



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

6th Session

11th Assembly

HANSARD
Official Report
DAY 25

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1990

Pages 549 - 574

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1990

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooooloo, 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, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo): Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 27, 1990. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 43-90(1): Federal Cabinet Approval Of TFN Agreement In Principle

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to announce today that the federal cabinet and the NWT Executive Council have approved the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut agreement in principle. This represents a major step toward a successful conclusion of the Inuit land claim.

Negotiations concluded toward the end of last year after 10 years of hard work by all parties. I am confident that this agreement in principle will allow TFN and the two governments to continue negotiations toward a final agreement. The NWT Executive Council approved the AIP earlier this month with the condition that any net additional costs arising from the claim be the responsibility of the Government of Canada. I am confident that financial concerns will be worked out during the course of implementation negotiations, which should commence shortly after the signing of the agreement in principle.

TFN has suggested that a formal signing ceremony be held in Igloodik toward the end of April or early May. I understand that a date and location have still to be confirmed by the parties and I shall keep the House informed of progress in these discussions.

On behalf of my Executive Council colleagues I wish to congratulate the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut on a fine achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Passing Of Wife Of DPW Employee

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today because I am deeply grieved. I heard this morning that Ruthie Papatsie, the wife of Isaac Papatsie, a long-term employee of DPW, passed away this morning and I would like to give my regards to the family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Baker Lake Plebiscite Re Kiggavik Uranium Mine

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the residents of my home community, Baker Lake, voted in a plebiscite with regard to the proposed Kiggavik uranium mine. There were 629 eligible voters, of whom 447 turned out; I believe there was a very bad storm in Baker Lake yesterday. Of the 447 people who turned out to vote, 397 voted against the proposed uranium mine; 43 people voted in favour and there were seven spoiled ballots. Mr. Speaker, I think there is no doubt that this reflects the wishes of the community of Baker Lake with regard to the uranium mine. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Outcome Of Baker Lake Plebiscite

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to my colleague's statement, I agree with his statement that the people are against this proposed uranium mine. Getting back to the plebiscite of the community of Baker Lake, this is a true fact that they are very much concerned about this proposed uranium mine because they are concerned about a clean environment for their descendants. Looking at the outcome of this plebiscite myself, as a representative, I am very happy with the outcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Compliments To Department Of Health Re Display On AIDS And Smoking

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to compliment the Department of Health on the excellent display that they had this past weekend at the Panda Mall and yesterday in the foyer of the Assembly, on the subjects of AIDS and smoking and the problems both these things can cause to your health.

Mr. Speaker, Members of this House received packages of that same material that was distributed in every native language available in the North. It was very factual, it was explicit and it was very graphic. Mr. Speaker, it reflects the true nature of the disease of AIDS. It is not something that should be trivialized, not something that should be disguised. It is a fatal disease. In all the material that I have come across there is nothing that shows that it is reversible. Once you contract it, that is it, and I think the Department of Health has spared no effort in making this fact known.

The only concern that I would have is that it was coupled with smoking. Smoking is hazardous to one's health, but it is not quite as fatal as AIDS. You can stop smoking after you have contracted the habit, and given time, the body can repair

itself. There is a difference, not as subtle as one would like to think, but the department is to be complimented for its very straightforward approach to this. Some Members may find it very difficult to use the word "condom", but I find it very difficult to use the word "death", and I think that is what will happen if people do not take every precaution to avoid contracting this fatal and dreaded disease. My compliments to the department.

--Applause

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

Member's Statement On Congratulations To Tungavik Federation Of Nunavut

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a statement with regard to the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut's progress and I would like to give my compliments on their great achievements. I am very happy that they did not give up on their work. The agreement in principle will be signed and the final agreement will be signed soon. I would like to recognize them and I would like to congratulate them and their staff on their work well done. I am very happy that we can receive reports on the progress of TFN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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

Member's Statement On Apology To Mr. Wray

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You ruled yesterday that Mr. Wray did not have a point of privilege, as you understood it, as a result of an exchange that took place last week. I had examined the Hansard to make sure before I opened my mouth that I understood what Mr. Wray was saying, and I took from those words that, in fact, trapping was a very insignificant part of our economy, and I interpreted it to mean that really it looked kind of hopeless. However, I did not, in a sense of mischief, try to misrepresent what Mr. Wray had said. If I have done so, in the best tradition of this House, I would like to apologize to the Member for having done so. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: 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 O413-90(1): Programs For Children With Learning Disabilities

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. Mr. Minister, what is your department doing in the South Slave region for the communities of Fort Resolution and Snowdrift, for the special needs children that have learning disabilities, in the Deninoo School and Lutsel K'e Dene School? Thank you.

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

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

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

Question O414-90(1): Provision Of Coffin For Spouse Of GNWT Employee

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Health. I mentioned that the wife of DPW employee Isaac Papatsie, Ruthie Papatsie, just died recently, a few hours ago. Since at this time there is no coffin available in Baffin, especially in the communities, perhaps the department could provide a coffin for the person because her husband has been a long-time employee of DPW. Perhaps the department could provide a coffin to the community. That is my question to the Minister of Health. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Return To Question O414-90(1): Provision Of Coffin For Spouse Of GNWT Employee

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will look into the matter.

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

Question O415-90(1): TFN Agreement In Principle

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development. I was listening to him when he was talking about the TFN agreement in principle, which was very nice to hear. The Minister, perhaps, could bring up something to the House. Not too long from now perhaps he could provide the information to the Members of the House so the Members will receive information about what has been agreed upon during the negotiations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Sahtu.

Return To Question O415-90(1): TFN Agreement In Principle

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the agreement in principle has been initialled by the federal negotiators and the TFN. It is their document and those people who are beneficiaries can have access to it through their respective organizations. The document, as I understand, still has to be finalized in its legal form. It is initialled off but the final text has to be done up. Once it is signed in a formal signing ceremony, then it becomes a public document and it becomes available to everyone. Thank you.

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

Question O416-90(1): Use Of German Shepherd Dogs In Sniffing Out Drugs At Airports

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Justice. During the year there has been a study done on German shepherd dogs sniffing drugs in suitcases or at the airport terminal. Perhaps this could also be done in the smaller communities as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Certainly I

could talk to the RCMP about trying it. My understanding is that normally they use dogs for bigger planes because it is far easier to search smaller planes without them. It is a worthwhile thought and I will take the question as notice and get back to the Member.

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

Question O417-90(1): Absence Of Yellowknife Flag In House

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct the question to the Minister responsible for MACA. You can direct me if it is the wrong Minister. I notice that there are a lot of flags in the House here but there is no Yellowknife flag and I just wonder if the Minister would be able to provide one for this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Inuvik.

Return To Question O417-90(1): Absence Of Yellowknife Flag In House

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the matter. I thought at one time that some of the flags of the various municipalities were also exhibited outside. It is not out in the lobby, is it?

---Laughter

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

Supplementary To Question O417-90(1): Absence Of Yellowknife Flag In House

MR. WHITFORD: In light of the comments from across the floor about contributing one, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for MACA whether or not the communities represented here have contributed the flags, or did MACA put them up there?

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

Further Return To Question O417-90(1): Absence Of Yellowknife Flag In House

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I would expect that MACA has contributed the flags to whoever is responsible for this gorgeous display.

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

Question O418-90(1): HAP Housing Allocation In Fort Simpson

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the district office of the Housing Corporation in Hay River reviewed the HAP allocations made in Fort Simpson and decided to vote for the whole selection process again. As a result, of the seven people who were originally advised that they would be getting houses, four of these have been dropped. I am just wondering how the Minister intends to deal with these four people who are disappointed. How does he propose to console them or write to them, or somehow or another indicate to them the Housing Corporation's apologies for having once advised them they would be getting a HAP unit and now to be told they are not to get a HAP house this coming year?

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

Return To Question O418-90(1): HAP Housing Allocation In Fort Simpson

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for bringing this problem to my attention. I expect to possibly be speaking with some of these individuals when I travel to his constituency this coming weekend. I believe he may have arranged some type of a meeting in that regard.

Secondly, I would agree that there has been a breakdown in the process and that individuals were notified of their acceptance and then there has had to be a change in the allocation. I will look into whatever is the proper means to address satisfactorily those concerns.

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

Question O419-90(1): Possible Support For Trapping Industry

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of Mr. Wray's impassioned defence of the trapping industry, and despite the fact that most fur in Canada today comes from fur farms, and in light of the fact that his department has pretty well ignored the SCONE report recommendation that we provide some support for the fur harvesting industry, what plans does the department have to support the trapping industry in terms of subsidies or any other forms of support?

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

Return To Question O419-90(1): Possible Support For Trapping Industry

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department has not ignored the SCONE report, but the Member has to understand the division of responsibilities within the government. The Department of Renewable Resources is responsible for subsidies to individual trappers and they are looking at the whole system of subsidies to trappers, on a committee to look at the whole question of income support programs.

With regard to what my department is doing, we are proceeding cautiously with regard to fur farming. It is not something that we are pushing. The Member is indeed correct that the bulk of fur today comes from fur farms, about 96 per cent of all fur bought worldwide comes from fur farms; about 47 per cent in Canada. It is not just an easy question between fur farms and wild furs.

The fact is that once again the Keewatin, Kitikmeot and the Baffin will be the hardest hit simply because of the type of fur that we collect. In the West where you have beaver, muskrat and mink -- wild mink will always be a better fur than a ranch mink. Beaver and rat will always be good potential wild fur sales. The problem is that the bulk of fur farming, particularly in the Soviet Union and Scandinavia, has revolved around the silver fox, and as Members know, the primary fur for this area is above the tree line.

The problem we have is that ranch silver fox -- and I think at the fur auctions in 1988 ranch silver fox were selling for about \$113 a pelt, while our own wild pelts were around \$37. Obviously our wild silver fox pelts in the three Nunavut regions cannot compete with the ranch fox, so what we have to do is, instead of trying to beat the price, to compete with that price, we have to change our strategy. What I am

suggesting is that instead of trying to export our raw furs south and compete against raw furs from these ranches, that we look at taking our fur and making it into manufactured goods; looking at the manufacture of coats and mitts, trims, stuff like that, so that we can get a better price for our fur and consequently keep the industry alive to a certain extent. But it is a complex question. It is not an easy subject.

I think we have to start now looking at what we are going to do because what I was trying to indicate was the fact that some of our fur industry is in trouble and we have to admit that, because we cannot put our heads in the sand and say that we do not have problems and that the animal rights people are not having an effect; they are. If we had perhaps taken the bull by the horns when the anti-seal protest started in Newfoundland, instead of sitting back and saying it will not touch us, it cannot harm us, then three or four years later when our sealing industry was wiped out we might have been in a position to deal with it. What we have to do now is look at alternate use of our fur, some of our fur. Because we certainly cannot compete with the ranch furs in terms of price. Thank you.

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

Question O420-90(1): Government Support For Traditional Harvesters

MR. LEWIS: My supplementary on the same issue, Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. In light of the fact that trappers are facing incredibly increased costs because of the need to move to a different form of trapping, using quick-kill traps, and in light of the fact that prices for fur seem to be depressed, what is his department doing then to support this traditional harvesting which, although it may not make an awful lot of money, means an awful lot to people?

MR. SPEAKER: New question. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O420-90(1): Government Support For Traditional Harvesters

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, the department is indeed working toward establishing a hunter income support program. There is an interdepartmental committee formed of deputy ministers which is working under a mandate of the authority of the Minister of Social Services which my deputy minister chairs, the committee to look into the possible establishment of the hunter income support program. I am told that the report of the committee should be coming out in July for the cabinet's consideration. In terms of income support in the area of trapping, the existing assistance that we give varies for different activities, such as hunters' assistance to go trapping and also to do renewable resource harvesting in the Northwest Territories. We intend to continue these activities until such time as a program is established to replace these existing programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O420-90(1): Government Support For Traditional Harvesters

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same Minister. This committee that is examining support for traditional harvesting seems to be moving in the direction of a form of social welfare support for an industry which is very, very old, which has been very, very much a part of our economy for a

long period of time. I would like to ask the Minister, is that the attitude of the government that this is an industry that is really lost and we need to really support it as though it is a social pastime that people would like to carry on and we have to consider it as just another social program?

