, it became very clear as to why the chiefs were very upset and I cannot blame them, quite frankly. It was the first time I had ever seen such a proposal, and in checking with my colleague, the Minister of Renewable Resources, it was also the first time he had ever seen such a proposal. I discussed the issue with my senior staff briefly last night, and my deputy minister and assistant deputy minister in charge of business development assure me that they have never seen this proposal either. Both the Minister of Renewable Resources and myself have asked our officials to check to see if, in fact, any of our officials were involved in developing the Agriculture Canada proposal.

I can say at this point in time that, as the Minister who openly made the decision to fund the ranch, both when I turned it down a year ago and when I approved it this winter, certainly that Agriculture Canada proposal played no part whatsoever in funding that ranch. The ranch was funded entirely on a whole other proposal that had nothing to do with Agriculture Canada's proposal. That I can tell the Member for a fact, because I was personally involved in it.

With regard to just our involvement in the Agriculture Canada proposal, as I say, both the Minister of Renewable Resources and myself have asked our officials to check to see if there was any territorial government involvement in it, and we will have to advise the Member next week because our officials need some time to check through all the documents and letters as to just what involvement, if any, we had in that. I can tell you that the funding was not predicated on Agriculture Canada's proposal whatsoever, because I was not even aware of it. Thank you.

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

Question O378-90(1): GNWT Investment In Agriborealis Dairy

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Can the Minister advise me if the Government of the Northwest Territories, through his Department of Economic Development and Tourism, had invested any money in the former Agriborealis dairy?

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

Return To Question O378-90(1): GNWT Investment in Agriborealis Dairy

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I thank the Member for notice of the question, although I now have to admit that I misunderstood what question was going to asked. I thought he was going to ask if we had any money in the present proposal, which we do not. I will answer that one; we do not have any money in the present proposal.

In the previous proposal, in the previous operation, yes, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism did have funding in that. I cannot quite remember the details. It was before my time, but I do know for a fact that we did have money in the previous operation. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O378-90(1): GNWT Investment In Agriborealis Dairy

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the risk of using up a supplementary, can the Minister tell me, again specifically, whether or not this government, through his department, has put in any moneys into the reorganized Agriborealis dairy?

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

Further Return To Question O378-90(1): GNWT Investment In Agriborealis Dairy

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. No, we have not, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O379-90(1): GNWT Support Of Proposal From Treaty 8 Chiefs

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Minister, last week in this House I asked the Government Leader whether or not our government supported a round table approach to management and taking care of the disease problem in the Slave River lowlands as well as on the diseased bison. I also made available to you this letter which has been sent to you quite some time ago, on the Treaty 8 chiefs' proposal to create a round table and have discussions and take a sensible approach to solve this problem. As the Minister responsible, I know you should be right up-to-date on this because this is one of the most drastic proposals ever considered in management of any type of wildlife in the NWT. Can you tell this House, as well as myself, if you do support the round table approach, and if you do support the sensible approach of a round table where people sit down and discuss the problem and then take action? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O379-90(1): GNWT Support Of Proposal From Treaty 8 Chiefs

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bison issue in the Wood Buffalo National Park is a very sensitive issue. I feel that our position on this issue has been quite clear, that our government does not agree with Agriculture Canada's previous position. We support the discussions between all parties, including communities and our government. I feel that since the issue has the potential to impact the local people in a very definite way, the community should be involved in discussing the resolution to the problem. I support the involvement of the local people as well as the interested people who are affected in a real way. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 0379-90(1): GNWT Support Of Proposal From Treaty 8 Chiefs

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. Mr. Minister, I appreciate hearing that you support a sensible approach where communities can be involved and they can be involved in a meaningful way. Would you take that support a little farther? As you know, your department has been involved with the Treaty 8 chiefs, as well as the people in my communities, to establish a counter-reaction as well as establishing a proposal to counteract Agriculture Canada. So would you carry that support a little farther and continue the secondment of one of your employees to the Treaty 8 chiefs, which proposal you are well aware of? It was sent to you well over a month ago. What I am asking now is, will you continue your moral support with dollars? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 0379-90(1): GNWT Support Of Proposal From Treaty 8 Chiefs

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the proposal put forward by the Treaty 8 chiefs to continue funding to second an individual to help them out with their proposal. We had already seconded that person to help them out with their proposal to the environmental assessment review process. Due to the absence of the environmental assessment review panel's recommendation, I cannot say at this point, and also because of the restraint that our government is feeling at the present time, I cannot assure the Member that I will continue to second an individual to that work. But I am looking at their proposal and I have not made a decision yet as to what I should do with their recommendation. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 0379-90(1): GNWT Support Of Proposal From Treaty 8 Chiefs

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. Mr. Minister, as you are aware, the proposal by Agriculture Canada is one of the most devastating things carried out in the last 40 years in any type of management of renewable resources. Your department has the mandate for management of renewable resources and does have the mandate for the Hook Lake herd in the Slave River lowlands as well as the Grand Detour area.

In the small communities we feel it, because we live right there and that is our life, but your department has that responsibility on behalf of this government to assist. The same with us; we are trying to work with you. So I urge the Minister to make up his mind. You have had a month now, Mr. Minister, and it is an urgent thing. Can you give me a date as to when you will make your decision?

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

Further Return To Question O379-90(1): GNWT Support Of Proposal From Treaty 8 Chiefs

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get back to the Member next week.

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

Question O380-90(1): Identifying Yellowknife Residents In Appeals To Department Of Personnel

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Personnel. I ask it as the shadow critic or monitoring person for that department among the ordinary Members. My question has to do with the appeals. I have a list of 34 people that have appealed and the problem is that I cannot identify which of these people are headquarters people. Could she table in the House, please, a list of those people who are Yellowknife people, because I have been asked to do some work on behalf of some of the people affected. I want to get the complete list.

