



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1990

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, 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): Prior to proceeding with the orders, I would just like to draw the attention of honourable Members to visitors from Mildred Hall Elementary School, the grade five class, with their teacher, Christopher Philipotts.

--Applause

Orders of the day for Tuesday, April 3, 1990.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Use Of New Local Technology In Reconstruction Of Burned Arctic College Buildings, Yellowknife

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Monday the Arctic College portable buildings next to Sir John Franklin High School were destroyed by fire. The normal thing to do in circumstances such as this, Mr. Speaker, would be simply to replace them with some transportable buildings manufactured in Alberta. I would urge the government to consider the loss of these buildings as an economic opportunity. A local company has been searching for such an opportunity, as a demonstration project to show northern people a new technology and a new northern economic opportunity.

Recently, Mr. Pollard and myself had the opportunity to examine a unique new technology using light steel to manufacture floor beams, wall panels and ceiling trusses. A local company, Ferguson Simek Clark, have signed a protocol to use this technology in building a small hotel in Yakutsk in the northern part of the Soviet Union. It seems strange, Mr. Speaker, that we can export this technology to the Soviet Union but local people are completely unaware of its existence. It has potential to provide a modest manufacturing base in one of our northern communities.

Governments are used to having companies knock on their door looking for various business opportunities. In this case we have a local company that has developed a unique technology, has a market for it overseas, and I urge the government to examine it for its possible application in northern construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Success Of Suicide Prevention Conference, Rankin Inlet

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The delegates who went to Rankin for the suicide prevention

conference were in attendance from all of the NWT. I want to express my appreciation for their efforts. From March 31 to April 2, 1990, we held a conference which was very successful. The delegates thoroughly enjoyed the session, it was obvious, so I extend my thanks to the people of Rankin Inlet, and I also thank the Minister of Social Services. (Translation ends)

I returned last night from this three day conference held in my home community of Rankin Inlet. I was deeply moved by the discussions concerning the issue of suicide and the very serious problems our young people are facing today. The conference tried to identify the problems and suggest some solutions to help people who are faced with suicide. Mr. Speaker, none of us is born with the ability to deal with death, or the prospect of illness and death. How do we help ourselves, our own families, how do we help each other? How do we help other people who feel that life does not mean anything and contemplate suicide?

Mr. Speaker, life is a precious gift and I wish that I had all the answers, or at least one answer to the problem, but I hope that in my small way I can do whatever I can to help with this alarming problem. Mr. Speaker, we have this friend, we have this friend to help each other now. Thank you very much.

--Applause

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

Member's Statement On Appreciation For Care Of Inuit At Kitikmeot Boarding Home

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently I visited Gjoa Haven. The previous MLA, whom I replaced, Michael Angottitauruq, had asked me to pass on to this House his thanks to the people in charge of the Kitikmeot boarding home. It is not just for Kitikmeot people; all people are made to feel welcome there. I am standing here to express the thanks for those people. Previously, when Inuit left their communities to go on medical leave, they had to leave their families in order to get to hospital facilities. Many times they did not see their families again, but now there are communication systems, correspondence, and accessible airlines enabling us to keep in contact with our relatives through the government, and they are very carefully looked after. I express my appreciation for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Ernerk on March 23, 1990, on the study of Arctic char in Diana River. During August and September, Fisheries and Oceans Canada will be using a fish

weir on the Diana River to count Arctic char. The local hunters and trappers association was informed of this project during their annual general meeting in October, 1989, and consultation is continuing. Fisheries and Oceans Canada expects to hire two local people. I can provide the Member with contact names in Fisheries and Oceans Canada, if he wishes.

Mr. Speaker, if I may, I have another return.

Return To Questions O297-90(1): Increase Of Brucellosis In Caribou; O329-90(1): Origin Of Brucellosis In Caribou; And O395-90(1): Response To Question O329-90(1): Origin Of Brucellosis In Caribou, Requested

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Brucellosis of caribou is caused by a naturally occurring bacteria. This is a different type of brucellosis than the disease that is present in northern bison; that brucellosis came from infected cattle. In caribou, brucellosis causes abortions in females and sterility in males. If the disease is very advanced, the animal may have swollen knee joints, enlarged testicles, or abscesses anywhere on the body.

Many caribou carry brucellosis but do not appear sick. The disease is highly contagious and spreads from infected to healthy animals. Diseased animals shed bacteria in secretions from the reproductive tract, aborted fetuses, the placenta or afterbirth, and discharges from abscesses of swollen joints. The bacteria in this material can infect healthy animals. The disease occurs in caribou throughout the Northwest Territories, with the highest incidence on Baffin Island. The disease is constantly present at low levels, and the level of infection is different among herds.

The numbers of animals that are found with the disease may increase at certain times. This can occur because of changes in the level of brucellosis, or because of increased detection of the disease. Under stressful conditions such as hard winters, a higher number of caribou that are carrying the bacteria may develop disease. Greater public awareness of the disease also results in more sick animals being submitted for testing.

The brucellosis in caribou does not cause disease in other types of animals but can infect man. The bacteria can be transmitted to humans by eating raw infected meat or by handling infected animals without adequate precautions. Meat from diseased caribou is safe to eat if the meat is butchered carefully and the meat is cooked.

The Department of Renewable Resources has been actively involved and will continue to test for the disease in an effort to monitor the level of brucellosis in caribou. The department will also continue to provide public information on brucellosis. I have one more, Mr. Speaker, if I may.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on the beluga whale population. The beluga whales hunted by the people from Lake Harbour belong to two different populations: the Hudson Bay population and the south east Baffin population. Both populations appear to spend the winter in Hudson Strait where they can be hunted from the floe edge. In the spring, the Hudson Bay whales travel south to spend the summer in Hudson Bay while the south east Baffin beluga whales travel north. Most move to Cumberland Sound, but some remain in Hudson Strait and are hunted by Lake Harbour people in Hudson Strait.

The primary physical difference between these two populations

appears to be size. Beluga whales from the south east Baffin population are larger than those from the Hudson Bay population.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is concerned that too many whales are being killed from the south east Baffin beluga population. At the last meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Advisory Board, Fisheries and Oceans Canada proposed that all hunting of south east Baffin beluga whales cease.

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Advisory Board reviewed information presented and wrote a letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans recommending that a quota of 15 beluga whales be established for the south east Baffin population. This quota would be shared equally among Lake Harbour, Iqaluit and Pangnirtung. The board also requested that Fisheries and Oceans Canada count the whales this summer. I have been informed that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has accepted the recommendation for the quota of 15 beluga whales. The south east Baffin beluga committee is expected to meet soon with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to discuss how to administer the quota. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Further Return To Question O140-90(1): Aviation Safety

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ernerk on February 20, 1990, with regard to aviation safety. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ernerk told this Assembly of a personal experience in which he was concerned that aviation safety had been compromised and asked that I let him know to whom such incidents should be reported.

First, any incidents such as those reported here by Mr. Ernerk should be reported as soon as possible to the Canadian Aviation Safety Board. These reports may be made anonymously but must include basic information such as the date, time and location of the incident, the name of the air carrier and if possible, the aircraft identifier and the name of the pilot. Without this basic information, there will be little that the investigators can do.

Incidents in the Baffin Region should be reported to the Canadian Aviation Safety Board at 185 Avenue Dorval, Dorval, Quebec. Incidents in the Keewatin Region and the High Arctic should be reported to the Canadian Aviation Safety Board at 355-550 Century Street, Winnipeg, and incidents in the western Arctic should be reported to the Canadian Aviation Safety Board at Suite 12, 14220 Yellowhead Trail, Edmonton, Alberta.

With regard to Mr. Ernerk's personal experience, my officials have provided the Canadian Aviation Safety Board with the information as conveyed by Mr. Ernerk. I will also be writing each Member a letter, Mr. Speaker, with this information in it that they may wish to pass to their constituents by way of a constituency newsletter or radio or whatever. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Further Return To Question O91-90(1): Excursion Rates For Government Travel

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Lewis, regarding the excursion rates for government travel. In 1987 the Financial Management Board approved a directive on internal restraint procedures for such matters as travel. Pursuant to this

directive, where feasible, employee travel plans are to be made sufficiently in advance to take advantage of all discounts available and to combine trips to common or adjacent areas. However, there are times when sufficient notice is not available to take advantage of these excursion air fare discounts. This directive also establishes that charter aircraft plans should maximize utilization through sharing of charters, combine trips to common or adjacent areas, consider the availability of alternate transport, be cost effective, and use area officers to assist in charter planning. Thank you.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O478-90(1): Sentences For Spousal Assault

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the hamlet of Fort Liard, which calls itself "the tropics of the Territories", has written to the Minister of Justice complaining about light sentences imposed by Judge Davis during the March 1 territorial court circuit to the community. The hamlet apparently has had a thorough discussion of the sentences imposed and generally has come to the conclusion that the judge did not impose sufficiently stiff sentences. In particular, there was one disposition where a man was sentenced to one day in jail for assaulting his wife. I wonder if the Minister of Justice can state clearly his views on this matter and perhaps give some guidance to the territorial court judges in the North regarding these kinds of matters.

MR. SPEAKER: I am having difficulty with the question. Please give me an opportunity to reassess the question. I am having difficulty because there is a practice that has been used to guide the manner in which members of an assembly or a parliament ask questions about proceedings in courts or matters related to courts. Until I am certain whether or not the process of the court proceedings are done, it makes it difficult to have the question answered, because I believe there still is an appeal process that can be considered. Honourable Member for Nahendeh.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, can I just raise a point of order in this regard. I think there is a misunderstanding that anytime you face questions regarding court, you dare not say the word "court" it seems, and it is suggested that you are acting improperly. I do not believe that. I think it is fairly reasonable and proper to raise matters dealing with the court, as long as you do not deal specifically with a certain matter that is before the court. There is nothing wrong with talking about courts in a general way in terms of sentences and so forth.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. I have not ruled that the question may be out of order. I indicated that I am not certain. It is not a matter for the relationship of whether or not the matter is questioning what might have been a decision. It is a matter of whether or not the court process has concluded. It is important that, as has been pointed out by the sub judge convention, that until the proceedings have concluded we should be aware that an accused should be considered to have an opportunity to defend himself. That is the matter that I am trying to consider at the moment. I am not aware of the situation and it makes it difficult. So I am just trying to consider the situation at the moment. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Return To Question O478-90(1): Sentences For Spousal Assault

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your comments on the question because I too have

some difficulty in responding to the Member's question. First, I am not familiar with the specifics of the case to which the honourable Member refers. Second, there has been, in this House and in the media, a lot of discussions about sentencing practices in the Northwest Territories. I have undertaken to commission a study, in co-operation with the NWT Law Foundation, to actually analyse the sentencing practices in the NWT to try to determine in a very objective way if, in fact, there are differences between our patterns here and if, in fact, there is generally a major reason for concern. I would ask the honourable Member if he could wait for the results of that particular study, and I would be prepared to discuss that study in the House.

I must also remind the Member, and the Member knows this already so I guess I am just putting it on the public record, that as Minister of Justice I am in no position to instruct judges as to how they deal with their courts. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O478-90(1): Sentences For Spousal Assault

MR. SIBBESTON: I do understand and I do know that the Minister cannot instruct judges, but I just think, Mr. Speaker, that one of the fundamental tenets of democracy is that in this Assembly we can say anything we wish and we are protected by the Assembly in this case under section 13 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, which provides for immunities and privileges which basically says that no Member can ever be liable for any civil or criminal act with respect to anything done and anything said in this Assembly. In my view, this protects any person, while speaking in the Assembly, to say whatever he or she wishes, and so this, in my view, gives protection to the Minister if he wishes to express the view of the government or this Assembly with respect to the sentences that judges of the North are presently imposing. This is basically what I am asking. Surely with this immunity and privilege, the Minister can stand up in the Assembly and state a point of view.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Would you state your question please?

MR. SIBBESTON: Basically, I am not satisfied with what the Minister has done in the sense that he is undertaking a study to be done. This is very far off in the future. It may be years and years before we get anything out of the study. What I am concerned about is that next month the territorial court is going to go to Fort Liard again. I want to ask the Minister if he can state now, the views of the MLAs and the government here with respect to court sentences so that the judges and courts can know when they go into the community next month that they must impose stiffer sentences. This is all I am asking in a general way, whether the Minister can state something to this effect. He is protected, so why can he not say these things?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Further Return To Question O478-90(1): Sentences For Spousal Assault

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The questions that the Member is asking raise some strong feelings, and I can assure the Member that the judges of our courts receive Hansard so they will be very aware of individual Member's feelings. I think my responsibility as Minister of Justice goes beyond the reality as to whether or not I am protected about what I say here in this Legislative Assembly.

I think the Member must, and does, recognize that one of the basic principles of justice is the independence of the judiciary and the reality that a Minister of Justice is not going to study and question every case not knowing all the facts, not being in the court room, without having the advantages of listening to counsel for the defence and for the prosecution, and I feel it would be irresponsible of me in my capacity as Minister of Justice to give a response to the Member's question. I am sorry if the honourable Member does not find that an adequate response, but at this time I will say to the honourable Member, this is the only response that I can give. Thank you.

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

Question O479-90(1): Contaminated Vegetation And Brucellosis

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. First, I very much appreciated his reply with regard to brucellosis in caribou. My question to the Minister was, is the food chain, the vegetation, contaminated that so many caribou are getting brucellosis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O479-90(1): Contaminated Vegetation And Brucellosis

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I am informed that the brucellosis infection comes from a contact between healthy animals and the infected animals. To get infected, the animals actually have to come in contact with the infected animals through secretion from the reproductive tract, such as aborted fetuses, placenta or afterbirth. Also discharges from abscesses and swollen joints.

In terms of whether the bacteria is present in the food that the caribou eats, I do not have that information on hand. I will get back to the Member as soon as I can.