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

Further Return To Question O420-90(1): Government Support For Traditional Harvesters

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I feel that it is very important for our people to continue their traditional activities in terms of going out onto the land, whether it is trapping or hunting. It is very important for their welfare as well as the income that is derived from these activities. I think this committee is working toward finding a solution to the problem of people not being able to get out to do their traditional activities out on the land which enables them to live a normal life in their communities.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, once you grow up in the natural environment, if you are removed from that to live in the community like Yellowknife, your principles and your way of life change so much that in a lot of cases people have a hard time coping in this kind of environment. Once they have a chance to get out, back to the land, their principles are revived and they are able to function better in this sort of city life. I believe that once the committee recommendations have gone to the Executive Council, there are going to be few options. The committee's work is to look into a possibility of assisting and always we are looking at the Department of Social Services, we are looking at my departments, the Department of Renewable Resources and the Department of Culture and Communications, and the Department of Economic Development to find a way that could be an alternative to the social assistance program that government provides now. It is a replacement of social assistance; it is not a program that would put people in the area of social assistance. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O420-90(1): Government Support For Traditional Harvesters

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We often hear that people from the South come in and do not understand how important the traditional way of life is and that the hunter and trapper is not treated with respect. I would like to ask the Minister, how can people treat traditional harvesters and hunters with respect if it is the intention of the government to treat people who do not make an awful lot of money in this fashion -- how can they treat them with respect if the government treats them as if they were welfare cases?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Further Return To Question O420-90(1): Government Support For Traditional Harvesters

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, hopefully, with the program, it would encourage people to go out and to do their traditional harvest and from that our government would like to see local people getting some sort of income. We are not putting in a social assistance program to assist local people to depend on our government assistance. We are involving native organizations to look into this problem. It is much the same as the northern isolation allowance which is given to southern people who come up here to work. It is not much

different from that. Thank you.

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

Question O421-90(1): Termination Of Lynx Incentive Program For Trappers

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Minister, You just made a statement just now on how your government and your department is looking at helping trappers to sustain their way of living and to make their living out on the land, and you have been made well aware of the situation in my region, by myself, of the trappers that highly depend on lynx. I know cases of trappers who have caught up to 70 lynx this year and can barely pay for the bills they are accumulating from taking up trapping, because of the high cost of gas and everything else, yet your government cut the lynx incentive program. How is this helping to enhance trapping? There is one program that you did have to help enhance trapping and you go and cut it. I do not think that is supporting the trapping industry.

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

Return To Question O421-90(1): Termination Of Lynx Incentive Program For Trappers

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is very aware of the situations surrounding lynx trapping. I believe that my department and myself have tried to explain the issue surrounding lynx trapping. I believe that if it was not for my department's work and this government's work, that the lynx trapping would be severely hit.

There was an initiative by international governments that are part of the CITES agreements, that were trying to put lynx into appendix I. If they are put into appendix I then there will be no trapping or no export out of the country. Lynx will be very limited in getting out of the country, as the wood bison is. I think with the program that the intergovernmental committee is working on, the trappers, like the Member stated, will be taken care of. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O421-90(1): Termination Of Lynx Incentive Program For Trappers

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, I am well aware of why you signed the agreement and what excuse you used to take the lynx off the incentive program. I am well aware of that. You also said before, in this House, that the lynx were getting a high price; they were getting up to \$700 a pelt. Right now they are getting \$60 a lynx pelt and so that is all the more reason why you and your department, with over 200 PYs, should have figured out something to reinstate that program. You do not have to make it perceived to be a bounty on lynx. That is what you and your civil servants are paid for; to help trappers and help them make their living in the bush. I do not find your department doing that. So when are you going to start doing that, Mr. Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Further Return To Question O421-90(1): Termination Of Lynx Incentive Program For Trappers

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, the government representing Canada in the CITES

convention worked very hard to keep the species under appendix II so that the people in the Northwest Territories, people in Canada, could trap lynx. If they were to be put into appendix I the trappers would suffer to a greater degree than they are suffering now. In order to keep the lynx out of appendix I we had to be seen as good managers and we were told that since we were giving fur incentives to lynx that, in fact, we were giving a bounty on lynx which did not go well in the CITES convention.

That similar experience was felt by the Inuit in the eastern Arctic in terms of animal welfare groups attacking the fur industry and we were not able to do anything about it. In this area we felt we could do something about it and there is quite a large population of lynx in the Northwest Territories and a large majority of the trappers trap lynx. I believe we have done what we can in terms of helping out the trappers.

There is room to improve and I believe that after the committee's recommendation to the Executive Council has been approved, we will have a better program to help assist the trappers. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O421-90(1): Termination Of Lynx Incentive Program For Trappers

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate what you are doing to keep the lynx off the endangered species because I, for one, know that the lynx are not endangered in the Northwest Territories; we have a lot of lynx. But, Mr. Minister, you have had two years since you got that agreement with the other people. You have had two years to bring in another type of program to replace that lynx incentive and you have not done it. Last year you rolled the money forward to the HTAs that were affected and that worked out well but this year you did not do that. So why could you not have done that? If you want to support the trapping industry, if you want to support the people who are trying to make their living off the land, that is the thing you should have done. Why did you not do it?

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

Further Return To Question O421-90(1): Termination Of Lynx Incentive Program For Trappers

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, trapper incentive programs are to assist trappers, but not only in the area of lynx. I believe that the committee that was established, under the income support program, will take care of the problem. If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the Member aware that the major native organizations representing the native people in the Northwest Territories are fully involved in the process. I think they could adequately represent their people in terms of this area. I think we have responded to Members' requests and through this committee we will be able to look at different areas of helping out trappers. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O421-90(1): Termination Of Lynx Incentive Program For Trappers

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister says that the major native organizations can represent the people on this issue, I too am elected to represent my people on this issue and the issue is that your department cut out the lynx incentive program because you agreed to cut that out to

keep the lynx off the endangered species. So what I am saying, Mr. Minister, is why did you not find another way to channel that money to the trappers? You know what dire straits the trappers are in. You did that last year, why could you not follow through with that this year? It has nothing to do with the agreement you are working on or the harvest support program. What I am talking about is now, today, what you can do today.

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

Further Return To Question O421-90(1): Termination Of Lynx Incentive Program For Trappers

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I believe that this government is spending the same amount as they were two or three years ago, if not more, in terms of assisting hunters in the NWT. The money has been given out in different ways than it used to be. The money is not given out to individuals who trap lynx, but it is given out to hunters and trappers associations. I could assure the Member that so far we have not cut any funding, nor have we spent less money in terms of helping trappers in the NWT. Thank you.

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

Question O422-90(1): Fur Farms As An Alternative

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, while we are on the subject of furs, I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development a question. The Minister expressed his views on furs in regard to arctic type fur, foxes and fur farming being an alternative to the trapping of wild furs. What is the Minister's assessment of what I would call bush furs, you know the majority of furs that are caught in the bush part of the NWT, marten, lynx, beaver and up in the Delta, muskrat? What is the Minister's view with respect to fur farms as an alternative to the trapping of these furs?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O422-90(1): Fur Farms As An Alternative

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I think before I get misquoted again -- I do not think fur farms are an alternative to trapping. Okay? They are an alternative to producing fur but I do not think, in the context of the NWT, that they are an alternative to trapping, because trapping in the NWT is as much cultural as it is economical. To move to fur farming is a whole different way of life once again. All I am saying is that fur farms are our major competition now. There will be some people in the North who will get into it, as there have been and we will have to help them.

What I am saying is that we have to do something to try and help the trapper. I think it is going to be a mistake if we try and go head to head with the fur farms, because we cannot compete with the fur farms. The furs are bigger, they are better and they are commanding much higher prices at the auction market than our wild fur.

Bush furs, such as Mr. Sibbeston refers to, are a little bit different than the fox. Traditionally most fur farms are mink and fox. That is the ones that they have had the most success with in fur farms. I think it would be very difficult to create fur farms with regard to beaver and muskrat and lynx. I am not as worried about what you call the bush type fur as I am about the arctic type furs. You know the statistics from 1988-89 prove us out, and in many ways it relates to the question of who we subsidize and why we should be

subsidizing them. But in 1988-89, in terms of the records that we have -- now remember some trappers do sell their fur independently, so these records are not 100 per cent accurate -- of the \$4.4 million in income of trapping, \$3.8 million of that \$4.4 million went into the Fort Smith and Inuvik Regions. There was only \$570,000 in income in the Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot. So it shows me that the fur and trapping is a lot healthier in the Fort Smith and Inuvik Regions than it is in the Arctic regions and if we are going to be looking at subsidies, perhaps it is the Arctic regions where we should be looking at subsidizing first and foremost, because that is where we seem to have the most trouble. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O422-90(1): Fur Farms As An Alternative

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would care to make a statement. When he talks about an alternative and so forth, I become a bit worried, and I certainly do not want an impression to set in with the trappers who are out in the bush and the people in the western part of the NWT that that type of life is really seriously threatened. I am aware that the fur prices have dropped somewhat in the last couple of years, but as we are sitting here, there are people who are making their living out there hunting and trapping and living that good way of life. It brings in the bannock and the lard and all the things that are necessary for them.

I wonder if the Minister could say something which in some way could recognize that this is an important way of life and is presently a viable way of life and that in some respects, unless something drastic happens on the world market in respect to furs, that this life is indeed not threatened and that they can look forward to the next 15 or 20 years of this way of life.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Further Return To Question O422-90(1): Fur Farms As An Alternative

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I would be pleased to make that statement but I think the Member has to consider the facts and the facts are that to a certain extent we have problems in the industry and we are going to have to make changes in the way we look at things if the industry is going to survive. Because like I said earlier, four years before when the anti-sealing people started in Newfoundland, we all sat up here and said it was never going to hurt us, we do not hunt white coats, it is in Newfoundland and it will not affect us. Four years later we had no sealing industry left in the eastern Arctic.

Trapping has problems, there is no question about it. The number of trappers is going down. The records that I have show that in 1987-88 there were around 3000 trappers and in 1988-89 that went down to 2300 trappers, and of the 2300 people that were trapping, only 162 of those individuals made more than \$8000 at trapping. Fur prices are down. They are down all over and we have a problem.

I prefer not to call it trapping either, I prefer to call it harvesting, quite frankly, because we harvest our resources. I think that what we have to do is look at alternative ways to use our resources. It is very important. The \$4.5 million that is realized through harvesting goes to primarily native people in small communities and it is a very important source of cash income. It is like arts and crafts.

But there is no good in standing up here pretending that we

do not have problems. We do have problems and unless we change our ways and change the way we think about it and change the way we do things, then we are going to have problems. What I am saying is that one of the mistakes we are making is trying to compete head on in certain species with fur farms. We cannot compete. There is no question in my mind. How can you compete with ranch foxes with the average auction price at \$113.94 when the average price for wild fox is \$37? You cannot compete with those prices.

What we have to do is look at different ways of utilizing our fur. Maybe, for example, if Northerners started to wear fur, fur coats, fur mitts, then we could start to generate an industry up here and start manufacturing our furs instead of shipping wild furs out. Because if we continue to ship wild pelts to the South, we will not be able to compete with the ranch furs. We have to look at doing things differently. There are some species in the West which are in better shape than those above the tree line, simply because it is very difficult to ranch beaver, it is very difficult to ranch lynx, so there will always be a demand. But even fur farms are in trouble because fur prices are down this year. The anti-trapping people are having an affect, so we have to combat it, but maybe we have to combat it in a different way. We have to use our heads instead of our hearts in this issue. Thank you.

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

Question O423-90(1): Strategy On Alternate Fur Products

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, then it is important for the Minister to tell the people of the North some of the alternate ways that we can produce the fur pelts that are made in the North. He mentioned fur hats and so forth. I wonder if the Minister can, as soon as possible, reveal the strategy or indicate to the people of the North just what is possible and what his department intends to do in this regard so that people can know just what he is talking about and whether this idea is ever going to come to fruition.

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

Return To Question O423-90(1): Strategy On Alternate Fur Products

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. Indeed, we have a strategy. I unveiled it in this House not long ago as part of our economic strategy. The whole issue of renewable resources is an integral part of the government's economic strategy. We have sent copies of that strategy out to every community now, and we will be working over the next few years to build that industry, but it is not going to happen overnight. We are going to have to build an industry, that is what we are going to have to do. The fact is that we have to recognize that it is important and we have to start treating it a little bit differently than we have in the past.