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

Return To Question O380-90(1): Identifying Yellowknife Residents In Appeals To Department Of Personnel

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I will advise the Member that I would be willing to assist him in identifying what names he has and determine which are headquarters people, to determine exactly where their location of residence is, with the list that he has. Thank you.

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

Question O381-90(1): Status Of Return Of Inuit Remains From Copenhagen

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister responsible for heritage. Three weeks have passed already since I talked about the bodies that were taken away from Canada to a foreign country. Have you mentioned this concern that I have to the federal government as yet?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O381-90(1): Status Of Return Of Inuit Remains From Copenhagen

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The deceased bodies that he has mentioned that were sent to the foreign country — the Government Leader and myself have been discussing this issue and a deputy minister in Intergovernmental Affairs has been appointed to deal with the issue. There is a protocol that we have to follow. The person that is working for us is in Ottawa and he is dealing with this issue. He will be our route for information purposes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O381-90(1): Status Of Return Of Inuit Remains From Copenhagen

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder what kinds of things you have been able to fix up so far to date on this issue?

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

Return To Question O381-90(1): Status Of Return Of Inuit Remains From Copenhagen

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, we have not really dealt with this right now because we have to talk with External Affairs in order to deal with this in a foreign country where the deceased bodies have been found. I cannot give him the information because this has not been heard about as yet. Thank you.

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

Question O382-90(1): Government Staff No Longer Living In Government-Leased Properties

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Personnel. There are several of my constituents who lived in leased apartments in Fraser Towers who now are required to pay rent to Mid-West Properties. Could the Minister table for me, please, a list of all these people who now no longer live in government-leased properties? Because I have been asked to do work on behalf of these constituents.

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

Return To Question O382-90(1): Government Staff No Longer Living In Government-Leased Properties

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be willing to discuss with the Member and give him the names of individuals that are no longer leasing directly from the government but have been asked to lease from Mid-West Properties, although I am very reluctant to table the information for public consumption. Thank you.

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

Question O383-90(1): CBC Network Transmission Feed

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Minister responsible for Culture and Communications. Mr. Speaker, the feed for CBC television comes from Vancouver into the western Arctic and some of my constituents for years have wanted that feed to originate in Edmonton. Well, I am sorry, Mr. Wray; that is the way it is. I really did not think this was going to raise this kind of problem, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, that would put the National at 10:00 o'clock instead of at 11:00 o'clock. I was wondering if the Minister would look into that situation and see if it would be possible, sir. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for

Amittuq.

Return To Question O383-90(1): CBC Network Transmission Feed

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will look into it.

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

Question O384-90(1): Incidence Of Sexually-Transmitted Diseases

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. Actually, first I would like to say, in relation to the door-to-door campaign that she has launched on sexually-transmitted diseases and tobacco, that I would like to commend her on that. However, related to that I would like to ask her, when we first launched the program to prevent or curtail HIV infection in the Northwest Territories, we were told by officials from the federal department and our own Department of Health that if we saw a trend that sexually-transmitted diseases were slowly declining, that would be an indicator that our programs were effective and working. I wonder if she could advise the House, has there been a curtailment in sexually-transmitted diseases in the Northwest Territories which would therefore show that there is some positive effect of the programs to date?

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

Return To Question 0384-90(1): Incidence Of Sexually-Transmitted Diseases

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I think overall we are not seeing any significant decrease in sexually-transmitted diseases. In the area of gonorrhea there is a slight decrease, but very slight. This is basically in the two years that we have been responsible for the Department of Health. We have not been able to really make any intelligent use of the federal statistics yet, although we are trying to go beyond the two years since we took over responsibility. The other factor that has begun to play into infectious diseases is chlamydia, and this is one of the areas that we were not testing or having cases reported. That has increased significantly, but it may be because we just have not been testing for chlamydia, so at this point in time! cannot say that there has been any significant decrease in sexually-transmitted diseases. Thank

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

Question O385-90(1): Information On Practice Of Safe Sex

MR. SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This being Friday, I understand, and I did hear from a number of people who were in the office of the Minister of Health a couple of weeks ago, that while there and upon their leaving, Ms Cournoyea gave them some of those rubber things, I do not even like to say the name of those things; but I was shocked, frankly, to hear that the Minister was doing this to all her visitors. I am just wondering how the Minister can justify such action.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Return To Question O385-90(1): Information On Practice Of Safe Sex

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable Members of this Legislative Assembly know very clearly, with the new problems we have with HIV positives, AIDS, sexually-transmitted diseases and the lack of knowledge within the community at large, and the lack of care basically, the display at my office was consistent with other displays that we are going to be promoting to make this information known to the general public. I think it is highly appropriate that the Minister practise what she preaches. Thank you.

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

Question O386-90(1): Gryfalcon Studies In Keewatin Area

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. This summer I was made aware in Rankin Inlet with regard to the gryfalcon studies. I think the Minister is aware of the situation. What is being done about this?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittug.

Return To Question O386-90(1): Gyrfalcon Studies In Keewatin Area

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) I am not sure if the gyrfalcons have been studied in the Keewatin area.

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

Question O387-90(1): Study Of Arctic Char In Diana River

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. This summer, near Rankin Inlet, at a place called Diana River, I think Fisheries and Oceans are going to do a study of the arctic char. Are you aware of this situation?

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

Return To Question O387-90(1): Study Of Arctic Char In Diana River

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are aware of the study that is going to be done in the Diana River. We have not received a letter as yet, but we are aware that Fisheries and Oceans will be doing a study concerning the arctic char.