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

Question O480-90(1): Minister's Vision Of Road To Rankin Inlet

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently the Minister for Economic Development and Tourism met with the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce and also Travel Keewatin. According to the News North edition of Monday, April 2, the Minister shared with that group of people his vision for a transportation strategy which includes, according to the headline, a road to Rankin Inlet. Will the Minister confirm that he did give that vision to the people at that meeting?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O480-90(1): Minister's Vision Of Road To Rankin Inlet

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I did not specifically allude to the transportation strategy. What I challenged the leaders of the business community in the Keewatin to do was to start thinking about what permanent solutions could be found for the development of the Keewatin economy. I challenged them to think about the development of an all-weather highway, which is one alternative which they have in that region, to look at over the course of the next 20 to 30 years. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O480-90(1): Minister's Vision Of Road To Rankin Inlet

MR. LEWIS: Would the Minister confirm, though, that to that group of people he indicated that the solution to the economic problems of the Keewatin is a road to southern Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Further Return To Question O480-90(1): Minister's Vision Of Road To Rankin Inlet

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, no, I did not say that a road was a solution to their economic problems. What I said was that a road may be the answer to their economic problems and may be one of the options or solutions, but it certainly is not the only solution.

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

Supplementary To Question O480-90(1): Minister's Vision Of Road To Rankin Inlet

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Minister only gives ideas and suggestions and tries to seek input and so on, could he explain to the House why he was given a standing ovation for such weak, really inadequate, replies to the concerns raised by that group of people?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Further Return To Question O480-90(1): Minister's Vision Of Road To Rankin Inlet

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You had to be there, quite frankly, and I was on a roll. No, I think the Keewatin people appreciated the message, they appreciated my honesty, they appreciated the clarity of my thought...

---Laughter

Can I stop now? I think they appreciated the fact that we took time to go there and the fact that we took time to challenge them and the fact that we took time to be honest with them. I find that when you are honest with people and you challenge people, they appreciate it a lot more than when you do not. And I am a good speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O481-90(1): Hazardous Tailings Pond, Rankin Inlet

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I have a picture here of Rankin Inlet, a portion of Rankin Inlet, and you can see the red water which is the tailings pond. The fencing is one solution. I am wondering what the government is planning to do to deal with the contamination itself, the hazardous situation itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Inuvik.

Return To Question O481-90(1): Hazardous Tailings Pond, Rankin Inlet

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for giving me notice of this question and for giving

me an opportunity to examine the picture and for telling me where he got it, which was from MACA. The Thurber report saw developed an interagency committee of federal, territorial and municipal government representatives to look at the problem, both in the short-term and long-term sense. The activity that has occurred to date has been in the short-term sense only. We do not know what would be required to deal with the problem over the long term. But last week, in response to the Member's question, I indicated that this government had approved a sum up to \$50,000 and we would jointly participate with the federal government, should they put up a similar amount, to look at the short-term needs for addressing the situation.

My staff, I understand, have been in contact with DIAND to seek similar funding so we can obtain the services of a consultant immediately. I would like somebody in place to look at the situation as break-up develops. As recently as this morning I called Mr. Braden in Ottawa and asked his office to approach the DIAND Minister's office and indicate that there is an urgent need to address this problem quickly.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O482-90(1): Guidelines For Hunting Of Migratory Birds

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. It is in regard to migratory bird hunting. The hunting season is near. What has the government done so far in regard to the guidelines of the hunting of migratory birds?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O482-90(1): Guidelines For Hunting Of Migratory Birds

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member for Aivilik is aware that the territorial government tried to get approval from the federal Minister responsible for migratory birds, in conjunction with the Americans and the English, thereby an agreement was made on the opening and closing of hunting season of migratory birds. I tried to get approval from the Department of the Environment with support of provincial and Yukon wildlife ministers. Now the Canadian External Affairs Minister, Mr. Joe Clark, and the Minister of Justice have the mandate to receive this approval from other countries and to change that act. As of today, we have not received any further word on how the Canadian government stands. Our mandate, I think, has been completed because we have submitted to the Canadian government and it is now up to the federal government to negotiate with the other countries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O483-90(1): Government Purchase Of Former MLA's House

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Personnel. In 1987 when Mr. McCallum left the Northwest Territories, the government purchased his house directly even though that house had never belonged to the government. My understanding is that had been a policy at that time. I would like to ask the Minister whether that is accurate; that the government did in fact purchase a private house from a Member of the Assembly

when he left the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not certain that the honourable Member for Slave River had responsibility at that particular time. However, if the honourable Member wishes to answer, she may do so. The honourable Member for Slave River.

Return To Question O483-90(1): Government Purchase Of Former MLA's House

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in the House last week, the responsibility for the decision to purchase that particular house lay with the previous government. In checking through the documentation we find that it was a purchase that was done in August of 1987, prior to my becoming an elected Member and an Executive Member of the current cabinet.

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

Question O484-90(1): Government Policy On Ministerial Housing

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that Ministers who are forced by the nature of their appointment to come to Yellowknife could either purchase their own house or could be given accommodation by the government. But in the case of an individual that purchases his or her own house, I understand that the government has an obligation to guarantee up to 80 per cent of that house to be purchased back by the government. Would the Minister confirm that policy is now in place?

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

Return To Question O484-90(1): Government Policy On Ministerial Housing

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear in this House, as I indicated last week when I put forth my budget through this Assembly, that there is no policy that allows any house to be purchased by this government from a Minister. Thank you.

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

Question O485-90(1): Highway South From Keewatin

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. I am sure we are all aware that elections are coming up. You were saying you were planning on building a highway from Rankin. Will this come true in the future?

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O485-90(1): Highway South From Keewatin

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. At this point in time, Mr. Speaker, there are no plans to build a highway to the Keewatin. What is being done is that a debate has been entered into as to whether or not the Keewatin should seek to have a highway built into it. As part of the overall transportation strategy, we will be looking at a large number of options right across the Arctic, some in the Member's region, some in this region, some all over the Arctic. But it is a debate that has to be entered into. If that debate had been

entered into 20 years ago, maybe we would have a highway today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

Question O486-90(1): Natilikmiot Transportation Systems

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if you would respond to a request to have a highway to my community sometime in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O486-90(1): Natilikmiot Transportation Systems

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think highways can only be built where it is practical to do so. As far as I know the only plans ever made for that part of the world was John Diefenbaker's plan to build, what is now the Ingraham Trail, to Coppermine. That was originally "Roads to Resources." But it is impractical to conceive of every community in the NWT being hooked by highway. The only reason the Keewatin is more practical than anywhere else is simply because it is the most southerly of all the regions and it is very close to a rail head and it is not that far away from existing highway systems. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O486-90(1): Natilikmiot Transportation Systems

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think I am getting through to the honourable Minister. Maybe it is the translation. I would like to know if the Minister would give the possibility of getting barges into Pelly Bay the same attention as he is giving the possibility of building a road into the Keewatin. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Further Return To Question O486-90(1): Natilikmiot Transportation Systems

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. That possibility is already being looked at. It is part of the transportation strategy, along with looking at the improving of the air services into Pelly Bay.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O487-90(1): Future Plans For Suicide Prevention Measures

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. I have already indicated in my Member's statement that the forum on suicide prevention was, to me, very successful. Many people from the NWT came to Rankin Inlet. We were very much appreciative of that situation. Where in the Minister's view, the government's view, do we go from here? What is the next step in terms of holding more regional meetings and community meetings across the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is pretty close to asking an opinion of what issues are to be dealt with. However, the honourable Member for Slave River.

Return To Question O487-90(1): Future Plans For Suicide Prevention Measures

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Member is basically asking, were we following up on our strategy to deal with suicide prevention. I will indicate to the Member that as a result of the conference that was hosted in Rankin Inlet, and we heard from all accounts that the conference was very successful, it is our intention to ensure that whatever resolutions come from the conference are certainly reviewed and the ones that can be met, by all means, will be implemented through the departmental process.

The other point that I want to make to the Member at the same time is that not only in the future do we see many different conferences being held, but we certainly will be enhancing the training to be implemented in different communities to make people in the communities aware of the importance of participating and dealing with suicide prevention.

It is my hope that we can get across to the communities, not only to the leaders but everyone in the communities, that suicide prevention is the responsibility of everyone in the community, and not only the Department of Social Services but the government as a whole with many different departments involved. With that and with our training that we plan to implement in the future, along with different conferences with different communities, I certainly hope that we will be able to reach the goal of trying to prevent suicides that may occur in the future.

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

Question O488-90(1): Response Requested To Question O439-90(1), Minister's Statement On Lynx Incentive Program

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Minister, a week ago today in this House, Tuesday, March 27th, in your answer to my question on the lynx incentive programs for trappers your answer was, "The money is not given out to individuals who trap lynx but it is given out to the hunters and trappers associations." On Wednesday, March 28, I asked you to confirm that this was a true statement and you took the question as notice, Mr. Minister. Can you confirm that today? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O488-90(1): Response Requested To Question O439-90(1), Minister's Statement On Lynx Incentive Program

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I understand I replied to the Member's written question earlier this month. I intend to get back to the Member's oral question tomorrow, on this topic. Thank you.

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

Question O489-90(1): Restricting Highway Maintenance Contract To Fort Simpson Contractors

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister responsible for Transportation. The highway maintenance contract is opening in the next few weeks or a month, I believe, and I am aware that the Minister is

considering the matter on how to deal with it. Would the Minister consider restricting the tender to the businesses in the Fort Simpson area?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O489-90(1): Restricting Highway Maintenance Contract To Fort Simpson Contractors

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am presently considering what options are available to me and those options will be taken to cabinet before any decisions are made. But that is one of the options that has been forwarded by the community, so it is one of the options that we are looking at. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O489-90(1): Restricting Highway Maintenance Contract To Fort Simpson Contractors

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister considering the matter. In considering the matter I just want to ask that the Minister would keep in mind the fact that it is really advantageous and beneficial to the local businesses if they had the best opportunity to bid on the contracts and not have it open to all companies throughout the North. It would be beneficial to the people and the businesses in the Simpson area. It is really their highway and their own area and the whole matter would be in support of local businesses if the Minister did this. I wonder if the Minister would keep these factors in mind when he is making his decision.

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

Further Return To Question O489-90(1): Restricting Highway Maintenance Contract To Fort Simpson Contractors

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I caught a little question near the end there. Obviously those are the factors that will be considered when we look at the various options, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question O490-90(1): Delivery Of Education In NWT

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are several Members in this House who were on the special committee on education which filed its report in 1981. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, since the two major recommendations of that report were for the creation of divisional boards and also, to get rid of the residential school system, and since we are now re-evaluating whether, in fact, we should maybe go back to a residential school system but in a different fashion, whether he is also examining the regional or divisional boards of education to see if that is, in fact, the best way of delivering education in the Northwest Territories? It is my understanding that there has been no evaluation done on how effective that is.

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

Return To Question O490-90(1): Delivery Of Education In NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, on the matter of

divisional boards, as the Member may be aware, they have not been set up in the western part of the Territories for as long as they have in the East. It is my view that once most of the divisional boards in the regions in the western part of the Territories are established and they have functioned for some time, we would provide an opportunity for these boards to evaluate their effectiveness in carrying out the responsibility they are assuming; to run the schools and the education systems in their respective regions. We cannot do it until the majority of the regions have set up these boards. Once that is done and if there is reason to think that some review and evaluation should be done I would be very happy to accommodate that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O490-90(1): Delivery Of Education In NWT

MR. LEWIS: I find the Minister's answer incredible, Mr. Speaker, that you continue to do something one after another before you have decided whether, in fact, what you are doing is on the right track. So I would like to ask the Minister, is it his intention not to evaluate the delivery of education until right throughout the Northwest Territories, every school is under a divisional board? Is that his intention?

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

Further Return To Question O490-90(1): Delivery Of Education In NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the intention is to allow all regions that want to establish divisional boards, to support them in doing that. Since I have become Minister the Beaufort-Delta, with the exception of Inuvik, have asked for divisional board status; we have accommodated that. The Sahtu region has requested it; we have established a divisional board in that region. The Dogrib region, last year, asked for divisional board status; we have granted that request as well. More recently the Deh Cho region has requested divisional board status and we are in agreement with them to establish that board as soon as we can find the appropriate date within the next two or three weeks.

Unless the Member has substantial support from the public to ask for a review to stop the process that is under way now, there is no reason to do anything new at this time. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O490-90(1): Delivery Of Education In NWT

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he has had any indication from boards that have been established for some time if they have the powers that they think they should have in order to deliver the education system that they would like to have in their areas? Has he done that?

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

Further Return To Question O490-90(1): Delivery Of Education In NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, when we go through the business of discussing education in the communities there

is always discussion about where the different authorities and responsibilities should rest; whether they should be with the Minister or what department should be allowed to do it and what the divisional boards and the local bodies should be empowered to do. In order to accommodate the possibility that substantial changes might be requested by these regions, I have said for the last year that the Education Act, even without that particular reason, is a very old document and a piece of legislation that has been changed many times. Just that alone is a good reason to redraft the Education Act, but I feel as well that many of the old boards, and the new boards that are being established, would enjoy the opportunity, after establishing the boards and trying to run the boards for some time, to make some suggestions that may rearrange the relationships between government and boards, between communities and boards, regarding the staff, what the legislation lays out in terms of those components; and give them an opportunity to make suggestions about how a new Education Act should be written. I think that is quite accommodating. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O490-90(1): Delivery Of Education In NWT

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The special committee on education did its work in the environment of regional bodies, regional government, regional councils and so on. There has been a lot of rethinking about the delivery of programs over the last 10 years. I would like to ask the Minister, in his proposed revision of the act, how is he proposing to make whatever happens in education consistent with the prime body concept which is an important element of this government's thinking on the delivery of programs to people?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Sahtu.