In many ways in the past, trapping or fishing was perceived to be something that people did on the side. What I have said in our economic strategy is that no, renewable resources have to be central to our whole economic development strategy in the small communities. We have to work on building that strategy.

Unfortunately, the comments that caused all the furore about it being a lost industry resulted from what I believe was bad reporting by the CBC, who used those words, even though nobody here used them, and that is what started this whole issue. The Member has my assurance that the government takes this issue seriously; it is an integral part of our economic

strategy and there is going to be a lot of work done on it over the coming years.

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

Question O424-90(1): Sales Of HAP Units After Five Years

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. On March 20th the Minister distributed a paper to Members of the House on the home-ownership assistance program. It was mentioned there that since 1983 some 1000 HAP housing units have been delivered to residents of the NWT. One of the concerns with the program, and only one, was that HAP clients were selling their units for large profits soon after the five year forgiveness period. Could the Minister tell me, of the 1000 or so housing units delivered, how many of these did this statement apply to?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I will take the question as notice and get the actual numbers, but it is a very small number. However, it is an anomaly in the program which I would like to see discontinued.

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

Question O425-90(1): Environmental Review On Falcons And Wildlife

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the environment. I was talking about the environmental review done in Rankin Inlet with regard to the falcons and wildlife. I am just concentrating on the migrating birds. I want to know if the government has finished the environmental impact review assessment. If you have learned what progress has been made would you respond to me, please? Thank you.

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: Are you taking the question as notice? The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

Question O426-90(1): Number Of Bison Involved In Hanging Ice Bison Ranch

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Economic Development. I believe, Mr. Minister, that you mentioned that you had authorized a \$650,000 financial package for the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch. Could you inform me how many bison this ranch will have for that money?

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I will take the question under advisement, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O427-90(1): Steps Taken By Renewable Resources To Ensure Healthy Animals At Hanging Ice Bison Ranch

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Minister, as you are aware, I think tomorrow there will be 74 buffalo transported into the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch in the Fort Smith area. What has your department done to ensure that these so-called "healthy" wood buffalo are not contaminated by our unhealthy buffalo in that region?

MR. SPEAKER: Is the Minister of Health going to answer the question?

--Laughter

The honourable Member for Amittuq.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know the precise details of how much they will be protected from disease. I will try to get back to the Member today. If not, I will get back to him tomorrow.

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

Question O428-90(1): Steps Taken By Economic Development To Ensure Healthy Animals At Hanging Ice Bison Ranch

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development. Mr. Minister, your department has invested quite a bit of money in the Hook Lake bison herd. What has your department done to ensure that these healthy buffalo, as they are referred to, are not contaminated by the unhealthy buffalo? I realize that in any business proposal you always put in there what could ruin that proposal or what could kill it, or cause it to go bankrupt; one of the things would be if any of those buffalo in that corral picked up brucellosis or TB, then they would have to shoot all the buffalo so they say. What have you or your department, having invested in that proposal, done to ensure that does not happen?

MR. SPEAKER: Just prior to proceeding with the answering, I just want to remind Members that once the question has been posed, I would ask that you not continue with a preamble. Thank you. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

HON. GORDON WRAY: I am tempted to put my joke on record, but I will not. I would have to take the question under advice. I really do not know. I would suspect that we have relied on Renewable Resources and agricultural officials to deal with the matter but I do not really know. I will take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O429-90(1): Government Assistance For Gasoline For Traditional Harvesters

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. It concerns what is known in southern Canada as purple gas, sir, which is fuel supplied to farmers with the tax out. I wonder if the Minister of Finance would consider implementing such a program in the Northwest Territories and including in the people to derive a benefit from it, farmers, trappers, and fishermen, sir.

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

Return To Question O429-90(1): Government Assistance For Gasoline For Traditional Harvesters

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department has looked into that and there are some major problems with it. One is the administrative costs. Secondly, because of the low volumes of fuel that we are talking about, we do not feel that retail outlets would put in the necessary tanks, pumps, what have you. So there is that whole aspect of it. The way we approached or we tried to approach it, as you know, is that we have a different tax rate for off-highway and on-highway gasoline. I think it is 8.5 cents on-highway and 5.1 cents off-highway. One way to approach that, under the act, as far as I know, is that on a case-by-case basis we can give rebates to people who demonstrate that they use the gasoline five kilometres away from the highway. When we looked at it before, our staff felt that the administrative hassles were very, very difficult and the other approach would be better. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O429-90(1): Government Assistance For Gasoline For Traditional Harvesters

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, when the government says it is too costly, the administration is really difficult for the government to do it, and then they pass that on to the trapper who has to keep a whole bunch of receipts and books, and so on, the government is just sloughing off its responsibility. So I would ask the Minister, is he prepared to take another look at this situation and make it easier for people who are supposed to benefit, to take advantage of the program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question O429-90(1): Government Assistance For Gasoline For Traditional Harvesters

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think, Mr. Speaker, in some of the answers to questions today we are, indeed, looking at the larger picture of ways to assist trappers. I think everybody in this House wants to look at ways to assist trappers, but if a way that is suggested is costly, inefficient, not getting the best value for the money, then I do not think we are accomplishing our ends. But I definitely will look at it and I can give to the Member a more detailed analysis of the problems and some possible solutions. Thank you.

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

Question O430-90(1): Government Reaction To Department Of National Defence Forward Operating Locations

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. Mr. Government Leader, it has come to my attention that the Department of National Defence does not understand the environmental rules it must follow or they believe they are above the law and the process laid out by the federal government. Have you, as Government Leader, been in any contact with either the Department of National Defence Minister, Bill McKnight, or Prime Minister Mulroney, to state our government's objection to the way the Department of National Defence is carrying out business in the Northwest

Territories?

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

Return To Question O430-90(1): Government Reaction To Department Of National Defence Forward Operating Locations

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our government, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs recently wrote what I consider to be a very strong letter to the Minister of National Defence, the Hon. Bill McKnight, expressing his disappointment at the department's unwillingness to involve the Dene/Metis in an environmental review process concerning the forward operating locations, and expressing his strong concern as well about the delays in expediting the environmental review process, which did not permit concerned parties to adequately participate and forced our government into the position of being asked to make decisions on land applications prior to completion of the full environmental review process. So, Mr. Speaker, on the particular FOL matters, our government, through the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, has raised very strong concerns with regard to general issues of how the Department of National Defence conducts itself in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, as the fall Throne Speech indicated, it is our government's intention to work with concerned citizens and interest groups in the Northwest Territories to present for consideration in this Legislature a policy respecting military issues in the Northwest Territories which will, I am confident, provide strong advice and guidelines as to how such matters in general should be handled. Mr. Speaker, later on in this session, I will be presenting the House with a progress report on that work which was undertaken since the fall. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Time for question period has expired.

Item 6, written questions. Written questions.

Item 7, 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. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 54-90(1), Annual Report of the NWT Liquor Licensing Board, 1989-90.

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

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 12-90(1): Musk-Ox Quota To Snowdrift Band

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 29, 1990 I will move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that this Legislative Assembly direct the Minister of Renewable Resources to allocate whatever musk-ox quota is available to the area east of Great Slave Lake to the Snowdrift Band to use at their

discretion. Thank you.

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

Notice Of Motion 13-90(1): Environmental Base Line Data

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on March 29, 1990 I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that the Legislative Assembly request that the Executive Council consider implementing a policy that would require the development of fundamental and accurate base line data in the areas of water, land, plants, air, animals and people, prior to any uranium mining development; further, that the Executive Council consider implementing the follow-up procedure that would enable our government to monitor any such development by using the base line data accumulated prior to the commencement of any such development.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. Notices of motion. Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 16-90(1): Status Of Women Council Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 29, 1990, I shall move that Bill 16-90(1), Status of Women Council Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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. 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 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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Yesterday when we concluded, we concluded the Housing Corporation. What is the government's wish today? Mr. Government House Leader.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You anticipated our wish. We are prepared to proceed with Government Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that the government proceed with Government Services?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Government Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Butters, do you wish to make your opening statements?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, in order to expedite matters might I move to the witness table and make my opening remarks there and, at the same time, have the acting deputy minister, Mr. Lee Horn, enter the House and assist me as my witness?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Prior to the Minister's opening remarks, does the committee agree that we invite the witness in?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister, would you please introduce your witness?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, the acting deputy minister of the Department of Government Services, Lee Horn.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mr. Minister, proceed with your opening statement.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the main estimates requirements for the Department of Government Services for the fiscal year 1990-91 are \$15,480,000 in O and M and \$7,670,000 in capital. The Department of Government Services will generate an estimated \$15,901,000 in revenue in 1990-91. The department also operates three revolving funds: petroleum products revolving fund; liquor commission revolving fund; and public stores revolving fund, as well as charge-back accounts for computer activities on behalf of government departments. This budget represents a decrease in O and M, capital and in person years. These decreases are reflective of the government's recently announced restraint measures.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Government Services provides services to the public and to government departments and boards through its four divisions and the liquor commission. The supply services division purchases goods for all departments and for some boards. Supply services provides for the transportation and warehousing of purchased goods and operates the public stores revolving fund with an authorized limit of \$1,125,000. Supply services is also responsible for the transportation assistance programs for Colville Lake, Pelly Bay, and Snare Lake and for the provision of an internal government mail service and the storage of records.

I am pleased to announce that with the co-operation of the Department of Education it has been possible to establish a training facility in Hay River to enable northern residents to qualify as purchasing officers. Difficulties in attracting qualified staff have prompted this course of action. It is expected that trainees will be located in Hay River for an 18 month training period, during which they would complete specified course work and under supervision gain practical experience. This program is slated to begin early in the new fiscal year.

Supply services is also charged with supplier development and with the administration of the register of northern contractors and suppliers for the business incentive policy.

Officers of this division have held what we call "reverse trade shows" in Inuvik, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit. A fourth show is scheduled for Hay River on April 25, 1990. At these shows the department displays sample items which may presently be purchased in the South, with a view to showing northern businesses what various government departments require and would buy from northern suppliers if they were readily available.

These reverse trade shows have been participated in by the following departments, boards and Crown corporations: Government Services; NWT Housing Corporation; Economic Development and Tourism; NWT Power Corporation; Baffin Regional Health Board; and Arctic College. In Hay River we expect the federal government and the Town of Hay River to participate as well.

Mr. Chairman, Government Services, as a department, and I, as Minister, are fully committed to the development of the northern economy and northern businesses. As of March 1, 1990, Government Services had purchased \$55.7 million worth of goods in this fiscal year. Of this amount, \$25.5 million was for the purchase of bulk fuel oil and other petroleum products purchased from the large oil companies at Montreal, Churchill and Norman Wells. The remaining \$30.2 million was spent in direct support to the government operations and breaks down as follows: \$16.7 million, northern suppliers; \$13.5 million, southern suppliers.

Government departments are encouraged to purchase goods directly from northern businesses through the use of local contract authority, LCA, booklets for purchases up to \$1000. Government Services has determined that up to 40 per cent of the requisitions received are for less than \$1000. Use of the LCA means that a business does not have to submit a tender, therefore reducing the demand on the time of the business person. LCA use in 1988-89 was 12,000 purchases for \$1.4 million. In 1989-90 this is expected to grow to 21,000 purchases for a total of approximately four million dollars.

The systems and computer services division operates and maintains the government's computers in headquarters and in five regional centres. It is responsible for the development and maintenance of the approximately 71 computer systems which are used within the GNWT. For the fiscal year 1990-91, the value of this work is estimated at \$4,455,000. This amount will be charged back to the departments using these systems.

The division also provides service and advice to departments on the acquisition of microcomputers, telephone and data communication systems and equipment, and forms management services. The data communications system proved to be very successful during the last Legislative Assembly session in Norman Wells. It has been decided to implement electronic Hansard and the use of electronic mail at this and all future sittings of the Legislative Assembly.

Petroleum products operates under the Revolving Funds Act with an authorized limit of \$40 million. It provides heating oil, gasoline, naphtha, and aviation fuel to 45 communities not served by the private sector. All of our fuel is delivered by local contractors, who will earn approximately \$4.8 million in commissions during 1990-91.