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

Supplementary To Question O387-90(1): Study Of Arctic Char In Diana River

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to my question. What kind of job opportunities will be available to the local people under this study by Fisheries and Oceans?

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

Further Return To Question O387-90(1): Study Of Arctic Char In Diana River

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. I am not sure what is going to happen.

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

Supplementary To Question O387-90(1): Study Of Arctic Char In Diana River

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same Minister, a supplementary to my question. Will the community be involved in the study? Will Fisheries and Oceans be doing any local hiring in Rankin?

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try and find out with regard to the study and will get back to you with the answers I get.

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

Question O388-90(1): Beluga Whale Groupings, Baffin

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I am aware that you are not an employee of Fisheries and Oceans, but my question pertains to the beluga whales in Hudson Strait and Baffin Sound. I want to find out if these beluga whales in these two separate oceans are different physically. I would like to find out if there is any difference between those two. They were thinking of cutting down the killing of the whales for Lake Harbour. I would like to find out if these beluga whales are from the same group.

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

Return To Question O388-90(1): Beluga Whale Groupings, Baffin

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fisheries and Oceans were trying to stop the hunting of the beluga whales in Baffin. The people from the Department of Renewable Resources in Baffin Island have written a letter to Fisheries and Oceans to do a study on the beluga whales in Baffin. They have written the letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. To date, they have not received a reply from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. There is a new Minister today with the federal government. I do not know if he has seen the letter or done anything about the problem in Baffin Island concerning the beluga whales. I am not sure. I did not receive a letter pertaining to the beluga whales, as to whether they were from the same group.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Baffin South.

Supplementary To Question O388-90(1): Beluga Whale Groupings, Baffin

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask you directly pertaining to these studies done in Baffin Island. The hunters and trappers have heard a little bit about the situation as to what is going to be done. I would like to find out from you exactly if they are going to stop the hunting of the beluga whales in Baffin Island, in the Lake Harbour area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittug.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the situation and I will get back to

the Member later.

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

Question O389-90(1): Carving Display In Lobby Of Legislative Assembly

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Culture and Communications, I have a question. Outside our Legislative Assembly here, there is a small display of carvings. I see a particular carving inside it. The carving made by Maudie Rachel Okittuq from Spence Bay, which we call "nuliajuk" in our region, is referred to as "Sedna". Is that name referring to that mermaid correct?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O389-90(1): Carving Display In Lobby Of Legislative Assembly

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a traditional story, people from the ocean area. Each region has different names pertaining to the traditional stories. The name of the carving is Sedna, not a person's name. Each region has a traditional name in each region. This is pertaining to the people of the ocean area. Each region has a different story traditionally.

MR. SPEAKER: Prior to continuing with question period, I just want to draw the attention of Members to the former Member and colleague of Members in this House, Mr. John T'Seleie.

---Applause

The former Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Mr. John H. Parker and the Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic, Ms Ethel Blondin.

---Applause

Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Question O390-90(1): Changes In Terminology To Describe Inuit And Kabloona

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Culture and Communications. Many years ago when ITC was formed, one of the priority things was to try to get the word "Eskimo" removed from the English language. It was a word that is used in the English language and has been for a long, long time. People had found that word was derogatory because in the Indian Chippewa dialect it meant "eaters of raw meat". I would like to ask the Minister, since in Inuktitut, you use the word "Kabloona" to describe white people, which means "people with big eyebrows", and since many of us do not have big eyebrows, would he in fact undertake to examine this concern I have that I am being asked to change my language, whereas the Inuit are not being asked to change that word, "Kabloona" which means something that some people could find objectionable?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O390-90(1): Changes In Terminology To Describe Inuit And Kabloona

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is Friday. It is that the Inuit would rather be called "Inuit" than "Eskimos". The word that had been adopted to describe the white people or caucasian people, is a word that does not

have that meaning; when you say "Kabloona" it does not mean to the Inuit "people with big eyebrows". At the present time that word is widely used by the Inuit and it is accepted. I could call the Member other words, I guess, "inukpuk" maybe.

---Laughter

But at the present time I have no plans to change the word or recommend to the Legislative Assembly to use another word, because I have no other words to describe caucasian people. Thank you.

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

Question O391-90(1): Federal Funding Of Airports In Third World Versus NWT

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Transportation, I would like to ask a question. The other day, about two days ago, on Tuesday, I was reading the news, in the Edmonton Sun, how Canadians assisted at least about 22 airports in different communities in the Third World. Looking at the NWT, there are very few programs and funds to provide airports in the Northwest Territories. My good friend, Joe Arlooktoo, has been asking when they are going to get a proper airstrip in their community. There is one airport that has been provided at a cost of \$10 million. My question is, could the federal government provide some funds to the Northwest Territories? Perhaps the Minister could make a proposal to ask the federal government to provide more funding to the NWT.

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

Return To Question O391-90(1): Federal Funding Of Airports In Third World Versus NWT

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I must admit that it is frustrating at times to see the federal government funding airports in other parts of the world when we have such a tough time even getting five million dollars out of them to fund airports in our own country. I guess you have to be philosophical with these things and figure that Canada is a rich country and it should help poorer countries. I just wish sometimes that they would realize that within their own country they have almost a third world in the North, in terms of our economy.

We are preparing a transportation strategy which will be used to form the basis of negotiations with the federal government to access funding for transportation and infrastructure and I am hopeful that that will bear some kind of results. If not, perhaps we can apply to the Canadian International Development Agency for funding as well, just like everybody else. Thank you.