Further Return To Question O490-90(1): Delivery Of Education In NWT

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, we get into an incredibly complicated area and that is basically the whole question of things like Dene/Metis self-government, treaty issues, political and constitutional development of the NWT, and items like the prime body concept. I would not even know where to begin to answer the question, except to say that we try not to do things in isolation. While many of us have personal ideas about how all these processes should happen, there is yet to develop a consensus. For instance, the Constitutional Alliance has striven for consensus on a general picture of how we are going to put all these different processes together, and the fact is that none of us has been able to do it. There are a lot of different ideas out there about how things should be done, but there is no plan of how to put it all together. In the absence of a plan, there is not really any particular movement or any urgency to do things because always you have to check with the East, check with the West, check with Ottawa, check with municipalities, check with the chiefs, check with the Metis local, do not forget about the Dene/Metis Secretariat. That is only half the list.

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

Question O491-90(1): Response Requested To Question O413-90(1), Programs For Children With Learning Disabilities

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. Mr. Minister, the same question I asked

you a week ago today, Tuesday, March 27th. Is your department doing anything in the South Slave region for the communities of Fort Resolution and Snowdrift for the special needs children who have learning disabilities?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Sahtu.

Return To Question O491-90(1) And Question O413-90(1): Programs For Children With Learning Disabilities

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was asked earlier and I have a response which I would like to read. This is in regard to a program for children with learning disabilities.

All students with identified special needs are educated in regular classrooms at the community level. Each regional board has a special needs consultant to assist school staff in identification of students, the development of individual education plans where required, and the monitoring of the program.

In the South Slave region there is a special needs consultant who travels throughout the region. As well, there is a half-time special needs teacher in the Deninoo School who works with all students with identified special needs, including those with learning disabilities. Individual education plans are developed for those students who require them. The individual education plans are implemented in the classroom by the classroom teacher with the assistance of the special needs teacher.

In Snowdrift the special needs consultant visited the school three times this school year, with each visit lasting at least three days. She has assisted teachers in the identification of students and in the development of individual education plans for those students who require them. The consultant plans a further visit in April. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O492-90(1): Dangerous Sound Levels Of F-18 Bombers

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister responsible for wildlife. I am going to ask a question regarding the environment. Those of us who have been to Rankin Inlet are aware that the new airport has been extended because of the landing of the F-18 bombers. We are all aware that 727s are very loud when they are taking off and landing. Also the end of the airport is very close to the settlement in Rankin. How much of an impact is there going to be on the animals because of the sound levels? Has there been a study done in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Amittuq.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not exactly know how much of an impact there will be on Rankin because of the sound. I will get back to the Member on this.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

Question O493-90(1): Polar Bear Hunting, Pelly Bay

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to address this to the wildlife Minister. This is regarding the Pelly Bay Hunters and Trappers Association. They have attempted to have their polar bear hunting in December. It is often dark in

the winter. They want it moved to November. I do not think this request is only from Pelly Bay. Are you aware of this? Can you make some recommendations?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O493-90(1): Polar Bear Hunting, Pelly Bay

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the month of March I mentioned that the hunting of polar bears in the NWT is very much of an ongoing concern. Staff from the wildlife division of my department are going to do a tour of the communities and look into the matter of the polar bears. At present the opening season is sometimes in October, some are in December, and because the female bears are in gestation and in the dens at that time, this is a particular concern. The wildlife people will be touring the communities and we can discuss it at that point. Thank you.

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

Question O494-90(1): Federal Plans For Building Airstrips In NWT

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Government Leader. It would seem to me, from watching television and listening to radio, from reading newspapers and just generally listening to other people talking about demilitarization of the world, the super-powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, that we in Canada should be following similar rules. My question to the Government Leader, Mr. Speaker, is this, why is the Government of Canada extending or building longer airstrips in the Northwest Territories -- and I am particularly talking about places like Rankin Inlet -- for the use of F-18s which are very, very noisy?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O494-90(1): Federal Plans For Building Airstrips In NWT

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, when I was Minister of Education and I was being questioned in this House about the building of a fence around the Nakasuk School in Iqaluit, some people called me Minister of "Defence". However, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I am not the Minister of Defence for Canada and I feel hesitant to try to answer the Member's question about the intentions of the Government of Canada in building airstrips for the Northwest Territories. I cannot answer for the Government of Canada, Mr. Speaker, because it is not within the jurisdiction of my government.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to avoid the Member's question and I will say to him that we have taken seriously the motion made by this Legislature last fall that there should be principles and a policy developed on these issues respecting militarization, and peace and security in the NWT, through which we would hope to influence the thinking, the policy and the plans of the Government of Canada. Mr. Speaker, I am working hard on that policy as a result of the direction of this Assembly and I will be making a statement on the progress in that direction this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member for Aivilik, supplementary.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I move that question period be extended.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Aivilik is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Question period is being extended. Honourable Member for Aivilik.

Supplementary To Question O494-90(1): Federal Plans For Building Airstrips In NWT

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) The Government Leader seems to be thinking on these issues regarding the birds, animals and people. Have you asked the Canadian government exactly why the military aircraft are being used on our land, for example, in Rankin, Churchill or other places?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Further Return To Question O494-90(1): Federal Plans For Building Airstrips In NWT

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I do not want to appear to be defending the position of the Government of Canada. But I think I can report to the honourable Member that the reason for these forward operating locations as stated by the Government of Canada is that the forward operating locations are to permit the fighter aircraft of the armed forces to intercept possible offensive action from beyond Canada's North. The air strips are designed to be available so that fighters can scramble and intercept bombers or cruise missiles which might be coming to North America from the northern part of our coastline. That is the reason given by the Government of Canada, Mr. Speaker, as best I can understand it. And again I do not want to defend or explain that position, but that is the position as best as I understand it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Honourable Member for Tu Nede.

Question O495-90(1): Reasons For Building Military Air Bases

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. With your answer to Mr. Ernerk's question, I am wondering if you have informed the federal government yet, that the reason you just stated, the reason for building military air bases -- I call a spade a spade, it is not a forward operating location, it is a military air base -- but have you informed the Government of Canada that they have missed the boat by about 15 years, due to the fact of what is happening in the world today?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O495-90(1): Reasons For Building Military Air Bases

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have informed the Minister of National Defence and the Associate Minister of National Defence for Canada of the profound concerns of Members of this House respecting military activity in the North. I informed the Minister of Defence and met with him, about the motion of the Legislative Assembly last fall and previous motions, which expressed our desire to influence federal policy on military activities in the North. I have told him that I am working with the Department of National Defence and other appropriate federal departments on the development of this policy and I have informed him that I expect that the Government of Canada will take into account the views of this Assembly and the people of the Northwest Territories in formulating defence policy and planning for the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker.

I would respectfully suggest to the honourable Member that

the proper way in which to give advice to the Government of Canada is not as we have done in the past, on an issue by issue basis. Those protests and motions have, in themselves, been helpful but I think, by the motion in the fall in Norman Wells, the House indicated they would support development of a policy which would provide overall direction on the principles we would support with respect to military activity.

I think the course we are taking is the right one and I would ask the honourable Member's indulgence to participate in the development of this policy, which I have been assured by Mr. McKnight, will be taken into account and will be considered in formulating defence planning for the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Question O496-90(1): Environmental Study On Daishowa Mill, Peace River

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources and the environment. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has a lot of input into the ALPAC hearings but I reminded the Minister in this House a little while ago that it was only one battle in a very large scale war here and that there are other things that concern the environment and the rivers as much as ALPAC. In particular, the Daishowa mill at Peace River. I want to ask the Minister if this government is doing anything to ensure that this mill goes through a similar environmental impact study as did ALPAC. I want to ask the Minister if his government is doing anything in this respect.

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

Return To Question O496-90(1): Environmental Study On Daishowa Mill, Peace River

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Because we are talking about potential court action I will take the question as notice. The Friends of the Athabasca and the Dene Nation are taking the federal government to court. They are alleging that the Daishowa environmental review is not complete enough and they want a full review. Right at this time our government is just finalizing how far we are going to get involved. We will know tomorrow. The preliminary decision that we have taken is that we will intervene in that particular court case. We can confirm the full details of that in a Ministers' statement tomorrow, made by myself and Mr. Allooloo.

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

Question O497-90(1): Parties Involved In Deciding Polar Bear Hunting Seasons

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I would like to add to what the Member for Natilikmiot said. Mr. Speaker, in some communities the polar bear hunting season opens in October, and some communities have a smaller quota than other communities. Why do they have a different hunting season? Some of them start in October and some of them start in December. Who decided those hunting seasons? Was it your department, or who else was involved, in establishing the hunting seasons for polar bears? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O497-90(1): Parties Involved In Deciding Polar Bear Hunting Seasons

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I am aware, the communities were involved in this decision. The communities and Renewable Resources staff met and decided the hunting seasons, taking into consideration the closeness of polar bear dens to the communities. That was before I became the Minister and became involved in this. I heard that the communities and the department met and they decided the hunting seasons. Thank you.

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

Question O498-90(1): GNWT Assistance To Speed Up Delivery Of Old Age Pensions

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my last question of the day and is directed to the Minister of Social Services. I received a letter from an elderly person in Rankin Inlet. We all know that we respect our elders, and his question is this, and I will ask the question of the Minister. It takes a long time for the old age pension to get to the communities. I know that the Member for Natilikmiot has the same problem. My question is, is there a way that the Government of the NWT could do something about this to see if the old age pension could be received sooner than it is at present? It is becoming a problem to the elders in the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I am not certain as to the clarification that the Member is seeking. I am not certain if he is saying that the delays in old age pension are because of the mail or whether it is because of the concern the Member for Natilikmiot had raised earlier with respect to determining the age of the senior citizens which causes delays in being able to get their pension. I would like to ask for clarification if I may, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister of Social Services is this: I have received a letter from an elder from Rankin Inlet, just over the weekend, who indicated to me that old age pension cheques are coming in very, very late. I have also indicated to the House that I know that the honourable Member for Natilikmiot has been asking a question to the government about this. This elder from Rankin Inlet indicates that the cheques used to come in, in the middle of the month but now they are coming in at the end of the month or later. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, what the government is doing to try and speed up these old age pension cheques coming into the communities?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Slave River.

Return To Question O498-90(1): GNWT Assistance To Speed Up Delivery Of Old Age Pensions

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the old age pension, there are different pensions that are available to senior citizens and I would try to be able to indicate to the Member that, first of all, senior citizens' pensions, which are old age security, are disbursed by the federal government. Determining what day they actually disburse them through their finance section is unknown to me. However, I am fully aware that they indicate

the month on the cheque, and not a specific date, so individuals could be able to take advantage of using them whenever they receive them.

I do know that for senior supplementary cheques are the responsibility of this government and particularly the Department of Social Services, and they are cheques of \$100 that are given out somewhere in the middle of the month. I am aware that they are dated with just the month, somewhat similar to the process that the senior citizens' cheques have. However, when they are actually sent out, the late delays in receiving the cheques, I would imagine, are due to the mail service. However, if it is not due to the mail service I can check further for the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions.

Item 6, written questions. Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions. Petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 65-90(1), An Act to Provide an Environmental Bill of Rights for the People of the Northwest Territories. This bill, Mr. Speaker, provides for the protection of environmental rights; for investigation by the Minister; for the prosecution of environmental offences; to provide public access to environmental information in the hands of Ministers; to protect employees from employers when they make complaints about the environment; and preparation of an annual report by the Minister. Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill is, in fact, on recycled paper. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 17-90(1): Appointments To The Board Of Directors Of The NWT Housing Corporation

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, April 5, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the Legislative Assembly recommends that Alex M. Nitsiza and Jaykolassie Killiktee be appointed to the board of directors of the of the NWT Housing Corporation, each for a term of three years.

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

Notice Of Motion 18-90(1): Additional Sitting Hours

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, April 12, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Speaker be authorized to set such additional sitting hours as he deems necessary to assist

with the business before the House. At the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with this motion.

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

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 20-90(1): Northwest Territories Development Corporation Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, April 5, 1990, I shall move that Bill 20-90(1), Northwest Territories Development Corporation Act, be read for the first time. I have another one, Mr. Speaker, if I may.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 24-90(1): Transportation Of Dangerous Goods Act

I give notice that on Thursday, April 5, 1990, I shall move that Bill 24-90(1), Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 13-90(1): Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, April 5, 1990, I shall move that Bill 13-90(1), An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With your permission, I have five notices of motion.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 10-90(1): Loan Authorization Act, 1990-91

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, April 5, 1990, I shall move that Bill 10-90(1), Loan Authorization Act, 1990-91, be read for the first time.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 12-90(1): Jury Act

I give notice that on Thursday, April 5, 1990, I shall move that Bill 12-90(1), An Act to Amend the Jury Act, be read for the first time.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 15-90(1): Temporary Borrowing Authorization Act

I give notice that on Thursday, April 5, 1990, I shall move that Bill 15-90(1), Temporary Borrowing Authorization Act, be read for the first time.

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 17-90(1): Territorial Court Act

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, April 5, 1990, I shall move that Bill 17-90(1), An Act to Amend the Territorial

Court Act, be read for the first time.

**Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 23-90(1):
Income Tax Act**

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, April 5, 1990, I shall move that Bill 23-90(1), An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Just prior to proceeding, I wish to inform the Members of the Assembly that I received a message from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories advising the following: "I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of Bill 23-90(1), An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, during the sixth session of the Legislative Assembly." Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Honourable Member for Inuvik.

**Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 11-90(1):
Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act**

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, April 5, 1990, I shall move that Bill 11-90(1), An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

**Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 26-90(1):
Mental Health Act**

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, April 5, 1990, I shall move that Bill 26-90(1), An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Honourable Member for Inuvik.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, might I seek unanimous consent to move the motion with regard to appointments to the board of directors to the NWT Housing Corporation?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Inuvik is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the motion he gave notice of today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Minister.