The liquor commission is responsible for the distribution of alcoholic beverages throughout the Northwest Territories. Net revenues for the fiscal year 1990-91 are estimated at \$15,322,000. The commission operates on a revolving fund with a limit of \$5.5 million. Costs have increased since that limit was set in 1983. Inventory value has also increased. For these reasons an amendment to increase the revolving fund

limit to \$6.5 million will be presented during this session.

Mr. Chairman, the directorate provides advice to myself and direction for the department. This has included the implementation of a management-for-results system approved by the financial management board. The directorate has also continued to work with the Canada Post Corporation in an effort to improve postal services and rates for the residents of the Northwest Territories. An example of this co-operation was the recent announcement by Canada Post of a major restructuring of the over-the-counter parcel post rates from a single rate structure to a zoned rate system as used throughout the rest of Canada. This major change will see a reduction of up to 49 per cent in some parcel rates.

However, this rate reduction will not have any effect on the northern air stage program. I have attempted to have the GNWT represented on the committee which was set up to review the northern air stage program but was not successful. As these rates remain under review I have asked the federal Minister, the Hon. Harvie Andre, and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Hon. Tom Siddon, if I may have an active role in the process and most recently have asked to have an opportunity to make a presentation to the committee set up by the Minister of DIAND.

The directorate is working with the federal government and the provinces to ensure that the development of a national telecommunications policy will not adversely affect northern telephone rates. An addition to the directorate, this past year, was the responsibility for the administration of the Liquor Act. This has proven to be a very demanding responsibility. Over the past year the directorate has been involved with 15 communities regarding the local option provisions of this act.

The support staff for the liquor licensing board are also part of the directorate. The inspection staff has been increased by two part-time inspectors in Inuvik. We are also holding discussions with the town of Iqaluit on the development of a contract for services with their by-law department to provide for inspections and for the issuing of special occasion licences. Revenues of this board are expected to be \$579,000.

More enforcement actions have been initiated to bring licence holders in line with the law. These actions are improving the enforcement of the Liquor Act, as recommended by this committee last year.

Recycling has been mentioned several times over the last few weeks. Comments made by the MLA from Yellowknife Centre about the blue boxes were most welcome. Staff involved in the initiative certainly appreciate the recognition. While it appears that we are coming to grips with some outgoing material, the use of incoming environment-friendly products is quite complex. The Member from Pine Point suggested that the Government of the Northwest Territories use recycled paper. Some six months ago the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Renewable Resources suggested the same thing to myself and my officials. Research into the recycled paper has revealed some interesting information. Many suppliers claim that up to 30 per cent of the content in their product is made up of recycled material. However, it appears that in many cases this material is scrap from the paper mills. In my view, the type of recycled content we will be asking for is the post-consumer waste; that is, paper that is gathered up in the blue boxes.

Ordering paper containing post-consumer waste could be a useless undertaking if the material cannot be used in our photocopiers or laser printers. Purchasing officers have put together specification packages and will be asking for paper with a minimum of 30 per cent post-consumer waste. This

tender will be issued in April. Coincidental to the tender process, Xerox Canada will be testing various grades of paper for use on the large laser printers that complement the central computers in Yellowknife. As current contracts for envelopes, stationery, forms, et cetera, expire, any new contracts issued will call for post-consumer waste content.

Meanwhile, I also wish to announce an agreement in principle between the major airlines and the Department of Government Services to transport waste paper from Inuvik and Cambridge Bay to Yellowknife; from Rankin Inlet to Winnipeg; and from Iqaluit to eastern Canada. The airline companies wish to demonstrate that they are acting as a good corporate citizen of the NWT and they have agreed to transport the recycled material at no cost. In the case of First Air, the material will be incremental to their agreement with the town of Iqaluit's aluminum can return project. In my view, Mr. Robertson of NWT Air, Mr. Crichton of First Air, and Mr. Duncan Fischer of Canadian North should be complimented on participating in this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Would the chairman of the standing committee on finance like to make any remarks?

Comments From Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Members of the standing committee on finance are concerned that the department must stress the safety requirements associated with fuel tanks. They are particularly concerned with the proper cleaning of the fuel tanks, Mr. Chairman.

With regard to the high cost of fuel and the cost to build and maintain fuel storage facilities in the communities, which are quite high, the committee supports the consideration of the use of hydro power, although this may not come under this particular department, as well as alternative methods of storage of fuel in communities. We have a recommendation in that regard, Mr. Chairman. The committee recommends that Government Services, in co-operation with the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, in energy management, public works, explore energy options such as hydro power. Also, that there is an exploration done on alternatives to current methods of fuel storage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday I read somewhere that Bell Canada was going to lower its telephone rates to make it more attractive to companies. I wonder if the Minister has any idea if the local telephone company in the Northwest Territories, being a subsidiary of Bell in the western Arctic and Bell Canada in the eastern Arctic, whether those rate reductions will apply here as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, as the Member well knows, while they have the same name I believe they are distinctly separate companies in their structure. No, we have not heard from Bell Canada advising us that they are looking at reducing their rates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: I wonder if the Minister would undertake to investigate this situation, Mr. Chairman. If rates are going to drop for the parent company in southern Canada I see no reason why we should not look at a drop up here as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I agree and I will carry out such an investigation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): General comments. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Pedersen.

High Cost Of Fuel Storage

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The chairman of the standing committee on finance in his report just read into the record mentioned the committee's concern over the high cost of fuel storage. That is indeed a concern that I pointed out during the committee hearings, and I would like to point it out again. I realize, of course, that fuel has to be stored and that in those communities where the government does store the fuel, the capital cost of the storage facility is not passed on to the consumers. The consumers in the communities where our government stores the fuel get a break in a reduced price, over those communities where private enterprise distributes the fuel through their own tanks which, of course, have to be amortized and passed on.

I would like to read into the record some of the costs, because they do not necessarily show in the budget which is in front of us, which basically shows the money allocated for this year and not necessarily the total. In Jean Marie River we are proposing a fuel tank increase in capacity. It is not a new tank; it is just to increase the one that is there now. Jean Marie River, with a population, according to the figures we have, of 66 people, has a total projected cost of \$1.1 million; that is \$18,000 per capita per person, man, woman and child living in that community to increase the storage of fuel. In Trout Lake the figure is just over \$12,000 per capita. As the cost goes up further away, in Paulatuk, with a population of 233, there is a total projected cost of \$4,270,000 to increase the capacity of the fuel storage, that would be \$18,000 per person, man, woman and child. In Sachs Harbour, with only 171 people, to increase the capacity in that community at a total cost of \$5,255,000 is \$30,730 for every man, woman and child living in that community. In Grise Fiord it is \$29,700. It goes on and on. It is a very, very expensive proposition.

I think that when our government originally undertook to provide fuel – and it is really not that many years ago, because when housing was first introduced in the mid-1960s, at least to that part of the North that we now know as Nunavut, the government did not store fuel. The Hudson's Bay Company used to bring it in by drum stock and it was bought from the Bay or from other suppliers. It is only within the last 25 years at the most that the government has started putting these tank farms in. I think the original objective was good, but I think it is time that we did a re-evaluation of the program to see if it meets the original objective in view of what it is costing today.

There may be some alternatives for fuel storage. In my own home community of Coppermine, I believe for the past three years, rather than increasing the fuel storage capacity, we brought the tanker barge in from Norman Wells, an NTCL barge, and left it at anchor frozen in, and used the barge as the tank. I do not know what the implications of that would be. I would think that, logically, one would expect that a barge would be built to even stronger specifications than a tank that is just designed merely to sit on land. The barge is designed to be pulled and pushed through water and ice, but I do not know that. I did recommend to the Minister during the review in the standing committee on finance that, in order to do an evaluation and see if it is possible to store fuel in a cheaper manner than we have been doing, perhaps we

should consider delaying that project for one more year and using a barge as fuel storage while we study that. If it proves to be so, then continue; and if it proves to be the wrong thing to do – but at least we should look at it.

Of all the many communities slated for fuel tank construction, either increase or whatever, the two that were taken out for this year were Jean Marie River and Coppermine. I trust that before next year we will have done an in-depth study. Perhaps the Minister could just comment on that and perhaps assure me that we should have it by next year so we will know whether or not the program that we are funding now, in fact, meets the original objective when we started the program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I would not debate the Member's figures and opening statement. I think everything he says is exactly the way the program has been developed and he has correctly associated costs on a per capita basis for that program in the smaller communities. We took the Member's recommendation very seriously. While we have not had time to carry out an in-depth survey and I guess that study will continue – but what the initial study is suggesting to us is that we would put the program for a tank farm in Coppermine back in place next year. The reason is that in a superficial examination, while hydro could provide a certain degree of energy support, there will still be a need for aviation fuel, diesel, gasoline; and obviously fuel oil will still be required. So there will have to be some capacity for protecting and carrying such fuels. While the barges have served as an admirable storage for a period of time, those units on a rental basis are costing us \$225,000 each. So even the use of those facilities on a yearly basis is expensive. So the department is looking at putting the expanded tank farm back into the next year's capital estimates.

The Member will recall that during the standing committee on finance review he asked if I would consider bringing forward the in town distribution centre. I said I would do that because I know that the location of the tank farm is such that people must travel some distance to get their fuel requirements. We are looking at, in the coming year, putting something in place on the proposed site so that they will be able to have an in town dispensing system in the coming fiscal year. We are looking at going forward with it for the reasons that I have said and I unless the review turns up some information that we do not currently have, I would expect that we would be recommending strongly that the deferment that has occurred be for one year only and that the plans proceed in the next capital fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister answered my next question about the in town facilities. Thank you very much for that. I want to elaborate a little more on the barge storage versus the land storage. I appreciate that we will need – even if we did go ahead with hydro power there – the storage facilities for the aviation products. However the aviation products are not of a quantity that they could not, for the foreseeable future, be stored in those tanks that would not be needed because of the heating fuel storage.

Also on using a transportation barge as a storage facility, I appreciate that \$225,000 a year for rent on these barges does sound like a lot, but Mr. Chairman, that is still an extremely fine bargain, if you consider that the total project cost is \$6,345,000. If expenditures such as that put us into a deficit financing position, then we are going to be carrying interest charges in excess of \$600,000 a year in order to carry out that construction. So \$225,000 is cheap compared to \$600,000

worth of amortization in perpetuity.

So I think when we do the in-depth review, as long as we realize we are going to do it, we should balance all the figures into it. It is a lot of money, but it is a lot less than what we do by capitalizing it ourselves. No other comments.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to us how the "Clean Up Our Community" program is doing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that program would fall under Municipal and Community Affairs. Anyway there is not a program in Government Services for that specific community project.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairperson, under the 1990-91 main estimates, Department of Government Services, petroleum products, it states here "to institute a 'Clean Up Our Community' exercise by proceeding with a drum crushing program."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, that is the program developed by the department to remove collections of unsightly drums that have existed and do exist throughout a number of communities in the North. Last summer the crusher was in the central Arctic and some \$85,000 was approved to be spent. I think they have been to Gjoa Haven and Trout Lake. It is an ongoing program. The drums are crushed and reduced to a circle of about four to six inches in height and used in land fill, used however they can be, to solidify the terrain.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you. Do I understand then that you have one crusher which is used by different regions year to year? With regard to the many, many barrels that were left in Coral Harbour, that the Minister knows about, by the military in the 1940s, can that crusher be used for something like that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the program last year saw some 7091 drums crushed in Trout Lake, Spence Bay, Gjoa Haven and Coppermine. For the coming year the program will be carried out at Holman, Pelly Bay, Coral Harbour, Whale Cove and Grise Fiord. The crushing unit is transported by a Twin Otter from community to community. I do notice that they will be in Coral Harbour and I would assume that the work requirement identified by the Member will be carried out.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. We will take a 15 minute break before we go to details.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The committee will come to order. We are on Government Services. General comments. Member for Yellowknife South.

Importance Of Purchasing Locally

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the committee review of the budget in the fall I asked a number of questions and judging by the comments of the Minister, already it seems that whatever ideas or comments we gave, some of them are incorporated and some are probably not possible. But overall it looks like the department is carrying out its mandate. There are questions, however, that arise from time to time, certainly from local business, when it comes to the amount of money that the government spends in purchasing items locally, as opposed to purchasing items from the South. I have approached the department on a number of occasions already on this. Although I did receive some answers to specific questions and concerns that some business people had, there are areas that remain cloudy.