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

Question O392-90(1): Job Advertisements In News North In English Only

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Personnel. When they are advertising job competitions the problem is that sometimes, in most cases, they are not advertised in the aboriginal languages. On December 20 there was a job advertisement in the News North and there was one written in English and Inuktitut as well. But why, today, are the ones advertised in the News North not translated but they are translated in the

Nunatsiaq News? My question is why are they not translated in the News North? That is my question.

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

Return To Question O392-90(1): Job Advertisements In News North In English Only

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker. Advertising is requested through each paper and I believe it is the policy of Nunatsiaq News to advertise positions in the two languages and it is not the policy of News North to advertise in a different language across the Territories. So it is the choice of Nunatsiaq News that they print in the two languages.

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

Question O393-90(1): Testing Of Diseased Caribou Meat

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is going to be directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. There have been a lot of diseased caribou and I do not think it is only around the Pelly Bay area; I think it is all over the Northwest Territories now. You have to go a long way to go caribou hunting and if you kill a diseased caribou you just have to leave it behind. I have been receiving information that if we kill a caribou like that we are supposed to cut off a piece of the meat and send it to the lab. Is this still going on right now? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O393-90(1): Testing Of Diseased Caribou Meat

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hunters, when they kill a diseased caribou, mainly with brucellosis, the wildlife officers usually inform the people, the hunters, to bring the meat to a wildlife officer but it is not a regulation. The caribou on Southhampton Island are the only caribou that do not have brucellosis. Around Tuktoyaktuk at least four per cent of the caribou population has brucellosis; around Baker Lake it is four per cent; around the Keewatin it is a little over four per cent; on Baffin Island, around Arctic Bay, about 35 per cent of the caribou have brucellosis; and in Gjoa Haven and around Spence Bay, again about 35 per cent of the population have brucellosis. These are the reports from the studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O393-90(1): Testing Of Diseased Caribou Meat

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is going to happen if this diseased caribou is eaten by the other animals? Perhaps the disease could be spread to other animals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question O393-90(1): Testing Of Diseased Caribou Meat

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Brucellosis is a bacteria that grows in animals and some animals are susceptible to it while others are not. I am not certain which are susceptible to these diseases, but I can

find out for you. Different animals are susceptible to different diseases. Thank you.

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

Question O394-90(1): Brucellosis In Caribou And Wood Bison

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. It has been brought to my attention that caribou have brucellosis. Is there any way that the Minister can keep that a secret and not let Agriculture Canada know, because you know what they think of brucellosis?

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

Return To Question O394-90(1): Brucellosis In Caribou And Wood Bison

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, apparently there are two kinds of brucellosis. The one that is carried by the wood bison could be transmitted to humans and to cattle. Apparently the brucellosis that is carried by caribou is different from that carried by the wood bison and cannot be transmitted to cattle, but it could be transmitted to human beings. That knowledge is very well known to our governments.

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

Question O395-90(1): Response To Question O329-90(1), Origin Of Brucellosis In Caribou, Requested

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be directed to my friend, the honourable Member for Amittuq and also the Minister of Renewable Resources. I asked yesterday about this disease of caribou called brucellosis. Where does it originate, and does it affect the flesh, does it become infectious? What causes this disease? Maybe you can respond to me now.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittuq.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Member asked the question to the Government Leader in my absence. My department is working toward getting that answer for him. My knowledge is that the brucellosis that is carried by some species in the NWT has been in the population for quite some time. We are just finding out now the extent of the disease through our research on caribou. It is natural to caribou and it has been in the population, to our knowledge, as long as the caribou have been there.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Did the honourable Member take the question as notice?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, yes.

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

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W23-90(1): Government Funds Invested In Agriborealis Dairy

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A written question to the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism. Will the Minister provide me with the amount of money invested, spent or contributed by the

Government of the Northwest Territories through his department to the former Agriborealis dairy in Yellowknife?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions. 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 Iqaluit.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 51-90(1), the text of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's address on the Meech Lake Accord given on national television on March 22, 1990. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. Notices of motion.

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

Item 14, motions. Motions. Item 15, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 14-90(1): Tobacco Tax Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 14-90(1), An Act to Amend the Tobacco Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Is the Minister referring to the Tobacco Tax Act?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The Minister was trying very hard to refer to the Tobacco Tax Act. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 14-90(1) has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to move to second reading of Bill 14-90(1), An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to give second reading to Bill 14-90(1). Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Minister.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 14-90(1): Tobacco Tax Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 14-90(1), An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act, be read

for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Tobacco Tax Act to increase the tax rate of the percentage of the taxable price per gram of tobacco, per cigarette and per cigar, effective April 1, 1990; and to substitute the comptroller general for the Minister where tax collectors have not remitted the full amount due.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 14-90(1) has had second reading and is referred to committee of the whole for today. Second reading of bills. 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; Bill 14-90(1), Tobacco Tax Act.

Members may note that there is no chairperson present and as such under Rule 12(5) the Chair hereby appoints the honourable Member for Aivilik as chairman of committee of the whole.

---Applause

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): The Chair recognizes a quorum. I will call the committee to order. Before we recess, what is the government's wish for today? Mr. Government House Leader.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we would like to do today, with the committee's agreement, is to deal with An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act and then move on to the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Is the committee agreed? We will recess for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come back to order. We are dealing with Bill 14-90(1), An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act. Mr. Minister, will you introduce your bill, please?

Bill 14-90(1): Tobacco Tax Act

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of the Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act is to implement changes to the tobacco taxes that were announced in the budget address, and to revise the tax rate on loose cigarette tobacco, which was agreed to last winter.