**Motion 17-90(1): Appointments To The Board Of Directors
Of The NWT Housing Corporation, Carried**

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS there are two vacancies on the Board of Directors of the NWT Housing Corporation;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to fill these vacancies;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the Legislative Assembly recommends that Alex M. Nitsiza and Jaykolassie Killiktee be appointed to the Board of Directors of the NWT Housing Corporation, each for a term of three years.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik. To the motion. The honourable Member for High Arctic. To the motion.

Final argument received from the honourable Member for Inuvik. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

—Carried

Motions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion that I gave notice of earlier on today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the motion given notice of today. Are there any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: A nay has been given. 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), The Special Committee on the Northern Economy Report: Building Our Economic Future; Consideration of the Issue of Family Violence and Abuse; Motion 5-90(1), Opposition to Exploration and Mining of Uranium in the NWT; Bill 16-90(1), Status of Women Council Act, with Mr. Zoe in the chair.

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

Bill 16-90(1): Status Of Women Council Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with Bill 16-90(1), Status of Women Council Act. When we concluded yesterday we had a motion that was being translated. Mr. Gargan.

Motion To Enforce Act For One Year Only, Withdrawn

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to withdraw my motion.

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

MR. GARGAN: I have another motion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Member for Deh Cho, proceed with your motion.

Motion To Add Clause 17, Bill 16-90(1)

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill 16-90(1) be amended by adding the following after clause 16, "Ceases to be in Force. Clause 17. This Act ceases to be in force one year after this Act, or any portion of this Act, comes into force by order of the Commissioner."

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, the reason I would like to make an amendment to this act is so that the Members and the general public would be given an opportunity to review this particular act after one year, to see if the effect of this act is really necessary or appropriate. This law is applied to women — the kind of initiatives that I gave him on behalf of

women. So in fact this would be an amendment, Mr. Chairman, in which the Members could at any time, if the Ministers feel it is necessary -- I do not know how you would do it but the Minister could make a motion to amend, so that this same motion applies again next year.

So that is the reason I would like to have a motion like that. I do not believe that this act is necessary. I do not agree with it. I do not believe there is a weakness in the women's movement that they need such an act to protect them. The women's movement is strong, well and alive, and this act implies that there is a weakness in their movement and they need the protection of the law. I do not agree with that. That is the reason I felt that rather than trying to make a point of repealing, that we go ahead and make a motion to observe it for one year and see whether the act has served its purpose and is no longer required for a year. That is the only reason I made this motion and I would like to ask the Members to support me on this small amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): To the motion. Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Minister responsible for the Status of Women, with no hesitation I will indicate to the House that I will be voting against the motion. First of all, we have initiated a status of women council, we initiated a women's secretariat many years ago when the government recognized that we certainly had to encourage the equality of women, women in the workplace, women in many different aspects in life. I do not think there is anything wrong with our government still supporting that position.

I do want to indicate that I think it is going to be very, very difficult and it would certainly look very indecisive, not only of the government but of this House, to show our support to women by putting it in place in an act and then requesting that the act become ineffective after a year, when in the act we indicated that we would be appointing members for up to three years.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I certainly would encourage Members to ensure that our government's commitment and the Legislature's commitment to equality for women will continue throughout the Territories. I probably will not be sitting in this House, but the day I can sit back, and see in the North half of these positions in this House being held by women is maybe the day that I can say that women are equal with men.

But I certainly feel that women in the Territories are still struggling, not only in their home life but in politics and in different aspects of life and I think we as a government have to show our support that we encourage equality for women in the Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): To the motion. Member for Kitikmeot West.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start by saying whereas I can understand the Member's viewpoint on the equality of women, I can neither sympathize nor agree with it in any way, shape or form. And although he asks for support for, as he calls it, "this small amendment", I would suggest that it has immense and large implications. We have never in this House had an act passed that had a sunset clause in it. We have adequate and proper procedures to both rescind or repeal acts that no longer are needed. This is a procedure that we should use. So next year if this act, as we are proposing it now, is no longer required, or any other act is no longer required, then the procedure is at that time to rescind or repeal the act, not to put a sunset clause in the one we are looking at now. I can in no way support this

amendment and will vote against it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Add Clause 17, Bill 16-90(1), Defeated

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

--Defeated

Clause 16, commencement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, just before we conclude the bill. I am the Member for a constituency that does have a strong women's movement. I do not know in what communities the women are incapable of handling their own affairs. In Fort Providence, for example, in the employment area, Elizabeth Ward School has 17 staff, including janitors; we have only two male teachers. In the nursing station which includes seven staff, we only have one male person employed. On the band council we have nine staff and four are male. In the hamlet, out of 12 there are nine. So there are areas in which I do not feel that women in those communities need the protection of such an act. There will always be those communities that have the support toward women's groups. For the communities in which women are not too sure of themselves, I feel for them and perhaps that act is necessary. But I believe that in the communities, that females are just as capable as males when it comes to dealing with issues at the local level. So I just wanted to bring that up before we concluded this bill. And I still do not support it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 16-90(1), Status of Women Council Act, is now ready for third reading. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): What is the committee's wish? Government House Leader.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. The government is prepared to deal with the consideration of the issue of family violence and abuse debate, followed by the Department of Social Services.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree to proceed in that manner?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The committee will

recess for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

The Issue Of Family Violence And Abuse

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): There was a formal motion that was passed to deal with the issue of family violence and abuse which was moved into committee of the whole. What is the committee's wish as to how to proceed with the issue? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I do not want to make lengthy statements but I do want to read the motion just for the record, with your permission.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Proceed, the Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. The issue of family violence and abuse: Whereas there are many serious matters that this Legislative Assembly has to address; and whereas there is great concern with the effects of family abuse on individuals and family life; and whereas abuse and violence can take many forms; and whereas the effect on victims and their families from sexual abuse cannot be underestimated; and whereas all residents of the Northwest Territories have the right of protection under the law; and whereas this Legislative Assembly and the Minister of Justice does not have the authority to amend the Criminal Code of Canada; and whereas the serious matter of family violence and abuse should be addressed by this Legislative Assembly with the view of recommending changes to the law and policies of the Government of the Northwest Territories; now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that this Legislative Assembly consider in committee of the whole the issue of family violence and abuse.

Mr. Chairperson, many of the "whereas" clauses in this motion are fairly straightforward and understandable. When we say that all residents of the Northwest Territories have the right of protection under the law, I think that is one of the important clauses within this motion as we are dealing with family violence in the North.

Another "whereas" clause in this motion is that neither the Minister of Justice, nor the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, has the authority to change the Criminal Code of Canada. I think this is basically where we talked about tougher sentences with regard to sexual abuse. Absolutely no one in this society should be sexually abused; absolutely no one at all. We have a problem in the Northwest Territories and it is a great big concern that we must deal with the issue itself. I do not think, Mr. Chairperson, this can be seen in terms of solutions, only as a government problem. It should be considered as a problem that exists across the Northwest Territories. We should, in every sector in society, promote a good family relationship because if we do not, we have a problem where our children, those we love very much, suffer in the end. We should, in terms of trying to find solutions to the justice issue, think very carefully about taking a look at the justice system of the Northwest Territories as it relates to, in particular, the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories.

In my own time the people, especially the elders in our communities, played a very major role in terms of promoting a good family relationship. I think we should return to some of those good values as we deal with those important issues, such as good family relationships, so that elders will continue to provide guidance to the people at the community level as well as in every sector of society in the Northwest Territories.

Lack Of Family Counselling Services At Local Level

Lack of family counselling services is a great concern to myself. Imagine this, a young couple are having problems in a small community somewhere; there continues to be a problem; there continues to be abuse. The spouse, in this case a woman, continues to get beaten up. Normally liquor is involved as well. The wife is very hurt, both physically and mentally, and has no place to go because it is a small community. Children are hurt and once the sobering has taken place the husband apologizes and a little while later the same situation occurs again. The problem continues. Finally, the woman runs to another community for help. The reason that person runs away from this community is because normally there is no availability of family counselling services in a little community. So the woman runs away, the husband continues to call for this woman to come back to the small community. The wife goes back to the community and the same situation occurs again. So the family violence continues.

I guess this is where I try to emphasize the fact that there have to be family counselling services within each of the communities in the NWT. The other problem that I have noticed in the past is that normally there are no qualified counsellors at the community level. So as a result we look to the places where there are, in fact, qualified individuals, trained individuals, to be able to use some counselling services. This is normally in Yellowknife, as I understand it, perhaps my honourable friend from Yellowknife South could correct me on this. As I understand it there are two and one-half person years established here in Yellowknife where people from across the NWT could seek help, could seek counselling services. But that is not enough. We should also be providing family counselling services at the community level as much as possible. Use the resources that we have in the communities for training of individuals, training of the offenders and protection for those individuals, victims of crime.

The other situation that I have read in terms of recommendations – I have had quite a large number of recommendations from various groups in the NWT. There are so many ideas involved in this particular issue. We could go through a lot of the recommendations, however I want to touch upon one other issue which is fairly close to the people's hearts and minds. I have mentioned a number of things with regard to family counselling services and I believe also – I agree with a number of these recommendations – that there has to be more training provided for the batterers. There has to be more information made available to individuals of that nature. Shelters at the community level. Shelter workers need to have more training where there are shelters in place in the communities. Continuous or ongoing counselling services for shelter workers are needed in order for those individuals to be able to provide the kind of services that the individuals concerned need.

I touched upon the issue of justice to some extent. I would like to see, and I think people will agree with me, when we talk about the justice system in the NWT, we should be talking about more of the aboriginal people being placed within the justice system of the NWT. In other words, we should take a look at what other countries are doing. We should take a look at what the State of Alaska is doing; we should take a look at what Greenland is doing, and then follow the same kind of situation as those two countries and begin to appoint more aboriginal people as judges in the NWT. Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Whitford will carry on the rest.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Member for Kitikmeot West on the matter of family violence and abuse.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Mr. Whitford

as the seconder of the motion would like to go before me, he would be welcome to.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for this opportunity, I thank my colleague for Kitikmeot West for allowing me to address this serious topic. As seconder of the motion I too have great concerns over the issue of family violence, sexual assault, all forms of abuse. I had the opportunity while I was in the business of being a social worker, to view some of the cases first-hand and it is a dilemma. Although it is a number of years since I was a social worker, I feel the situation has not changed. I had the opportunity to work in Alberta in a hospital in Calgary for a short period of time, the Holy Cross Hospital, and saw the results of violence, spousal assault. I also worked at the emergency shelter that was located in Calgary and to say the least, the conditions that people found themselves in, forced families to break apart and seek help.

I see the same thing happening here. I had the chance to see the facilities that are run by the YMCA and the situation is -- the word I would use is -- desperate. There are more people seeking help then there are facilities available. Just using some figures from an Alberta paper, it says some 60,000 Alberta women reported abuse by their spouses in 1987 alone. I do not have the figures for the NWT at my fingertips, but I would venture to say that the numbers would equal what Alberta's one in nine figures would represent. I think I read somewhere that in the North it is one in four.

Insufficient Counselling Resources

It is sad in itself to be at the receiving end as a worker, to see people coming in seeking help and not having the facilities to assist. I heard here in the House that the Department of Social Services does have a mandate to assist in every way it can, but I am not satisfied that they do have sufficient resources to deal with the serious problem. I know that the social workers in the North have a hard time, I know the social workers in the North try their best, but there are so many other problems they are dealing with on a day-to-day basis and a lot of times they not only do not have the time, but in some cases those that want to help do not have the skills necessary to deal with this delicate and serious problem.

I would like to see some changes made, and my honourable friend had mentioned just as an example the Yellowknife Family Counselling Service. I had a chance to visit the facilities here earlier this year before the sitting, and they are strapped for resources. There are two and a half person years, plus administration and volunteers, and they try their best. Just in the city alone they cannot meet the demand. There is a six-month waiting list for those problems that they assess to be not as serious as some of the ones that they do get. As the assessments are made, people do move up on the list, and in an emergency they will be able to see someone that may be able to counsel and assist. In the long term, those that are deemed to be not so serious are set aside for a period of time, and most often are never dealt with. In the meantime, either the family separates, the family breaks down, or the abuse goes on, only to make the situation worse. Maybe that is one way to get to the top of the list.

Added to the local numbers of people that are seeking counselling services and assistance just in Yellowknife, we have people seeking the service from outside communities. I know a number of people have come to see me with this particular problem when they have had to flee their community for safety reasons. They seek the larger centres, they get away from the situation they find themselves in with a spouse that is not treating the family properly, and for their safety they

leave and come to the large centres. This adds to the strain already placed on the limited resources here in Yellowknife.

Once they are here, they need follow-up care, and there are just not enough places. They find themselves again on the doorstep of Social Services looking for the scarce resources again of housing and care. In most cases it is the female, so I will address it as the wife looking to raise a family as best she can, trying to secure resources here in a city where those resources are already strained.

Often in a community if a husband beats up the wife and children, and they leave, he is left in that community by himself, in a large house, or a house at least, with no cares in the world. The wife and kids are gone and he has the place to himself. I do not think justice is really being served in a situation like that, and I am not sure what can be done, or what I can do, although I am going to try to see that this situation is addressed so that some provisions can be made, perhaps through court orders, that will prevent this kind of reverse discrimination from taking place with the perpetrators probably living better off than those people that are being abused. They are left to seek help for themselves and resources for their children, while the source of the problem is being treated a little bit better.

Causes Of Family Violence

I guess when I was a social worker I often had the occasion only to see the symptoms of the problem. I had a case load and I would see people coming in battered. Because of the great numbers, the workload on the social workers is such that they are not able to do work that would probably get to the source of the problem. The sources of the problem are many, in my opinion. They do not stem only from the misuse of alcohol or drugs, for that in most cases just sets the thing off.