I think that one of the main questions for the Department of Government Services is the priority it puts on purchasing locally. The Minister did go rather fast through it, he talked about 12,000 purchases. I do not know if that was all over the Territories or just here in the city. But some millions of dollars are spent locally for the purchasing of goods and services and the business community is concerned that some of the moneys that should be spent locally are going south. I do not think it need be debated here but it certainly is something that the department should look at, how it can change its buying practices and ensure that business people that are resident in the North get a fair shake at territorial dollars being spent. I know it will never be 100 per cent, but I think there are ways and means of tightening up on some of the purchasing.

Certainly in the issue of tenders there was one concern that I did bring to the Minister's attention and his officials addressed it. That dealt with stating in a contract how long the contract would be in effect, from the time the bid was submitted from the time it took to approve it. There is at least one incident that I am aware of where there was a delay. My understanding is that if a person puts in a bid to provide goods and services to the government, then the government has a duty to respond to that as quickly as possible, to carry out the necessary paper work that would get that contract back to the bidder and let them get on with it. There was a question that I had about whether it could be delayed for any length of time that the department felt it needed to review things. Consequently prices could not be maintained if a bidder went out to the supplier and got a price on something and is limited in the length of time that that price is in effect. The territorial government could decide not to provide it to the local bidder or any bidder, could just simply hold off on the contract and not issue it until such a time that the bidder would be unable to meet that price. I do not think the department and this government does this intentionally. I certainly hope they do not. But that possibility was there. I think that when I spoke to the Minister's officials, they indicated that they were tightening up that particular area so that a contract would not go for an unreasonable length of time before it was dealt with. A successful bidder would be notified and he could get on with making that price secure for the goods and services.

Pricing By Liquor Commission Could Be Incentive To Recycling

The other area is the Liquor Commission. I did raise this last year and I think I raised it in Norman Wells again, about the retailing of liquor when it comes to equalizing the prices across the Territories. To the consumer I guess it is okay that you can buy a dozen beer in Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort

Smith and Iqaluit at the same price, and yet you cannot buy milk for the same price in smaller communities as in Yellowknife. I know the reasons why, but I still want to express a certain amount of concern that citizens have for this particular practice.

The other thing I had mentioned earlier in dealing with the government being in the retail business of liquor is the number of bottles that are on a one-way trip North. In the South, at least you can collect all these glass bottles and take them back for refunds. In the North there is no option at the moment, unless the government has done something in the past few months, such as an extra charge on a bottle of spirits or wine that would encourage the return of that bottle. If nothing else, it might be possible to put the bottles back into one area rather than leaving them lying on the ground somewhere, use them for filling up land fill. There is a possibility of storing and shipping them back as glass, making a certain contribution to maintaining our pristine environment. By being involved in the sale of bottled goods, the government does contribute in a certain way to pollution in the Territories. We find bottles all over the place, beer, wine and spirits, and there is no incentive for anybody to return these bottles. I understand what the Minister has said before about the cost of recycling. It is a little bit easier to take back empty aluminum cans on a backhaul on an airplane south because they are light and it is a fairly good commodity to sell.

I have also made suggestions about when Northern Transportation goes into a number of these communities leaving a lot of containers that are dropped off in the fall. These containers are emptied in a matter of a few months and they go back empty. Perhaps one way of making money would be to fill them up with refuse of a sort so that you can get some dollars back when they get them south. You could take these containers to the recycling depot and get money for glass at least out of it.

Possibility Of Purchasing Summer Fuel To Ensure Savings

With the fuel supplied to territorial housing, or any building that the territorial government owns, operates and maintains, it came to my attention some time ago that there are several different kinds of fuel that you can buy. I think it is referred to as P40 and P50 for heating. One is generally referred to as a summer or warm weather fuel, and the other is more or less a winter fuel. There is a small price difference, three or four cents a litre. I got this information from someone who is in the oil business. The amount of litres that the territorial government buys is winter fuel that is a little bit more expensive. My understanding is, in a lot of the houses and buildings that the government owns and maintains, that the fuel tanks are located inside a portion of the house, not necessarily outside where the fuel would be at the ambient temperature. If it is 40 below then the fuel is 40 below and there is a possibility that it can thicken and not flow properly. In a lot of places the large tanks are either underground or in an area that is kept relatively warm so there is no danger. I wonder, in the interest of saving dollars over a long period of time when you are dealing with hundreds and thousands of litres at three to five cents a litre difference, whether we could ensure that only the cheaper fuel, the non-winter variety, be used in buildings that are protected from the environment; buildings that have their fuel either underground or inside where there is less danger of it solidifying or thickening so that it does not flow. I know that over the years that fuel oils have evolved to a commodity that is now less likely to cause problems with vehicles and with furnaces than in the old days. There are additives and things that do prevent thickening but it does not necessarily mean that the cheaper variety can be used. It may not be the answer but it certainly is one way of looking at saving some dollars when it comes to O and M.

I put these out for suggestions because, although I do not have the resources to check these things out, I am sure that the Minister does have a number of people who can look into it and make sure that they are, in fact, getting the best deal on fuel oils because they do use a tremendous quantity. If the information I got is wrong then it is not for lack of trying.

Possibility Of Privatization Of Government Services

The other thing that has come up and I am sure that the Minister has been asked, is the privatization of Government Services, or certain sections of it. There are rumours around here that Government Services is going to be disbanding and that certain portions will be given to the private sector, areas that are or can be provided by the private sector. Not only in the city of Yellowknife, of course, but in the larger communities and smaller communities there are some things that can be privatized. I have never heard a yes or no to that and I just wondered if that was, in fact, a rumour. Other than that I will leave my comments to specific things that will come up.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I will start with the two questions asked by the Member. With regard to privatization, there are, and have been, aspects of Government Services that have been privatized and the department will look to identifying where such economies could be found for the privatization mode.

With regard to the future of the Department of Government Services I think the question would be better addressed by either the Minister of Finance when Finance is up or the Government Leader because these decisions have been made at the Executive table. Obviously, too, at one time there was a look to privatizing the petroleum distribution in some communities. However, because of the need to ensure the lowest possible price for fuel in our remote communities this option has been rejected. There may be a possibility of looking at consolidating this service in a crown corporation. But these, at the present time, are conjectures only.

The P-40 and P-50 fuels, we do look at that possibility. I believe the difference between P-50, which we purchase, and P-40 is something like one cent a litre. If you did have those two fuels coming into any specific community we would be facing the problem of more tankage to differentiate between the two types of fuel. As the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West indicated a few moments ago, tankage is an extremely costly piece of infrastructure. However, we are looking for ways to reduce costs and we will look at the Member's suggestion once again.

Some Products Available Only In The South

The Member made four or five general comments. He asked what the department is doing to increase the percentages, the amounts of products purchased locally. Just to repeat, at the current time, if you exclude our purchases of petroleum, some \$16.7 million is going to northern suppliers and some \$13.5 million is going to southern suppliers. The types of purchases that are made for that \$13.5 million are of the type I will indicate here; the type that we do not display at the reverse trade shows because the sources can only be found in the larger communities in southern Canada or even in the States. We are looking at medical supplies, high tech equipment, lightning detection systems, computer mainframes, computer software, data communication equipment. We are looking at specialty fittings and equipment for gas and oil handling, filters, couplings, nozzles, fire engines, fire pumps, hoses, chemicals, fire suppressants and calcium chloride. Some of

these products just are not available in the Territories. We are attempting to purchase as much as we can in the Territories.

Likewise with regard to local purchases and local contracting, we still have in place a business incentive policy. We are still looking at making improvements to this policy; improvements which we believe would move to achieve the objective identified by the Member and that is a greater degree of purchases from local business people.

On the Liquor Commission, my understanding is that there have been a number of changes in the sale price of liquor in the various outlets, which include the freight on board requirement asked for by Members, so that the equalization practice which was once in place has been discontinued in a number of communities and the purchaser is paying a freight component in the cost of the product.

Recycling Of Bottles And Cans

The other matter he raised, with regard to bottles and cans, especially in our liquor system -- that is the only refuse and waste I am discussing now. We have determined that while we purchase and consume some eight million plus bottles and some five million plus cans of beer, in the area of bottles, under the current system that exists for refunds, about 70 per cent of the bottles are finding their way back to southern distributors, either over the Dempster highway to Whitehorse or down the Mackenzie highway south of Hay River. We have looked at the possibility of ourselves adding some type of refund to our bottles; bottles in the hard liquor area, wine bottles and also to cans. Even developing a figure of some \$100,000, we do not expect that the reclamation figure would improve much over 10 or 15 per cent; that is, 80 or 85 per cent of the bottles and cans utilized would be returned.

While I am on that subject I would like to just show Members some things that are done. I have a container of beer cans which consists of 396 cans. It has been compressed into a package of 22 pounds in weight and I believe is valued, for the aluminum in it, at nine dollars plus some cents. We also have for your interest a number of reclaimed products. I will circulate them to the Members if I can get a Page to assist us here. The one that is labelled number one -- Mr. Ernerk will be interested -- is disposable diapers. The plastic has been extruded out of the machine and cut off. Would you circulate that package? They are washed; all the excrement taken out, the disposable plastic diaper remaining. This item number two is fast food waste, what you would get at MacDonald's or a place where you just dump the plastic tray. In fact I think there is even a smell of catsup on that. This is from cloth and carpeting, that type of product.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Who said Tom has boring presentations?

--Laughter

HON. TOM BUTTERS: This fourth one is high gloss paper products and this is the type of product you get from high gloss. High gloss paper is pretty hard to recycle. This fifth one is plastic and paper oil containers. So you can see that they do have some possibility of being turned into dimensional boards which could be painted. The material is quite strong. This is to show that we are looking at it seriously. In fact, we have asked a couple of entrepreneurs in Hay River to look at the possibilities and work with us to develop a system for recycling. But we still have a long way to go. It is only in its infancy. We will continue to pursue the concerns that the Member has raised. Maybe I will just ask Mr. Horn to comment on the cans.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Horn.

MR. HORN: Mr. Chairman, the package in front of me here is a package of 396 compacted aluminum cans. It weighs about 22 pounds and is worth 41 cents a pound for the reclaimed aluminum. What we are proposing to do is to compact these cans here prior to shipping them back to Edmonton so that you would maximize the volume.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Any further comments, Mr. Minister?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: There is one other comment but I just forget what it was now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a continuation. I can appreciate the Minister's presentation to us with these reclaimed materials and I guess that shows, Mr. Chairman, that nothing is impossible if one wants to do these things. I think what I was suggesting is exactly that; that recycling materials certainly be encouraged wherever possible, certainly within the government. I realize that the government cannot dictate to the private sector as much as some of us or the government would like, but there are areas where incentives can be made, where the public can participate in recycling at very low costs. They have to have some incentives. There has to be some provisions made and it may be the government's position to seed that particular type of activity with the necessary funds to purchase the machine that would compact the tin cans into cubes like they are. I do not imagine that running over these aluminum cans with a fork lift or stomping them by hand is the answer, although that is what Ecology North, when it first started up the reclamation depot out by the co-op, were doing. They encouraged people to stomp over them or run over them with a car so that they took less space. They eventually ended up with a compactor that would make this particular type of cubes.

This is fine for Yellowknife, we have a large enough supply here. But there are also other communities where the supply is high. I know in Iqaluit, where I have been several times, that cans come in there by the hundreds of thousands, and it is not uncommon to find in any community, aluminum cans, pop cans, beer cans. Certainly the further away from the source of the product, the more effort the producer will take to send in the least weight. So I tend to think that the aluminum cans will take priority over beer bottles when it comes to supplying beer to some of the smaller communities in the NWT. So we have to find a way of reclaiming that. Maybe we need the initiatives by the government to provide this kind of machinery. It does not have to be as sophisticated as the one we have here but I am sure there are other ways.

Also the questions of bottles. I realize that 70 per cent of beer bottles are reclaimed. That is pretty good. But I know there are probably a lot of wine and whisky bottles and I understand now that they are making bottles that are non-breakable for certain kinds of spirits. The bottle is identical to glass except it is made of plastic. That certainly is something that is even more environmentally hazardous than glass. Glass is made from sand, if I am correct and plastic comes from natural gas. You know it takes more of a non-renewable resource to make plastic. But it is good to see that the government has done something and I am sure they will continue their efforts to interest people in the recycling program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi. Any comments, Mr. Minister?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The Member has made his point, not only during this session, but previously. I think we are going

to see more and more programs to reclaim, recycle and remove this potential waste from our landscape.