The amendment to the tobacco tax rate will result in a tax rate increasing from 55 per cent, for the retail price, to 60 per cent. The amendment on the loose cigarette tobacco tax rate will result in the tax rate increasing from 25 per cent, for the retail price, to 40 per cent. It is estimated that these tax rate

increases will generate a further \$759,000 in revenue in 1990-91. As well, a minor administrative amendment is being proposed to provide the comptroller general with the authority to assess the payment of tax after an audit of the tax collector has been conducted, should additional tax be deemed payable. This is currently the authority of the Minister of Finance, but I will retain the authority to rule on appeals to such assessments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the chairperson of the finance committee have remarks to make on this bill?

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on finance has reviewed the bill and recommends it to the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Any comments from the committee Members on the bill? Are you ready for clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Does this committee agree that Bill 14-90(1) is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

-Agreed

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Does the committee agree to move on to Bill 9-90(1), with the Housing Corporation? The Housing Corporation is on page three of the main estimates. Does the Minister wish to make his opening remarks on the Housing Corporation budget?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some fairly extended remarks. I also have in the House with me, the president of the corporation and the vice-president for finance. I wonder if I could move to the witness table and ask the two gentlemen named to enter at the same time and then I could make my remarks and just continue right on?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Proceed, Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I would like to identify the witnesses with me. To my left, and your right, the president of the NWT Housing Corporation, Jake Heron; to my right, and your left, the vice-president for finance, Jim Pratt.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I was going to ask you to do that. Proceed, please, Mr. Butters.

NWT Housing Corporation

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you. The mandate of the NWT Housing Corporation and its federal partner, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, is to assist residents of the NWT, in accordance with need, to secure and maintain adequate, suitable and affordable shelter at a reasonable cost. The goals approved by the Executive Council for the corporation to fulfil its mandate are that low and moderate income individuals and families have access to adequate, suitable and affordable rental housing; that eligible residents desiring to live in their own homes and able to afford the ongoing costs of home-ownership are assisted to become home-owners; that low and moderate income home-owners live in adequate housing; and that corporation programs are delivered in a manner that fosters community development, economic development and accountability to and by the local community.

One of the best ways to determine how successfully the corporation has been delivering on its mandate is to talk to the people most affected by our service. For this reason along with many others I, usually in the company of the corporation's president, Mr. Jake Heron, and a member of the board of directors, have made a special effort to travel to as many communities as possible so that I could see and hear first-hand from the people most affected just what current housing conditions are, and how effectively the corporation

has been delivering on its mandate.

Progress Made Since Creation Of Housing Corporation

The communities and the Housing Corporation have come a long way since 1974, the year the corporation was created by an act of this House. At that time our housing stock was comprised of northern territorial rentals and even smaller and cheaper homes built under programs which predated them. These homes were built quickly and in large numbers in order to provide the most basic of shelter for families who had only recently taken up residence in permanent communities. Unfortunately, they were also cheaply built and have proved to be very expensive to heat and maintain, thereby negating any fiscal benefits derived from their relatively low cost of construction.

Along with the establishment of the NWT Housing Corporation came a partnership relationship with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and access to federal funds administered under the National Housing Act. The corporation began to build better quality public housing units which it rented to families, elders, and singles on a rent geared to income basis. Before 1974, the Government of the Northwest Territories' contributions to home-ownership were limited to a few low cost loans to some long-term northern residents in some communities, and the provision of some basic finishing materials to residents in some other communities who had taken it upon themselves to build a small log house for their families. Now the corporation offers the reasonably successful and very popular home-ownership assistance program, or HAP. This program has provided many northern families having an income high enough to operate their own home and the initiative to assume most of the responsibility for construction the opportunity to achieve home-ownership. The pride of building and owning one's home is reflected by the findings of a recent joint evaluation by CMHC and the corporation which indicate that overall, homes built under our HAP program are the best maintained homes of any built under a corporation program.

The administration of housing in the communities has also improved dramatically since 1974. The early housing associations had a single staff person, limited responsibilities and no budget for maintenance. Today the typical association has its own office and warehouse, and staffing including trained maintenance people appropriate to the size of its housing portfolio. There still are problems, of course, and Mr. Heron and I hear both the problems and suggestions for solutions when we travel to the communities. Some of the problems are minor, requiring only an operational remedy or an amendment to a program. One of the major issues raised relates to resistance in some communities to our standard public housing programs because they want to remain at arm's length from government. It is clear, however, that these communities do require some type of ongoing subsidized housing for families or individuals who cannot realistically be expected to build and then operate and maintain their own homes. Some of these communities are beginning to express an interest in CMHC's non-profit housing program whereby a community group can design, build, own and operate a housing project themselves. The corporation is prepared to support and assist communities who decide to explore this option.

Greatest Need Continues To Be More Housing

One problem, however, which is heard constantly and in every community, which the corporation and CMHC are unable to address, is the painful need for more housing. The 10th Assembly's special committee on housing, the corporation's own needs studies, and my own conversations with northern residents confirm that the single greatest housing need in the

North continues to be more housing. Last year's research indicates a need for over 3000 additional housing units. Population growth and new family formations are leading to an additional need of at least 150 extra social housing units each year.

In 1989-90, the corporation built or assisted in the construction of 400 new houses and wrote off 100 old northern territorial rentals for a net gain of 300 units. At this rate, it will be at least 20 years before we catch up on current demand. We expect to build the same number of units in 1990, but we will maximize the impact of new construction by only writing off those northern rentals which are uninhabitable. There is a real limit to what the corporation and CMHC can do to increase the supply of social housing, that limit being the amount of territorial and federal dollars available for construction, operation and maintenance. We are constantly looking for ways to cut construction costs without sacrificing our basic commitment to quality and long-term cost effectiveness.

Ultimately, however, it will require significant investment from the private sector to begin to make dramatic cuts in our housing needs. This is not an area in which the corporation has explored all the options. In fact, it is not within our current mandate to do so. However, the corporation is planning to take new steps in 1990 which are designed, at least in part, to encourage and facilitate qualified northern households to pursue privately financed home-ownership.