Often it is a lack of self-esteem by individuals, males, for example, that have a poor attitude or low self-esteem. Using the case of native people, myself being a Metis, I can understand some of the pride that a male would take in providing for not only himself, but for his family, as tradition would warrant it, as our forefathers did, carving out of the wilderness -- if I could put it in romantic terms -- a homestead and providing meals and shelter for the family. There was always something to do, and life was a great challenge.

Today, with urbanization, some of those challenges are taken away, some of that self-esteem that people had is taken away, because not only are the traditional methods of making a living gone, but they are forced to stay in an area that probably is not productive any more. You have to go so far afield to make a living. There is no employment in the community, and there is nothing to do. I think there is nothing more dehumanizing than having to look for help from a government agency. Maybe that is one of the causes that turns a happy family into an unhappy family. Violence can erupt from the slightest cause; children not doing well in school, or having nothing to give to them when they see other people with a little bit more and they ask their parents for something that their parents are not able to provide. That can be one of the catalysts that will start this chain of violence. It has to start some place, and maybe again looking at the cause of it, it does go back, maybe not only to that one family, but to the generation before. Maybe the parents found themselves in that similar situation and they themselves became frustrated and entered into a violent mode at the slightest provocation, and the children who were themselves battered turned out to be batterers themselves as they grew up and became heads of households.

Violence has no monopoly on race or colour or creed.

Catholics can be just as violent as Protestants and other religions. I have never seen any particular group of people that were isolated from it. The best families experience it and sometimes the people where you would expect to see violence and things of that nature, it does not appear. So there is no real area that one can pinpoint and this makes the dilemma all that more difficult.

Once it starts, Mr. Chairman, it is very difficult to stop. A child who sees the father mistreating either the older siblings or his spouse, learns that and may then carry that on. I would venture to say it is very similar to being an alcoholic. You have a difficult time stopping. Once you find that abuse can be used to dominate, once you find that physical force can be used to control or you think it controls, although that first slap is a tough one, after that it seems to become a little easier and more repetitive and then we have a situation on our hands that sometimes may lead to tragedy.

Extended Family No Longer Exists

Again I said that most often it is the male, but it is not restricted to that of course. There are females that enter into that category and they abuse their children, simply because they are abused -- oftentimes they were abused themselves and oftentimes they still are -- or there are no places to go to seek help, because the communities that they used to live in are no longer there. They may live in the same area, they may live in the same town, but that community they had, which served the family in the past, has been disrupted through contemporary society. We do not live all together any more in the same yard where the aunts and uncles could look after the nieces and nephews and the grandparents were there. Something is missing over the years. Parents have moved away or children have moved away from their parents. They no longer have that resource any more. Again it is not predominant only with native peoples; the farming communities in the South experienced the same thing. The large families, the closeness of the extended family, and all those people that traditionally provided that service are no longer there and now we look to the government or voluntary agencies for that kind of help. I think there are more people finding themselves in that particular situation now where they have no resources, either internal or external, within that extended family, and they are seeking now externally for help, which again is provided by a voluntary agency or a government. And oftentimes those limited resources have been strained to the limit.

I said earlier on that I did not know if I had any ideas that would lead to making any change. I think that there may be a change, by reintroducing some of the support systems that were available in the past, and not relying so much on an external strained resource. Again it is like anything else, if there is not enough resource in a community, that is paid for, then maybe we have to go back to some of the old voluntary things, with people that are there. It gets more difficult as we get more -- I hate to use the word -- civilized, more sophisticated, more urban, because that relationship does not exist any more. There is a lack of people working together because they tend to depend on others. I am not sure whether in the situation that we find ourselves in in the NWT today with the strained budget that we have, that we are going to be able to provide everything that we need. But I would certainly want to encourage the government to channel whatever resources it can into this area; to take a very hard look at the existing services, in particular through hospitals and through the social service agencies, to train people for the recognition of symptoms and head off the problem early. Or provide a service through trained people to work with groups. One person working with a group can probably do a lot more than individual counselling.

I will stop there, Mr. Chairman, my throat is getting a little sore.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mahsi cho. Member for Kitikmeot West.

Increase In Family Violence Is Major Problem

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately I have talked to this issue before in the House and I have done so on a number of occasions. I really do not want to talk about it again, but the problem has not gone away. In fact, by all indications that we have, both in numbers and what we observe ourselves, the problem has got bigger than it was when we first started talking about it.

It is today, in my opinion, the single biggest problem that we have in our society in the North. Whatever else we do, however well-meaning and however much money we put into it, it really is not going to be worth a heck of a lot to any of us, then to those who come after us, if the present generation of little boys are going to grow up to be abusers, as many of the adults are today. Not just little boys but little girls too, because there will be children of that generation. We have to stop this cycle of violence somewhere. It is not a women's problem only, it is a family problem. It is not just somebody else's problem -- family violence and all of the things that go with it, alcohol abuse and whatever else. I know that it has happened, if not to those of us who sit in the House ourselves, certainly to close members of our family. There is no question about that. It is not some stranger that it only happens to; it happens right among ourselves and the people that we care for and we are close to. Those who have suffered as a result of family violence do not just go to other people; they come to you and they come to me. It is not pleasant to have someone come to you for help when you sometimes cannot even recognize them because their faces have been so rearranged that you do not know who you are talking to until they have identified themselves.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think any of us know for sure what has caused this in our society or why it has happened. If we knew that precisely, I think it would be easier for us to deal with it. I do know one thing, that that problem was not one that we had when I first came to the North in 1953. I know that we did not have it. There might have been isolated cases that I did not know of then but we did not have violence on an epidemic level as we have today. We did not have men beating up on women, men and women beating up on their children, and young people beating up elders as we have today. We did not have that.

What we did have was a society that was, in some ways, quite different from what we have today but in other ways still similar. We had, for instance, a society that had a lot of good teachers in it and these teachers taught all the traditional values, all the great hunting skills. They taught survival, skin preparation, maximum utilization of resources, conservation, honesty, respect for language, reading, writing, basic mathematics. They taught all of the skills that were needed to make a living back then; only back then we did not call them teachers, we called them parents.

We also had social workers back then. Again they were not called that, they did not have that title. They were the natural care givers in any society, the people that were good at advising others and those who had everyone's respect because of their maturity and the respect they had earned because of these skills they possessed. The medical staff we had then we called midwives, and we are trying to get midwifery back again. We had wise elders who treated people for various ailments.

What we had then was a society which had full employment. Not wage employment as we understand it today, but occupational employment. Every single person was busy contributing to the society in which they lived and had very rigid and well-defined roles. We do not have that anymore, Mr. Chairman, and I sometimes speculate if that is one of the reasons that has caused the family violence that we see today. I do not believe that the problem is alcohol. I think the alcohol is just a substance that allows feelings to come out. It is, as many call it, the great disinhibitor. When you get tanked up on alcohol you will do things that you would normally control when you are not under the influence. But I do not think that alcohol is the root of the problem; it is not the problem. It is something that contributes to expressing the problem.

Disruption Of Traditional Society

What we have ended up with, with the combination of a number of things, is a total turnaround in our society. We have had a breakdown in traditional economy, as we all know. The devastating effect of international movements on the hunting and trapping economy has made it virtually impossible, certainly very difficult, for the majority of heads of families to support their families through that means. I do not think that we realized that early enough and that, coupled with the early days of education when our society still thought that hunting and trapping was the future as it had been in the past, and would also be the way that we would support our families in the future, was the reason that the boys were generally held back by parents and the girls allowed to go to schools. It appears that we have ended up with a society where, in fact, women generally are better prepared for wage employment than are the young men.

Whereas this may not be the primary or the only reason for the violence, I am convinced that it is a contributing thing to it. I think it is necessary for everyone to feel equal. If you feel inferior in all ways and then you reach a level of frustration with this inferiority, I think that what happens is that you then, in this frustration and in this rage, express yourself in the only way in which you are still superior and that is in physical strength. I really do think that the males in our society are using this expression of the one thing that they still are clearly superior in.

I have met with many people who have been involved in family violence, those who have received it, who have dispensed it, and who are trying to treat it, and most that I have talked to have agreed that violence is an expression of lack of belief in your own worth, an inferiority complex or whatever you want to call it.

I know that we have put considerable funds into alleviating the problem and some of the things that have happened over the last few years have been very good. Last night I had the opportunity to meet with staff and clients at the McAteer House in Yellowknife, as I do on occasion. There were three ladies with families there who I personally know, two from my home community, and the service that is being provided there is excellent, under trying circumstances, crowded and all.

I do think that we have to bear in mind that the solution to the problem cannot come in building more and more facilities in places like Yellowknife only. The problem is not only in Yellowknife. The problems are in all the outlying communities -- Lake Harbour, Pangnirtung, Coppermine, Pelly Bay, Rankin Inlet, Fort Good Hope, Fort Simpson -- it is all over the place. We have to treat the problems in any given community, eventually in the community where the problem exists.

To merely concentrate on the treatment of the result of the problem -- we somehow have to look deeper than that. We

have to look at what is causing that and we have to attack that. At the same time we naturally have to provide services for those who have suffered as a result of family violence. In the long term we have to look at how to solve the thing.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that through this debate that there will be enough ideas come up that at the end of the debate we might be able to formulate a motion that would have some recommendations in it that would start the process of solving the problems in the communities.

To get that started, first of all we have to continue to be up front about the problem. We cannot hide it. The problem is there and we must publicize the problem. We have to continually emphasize that it is an unacceptable problem. Violence is not acceptable. Assaulting another person is not acceptable. It is not acceptable today and it is not acceptable tomorrow and it was never acceptable yesterday and in the past either.

Recommendation To Fund Community Groups

I think we have to provide the means in the community to allow, what I referred to before, the natural care givers to become involved in the solving of the problems. We cannot expect to solve the problem by simply sending social workers in that are primarily hired in southern Canada because of the academic qualifications needed. It does not solve any problem in a place like Coppermine if you send a young social worker in that has just graduated and they come in and they hang up their shingle and they say, "I am here to help you." People do not have either confidence in them or knowledge of them, and people are not going to go to them. They do not have the desired effect on the problem. I think we could spend our money far, far better if we provided better funding to groups in the community, consisting of community people who are set up to deal with the problem. We must fund them better than we have up until now. We fund them at a very low level, we expect them to deal with the most severe problems in our community and yet we provide them with benefits that are not equal to any employment level within our government. I know for a fact that the head of the Katimavik Centre in Cambridge Bay, which is in my constituency, would financially be better off if he could get a job as janitor in the school. That is not the kind of emphasis that we should allow to be put on the problem of this magnitude.

It is essential and critical that we promote the establishment of local groups such as that one. In Coppermine we have a very active group known as the Coppermine Women's Group. They have tried to get funding for various programs. I do not know if they are going to be successful this year. I certainly hope they will be. But it is essential that we have some follow-up in the communities. It is not enough to have a good program in Yellowknife, to take someone out that is in an immediate crisis, to remove them from the home community for their own safety, take them to Yellowknife, put them through a program, make them feel a little better about the whole thing and then send them back into a community where there is no follow-up. It does not work. You do not treat a burn victim by sending them back into an open fire, and really that is what we do when we send people for treatment, whether it is alcohol treatment or batterers treatment or just protection for those who have been battered. They go back into the same community with the same attitudes and there is no follow-up service. You really have not done anything except give a few months comfort to the person, the people assaulted, and it is just not good enough.

Mr. Chairman, I know that there are more things that I wanted to talk about, but they are not coming out right and maybe with your permission, I will stop at this stage, let someone else

in, and I am sure I will come up with a few more ideas later in the debate, after other people have spoken. Thank you for your patience, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to add to the observations that have been made by Members about the actual circumstance of family violence and spousal assault, but what I think I would like to address is maybe some better ways of solving the problem. I think a brief summary for how this Legislative Assembly basically has seen the issue is that Mr. Patterson, when he was responsible for the Status of Women, initiated the task force on spousal assault. That allowed the opportunity for this issue to be brought forth in a manner that was constructive. There were public hearings and there was a motion, and it enabled a political reaction to take place which basically resulted in the Department of Social Services not just reacting to the problem but with permanent funding, while I was Minister of Social Services, putting O and M funding into the base of the Department of Social Services, along with the capital funding opportunities, to begin to address the problem.

When you try to address the problem with capital funding, it is always my feeling that you are warehousing the result of the problem. I found it really disturbing to see wives and their children actually having to remove themselves from the community, to live with relatives elsewhere, and then once we got facilities in place, to live in the facilities which the government made available through various methods. Even still, I think it is an injustice that the victim has to move, children have to leave school and lose their friends and go into another environment for education, if they are even able to continue their education because in some cases the young children do not speak English, and the community they go to may not have adequate instruction in kindergarten to, say, grade two in a native language. So the victims seem to be victimized even further by what is presently our solution, which is to house the problem.

I do not think the court system is the solution either, because I have seen cases where by the time the whole process goes on and the final verdict comes down, the judges in the situation are dealing with an issue where, in some cases, the husband and wife have basically made up; they are living together again. In one case I was aware of, the wife was pregnant and actually appeared in court on behalf of her husband, saying that if he left they would have trouble with money and they had made up and everything was fine again. So the court system is not the solution either, because it takes too long. I think we have to find by regulation, maybe even law changes, things to get to the core of the problem.

Society Needs To Key In On Abuser

As Mr. Pedersen suggested, it is the abuser that needs counselling. What we are doing in most cases right now is that we are taking the spouse and her children out of the situation and we are giving her the type of counselling and support services so she can cope with the present situation for period of time, but we are not addressing the problem, which is the counselling required for the administrator of the punishment. That is the person we have to key in on. Even if we cannot make counselling work, I think we have to basically rap those people on their mental forehead and get them to understand that they are the problem, and society says they are the problem. Society cannot just say that; we somehow have to back that up with things that make them realize that they are the problem and that they are in some way being punished. Through the court system, it is not fast enough.