Iqaluit was mentioned. The mayor there is very keen to see the territorial legislation changed so that municipalities can develop incentives themselves and we are certainly looking at that to assist them. The third level of government is moving in this area markedly. I do believe that when the NWT Association of Municipalities meets in Yellowknife next month, one of the major issues or major challenges that they will be looking at is dealing with our treatment of our landscape and our land.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): General comments. Member for Deh Cho.

Centralized Computer Station To Serve All Departments

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I know that this government is hung up on computers and advancing those computers so they are more compatible with the modern age. Perhaps that is what they should get into, to find out what kind of garbage is in the North and they could have a centralized system to do that -- just kidding.

--Laughter

The Minister in his opening statement indicated that they have something like 71 computers across the North and they also have a centralized computer system here. I know that most departments have computers. For example, the Department of Public Works has computers; now that is centralized so that they know where there are problems in maintaining buildings. Could there be co-operation between departments so that some of those things could be done by the Department of Personnel or Government Services? Some of those things could be combined, instead of having all the departments with their own centralized computer systems and spending that much more money keeping up with modern high tech and changing them every time there is a new model. Eventually could we be in a position to standardize computers so that more departments can tap into the computers from a centralized computer station? Are there any plans for that or is this government still in a position of leaving that up to the discretion of the departments to do that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, before I respond I would just like to comment on the Member's statement with regard to the computer system to deal with dangerous goods. One of the problems the small communities have is knowing how to ship dangerous goods out of the community, because it is not the responsibility of the shipper to package it properly, it is the responsibility of the community in which the dangerous goods exist. So you do have a program now where you can punch in the particular product, you can punch in the weight, you can punch in the type of transportation mode you are going to use and it will spell out how it should be packaged and various other aspects in relation to the federal laws.

With regard to the computer section of Government Services; it is a service department to all the departments using computers. It provides mainframe technology and support used in the regions. In headquarters it has been especially helpful in assisting departments in developing their computer systems and technology. The process is standardized, but the fact is that the Department of Government Services has the mandate to provide service to all the departments. The user group, the department itself, indicates to Government Services the type of assistance and expertise it wishes and that service is provided to the department in question. The funds for that

service are identified, the amount of time and the professional advice provided is then charged back against each department's budget.

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

Storage Facilities For Fuel In River Settlements

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, last year I mentioned that I use fuel for heating. Last year I spent \$780, this year it is a little over \$800, but it is still quite low compared to what the Housing Corporation is purchasing. I realize that we are on Government Services, but is it possible, where it might be more appropriate, that a community might be able to purchase cheaper fuel from another community? I do not buy from Fort Providence itself, I obtain fuel from Hay River. It is still a lot cheaper. In fact, I believe that some of the Housing Corporation homes use just as much in one month as I do in one year. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not, where it is possible, fuel might be sold from other communities.

Mr. Pedersen did touch on the matter of the storage of fuel. I do not know where the Minister got that figure of \$250,000 that is charged to this government for fuel storage, when you do see a lot of barges along the Mackenzie River that are left for the winter.

This summer I had the opportunity to travel the river and I found in a lot of places it was very difficult to buy gas and oil because it was either a government operated facility or privately owned. So you run into a situation where they are not open certain hours. For government fuel or gas storage, they are in the same position as other businesses in that they do not operate outside of normal hours. That does pose a problem and perhaps that would also pose a problem for tourists who would like to travel the river but find they cannot be accommodated along the river.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I too heard and marvelled at the figure that the Member gave for his winter heating bill. His statement congratulated the design people in the Housing Corporation that designed the HAP unit that he lives in. That is a very low amount of consumption over the winter. I know my own bill is very high.

On the matter of the barges, we have an accurate rental cost on those units because they have been left in Coppermine, specifically, I think over a period of two or three years. There has to be an amount of work done on the bottom where they are pulled up and beached, so that figure is an accurate one based on the bill received from the company.

On the matter of buying fuel in other communities, we only operate in 45 communities and most of the communities in the western Arctic and in the Mackenzie are pretty well supplied through private dealers and private entrepreneurs. I believe that just as a general policy we would attempt to assist the person who is providing a service in a local community, rather than seeing that service overwhelmed from somebody who is more distant. Unless I knew the specific issue, I do not know if I could address it at this time.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the difficulties that I was referring to, Arctic Red River is one of them, Fort Good Hope, areas where you do not have a privately owned petroleum outlet. You have to purchase from government.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The Member mentioned specifically Arctic Red River. We have been looking at that particular situation, but I would assure him that the costs that are charged for consumers of the product in Arctic Red River are just the costs that we experience. What happens in the case of that particular community is that the product comes down to Inuvik, it is offloaded there and it is trucked back to Arctic Red River. I did enquire whether or not it would be possible for a barge to be pulled up alongside the community on the Arctic Red River side to see whether we could provide fuel directly, but I do not think we have enough tank capacity in that community at the present time. The problem is one of insufficient tank capacity, I believe, and the inability of offloading at the community river front itself.

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

MR. GARGAN: Arctic Red River is not in my constituency, but the tank farm that is there is way back out in the woods somewhere, but they also have access by ferry too. A tanker that is going to Inuvik could drop off fuel at Arctic Red River before going on to Fort McPherson because they do have the ferry that stops there. If it is required, the ferry does stop on its normal routine for passengers that would like to go to Arctic Red River or else leaving Arctic Red. It is there, and I just thought I would mention that, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct. The tank is situated a long way back from the river. At the present time we do not have pipes from the river up to the tank, and the capacity of the tank, which I indicated is minimal, has only sufficient fuel to supply Arctic Red River for a six week period. Even if it were economical to have NTCL stop at the river bank and if there was a pipe connection it is still impossible under the current physical circumstances.

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

Attempt To Hold Liquor Plebiscite, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, just to mention also to the Minister is that I have, during the last several months, attempted to have the Liquor Commission have some kind of a plebiscite in Fort Providence to try to reduce the hours. I have not been successful mainly because I am a Member at large and this is a local issue which should be handled by the hamlets or the band councils. In my opinion, in my own community those people chose not to do anything about it. Perhaps because they do like going to the bars and things like that but it does give them an open option in which, if they chose not to do anything, then they have that option. I would like to request to the Minister that changes be made so that it does obligate the hamlet to act, where a request is made, whether it is to a petition or a public meeting of some kind. After all, they too are elected people and I do not think small excuses, such as they do not want to sign petitions or they are not interested because the business people are not supporting it, are sufficient to ignore the wishes of the community.

The hamlet is saying that you have to have the support or a petition that is signed by a majority of the community. I find this to be trying to find as many excuses as possible to ignore their responsibility as an elected representatives of the community.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, since the department has been given the responsibility for liquor plebiscites I must admit there has been a very great deal of interest and much community action in this regard. When such community action occurs I try to involve and inform the MLAs of what is going on and ask their assistance in the communities that they represent.

The problem mentioned by the honourable Member for Deh Cho is one that can be solved in two ways. One, as I understand it, would be under the current act he does not require a majority of signatures on the petition for a plebiscite; I think 20 signatures would get you the plebiscite. Where the majority would come in, is once the question was asked to the community with regard to changing the hours. The other way could be done without going to the plebiscite. I understand that if sufficient people petitioned the chief and the band council, the mayor and his or her council, and requested such a change to occur or to invite the liquor licensing board to come and meet with them and indicate that this is what their community would desire, I believe that they could probably make such a change to the hours. So there seem to be two ways which he could do it. Either through the act or through the action at the community level; the band and the municipality.

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

Change In Liquor Act Required

MR. GARGAN: I guess the problem I am having, Mr. Chairman, is action from the community level as he referred to. It is not happening and I find it frustrating. The Minister also mentioned a plebiscite through the Liquor Act but you must also remember that, going through that process, to get 20 signatories to have a plebiscite on prohibition -- I do not think under the present act a community that has a licensed premises can take any kind of action through law to act on. The only way to do it is to, first of all, have a plebiscite to have prohibition and then the second plebiscite for restriction of bar hours. The present act does not allow for restriction of bar hours but only through a plebiscite first to have prohibition and then the second plebiscite for the restriction of bar hours.

In my case it would be very difficult to try to go to the first step; probably next to impossible. If there could be changes so that at least communities where licensed premises are, that they are given the opportunity if they have whatever the percentage for a petition, then the Minister calls for a plebiscite to restrict bar hours; not to shut down bars but at least to have some option of closing down early. During school days is when I would like to see it done.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the Member has correctly described the situation with regard to the requirement for the prohibition and latterly for the change in the hours. The step of prohibition is quite difficult to obtain on faith that restricted hours would be put back in later on.

The Member has pointed out an area of the act which does require review and, as I understand, is being reviewed so that the steps can be taken incrementally rather than having such a major prohibition occurring at the very beginning. The Member has pointed out a problem that the department will seek to address in the relatively near future.

I would like to say, too, that we do consider these concerns as very real concerns. We know that it creates a most divisive debate in the communities. When the communities are wrestling with these problems I know that Mr. Horn, himself,

will attempt to travel to the community in question and talk with the community leaders to assist them in addressing the problem. He has so travelled to a number of communities in the last few months. The department, myself, and the acting deputy minister do appreciate the Member's concern and will attempt to move as we can to assist the community and the residents of the smaller communities to address this very grievous problem.

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

Rebate On Kerosene Products

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try and make it brief. This is with regard to the division of petroleum products. I will be talking about the naphtha. I believe that you give a rebate of naphtha when you sell it in the smaller communities. My question is in regard to kerosene products. I was wondering if you give a rebate on kerosene. The hunters use both products, naphtha and kerosene. Even though you give a rebate on naphtha, you do not give a rebate on the kerosene products in the communities. Because kerosene is very expensive in the northern communities, I believe you should be able to do the same thing with regard to kerosene products. Do you understand my question? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, I understand the Member quite clearly. No, he is right, we do not provide a rebate on kerosene products. However, what I understand him to ask of us is, in view of the fact that we have justified this rebate for naphtha on the basis of assistance to the hunters and trappers, he is asking for the same type of consideration and rationalization for us to look at kerosene, and yes, we will do that. I and my deputy will look at this, and see about making some rationalization on behalf of the hunters and trappers.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very happy to hear your comments. With regard to the hunters and trappers in Iqaluit, I assist them and it is very expensive to buy gasoline for harvesting uses. Usually the hunters and trappers complain how expensive it is to buy gasoline of any sort. They have been asking me to approach the appropriate Minister to see if he can give a rebate to the hunters and trappers only. I am not representing the Town of Iqaluit, but I wanted to make a few comments with regard to this. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct, the distribution of petroleum products in Iqaluit has been privatized and it is done by a distributor other than the government. The cost to consumers there is the price of the product landed, the amortization of the infrastructure, labour, plus the profit, so it would be higher than in surrounding communities. I will take the Member's request seriously, and I will discuss it with the Minister of Renewable Resources. I understand that the Member is referring to those consumers who are hunters and trappers and take their sustenance in the main from the land. I will discuss this concern and initiative with Mr. Allooloo and see what we can do to address the problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the

Minister is with regard to post offices. Is the Minister's department still in charge or working with Canada Post for the delivery of postal services in the NWT?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have that role since we are a very large consumer of postal services.

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

Hiring Of Native Post Office Staff, Rankin Inlet

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister and I have communicated with each other on the issue of more native people employed at the post offices in the NWT, in particular in the Aivilik riding. Whenever I visit the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay, the post offices are staffed by local Inuit, which I think is very good and which is the direction Canada Post should move towards, because the majority of their customers are unilingual Inuktitut-speaking people.

In Rankin Inlet, Mr. Chairman, I have noticed that the local post office has not taken the same kind of initiative to train and hire at least one Inuk person to work at the post office. If the Minister has a good announcement to make on this particular issue, I would be most appreciative. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, this issue is one that has been pursued assiduously by Mr. Ernerk over the last two years, and there has been a little bit of success as a result of his representations. Canada Post now have named an individual who has responsibility for dealing with the postal service being operated in the northern communities, Dennis Cichelly. Mr. Cichelly has served in the North for some five years in the Inuvik post office. As a result of representations made by the honourable Member and other Members, and by Government Services, there are now two positions in the Iqaluit post office filled by native speaking staff.