Approximately four per cent, or 280 of the corporation's public housing tenants, currently earn incomes above the core need threshold, thereby making them ineligible for the HAP program. While these households would appear to have the financial resources to assume the costs associated with constructing, financing and operating a home at no more than 30 per cent of the household's gross annual income, various factors other than simple personal preference are discouraging many of them from pursuing this option. The corporation will be implementing a new program called the access program which is designed to assist residents earning more than the income ceilings allowed under federal social housing eligibility criteria, but who nevertheless require some form of assistance to enable them to become home-owners. The access program as proposed would provide potential home-owners in this category with pre-home-ownership counselling, a home buyback option, low interest financial assistance to enable the would-be owner to produce the down payment required for a mortgage, and the supply of a HAP program package at cost. Each of these elements should make the program more attractive to lending institutions as well as to the borrower.

New Rent Scale For Public Housing

In keeping with the recommendations of the special committee on housing, the corporation has worked diligently toward the design and implementation of a new public housing rent scale, which I tabled in this House on February 16th. The overriding objective of this review has been to assess fair and equitable rents for all households so that tenants with the least income will benefit most from the subsidy dollars provided by this government.

As you know, the corporation has arrived at its final proposal only after a series of discussion papers were circulated to public housing tenants and other interested parties, and after rounds of public consultation. Many of the numerous responses we received included positive suggestions which we have incorporated into our final draft. For example, you will be pleased to note that maximum rents have been reintroduced in our final proposal as a result of community consultations and recommendations.

This review of the rent scale has by necessity taken a long

time. However, not every change could await the final results and the current rent scale has been amended accordingly. For instance, last fall it was drawn to our attention that some of our tenants with dependants enrolled as full-time students in adult education programs sponsored by Canada Employment Centres were receiving moneys identified on their cheque stub as "dependant care, or babysitting, allowance". While these payments are taxable income, in consideration of the needs of these households, I have had the rent scale amended so that these specifically identified payments would not be included in assessable income when rents are being calculated. I expect that one of the effects of increasing the rent for higher income households is that many families will be encouraged to pursue home-ownership, thereby freeing up public housing units.

Rent Rebate Program

Realizing that large numbers of higher income families cannot exercise the home-ownership option overnight, the corporation, in addition to the access program and as a further support and incentive for home-ownership, will be introducing with the new rent scale a rent rebate program whereby public housing tenants who are capable of assuming the costs of home-ownership will be able to set aside one-third of the rental payments accumulated from the date the household registers its intent to either purchase or construct a house in the NWT until the date the household vacates its public housing unit to occupy its new home. I view the rent rebate program as an intermediary measure to ease the effect of the new public housing rent scale on households whose rents will increase but who may have to wait some time to secure a new private home.

The corporation is confident that implementation of the access program and rent rebate program, coupled with the negative incentive of higher rents for high income households occupying public housing, will result in an increase in homeownership throughout the NWT. These programs are designed to complement existing programs including HAP; the home improvement program, HIP; the emergency repair program, ERP; the senior citizens home repair program, SCHRP; and the northern territorial rental purchase program, NTRPP.

The NWT Housing Corporation has a significant role to play in advancing the government's new economic development strategy. The corporation continues to stress the importance of buying north, of purchasing as much material and services as possible from northern and local businesses. Ninety per cent of the corporation's 1988-89 expenditures for supplies and services for all capital projects totalling \$62 million went to northern contractors and suppliers. In 1988-89, the Housing Corporation purchased \$20.6 million, or 96 per cent, of all its materials, supplies and equipment requirements, including both capital and O and M, from northern suppliers. Unfortunately, nearly all of these supplies are imported by the supplier from the South. The corporation looks forward to the day when more finished products are manufactured in the North, and with our federal partner, CMHC, we will do everything we can to support such ventures.

Northern contractors have fared equally well when it comes to receiving northern construction contracts from the corporation. In 1988-89, fully 89 per cent, or 90 of 101 of the contracts tendered by the Housing Corporation to build public housing, new warehouses and to retrofit old Weber units, went to northern contractors. One major contributing factor to the successes of both northern constructors and suppliers has been the recent practice of the Housing Corporation to tender its supply and ship contracts, and its labour contracts, separately.

However, even this apparent success is not without its shortcomings. While the labour-only contracts have been going to bona fide northern companies, very few have been going to contractors based in the community where the houses are being built. Furthermore, we have no evidence to suggest that the northern companies building our houses hire and train any more local labour than southern-based companies did, or that they hire any more northern subcontractors.

The corporation emphasizes the importance of using local labour in our contract documents and uses reports submitted by the contractors at various phases during the construction period to monitor performance.

The corporation tenders locally all site preparation involving earthwork, and the use of local assistance in site survey is to be expanded. We also actively encourage the use of local commercial accommodations where available.

Success In Local Training And Hiring

The Housing Corporation's performance with regard to the training and hiring of local residents has been very high in the area of property management. In 1980, Arctic College and the corporation created a recognized trade called housing maintainer serviceman, including a complete apprenticeship phase. Today there are 84 journeyman housing maintainer servicemen, 74 apprentices and 11 apprentice carpenters, all of whom were hired locally, trained in the North, and are currently employed by local housing associations. The corporation is now encouraging housing maintainer servicemen and other interested local residents to apprentice in the other trades such as carpenters, plumbers, electricians and oil burner mechanics.