We discussed this with the Minister responsible for Housing the other day, and I think what we have to do is take all public housing we have on inventory, and I know that a policy exists now that public housing is jointly given out to both spouses. I would like to ask the Minister to address the problem of the old leases which may have the public housing leased only in the husband's name. If you have joint occupancy by the husband and wife, then we are in a situation where we can sometimes do something with some sort of a quick court order in the community to get the husband, once he is charged – we should be able to come up with some policy on public housing so that when the husband is charged, he is the one that has to leave the house and, if necessary, leave the community. If he does not do that, then the law will come down on him.

We have to have a system in place where this person who is the perpetrator will be given an option of being charged on the spot by the RCMP or being told, "If you pick up and leave the community and go for counselling, you may not get charged" on the first offence, the first time the RCMP has to intervene. That way something is done immediately without the court system coming into play, or anything else coming into play. Basically, if these people are addressed that way, it might work. The fine details on how we work that out may be difficult. We may have to pass laws giving some local authority in the community that type of power.

I know a lot of times, once cases do come to actual court, for example in impaired driving, judges are able to give people weekend sentences. They are able to tell them, "We will just give you a fine; we will not take your driver's licence away if you take alcohol counselling." We have to get a system in place where the perpetrator of the problem is immediately forced to become part of the solution, so that person is taken into counselling and that person has to leave the community – not the wife and children who are the victims.

I know that is a complicated thing. There might be Charter of Rights problems and all sorts of problems, but I would like to call upon the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Social Services to take a look at ways we can set it up, with the existing structure of social workers, justices of the peace and RCMP officers, that we have in even our smallest communities, whereby they can be given some sort of authority. We have a Fine Option Act in place which allows a person, when he goes before the local JP, to choose between paying a fine or going to jail, or working the fine off by doing something. Surely we can put something in place where a person who has been charged with spousal assault can be immediately presented with some options such as, "You can either stay in your house and stay in the community, or you can leave the community and take counselling and you may not be charged the first time, or if you are charged, it is going to be a lesser charge." If that option is put in place, then we are addressing the problem of the assaulter instead of the victim. Right now, we are basically housing the problem by housing the victim, when we should be addressing the assaulter.

I think I would go further in the area of housing to even say that when the GNWT has both spouses as employees, even staff housing should be put jointly under the name of both employees, so that at least for our own employees, if there is a situation like this, the option is there for the victim to remain in the house and for the perpetrator to be removed. I would like to put those up as some practical solutions that the government can do, certainly in the area of housing.

I think that in cases where there have been ongoing problems, we might even be able to have a situation where even if the husband and wife are temporarily reconciled, that the public housing could be in the wife's name only, and that the

husband loses joint leaseship of the house. We could do that with our own staff housing. Those are some practical things to make it so that the victims do not become further victimized by the system.

The other thing which I suggested, addressing the problem more quickly with some alternatives that immediately confront the perpetrator, would go a long way to solving the problem. As I said, instead of victimizing the victim further, we should be confronting the assaulter with immediate choices and one is, "You stay in your house and you stay in the community and you may end up going to jail, or you leave the community and take counselling and you may get off with a lighter sentence." That is the first option that comes before the perpetrator, so that there is some reason for that person to have to react to the situation and get counselling. Ultimately, it is the spouse that is doing the abusing who is the problem that has to be cured. Those are the comments I would like to make, to try to find something that can address the situation more quickly so that a spouse does not continue to be the victim after she has been abused. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Various Causes Of Family Violence

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have many children myself and I have been married for 30 years now, so my experience is not a prediction. While we debate on the issue of family violence, and while you come up with these ideas, it just does not guarantee an end to family violence. In order to improve it, I thought I would make some comments concerning family violence.

It is true that family violence is rooted in differences between the spouses and both having power, and neither of them being quite able to support the other. I think they can only work together if one has more authority over the other. I think this works much better. Family violence is increasing, as far as I can see. We have transition houses now. Even though it begins as a small problem, it can expand because there are many more services that you go to. In the old days, we did not have any of these services and the problems went away. Some of the couples leave for transition houses, and I do not think it helps the relationship a great deal, although it might in a very few cases.

In my constituency, having a transition home in a different community is a concern. For example, if they live in Cape Dorset they would have to fly to Iqaluit, and this does not help resolve the problems encountered at home. They leave when problems were happening and then they return and the problem starts again. It is like a cycle and they cannot resolve it. The unhappiness between relatives, sometimes it is like a trend affecting everybody in the community. When you go visiting you can feel it. The couple is fighting again and that person will probably move on, find somebody else or go to another community.

Some of us might not know why this happens, but for those of us with religious beliefs, we know where it leads to. But some of us are not familiar with religious beliefs because we choose not to. It is also stated in the Bible that this problem will continue to increase. I am sure I am not the only one who is aware that eventually the end of the world will occur. This is stated so in the Bible. The predictions are happening today.

As a matter of fact, even though this is being dealt with, if

people do not wish to change there is nothing that can be done to change them. Maybe we should concentrate on the perpetrator and have stiffer fines for these people. I think that would help.

I am not against the motion, but how effective will it be once it comes into place if you will not provide any counselling services for the communities? I also know that on weekends, every Sunday, we have a religious belief of not working and to get along with our fellow humans and with your spouse and your children. The problem is if there is adultery by spouses, be it a wife or husband. Harm is done equally to the spouse and the children and that is the most basic wrong that is done between spouses.

I want you to know that even though I appear to be disagreeing, I will support this motion, although I continue to question how effective it will be. I have never left my wife; I remain with the same person. I have never once hit her, but I do lash out at her with my tongue. Those are the harms that some of us do, too. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. I would like to thank Mr. Arlooktoo. Just to remind Members that the motion was to refer the family violence and abuse matter into committee of the whole for discussion. The motion was to put it into committee of the whole to discuss it. So we do not really have a motion. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My fellow MLA from Kitikmeot said that from 1965 and prior there was not as much violence as there is today. True, there was not as much then. The community elders used to be utilized much more as counsellors. At that time there were no services provided, such as social services, RCMP or government. When there were conflicts within the family there were arbitrators involved. They could be social workers or RCMP, but in some communities they used to concentrate on having the elders advise. Today there are many more problems and difficulties encountered. There are a good many of these things, alcohol, drugs, husbands and wives travelling to different communities separately and also men looking for other women – that is also part of the problem. As for women who do the same against their husbands, anger is provoked from alcohol abuse. The same with the women abusing alcohol, causing problems.

In the communities where there is no liquor, this has also been a problem. Men and women spend all night gambling for money without returning home, while the husband or wife babysits. The other person does not come home so there is anger in the home and if all the money is lost there is more anger on top of that. Sometimes there is some money lost at playing bingo or on Nevada tickets. This also contributes to the problem.

True Facts Should Be Ascertained In Abuse Complaints

When we become overly protective of our children, the child we are overly protective of becomes easily emotional for trivial matters and asks for extra protection from the parents. When help is made available, the women also begin to act like that. I have a wife and daughter and of course I love these women and the children and I do not want to see them hurt. I want them to seek help. I want the victims in particular to get adequate help. However, there are some women who are occasionally abused but claim that it is more than what is actually happening. When that occurs, they should be investigated thoroughly by the RCMP.

Whoever is a person with a heart knows that he has the protection from being abused whether he be a man, woman, child, old man or an elder. No one has the right to abuse

anyone else and any human being has no authority to do so. No one has the authority to inflict pain on another being, be he man or woman or a person of high authority.

I am not a judge on these matters but when they become very serious I can help. For couples and children who are having family problems, I would encourage them to remain as a family unit and I will help those that I must, because I have a sister, I have a wife and I have a daughter. If I see them being intimidated in any way it bothers me because they are women. I also have a son, I had an older brother and I had a father. Men are sometimes blamed for trivial things and that also hurts people. When I was elected by the men and women, by the elders and by the young people I wanted to help them as best as I can.

I do not want to make a lengthy statement. I will do my best to help you if you are abused by the men, either mentally or physically. However, do not accuse men of things that they have not done because you will not have my support. I want to be truthful. I agree with Mr. Arlooktoo's statements that the men who abuse their wives or their children should be fined or taken away, but at the same time I think there should be a thorough investigation to find the facts. Thank you.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to make this very short. I agree with the other Members' comments. Since I am one of the last speakers, they took the words right out of my mouth. I am one of the oldest Members in the House and I got married when I was very young; I got married in 1953 and my children are all grown up. As you know, one of my children passed away. While they were growing up I tried not to show them any violence or abuse. That was me and my wife working as a team to teach our children about the way of life.

Problem Of Family Violence And Abuse Has Become Worse

This problem has been arising ever since the 1960s when the government came along with their assistance programs. There were a lot of communities that had no food or groceries and the government came along to assist those people. Ever since we had the resources to go to, these are the problems that are arising in each community among our children. Our children were taught in school to read, write and speak in English. At the time the shelters and resources came into the communities, that is when the problem of spousal assault and abuse was created. It was not our intention to create problems for our children.

In some cases that I know, for example, if the man and wife do not agree with each other, or do not co-operate with each other it will never work out. There is never an agreement between them and that creates a problem. I know that for a fact and that is why I said it.

Sending the people to other communities is not supported by the people in some communities. For example, if the mother has to be sent to another community for protection. Yes, I support it and I know for a fact that when the woman has to return to the community after being away from the family or from the husband for a number of months or weeks, the same problem occurs. For example, if the problem arose when they were drinking, after the woman comes back from the shelter or from the other community, as soon as they start drinking again the same problem occurs. I think there should be some changes and there are some options that we could use for the solution to the problem that we are facing; we have to make some changes.

The younger people should be told about the way of life and the boys should be taught about being a father or a head of the house. We are seeking for assistance for resources in our communities. Again it would cost a lot of money to provide them to communities. Perhaps we should use more volunteers or resources that we have. Since there are missionaries, ministers or priests in our communities, perhaps we could use them more for our resources. Perhaps they should be more involved with the local people in the communities.

I know we will be working on this in the future, but we have to take a look at different avenues to solve the problem. Ministers and social services could be more involved at the local level, as I just mentioned. Perhaps Justice and Social Services are not the only ones we could be relying on. There are other resources we could use. Even the local radio could be used to inform the people in the communities and that way, if we use more local radios, we could inform the people in our communities. Perhaps we could get more ideas from the people. Perhaps the local people themselves could assist us to solve this problem.

I fully support the motion. But for now I do not really know how to solve the problem. We could use the elders. I was going to say more things but the other Members mentioned them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The discussion or debate was going to take place last week on this issue. I called around to different people and read through some files that I have kept over a long period of time and became convinced that this was a very, very complicated issue and you could speak for hours on it. What I have to say is just a very, very short thing today because it seems to me that it is one of the issues that we really should be spending a lot more time on because it is the major issue in our society, how we deal with problems.

I always felt, Mr. Chairman, that anyone that seeks a violent solution to a problem is really not a grown-up person, not an adult, if you use a violent approach to solving your problem. The other thing that I found is that people who are not grown up always blame other people, and it is not something that they take responsibility for themselves. So when I thought about just a few words that I would add to this debate today, I began to wonder what it is in our society that causes so much difficulty.

Greater Value Placed On Goods And Property Than On People

Last week, just before we were to get into this debate which we had to delay until this week, I noticed in the paper that somebody had been fined \$400 for beating up his wife. In fact, there were two cases. It made me think that perhaps one of the problems we have is that when we look at the justice system, we seem to have inherited the idea that damaging a person or violating a person is really no big deal and you could not compare it with stealing property or damaging property. In other words the kind of legal system that we have inherited in Canada is one which puts a far greater value on goods and property than on people.

I know, although I am not an expert in this area, that in small communities in the past, before white people lived in large numbers in the NWT, people really recognized violence or anger as the biggest threat to a community. If anybody was seen to be angry, it completely upset the community or upset the family, because you could not predict where it would all

end. So that person was seen as being a threat to society because of the anger. And people were so concerned about people problems, that they began to develop a system whereby you contained that violence and you found ways of avoiding confrontation. You found ways of living together without violence. It seems to me that that is the problem that we face today. Perhaps we have inherited a legal or justice system where we really do not put as much value on what I consider to be almost something sacred. A human life to me is something sacred. If you violate that sacred life, it is the worst thing you can do.

To me the worst crime is rape. That is a terrible crime and yet it seems to me -- I know a couple of years ago somebody broke into my house. I was upset because they stole a few things. And yet the guy that did that, all he did was violate my house, my privacy. He did not hit me, did not even wake me up. That guy got a year in jail for breaking into my house. There was no fight involved. My life was not threatened. Yet if I had met that guy outside on the street and we had had a big fight and there would have been black eyes or a few broken bones, maybe it would have been just a \$400 fine.

To me there is something wrong in a system where we do not recognize the dignity of a human being and the right of that individual to be free from a violent approach to problems. Maybe that is the message we have to get through in our society. It is completely unacceptable, immature to solve your problems in a violent fashion. It is immature to blame everything under the sun on somebody else and not yourself.

There obviously are going to be some feelings within the Assembly about how we put more resources, do more things, but we tend for a long time to take what I call a bureaucratic approach to solving problems. We set up another program and another building and yet there is something more fundamental than that, which is, these are human problems in families, at the local level, and maybe there are some fundamental shifts in thinking that have to take place. If money is the issue and money is needed, then obviously if that is the solution to the problem, and we have recognized it as our biggest problem, we should do it. But the key thing is that we have to accept the fact that we cannot just take the problem away from communities. We have to get people to accept that it is a family problem, a personal problem, a local problem and get that accepted as the reality.