Unfortunately, the position identified in the Rankin Inlet post office was not a full-time position. It is for 20 hours only at the present time, and just recently that position has been filled by Mr. Luke Subgut of Rankin Inlet. I know that possibly that beginning is not totally satisfactory to the Member, but there is a recognition on the part of the post office of his rightful request, and at least they have gone part way to fulfilling that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that reply. At least it is half way, and I am at least half satisfied, but please keep in mind that it is very important that local people be hired to do this kind of work. There is a lot of responsibility attached to this.

Secondly, my question to the Minister is, is there a board of directors who govern Canada Post at the regional level, like the Northwest Territories, or national level?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Naming Northerner To Canada Post Corporation Board Of Directors

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the Canada Post Corporation is managed by a board of directors. I do believe that when the officials from Canada Post appeared before the House I indicated as one of the requirements that we would

try, as a government, to see a Northerner named to that body and a few months ago, before the Norman Wells session, I did write to Mr. Andre asking him again, or reiterating what has been said by this government on a number of occasions, concerning the need of putting a Northerner on that board. There was a northern representative on that board some three years ago when Mrs. Lynda Sorensen sat as a member on the corporation's board of directors.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Did the Minister indicate that there is a board member from the Northwest Territories? I know that he made a mention of Lynda Sorensen, but is there a vacancy? Maybe I should ask the question in that fashion. Is there a vacancy to fill a board member's position from the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not a new issue. This has been around for a long, long time. There has been a request from the Legislative Assembly as far back as I can remember, back in 1970, when the Legislative Assembly was asking to have a board member from the Northwest Territories to sit on the Canada Post board. I would request the Minister to continue to pursue the matter with the executives of Canada Post to get a board member from the Northwest Territories. There should be at least two; one for the West and one for the East. I think it would only make sense. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I will pursue the request that we have been making of Canada Post, of the Minister responsible for Canada Post, for participation. I would point out, too, that there is not a northern seat on the board; it is comprised of Canadians of outstanding administrative abilities from across the country.

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

Privatization Within Department Of Government Services

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to be brief. If I recall correctly, last year when we spoke of the Department of Social Services and the Department of Government Services, we were discussing this topic that you will be devolving your powers to business owners and I was wondering if you can give me a report on that progress. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, there has been some movement toward privatization in the department but, as I mentioned to the honourable Member, privatization in the area of petroleum products was looked at and then decided against because of the particular situation that has occurred in Iqaluit, which was so clearly demonstrated a few moments ago by the honourable Member for Baffin South, where privatization has increased the cost of fuel to the consumer.

The department has looked at those areas where privatization could occur in terms of the policy of this government, where

it would be economical, and where staff requirements could be accommodated. We have moved in the areas of liquor stores; we have looked at some of the handling of internal mail, but it has been very minimal to date.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a supplementary to my question to the Minister. In regard to the petroleum products that are contracted out to the private groups, I believe the contract is usually for three years. Am I correct?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The usual contract entered into between Government Services and successful tenderers for the distribution of the product in the communities is two to three years with an option for two more.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the contractors, they do not give vacation travel assistance to their employees and I was wondering if they give additional funds for the benefits of the employees. I was wondering if you give additional funds to the contractors for that purpose. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, no, the contractor's employees are employees of a private individual or agency. We certainly have privatized that aspect in that we have contracted it out to a private enterprise; each of these firms is an individual entity in its own right and is not related to government, except by the contract which binds us both.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I have another question for the Minister and it is with regard to the contractors of petroleum products. I was wondering, what percentage do they receive for the sale of petroleum products to the locals? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, that may take a few minutes to find but I think we can come up with the figures. Obviously, the figures vary in different communities, depending on related costs. I will try to have them for the Member.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I am not against your department or you as the Minister of Government Services, but the petroleum products that are used for the units are the cheapest and the fuel that is used for ships is the most expensive, looking at all the petroleum products. I was wondering if you could give a rebate to the hunters and trappers that use fuel for outboard motors. I was wondering if you have touched on these areas before. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No. It is an issue that would be addressed, as was indicated earlier this afternoon by the Minister of Finance, through his department because of the difficulty in differentiating use of the fuel. The two instances that were raised by Mr. Arlooktoo are both quite specific. I

believe it would be a lot easier to address those particular situations, but when you have a broad distribution of a product, it is something that I do not think Government Services could address. But I did hear the Minister of Finance indicate to one of the Members that he would -- I think to Mr. Pollard -- that he would be willing to re-examine and review that particular issue.

I do have here a page listing the payment to various contractors in the regions we supply, and in every case the amount varies. It varies for heating fuel and gasoline and then it varies between communities because of the costs associated with distributing the product in the particular and specific community.

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

Fees For Fuel Purchases After Normal Business Hours

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Things most felt in the communities include petroleum contractors. When the stores are not open they sometimes open their stores for delivery for a charge of in the range of \$40. I wonder if that is also included as one of the regulations or is it simply up to the contractors for petroleum and gasoline products to charge extra for gas or petroleum product delivery. Since the contractor is the only one available where you can buy petroleum products, is it up to him to change any rates he wants?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I think it would be helpful if I knew the particular instance and the specific community. I would assume that when these contractors enter into an arrangement with our government, it indicates the hours that they would be required to be open. If there is a fuel requirement after hours there would be a call-out charge associated with bringing that individual out of his home to go to the tank farm, or wherever it is, to fill the jerry-cans or the gas tank. It would be helpful if the Member did advise me of the specific instance. I understand that the call-out fee is related to needs of aircraft but not for houses. I think I could be more helpful to the Member if I knew the specific instance and could investigate it.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Just to clarify. When the gasoline hours are closed and I go over to get some, then I would have to bring \$40 with me. I found out that this happens to other people too, and that is why I was interested in finding out whether there is a regulation to that effect. I realize that applies for aviation fuel but as for hunters requiring fuel on weekends or during closed hours, I am wondering if there are more charges involved. If I go and get gas on weekends or after hours, I can only do that if I make a payment of \$40 first. In some cases that is the case, in the communities, although some of them might not be doing that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is helpful. My understanding is that there is not a call-out fee either under any legislation or in contracts that we have of the nature described by the Member. It would appear -- and here I am probably responding without too much information and I will review it later -- but it would appear that that call-out fee has been set by the individual contractor himself and has not been written into any contract that we may have with him. I will investigate the matter. We will be looking into our contracts to see what we can do to ensure that where call-out

fees are justified, that they are reasonable.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Baffin South the MLA has encountered a similar type of activity so he can confirm this. I just thought I would bring this up in this sitting. Since we are very regulated in everything that affects our lives, I was curious to get the correct information. That is why I brought it up.

The petroleum and gasoline contractors -- the co-ops also used to do this delivery in our community and now they do not do that delivery for us any more, although they put in tenders and their location is much closer to the tank farms. This is an additional problem in our community because of the extra distance that is required to get the gas. So after the termination of this contract, I would encourage that if the co-ops put in tenders for this type of delivery, that they be encouraged. It would be good for the communities because the co-op belongs to the community as well. Thank you for your answers and I know that you will take notice of my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, I would thank the Member for his advice. Not only will we look into the situation with contractors in Baffin Central but also Baffin South. I would ask department officials who are here in the room today to look at the situation in all of the 45 communities in which we are providing products. I am curious to know just how that matter of call-out is addressed by the communities and by the contractors. If we have not given them direction, then maybe we are remiss ourselves in that we have allowed a vacuum to occur and maybe we should re-examine that omission.

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

Aviation Fuel Services In Fort Resolution

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I went through the budget and I went through Government Services and I did not notice any money in there for Fort Resolution. It was a commitment by the Minister to do something to alleviate the problem of getting fuel for the scheduled flights into Resolution and Snowdrift. We have been fortunate that in the past year or so that we are now getting regular scheduled flights into both communities, up to five times a week, but we may lose those scheduled flights unless fuel services are provided; especially the sched between Resolution and Snowdrift. As you know, Mr. Minister, we are trying to work on tying together the south end of the lake and making it more economical to live in Snowdrift by reducing the freight costs. It is far cheaper to service Snowdrift through Hay River and Resolution rather than come way around the lake to Yellowknife and then back down. We need to have some sort of better fuelling-up service for the planes, which is now being done by wobble pump. If I do not get something happening fairly quickly I will be the guy that has the job of running the wobble pump.

You have sent some equipment in and some stuff is missing. There is a tank missing. We are not talking millions of dollars for a tank farm or anything, just something very small that we can use to fill up the Twin Otter or possibly aviation gas as well, for single engine airplanes and things like that. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I did commit the department to look at improving the situation in Resolution, especially for the increased sheds serving that community. As the Member suggests, because he does not think it will cost an arm and a leg, we should be able to find some tanks. We did look around for tankage that has been used that could be transported to Resolution and used there, but we were not successful in that search.

At the same time, we did have DPW look at what it would cost to put in a little facility there. A project of that nature is estimated by DPW to come to \$300,000, which is very high. I have recently, because I expected this question from the honourable Member, knowing that he does not cease to pursue matters of interest to his constituents, asked my staff to look at maybe finding something in Uranium City. I mention Uranium City because we have looked at the possibility of obtaining houses there and when we are taking a look at that, maybe we could see if there is any tanks there that could be thrown on the barge and brought down as well. So we have not given up finding some infrastructure that has been in place somewhere else and is no longer in use. The amount of money that is being projected for a new system is out of line.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I agree that \$300,000 is too high for what we had envisioned but we need something that would be a little better than a wobble pump, as long as it was an electrical pump with a gauge on it, and a tank that could be secured. You said it was way above what you thought it would be. What is the figure? Maybe I could shop around as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I forget the figure I had in mind but I am seriously looking at the possibility of finding something in Uranium City, which is not too far up river, and if the Member can identify a piece of infrastructure somewhere south of the lake we would be happy to look at that. I would like to see something in place at a much less cost than \$300,000.

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

Possible Pollution From Tank Farm, Snowdrift

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I will look around and I will keep you well informed. Also the tank farm in Snowdrift — I have received complaints that even right at the lake in front of the tank farm it never really freezes in the winter and pollution from that tank farm — you have been there; it is close to the lake. I know that it is in the works to move that whole thing out of there. We do not get our drinking water from that side but the other side. It may be good if, this spring, you could have some tests done and check out to see if there is any seepage out of that tank farm or fuel going into the lake. If there is, maybe we could have something so that we can stop that as soon as possible so that we do not pollute.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I have seen the location of the tank and I do believe that the situation described by the Member is a matter of concern to us. It is also a matter of concern to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources because one of the tanks in question, I believe, belongs to the Power Corporation and one belongs to the government.

I understand that discussions are going ahead with the band and chief and councillors. So far we have not been able to work out an acceptable site with the band council. I believe an application for a site was before the band council in the latter part of 1987. The band rejected that particular site and there has not been any rezoning or another site identified which could be used. There are some problems in discussions we are having at the community level. Possibly the Member could consult with me and with Mr. Horn and assist us in finalizing those plans and projects.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will talk to you later on and we will try to get that resolved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): General comments. Are there any further general comments? If not is the committee ready to go into detail? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

—Agreed

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. In the main estimate books, on page 9.08, activity directorate, total O and M, \$2,874,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

—Agreed

Systems And Computer Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Systems and computer services, total O and M, \$4,422,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

—Agreed

Supply Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Supply services, total O and M, \$8,184,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

—Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Information item on petroleum products. Any further questions on the Liquor Commission on page 9.12? Information item on petroleum products revolving fund, pages 9.14 and 9.15. Any questions? Any questions on page 9.16, Liquor Commission revolving fund? Any questions on page 9.17, public stores revolving fund? Any further questions on pages 9.19 and 9.20, systems and computer services?

Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, on pages 9.21, 9.22 and 9.23. Any questions? Total department, \$678,000. Any questions?