The corporation has had similar success in training local residents to be more effective administrators of its housing associations. Arctic College began offering a community administration certificate program in 1984. It is intended to complement on-the-job experience by providing relatively brief but intensive on-campus training in finance, management and administration. By the end of the 1987 school year, 52 association employees had successfully completed the introductory level, 37 the intermediate level and 16 the senior level. A number of northern residents hired as trainees within the corporation have also benefitted from this program.

All together housing associations employ over 350 full-time and 50 part-time person years in the management and maintenance of social housing. More than 80 per cent of these people are local residents. Furthermore, the majority of these jobs are in small or medium sized non-market communities. Discussions with the Department of Education are leading to more utilization of local apprentices and trainees on construction sites to complement their work experience. More emphasis is to be placed on this area of involvement in the future.

There is probably no government department or agency which spends significant capital dollars year in and year out in the NWT's smaller communities. Housing construction should provide every community with an incomparable opportunity for training and employment, and the corporation, in co-operation with the Department of Education through its employment development strategy will be pursuing this objective.

In 1989-90 the corporation established demonstration projects in Snowdrift and Fort McPherson to build public housing units using primarily local management and labour. Similar projects are being organized in Pangnirtung and Coral Harbour for 1990.

Last year the corporation received a number of bids from contractors that were significantly in excess of the corporation's cost projections. Since the bids for the projects in these four communities were particularly high, rather than cancel the projects, the corporation concluded that the local community and the corporation together could organize a project using local labour which would finish the project on time and at a reasonable cost. Corporation staff, community leaders in Snowdrift and Fort McPherson and several local contractors worked co-operatively and diligently to design and implement both demonstration projects, and I am pleased to report that they have been successful on all three counts: using local labour, finishing the project within a reasonable time frame, and keeping costs within the corporation's Planning meetings are already under way in Pangnirtung and Coral Harbour and I look forward to the same success in those communities in the coming year.

The corporation is endeavouring to be prepared to utilize a variety of approaches as required on a case-by-case basis to ensure that our houses are built in a cost-effective manner. Clearly, however, our first preference continues to be the public tender approach.

The corporation encourages the northern construction industry to extend their efforts to hire and train local residents so that the economic benefits from our expenditures can have the maximum short and long-term impact on the northern economy. Mr. Heron and I place great value on the corporation maintaining a close working relationship with the northern construction industry. Officials from the corporation's construction/development division have made a special effort to maintain regular communication with industry representatives as well as individual contractors, and corporation officials will continue to consult with them on a regular basis.

Budget Of NWT Housing Corporation

The proposed budget of the NWT Housing Corporation for 1990-91 is \$171,280,000.

The total operation and maintenance budget is \$100,381,000, an increase of 0.9 per cent from 1989-90. Of this expenditure, \$9,398,000, or nine per cent, is rent revenue collected by housing associations and authorities from tenants; \$2.4 million, or two per cent, is from other revenue sources such as interest. The amount of \$36,164,000, or 36 per cent, will be provided by CMHC, while \$52,419,000, or 52 per cent, is being requested from the GNWT. The amount of \$59,851,000, or 60 per cent, of the O and M budget is allocated to local housing associations and authorities to manage the social housing stock, while \$13,323,000, or 13 per cent, is to repay loans for older public housing units built under section 43 of the National Housing Act in the 1970s.

The total capital budget is \$70,899,000, an increase of 0.2 per cent from 1989-90. CMHC's share is \$43,399,000, or 61 per cent, an increase of \$3,591,000 from 1989-90. The GNWT's share is \$27.5 million, or 39 per cent, a decrease of \$3,465,000 from 1989-90.

The corporation plans to build 400 new units this year, 240 public housing and 160 HAP units. This total will be offset somewhat by the number of northern territorial rentals the corporation is obliged to write off because of extremely poor condition. Thirty two old public housing units will be retrofitted. A total of \$2,260,000 is budgeted for the repair of privately owned housing under the home improvement program and the senior citizens home repair program.

An increase in the corporation's budget of less than one per cent, in reality means a decrease in spending power of four to five per cent when inflation is taken into consideration.

I and senior corporation officials are examining various ways in which the corporation can improve and streamline the delivery of services without significantly affecting either quality or quantity. I am confident that we will succeed and that staff in headquarters, the districts and the communities will be able to implement our solutions effectively.

Relationship Between Housing Corporation And CMHC

Obviously, a good working relationship between the corporation and CMHC is essential for us to successfully deliver our programs to our clients. We are dependent upon CMHC for fully 46 per cent of our budget for 1990-91. It remains to be seen what effects, if any, recent cuts to CMHC's budget will have on our operations. Entering into a global agreement with CMHC in 1986 has been very useful to us. It allowed the corporation to negotiate separate operating agreements with CMHC for specific programs, thereby enabling us to incorporate many of our unique conditions and problems into our fiscal arrangements. CMHC's willingness to cost share our home-ownership assistance program is one example.

This is the year when CMHC and all the provinces and territories are renegotiating the national allocation process for assigning federal funds for social housing units to each jurisdiction. The corporation must press hard just to retain our current share. A final decision is not expected until April. In anticipation of this new allocation process, only 50 per cent of the social housing budget to provinces and territories has been approved by CMHC. However, in view of our special circumstances affecting transportation and construction seasons, the federal Minister of Housing, the Hon. Alan Redway, has authorized the approval of over 70 per cent of the 1990 budget for the NWT.

Now that the joint federal/provincial/territorial evaluation of all rural and native housing programs is essentially completed, the corporation will be using the results to push for changes in some of our programs. CMHC has already demonstrated a willingness to consider amending our rural and remote housing portfolio so that clients currently living in rural and remote houses will be relieved of their affordability problems and so that their costs will be more in line with the more popular and successful HAP program. We are also talking to CMHC about amending the HAP program to include a sliding scale repayment schedule.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation plays a major role in the delivery of housing to northern residents. I and my senior officials have a good working relationship with CMHC and we will continue to invest the time and energy required to ensure that CMHC remains fully informed of our situation. For their part, I want to commend the Hon. Alan Redway and his officials for their willingness to appreciate the special circumstances operating in the North which preclude CMHC from treating us exactly as they might the southern provinces.

The corporation and our federal partners remain committed to the principle that the communities have an important role to play in the planning, delivery and management of social housing. The corporation is a member of the interdepartmental committees established to develop and oversee the community self-government initiative. The corporation continues to encourage and support the many housing associations and authorities which play such an important and responsible role in the successful delivery of our programs. We will continue to encourage local groups to shoulder more responsibility for the successful completion of HAP projects through the block funding process. Finally, if these communities so desire, we will encourage CMHC to give

serious consideration to applications for non-profit housing in communities where there is not presently an association or authority in operation.

As our social housing stock grows in most communities, so does the role and responsibility of the local association. Associations require more sophisticated financial and management systems and, accordingly, more highly trained and professional staff. The corporation is in the process of designing a budgetary process whereby each association will prepare its own budget proposal based upon actual cost rather than the corporation setting association budgets using formulas and base cost estimates. The corporation and the associations worked closely together to produce the maintenance management program which sets reasonable maintenance standards and monitors quality achievement as well as cost effectiveness. This program is beginning to demonstrate concrete, positive results.

I wish to acknowledge the contribution of the corporation's board of directors and to thank each individual member for his or her effort and commitment.

Proposed Amendments To Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act

Later in this session you will be considering several minor amendments to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act. These amendments are: 1) to allow the Minister to extend the term of a board member up to a maximum of one year after it has expired in order to maintain full membership and continuity on the board until the Minister has the opportunity to seek a new appointment from this House at the next session; 2) to allow the board to conduct its regular business in the absence of the chairperson and deputy chairperson so long as there is a quorum; and 3) to eliminate the requirement that the Commissioner need approve a decision by the corporation to make loans for new construction, the purchase of existing housing, and home improvement.

Some of you may know that Gary Jaeb, the long-time board chairman, stepped down when his term expired last summer. For some time now, Mr. Jaeb and his board members have been concerned about the lack of clarity between the roles of the board and the Minister. After a lengthy discussion of this issue, the board has recommended that the corporation should remain a semi-autonomous institution operating at arm's length from the GNWT. While appreciating the potential for conflict between the role of the Minister and the role of the board, they rejected the idea that the Minister assume. chairmanship of the board since the Minister could find himself in a conflict of interest should the GNWT and the board hold diverse opinions or objectives. The board. therefore, has unanimously recommended that the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act be amended to permit the president of the corporation to automatically become board chairperson. While not a perfect solution, members believe this arrangement would improve communication between the board and Minister, yet retain the independence of both. I am referring the board's recommendation to my Executive colleagues for their consideration and action.

Finally, I would like to note my recent appointment by the Government Leader to the post of Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs. No two departments have a greater impact on each other in this government than do MACA and the Housing Corporation. When the corporation decides on a housing project in any one community, the results of that decision are immediately felt by the local municipal council and by MACA. Similarly, when MACA considers changing the land purchase or water and sewer policies, the Housing Corporation, the single biggest consumer of MACA's services,

must immediately consider making major adjustments to its plans and budget proposals.

It is my intention that, as Minister for both departments, I will be able to help rationalize the decisions of both departments in the best interests of the residents of the North and of this government. I thank you for your patience, Mr. Chairman, and that of my colleagues.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Minister. Just before we begin the NWT Housing Corporation's main estimates, I would like to recognize the students that are visiting us here today at the Legislature. There are 12 students. They come from Greenland, from Qeqertarsoaq, and the two teachers who are accompanying them, Ole Frederickson and Soren Lyberth. Welcome to Canada.

--Applause

Getting back to the Housing Corporation's budget. Maybe the chairman of the standing committee on finance -- do you have any comments to make at this time?

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In view of the obvious lack of interest in this department today, I think we should not be sitting here talking to ourselves. So if there is no better interest, I would like to move progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. We have a motion which is not debatable. All those in favour? We have no quorum. Mr. Clerk, will you please ring the bell? The Chair recognizes a quorum. We have a motion to report progress, which is not debatable. All those in favour, please raise your hands. Six. Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: I will now call the House back to order. Item 18, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Committee Report 1-90(1) and Bills 9-90(1) and 14-90(1), and wishes to report that Bill 14-90(1) is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, your committee wishes to report progress. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to seek unanimous consent to return to Item 11, tabling of documents.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Aivilik has requested unanimous consent to return to Item 11, tabling of documents. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, the honourable Member for Aivilik.

REVERT TO ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 52-90(1), a document which I received from

the Member of Parliament for Nunatsiaq, Mr. Jack Anawak, with Mr. Anawak's reaction to Premier McKenna of New Brunswick with regard to the Meech Lake Accord accompanying resolution. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to proceed to third reading of Bill 14-90(1), An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 14-90(1). Are there any nays? Please proceed, Mr. Minister.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Third Reading Of Bill 14-90(1): Tobacco Tax Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 14-90(1), An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order.

AN HON, MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 14-90(1) has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I request assent for Bill 14-90(1).

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to give assent to Bill 14-90(1). Are there any nays? Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to give assent to Bill 14-90(1)?

ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER NORRIS: As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby assent to Bill 14-90(1).

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings for Monday, March 26: ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m. and at 10:00 a.m. a meeting of the standing committee on legislation.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Monday, March 26th.

- 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
- 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)
- 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. Assent to Bills
- 21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, March 26, 1990, at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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