Total O And M, Agreed

Total O and M for the Department of Government Services, \$15,480,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): That concludes the O and M portion of the budget. Does the committee agree that we move on to capital? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Systems And Computer Services, Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): In the capital estimates book on page 9.08, detail of capital, systems and computer services, equipment acquisition, total headquarters, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Systems And Computer Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Total systems and computer services, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Petroleum Products

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Page 9.11, petroleum products, buildings and works, total Fort Smith, \$290,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Inuvik, total Inuvik, \$615,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, what is this in town gas station in Inuvik?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I believe it is in Tuktoyaktuk, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: What is an in town gas station?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: It is the same type of service that we are looking at putting into Coppermine, something that would be downtown. The situation in Tuk is that they are in very serious need of the current system to be replaced. This will replace it.

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

MR. GARGAN: This would then be a government operated gas bar, right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: It is a rather grandiose name. It is not a gas station nor a gas bar. It is an in town dispensing

facility.

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

MR. GARGAN: The government is operating this facility, right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, we are.

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Total Inuvik, \$615,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Baffin, total Baffin, \$4,540,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Kitikmeot, total Kitikmeot, \$1,500,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, from Inuvik on, it is mobile equipment-petroleum products. This would refer mostly to fuel trucks or petroleum trucks, is that right?

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan, you are way ahead of the committee. Total buildings and works, \$6,945,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Inuvik

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Equipment acquisition, Inuvik. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, most of the equipment here would be delivery vehicles. Under this task of equipment acquisition, the \$260,000 for Baffin for example, I would not mind finding out which communities are getting these brand new fuel vehicles.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking for that information, if you could give us a moment or two. The three communities receiving equipment are Broughton Island, Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay. Broughton Island will receive a new fuel vehicle, Pond Inlet will receive

a new aviation fuel vehicle and Resolute Bay will receive a new gasoline transfer vehicle.

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

MR. GARGAN: Who is getting it in Inuvik?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, the \$85,000 for Inuvik relates to an expenditure for a new fuel vehicle at Tuktoyaktuk used for transferring gasoline to the in town dispenser.

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

MR. GARGAN: I would assume that there is an ice road that goes to Tuktoyaktuk during the winter months that transports fuel to Tuktoyaktuk. Is that right?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I understand that the Member is inquiring whether a vehicle would be used for resupplying. My understanding is that the use of the vehicle will be to take it from the tank farm to the in town dispensing unit. The same use that the one in Resolute Bay will be put to.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I was asking whether or not there is a winter road during the winter time to transport fuel to Tuktoyaktuk and whether or not there really is a need to have a brand new vehicle if, in fact, you do have tankers that go into Tuktoyaktuk during the winter months.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The winter road to Tuktoyaktuk is only open for some three months so the bulk of re-supply to that community goes in by barge.

Equipment Acquisition, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Total Inuvik, \$85,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Baffin, total Baffin, \$260,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Keewatin, total Keewatin, \$90,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Kitikmeot, total Kitikmeot, \$90,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I would like to ask the same question. What equipment is going to the Keewatin and the Kitikmeot?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, in the Keewatin it is a fuel vehicle for Baker Lake. In the Kitikmeot it is a fuel vehicle for Coppermine.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Total Kitikmeot, \$90,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I would assume that those two vehicles going to Baker Lake and Coppermine are vehicles that are designated for government use?

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Total Kitikmeot, \$90,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Total equipment acquisition, \$525,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Petroleum Products, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Total petroleum products, \$7,470,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The following pages are information items on capital recoveries and distribution of budgets. Are there any questions?

Total Capital, Agreed

Back to program summary on page 9.06, total capital expenditures for the Department of Government Services, \$7,670,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I would like to report progress at this time.

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

--Defeated

That concludes Government Services. I would like to thank the witnesses for appearing before our committee. Mr.

Government House Leader, what is the wish of the government?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, the government is prepared to proceed with the Department of Personnel.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister, are you prepared to make your opening remarks?

Department Of Personnel

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I am. I am pleased to present to you the Department of Personnel's main and capital estimates for the 1990-91 year. The mandate of the Department of Personnel is to serve the departments, boards and agencies of the Government of the Northwest Territories in their efforts to recruit, develop and maintain the people they require to carry out the work of the government and to ensure fair and equitable treatment of employees.

To strengthen the department's ability to carry out its mandate, in 1989-90 I made changes to the organizational structure. The directorate, which has overall management responsibility for the department, was expanded to include an assistant deputy minister and a director of policy planning and development. The equal employment directorate was amalgamated into the Department of Personnel. The mandate of the directorate has been successfully maintained and reinforced as a result of this major organizational change. As an integral link in the development of affirmative action plans throughout the public service, the equal employment division will continue to initiate, co-ordinate, monitor and report on the progress of initiatives in this area.

At this time I would like to share with you some of the department's accomplishments during the past year. In 1989 the affirmative action policy replaced the native employment policy. This new policy retains hiring preference for aboriginal people, while at the same time addressing the needs of other disadvantaged groups: women, the disabled, and indigenous non-aboriginal persons. Additional resources were allocated to implement the expanded policy initiatives and to maintain an ongoing evaluation of the success of the policy consistent with the recommendations of the report of the special committee on the northern economy.

The implementation of the human resources information system, a computerized employee information system, was a major undertaking in 1989-90. The system provides information required for the effective and efficient management of our valuable human resources.

As a result of concerns raised by Members of this Assembly and constituents, I have implemented new procedures for the advertising of government jobs. These procedures ensure the optimum exposure of employment opportunities to target groups in the Northwest Territories, as well as distribute advertising equitably among northern businesses.

In 1989, two collective agreements with the Union of Northern Workers were negotiated. One was covering the employees of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and the other

was covering the general bargaining unit. The NWT Power Corporation agreement will expire in 1991, while the UNW general agreement expires in March of 1992. For the first time in bargaining history, a three year agreement has been attained, thereby ensuring labour stability for our government and employees.

The 1990-91 proposed budget reflects the service nature of the Department of Personnel. Expenditures are largely contingent upon the growth or reduction in the public service. Personnel services, including recruitment, vacation and medical travel assistance, removals and other negotiated benefits, are funded in the department. Accordingly, the devolution of responsibility to Beaufort Delta, Sahtu and Dogrib education boards, as well as the changes in overall governmental staff, has impacted upon the department's requirements in 1990-91.

In addition to ongoing operational requirements, the 1990-91 budget responds to the dynamic environment of human resource management. A major emphasis over the next two years will be to bring the government's pay system in line with pay equity legislation. A joint union-management study will make recommendations for an appropriate gender-neutral job evaluation system. In a continuing effort to develop a northern public service which provides opportunities for career oriented Northerners, I have identified funding to develop an orientation program in which employees are positively introduced to this government's structure and mandate. Any initiative which results in a decrease in employee turnover has significant financial implications in terms of reduced recruitment and training costs.

Mr. Chairman, the budget I am presenting for 1990-91 includes \$28,929,000 in O and M, \$3,477,000 in capital expenditures, and revenues in the amount of \$562,000. A total of 125 person years is included in the 1990-91 estimates.

I should also note that I have discussed the concept of a public service commission, as recommended in the SCONE report, with my colleagues in the Executive Council. The Executive Council has considered organizational changes which may possibly address the major issue of concern with respect to the appeal process. This particular issue, I believe, is one of the major reasons for recommending the creation of a public service commission.

Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, thank you for your attention. I will now be pleased to respond to your questions presented regarding the Department of Personnel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The Chair does not recognize a quorum. Mr. Clerk, can you ring the bells? Mr. Pollard.

Comments From Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee recommends that the Minister of Personnel review the issue of staff housing and develop a staff housing program which better meets the needs of staff, the GNWT and the Northwest Territories in general. On staff housing leases, Mr. Chairman, the committee encourages the department to ensure that when leasing staff housing, the responsibilities of both parties with regard to tenant improvements, utilities and maintenance are clearly established.

With regard to the employee house purchase plan, and I am glad there are a lot of Ministers around, Mr. Chairman, recommendation 18 says, "The committee recommends that the employee house purchase plan, including the buy-back plan for Ministers, be discontinued during the 1990/91 fiscal

year.*

With the appeal process, on getting jobs, Mr. Chairman, at the entry level, persons applying on a competition are unable to appeal the appointments, particularly with the implementation of the affirmative action policy. Members believe there should be some avenue of appeal and explanation available to unsuccessful candidates.

The Minister indicated that there are a number of staff housing units not being used in Fort Smith. The committee questions the need for new houses and group homes in the town while existing units are standing empty.

On relocation of activities, the Minister indicated that three activities may be moved from the Department of Personnel to another department. Members believe that even with this move, the activities must be guided by specific policies to be consistent and effective.

On food purchasing assistance, the committee recognizes that the food purchasing assistance subsidizes first-time GNWT staff to purchase bulk dry goods, and is negotiated by the union. However, Mr. Chairman, Members are not in support of a program which essentially encourages staff to purchase in the South. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Madam Minister, will you be bringing in any witnesses before the committee?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, if I am allowed, I would like permission for the acting deputy minister and the director of finance to be brought inside the ropes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Does the committee agree? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, before we start with general comments, I would like to correct, for the record, concerning the employee buy-back purchases of housing. They do not apply to Ministers since they are not considered employees of the government. Thank you.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know the names of the employees beside you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): For the record, Madam Minister, would you kindly introduce your witnesses?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is the acting deputy minister, Brian Mader; on my right is the director of finance, Sue Cunningham. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. General comments. Member for Hay River.

MR. POLLARD: We seem to be at odds as a committee with the Minister and the government, Mr. Chairman, so I would ask the Minister to clarify to this House why we believe that Mr. Arnie McCallum, in Fort Smith -- his house was purchased back by this government. He was a Minister, he was an MLA, what arrangements were made for that house to be bought back? Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, that particular unit was purchased not while he was a Minister. It was purchased, I believe, in 1987 when he was an MLA and retired. Thank you.

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

MR. POLLARD: If Mr. McCallum was not a Minister, then he certainly was an MLA. He was certainly not a government employee, Mr. Chairman, so this policy for buy-back of houses, does it apply only to government employees? Perhaps the Minister could tell me that first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Yes, the current housing purchase plan for buy-backs applies to government employees.

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

MR. POLLARD: Then could we establish, Mr. Chairman, whether or not MLAs and Ministers are government employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, not for the purposes of this current plan that we have in place.

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

MR. POLLARD: I wonder if I could ask, was Mr. McCallum still a sitting Member of this House...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): On your point of order, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, is there not a rule that does not permit questions of an incumbent Minister referring to a previous government? The decision the Member is referring to was taken by a previous government, and I believe there is a rule that confines questions to those matters within the jurisdiction of a current term.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The current Rules that we have do not prevent any Member from asking various questions that are related to the previous government. So unless the Speaker rules on it -- but we do not have a specific rule in our Rules of the Legislative Assembly. So in my opinion the Member could ask those types of questions. Further to that, the Minister could decline to answer. Mr. Pollard, you had the floor.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, when the Government Leader starts getting excited like that and they start scrabbling for the Rules book it makes me think that I might be on to something. But I will respect the Government Leader's wishes that I do not go back into the last Legislative Assembly or into the last government. So I would ask the Minister, how long has the buy-back policy been in place?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I believe since 1985.

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

MR. POLLARD: Then I find that because it predates this Legislative Assembly that I would again go back to why, if the policy has not changed, presumably none of these Ministers or any of these MLAs could sell a house back to the government now, under the policy, which has not changed since 1985, Mr. Chairman. But previous MLAs and former Ministers did sell their houses back through this kind of policy. So I want to know what the difference is between former MLAs and MLAs who sit right now when the policy has not changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, if I may correct my last statement, in reviewing my documents, the employee housing purchase plan was initiated with the staff accommodation policy in 1982 and not 1985.

In regard to the Member's question, in reviewing the documents, it appears that some exception to the policy by government at that time could have been made. However, in order to get the actual details I would have to get back to the Member.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I would move that we report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

--Carried

I will now rise and report progress. I would like to thank the witnesses for appearing before our committee.

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 Rae-Lac la Martre.

MR. ZOE: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 9-90(1) and Committee Report 1-90(1), and wishes to report progress.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

Item 19, third reading of bills.

Item 20, assent to bills. Item 21, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the standing committee on finance at 6:00 p.m. this evening; meetings for tomorrow: ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m.; at 10:00 a.m., rules; and at 11:45 a.m., the special committee on aboriginal languages.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 28th.

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: Motion 11-90(1)
15. First Reading of Bills: Bills 2-90(1), 3-90(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. Assent to Bills
21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 28, 1990, at 1:00 p.m.

--ADJOURNMENT

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