Perhaps we should begin to send some clear messages to the people that enforce the justice system, that the worst thing that you can do is to offer an indignity to another human being. That is one of the worst crimes that you can have, much more serious than simply stealing something or just simply doing some damage to property. That is the worst thing there is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Different Kind Of Violence

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During my time, living in Pelly Bay for the past 15 years, I have seen a different kind of violence. Some are caused by nature; some are caused by frustrations. During the past 15 years my second oldest boy hung himself, committed suicide. During the past 15 years my older brother, my step-brother, fell through the sea ice and drowned. During the past 15 years my only sister's husband fell through the ice and drowned. During the past 15 years my wife's sister's husband was shot and killed at the DEWline site. During the past 15 years two of my wife's nieces were shot and killed. I do not have the magic solution; nobody in this House has the magic solution.

Still, I am not mad at nature; I am not mad at the criminals.

As the eldest I was told when I was growing up, always look at both sides of the coin. I believe nature has to balance itself. Each time I lost someone I became a bit stronger. Each time I lost someone in my family life seemed to be a little more meaningful. When there was a family abuser, in my culture keeping the family together was more important than the solution. That is the only way my wife and myself were able to stick together up to this point in time.

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe in systematic solutions. I think we in the communities should stick together and use the elders; the elders that we have been using from the beginning of our very existence.

I know the problems here. We have got to find a solution. When I suggested earlier in my statement in Inuktitut that we use the RCMP, I was not suggesting that we should be using the RCMP to put abusers behind bars. I would like to see the legitimacy of each complaint, of each incident. Sometimes we in society like to take advantage of the system. Sometimes I feel that there is someone abusing the system. As I said before, there are always two sides to every coin. I believe that if we use the community elders, have a thorough investigation into each incident, I think we can begin to see the picture and, in the end, come out with a meaningful solution. Thank you.

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

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that I see as a problem in addressing family violence is that there are so many agencies involved, sir. Just last week we were at a luncheon with Arctic PLEI, Public Legal Education and Information. They are involved with child sexual abuse and have some programs going. There are women's centres in the NWT who are doing like things; the RCMP are involved; housing authorities; Social Services; doctors; nurses; corrections; teachers; drug and alcohol centres; the Crown prosecutor's office; the court system. So my first concern is that there is an understanding between each of these agencies.

I am told, sir, that some of these agencies need training. They need to be trained to understand the problem and how to deal with it and what to do next. So my first recommendation would be to the Minister that she gather all these groups together -- and there may be more; I might have missed some -- she gather these groups together and they discuss, first of all, how much education is required amongst themselves; secondly, what is required in the communities; and thirdly, that they arrange a protocol for dealing with family violence. And I class as family violence, Mr. Chairman, spousal assault, sexual assault, child abuse, child sexual abuse, assaults on the elderly, and there are probably more. So my first recommendation is for the Minister to gather those groups together at the earliest possible convenience and do those three things.

Right Of MLAs To Raise Concerns Over Light Sentencing Defended

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, in Norman Wells last fall, I inadvertently started this business of light sentencing and it grew larger than I figured it would. I was just merely trying to seek some information from the Minister of Justice. I would say that a little sore spot was pushed with the justice system because the NWT Law Society wrote to me and said I should get out of their face; I was in their area and I should not be there. A judge wrote to the Legislative Assembly. It was a confidential letter. I am sure all MLAs got it. It indicated that

we should stay out of their business. Today, Mr. Sibbeston was raising the same question, the light sentencing. I agree with Mr. Sibbeston. I agree with the things Mr. Lewis said, and that is that we are not punishing people who are breaking the law. At least we do not seem to be doing it very well.

At the same time, I will say to those judges, right here and right now, publicly, that when concerns are raised by constituents and they are not isolated cases, you are hearing them from across the NWT, all MLAs are getting those same kinds of complaints, that it is the right of everybody who sits in this House to bring forward that concern and that those judges, by whatever means, should take notice. Because the people are unhappy with the sentences that are being passed.

MR. PEDERSEN: Hear, hear!

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I did some checking up on this and I was told by a judge that they are governed by sentences that are given in southern Canada. I do not think we should be bound by that, sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. POLLARD: I also think that Mr. Ballantyne should look at another method of having judges up here – I think it is a unified court system; I am not so sure I am expert on it, but I think it would probably fit our needs better – whereby appeal judges would be from the NWT as well and be much more familiar with the problems locally.

Mr. Chairman, the other problem that I see, and it is a technical problem again and rests with the Department of Social Services and other departments, and that is that as you look through the O and M budget you will find tasks under different activities: family violence prevention under one activity, corrections under another, alcohol and drugs under another, assistance to the elderly under another, mental health programs are under another activity, and I would say that there should be some thought given to grouping those things together so that it is a cleaner system, it is more efficient and we can deliver the program in a less expensive manner and perhaps in a manner that would benefit the victim much more than we do right now. I think Mr. McLaughlin mentioned the time it takes to process something. I think that is one of the things that should be addressed, the way that we can make the system more efficient. I do not pretend to be an expert on this subject, sir, but I am convinced by people outside of this House that there is more money required in this particular area.

Motion To Recommend Allocation Of Funding For Services Related To Prevention Of Family Violence

To that end, Mr. Chairman, I would move the following motion: The Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Executive Council take \$400,000 from its 1990-91 supp reserve and allocate this \$400,000 to Social Services, grants and contributions, page 15.15 of the 1990-91 O and M main estimates under the heading "Services Related to Prevention – Family Violence". Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): May I have a copy please? Your motion is in order. We will take a five minute break to get it typed and translated.

--SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. We have a motion on the floor by Mr. Pollard. It has also been translated. I will read the motion: The Legislative Assembly strongly recommends

that the Executive Council take \$400,000 from its 1990-91 supplementary reserve and allocate that \$400,000 to Social Services grants and contributions, page 15.15 of the 1990-91 O and M main estimates under the heading, "Services Related to Prevention – Family Violence". The motion is in order. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, I should point out first of all that it was Mr. Ballantyne who suggested that it should go to this area. I shall just read out, under services related to prevention – family violence: "To provide emergency shelter and support to spousal assault victims; support to community groups for the treatment services to perpetrators of family violence; assistance in the furnishing of safe shelters." Perhaps the reason I was advised by the Minister that that is where the money should go, is because it gives the Department of Social Services the ability to put that money immediately into the communities, to put that money immediately out there and to good use without having to gear up the department. I mean no offence to the bureaucracy, sir, but it sometimes takes them some time to get moving.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Not my department.

MR. POLLARD: Perhaps the Minister will be held to that comment. Secondly, Mr. Chairman, as I said before, I am not an expert in this field, but I do have the ability to seek the support of my colleagues around this room to provide more money to those people who are doing those services out there and trying to help those people. That is the ability that I have and I would encourage all Members of the House to support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pollard has used his abilities in an admirable way and has, with very little difficulty, convinced me to support this motion. In supporting the motion, I just wish to say that the amount stated in the motion should in no way be taken by the government as the upper limitation of what they should seek in funding, for the solving of this critical problem. It is merely identifying funds from one particular source. So it is by no means an upper limitation. I certainly will support the motion.

Motion To Recommend Allocation Of Funding For Services Related To Prevention Of Family Violence, Carried

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

--Carried

--Applause

I still have a list of people who want to make comments on family violence. Mr. Ballantyne.

Necessity For Co-operation Among All Organizations

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I want to thank Mr. Ernerk for bringing this motion onto the floor of the House. I think it is timely and important for us, at this time, to discuss and debate this serious problem that is facing us in the Northwest Territories. I think, by discussing it here in the House, a number of things happened. First, I think each one of us understands a little more, the problems that other Members and people in their communities are facing. Second, it demonstrates to the public that we are very concerned about these very human problems that are facing us. As I listened to the words of Members today I think the thing that struck me is that everybody who has spoken recognizes the immensity of the problem and recognizes that

there are no easy solutions to the problem. Also, that government, on its own, cannot solve the problem. I think the more that I personally learn about the magnitude of the problem facing us the more I recognize that if these problems are to be solved it is going to have to be at the community level and at the family level. No one government agency or non-government agency can solve the problem on its own.

Mr. Pollard made the point that there are many government organizations and non-government organizations that are trying, in their own ways, to deal with these problems. There are many dedicated people around the Northwest Territories who are spending a lot of time and energy trying to deal with these problems, and it becomes clearer all the time that we are going to have to pull all of these forces and people and energy together if we are to get to any sort of realization of any solving of this problem.

I had the privilege, over the past eight months here in Yellowknife, to watch a group of non-government organizations and government departments get together on two occasions. One was last July and at that first seminar there was a general discussion of social problems generally. The YWCA took the lead role in organizing that first conference. It was very well organized and we broke into working groups and got to know each other and got to know the problems that each of us faced. It also broke down some of the barriers that so often exist between people and between organizations. I thought that was a very good beginning to bring to bear the resources, at least in this community, on some of those problems.

There was a follow-up meeting in February where the focus was narrowed on spousal assault and out of that particular, more focussed meeting with these organizations, a working group was formed, a network of organizations, non-government and government, here in Yellowknife that will be having their first meeting within the next week. I think that is the model, not just here in Yellowknife but in all communities. That is sort of the process where all of the organizations and people in every community who are trying to deal with the social problems before us, get together and talk about their problems, but more importantly talk about solutions and how they can amalgamate scarce resources to try to deal with the problem. I, for one, hope that as we deal with this that we forget any differences we may have among ourselves as personalities and between our organizations, and I hope that any jealousy within government organizations about non-government organizations is put aside. In trying to deal with serious social problems, there is no room -- I do not think so anyhow -- for pettiness or for bureaucratic artificial barriers.

Recognition Of Existence Of Family Violence Problem

I hope that this discussion we are having today will not be the last time that as an Assembly we discuss these issues. I hope that Members of this House will continue to put forward their ideas and their support for programs and for processes that can deal with the very serious issues that we have here in the Northwest Territories. Although we have a long way to go, and although we certainly have only begun, probably dealing with the tip of the iceberg when we are dealing with the tremendous problems such as family violence and child sexual abuse, I think we are making a good beginning. I think all of us should recognize that in many ways it has only been in the last five to 10 years that society has recognized the enormity of problems such as spousal assault and child sexual abuse.

Even today there is a reluctance on the part of many people to acknowledge how serious these problems are. I think that people do not ignore the problems because they are necessarily hard-hearted or mean-spirited, I think a lot of people do not want to admit to themselves that these

problems could face any family in the NWT. They transcend race, they transcend economic status, they transcend community. I think any one of us could be touched by these problems.

I know that in the time that I have tried to get myself better educated I have run into some very interesting reactions to problems such as child sexual abuse. I have had many very intelligent, very caring people, tell me they do not have to get involved because it does not affect them. To my way of thinking, that attitude is very counter-productive because the reality is that these issues affect us all. All of our children have friends who may be victims of child sexual abuse. All of us who have children have acquaintances who may, in fact, be perpetrators of sexual abuse of children. All of us have an obligation to educate ourselves as to the seriousness of these issues that are facing us.

What I am seeing now more and more which heartens me, is that people are talking about these issues, they are not being ignored. Some of the old taboos are being lifted and are coming out from underneath the rock, and I think that is a very good sign. For me, this debate is very useful. I just hope that we do not have this debate and think we have done our duty, because we have not, we have only started a process here and I think the Members who have spoken should be commended on the ideas they have put forward. I hope all of us can keep in mind through the months and years ahead, to the end of our careers as politicians here in the House and afterwards as human beings, that these problems can never be solved unless we face up to them. Facing up to it means an ongoing responsibility for all of us, for our families, for our friends, for our communities, to work together to try to address these problems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Motion To Extend Sitting Hours, Carried

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would request consent of the committee to extend to conclude this item of business. I would so move, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): There is a motion on the floor to extend sitting hours, by Mr. Patterson, to conclude this item. Mr. Patterson, could you clarify?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: To conclude this item, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Your motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

We will continue, to conclude this item of family violence. Mr. Patterson.

Moral Support For Workers In Field Of Family Violence

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We devote a lot of our time and energy in this Assembly and in cabinet to the weighty issues of the day. This week it is land claims, last week it was Meech Lake, provincehood, self-government, Northern Accord, economic development. We talk about these issues of the day with passion and feeling, but Mr. Chairman, if we pay any attention at all to the

communities we represent, if we look at all at the families we represent, the children whom we count on so much for the future, we must be aware of the personal tragedies that exist at every turn. We talked today in question period about militarization and the threat of war, but Mr. Chairman, there are wars going on inside families and homes in every one of our communities. I think we must realize that all the efforts that we make in land claims, economic development, self-government, mean nothing to the battered wife, the sexually abused child, the suicidal teenager.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Mr. Ernerk for bringing this matter to the floor of this Assembly. We do not pay enough attention to these problems. We do not talk about them enough and as politicians I think that we do not give enough acknowledgement to the good people in our communities who are tackling these terrible problems head on; the people who work in our spousal assault shelters and I think of the Aggvik Society in my own community; the other care givers in our society, clergymen, the courtworkers, the counsellors, the people who work in the health field; I am talking about our social workers and staff in that department who are carrying a tremendous personal burden, without complaint. I am talking about the volunteers who give of their time when family violence strikes a family, a community. They need financial support, Mr. Chairman, as the Assembly has just indicated with its motion, but they also need our moral support. They need to be told that we know they are doing a very tough job, a job which is incredibly draining of vitality and spirit and they should be encouraged that we legislators support them.

Mr. Chairman, I think as a Member of the government I can say that we very much welcome the advice that MLAs have given us today. This is a much bigger problem than our government and we need to be always open to new suggestions. I would like also to endorse the comments which have been made about co-operation and networking within the bureaucracy and at the community level. I think we are fortunate in the NWT that we have the human resources in our communities. I think the networks are building.

Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that we are having this debate today and we should have these discussions on these difficult issues regularly. I think that in the past this Assembly has tackled issues like spousal assault and brought the issue to the public eye, acknowledged that it is a profound problem in our communities. Now I think the discussion that started there is broadening, as it should, to the issue of family violence. I think that if every MLA took it on as their personal responsibility to work on and do something on the tragedy of family violence and if every citizen could look out for their families and their neighbours, we can tackle this problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not be as lengthy in talking as I was before. I want to say that I do appreciate the comments that have been made by other Members. I do not have disagreement with any of them. I would like to comment on what Mr. Pollard and Mr. Lewis said when they referred to punishment for offences. I think one of the problems, as they pointed out, is that the judicial system is meting out punishment according to the southern standard for the offence. Punishment cannot be considered to be that, if the recipient of that punishment does not feel that it is something undesirable that is happening to him. In some cases that is so. I know of two cases of young males that were given suspended sentences that stood up in front of the judge and violently cursed the judge for not sending them to jail because that is where they wanted to go. So obviously for

people like that, we have to devise something different if we are going to make them feel that they have been punished. That brings us to a more aboriginal, northern-oriented justice system.

The talk in the Legislature about sentencing in general, as Mr. Pollard said, must have hit a sore spot. He referred to contacts he had had telling him that he should not be talking about that. During this session in debate when we were debating the Department of Justice, I asked the Minister if we could not impose some distance requirements on restraining orders. It was interpreted and eventually came out as banishment. I too received a very severe letter from the judicial establishment of the NWT, chastising me for having brought this up, and pointing out that legislators should not interfere in the judicial process. Whereas I agree a hundred per cent with that, when it concerns specific instances, I can only agree with Mr. Pollard that when we are talking about generalities and when we have so many complaints from the people we represent, our constituents, it is not only my right to speak out on their behalf but it is my duty to do so in this House, and to publicly state that we think that something is being done which is not right and which does not serve the purpose for which it is extensively being done.

Recommendations For Funding Of Local Groups And School Programs

Mr. Chairman, I think there are a couple of recommendations that I would like to make. I want us to fund the local groups that are working with family violence to a level which makes it possible for them to function effectively; that is critical. I think we must recognize publicly -- Mr. Patterson alluded to that which is the moral support -- the importance of the critical problem that they deal with. I would like to see us institute programs in our schools to show students that violence is unacceptable. I think we could do things to encourage this topic being discussed in such places as church gatherings and, for that matter, wherever people gather together.

Finally, as a recommendation, Mr. Chairman, I think we should encourage the establishment of men's groups, groups of men who feel that violence is unacceptable. There are many men who are outraged over what is going on. If we encouraged them to establish into groups maybe they could be the nucleus of those who would deal with the batterers.

Although the problem which we have discussed and, as I said, it is not the first time but I do hope it is the last time, it is very depressing and we hear about very pessimistic things -- they are certainly not happy things that we have talked about, I nevertheless think that it is critical and important that we must remain optimistic about the solution to this problem. We have some reason to be optimistic because we must not forget that it is within the memory of, at least, the older ones of us in this House, it is within our personal memory that we did live in and have a society up here that was a proud society, a self-sufficient society, a society where problems that we have talked about today did not exist, and if it is within the memory of most of us that sit in this House then surely we should be able to get back to there again. It is not so far back that it has been forgotten.

I believe that Mr. Ernerk, who moved this motion, has been gathering some thoughts together on Member's comments and I certainly hope that at the conclusion of today that we would be able to have some meaningful motion with some meaningful suggestions. Again, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I do think we must remain optimistic in solving this problem. Thank you.

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

Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a short comment. I would just like to remind the Members of what we are trying to do in our community of Pangnirtung, especially for the parents, the fathers and the mothers; we have a public meeting regarding the family relationships which also includes the younger people. The best thing we are trying to do in the community is with the parents and also the younger people. There have been questions asked during the meetings how people were treated by their parents. I just wanted to bring that up.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson. I have been listening very much and really pleased that so much has been said. I am pleased that there are many good comments that came out from the government. I thank the Members of the Executive Council for being so very positive on this very important issue.

I really feel a lot better having discussed this issue this afternoon. But I am sure the debate will continue within the communities. In my time two things which are contained in this motion, were not acceptable — spousal assault, in my culture, as it was related toward women. There were all kinds of reasons behind this. Sexual abuse of children, members of your own family or any children, was not acceptable. They are not acceptable now and they will not be acceptable in the future. Those are the qualities of life that were passed on to me from my father and his father must have passed them on to him. I think they are very good qualities in life.

Justice System In Relation To Traditional Society

During the debate this afternoon I thought of the justice system quite a bit as I have been thinking of it for quite some time. I would like to also indicate to this House, like Mr. Pollard and Mr. Pedersen, when I first made my Member's statement during the very first day of this session, February 7th, I tried to relate the issue of the justice system to sexual abuse of children and I got quite a lecture from the justice system from the NWT, from one of the judges here.

I have some concerns about this because for too long my fellow Inuit and fellow aboriginal people have been asked to adjust to a society that in many cases is not acceptable to them. Many of the people in my own constituency, from Nunavut, were voicing so many opinions, so many views came out with regard to the unacceptability of sexual abuse as well as the unacceptability of light sentencing by the justice system of the NWT. So much was said, so much concern came out, so much feeling, that I felt it was my duty in this Legislative Assembly to voice the opinions of people who have said so many good and positive things about what we should be doing in the future. I felt those people should be heard by the justice system and that is why I came forward with different ideas with regard to the issue of family violence, as well as sexual abuse of children.

I think it was the Minister of Justice, Mr. Ballantyne, who said if we are prepared to admit the fact that we have a problem — I think we should admit that we have a problem and we should be prepared to do something about it to promote friendship, to promote family relationships, to promote a healthy community in every region in the NWT.

We are for the first time, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislative Assembly, talking back to the justice system of the NWT, and I think it is very healthy. So much more can be said and so much more can be heard. I am listening, everyone is listening. With respect to the situation with the

justice system of the NWT, I am extremely pleased at the fact that there is one woman who was recently named as a judge of the NWT. I think that is a very positive step, but there have to be more women judges in the NWT. There have to be more aboriginal judges in the NWT, people who understand and people who can speak and make decisions right from the heart.

I think we should be taking a look at the recruitment and appointment of judges in the NWT, and I fully agree with the recommendation of the NWT Advisory Council on the Status of Women who urged the Government of the Northwest Territories to take a look at those very important aspects of the justice system as it relates to social issues, and this particular one that we have been talking about this afternoon. They are telling us that we should be taking a look at, as said earlier by one of our honourable colleagues here, the appointment of Crown attorneys. There have to be more orientation programs provided to the justice system, Crown attorneys and judges at the community level so that they understand exactly what is happening in the community.

We are the people of strength up here. I attended a very important conference in Rankin Inlet over the past weekend which was called "Prevention of Suicide", very much related to this particular issue that we have been debating and discussing this afternoon. I think it is very, very positive. We have the strength to do so many good things here. I think we should continue.

Motion To Recommend Inquiry Into How Justice System Treats Victims Of Violence

With those remarks, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to make a motion: I move that the committee recommends to the Minister of Justice that he commission a broad inquiry into how the justice system treats victims of violence, including particularly, treatment of victims who are native persons, women, residents of smaller communities; also sentencing and other forms of protection for the victims. Thank you very much, sir.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Do you still want to go into the second version, Mr. Ernerk?

MR. ERNERK: I think that was basically covered by Mr. Pollard's motion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Your motion is in order. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have listened with a lot of interest to all of the concerns expressed by people here. Concerns have been expressed by people across the Territories, especially in the last few months. I am convinced that out there in the Territories, with the people of the Territories, there are some very serious questions being asked about the justice system, about the way that we do things here in the Territories.

The justice system in its broadest sense includes correction institutes; it includes the way that social workers deal with people, the way government generally deals with people. I want to mention some of the things that we are doing now and one of the things that we are planning on doing in the near future. As we go through a number of the concerns that have been expressed today and over the last six months, especially the one about whether or not MLAs have the right to speak of their concerns, about sentences in a general sense handed out by judges. I think it is very clear that the judiciary is in fact dealing with laws made by legislators. I think that legislators have not only the right but an obligation to express their concerns as to how those laws are applied.

At the same time you must not forget the very fundamental principle of our system, the principle of judicial independence. I remember when I was in the Navajo Reserve with Mr. Gargan and representatives from the Dene and Metis, we saw what happened there. In the worst case there was political interference in the justice system. Nobody here, I know, is suggesting that. I just want to be clear, though, that when I as a legislator talk about my concerns and my constituents' concerns on how the law is being applied, I have not and I will not talk about individual cases, especially as I am not privy to the details and I have not listened to the arguments put forward in each one of those cases.

The question about the relevance of sentencing, especially for crimes against people, women and children, is one that is being broadly debated across the country. I think it is one of the components of the motion put forward by Mr. Ernerk. I think recommendations have come from numerous organizations that at the federal/provincial/territorial level I should bring forward concerns of many people in the Territories about the adequacy of sentencing. As I reported to this House, I have brought those concerns forward. At that national table they are looking right now at sentencing across the country. I want to make it clear that the Criminal Code of Canada is a federal prerogative. We do have input and I am taking advantage of that input to make our position known to the federal government. I think that we cannot forget, when all of us in a very human reaction want to punish offenders and I think we all can agree that society must be perceived to be very serious about punishing serious crimes, but that cannot be the totality. There is so much more that has to go together with that. So on that front I have already told this House, and I have told the public in the Northwest Territories, that I have been and will continue to forcibly bring forward the concerns expressed in this House.

Rights Of Victims

As we go on to another matter, the rights of victims, I have to say that this is one area where I am quite proud of some of the steps that we have taken in the last couple of years. Our Victims of Crime Act was the second such legislation passed in this country, after Manitoba. I must say that when I tried to bring this legislation forward it did not meet with universal support. Not here in the House, outside in the general public or in components of the justice system, but we forged ahead. I remember I was told that there was no way that a surcharge on fines would ever work here and that there was no way that we would ever get the surcharge on federal Criminal Code fines, but we have. Right now, after some eight months, I think we have raised about \$35,000 through these surcharges and I think as the justice system becomes more comfortable with the process, I think it will be a good source of revenue to provide services to victims of crime.

I have set up a victims committee and they have made recommendations to me in the last couple of weeks, which I have accepted; I will be announcing in the House over the next couple of days where we have actually been able to give grants to organizations to assist victims. That is an area where I think we have made good progress.

I think also that when we talk about judges I do not think we should generalize. In discussions I have had over the last six months with Chief Judge Halifax, there is a recognition among most of the judges that they, like all of us, need to learn more. There is the recognition that they too need education. They too need education on complex issues such as child sexual abuse.

In the past few months they have, in fact, been going to seminars and receiving education. Some six months ago Judge Halifax talked to me about the possibility of not only all

of the territorial judges but myself, the Minister of Social Services, our deputy ministers and some representatives from women's organizations and native groups, to attend a week long western judges' education seminar. Two major topics of discussion are gender bias in the justice system and aboriginal people and the justice system. Both Ms Jewell and myself, along with other representatives from women's organizations whom we will be contacting shortly, and all of the territorial court judges, will be attending that conference in May. It is a beginning. I think that the fact that people across the country are discussing these issues, the fact that people in the communities are discussing these issues, is very important indeed.

I attended a parents' support group seminar for a number of schools here in Yellowknife on child sexual abuse a few months ago, and before the seminar took place one evening at Mildred Hall School, we really had no idea how many people would attend. Five hundred people came to that meeting; 500 people from those four schools, and other parents who came to that meeting. They were very concerned. There will be a follow-up from that meeting.

Options For The Future

I intend, once this session is over, to meet with representatives of women's organizations and native organizations, to talk about where we go from here. I want to look at the options. An inquiry can take many forms. I think there is an advantage here that you might not find in other jurisdictions. In our cabinet and in this Assembly we acknowledge that there are problems in the system. Speaking for myself as Minister of Justice, I acknowledge that there is a gender bias in the system. I do not think that an inquiry is needed to convince us that there is a problem. I think the task at hand is to come up with solutions to the problem. Those solutions will include such things as having more women and more aboriginal people in positions of authority in the justice system, something I have been working on but will continue to move on. It will include such things as the family law review that we are undertaking right now, in co-operation with the Department of Social Services, which is a very exciting project and which will bring some of these issues down to their basics. It is very ambitious, looking at ways to amalgamate the best of modern family law found in this country, to join that with custom aboriginal law. A major undertaking, but a very exciting undertaking.

I welcome this motion. I have stated publicly on a number of occasions that the concerns that have been expressed I take very seriously, and my cabinet colleagues take very seriously. Over the course of the next few weeks and months, I will put together, with my cabinet colleagues, a plan of action as to how we can deal with some real problems that we have in our system.

Having said that, I want to emphasize that the justice system is not the end-all and be-all when you talk about social issues. The problem goes much deeper than the justice system, and until we come to that day where communities can join together and acknowledge there are problems and work together to solve them, when we can change attitudes of some men, when we can change attitudes of some non-native people, when we can change attitudes of people who live here in the Northwest Territories and have to deal with realities in the South, we are not going to have a solution.

So I can say, as Minister of Justice, I will do my best to address the problems as we find them. I do not think that the justice system here needs to be ashamed of itself compared to any justice system in the country. I think that we have an advantage here. I think the system here is much more open. I think there is much more possibility for change in the

Northwest Territories than probably any jurisdiction in southern Canada. So I am quite optimistic that with the continuing support of this Assembly, with the continuing support of people in communities, that we can make changes.

This debate has been, to me and I am sure to my cabinet colleagues, very useful and we will use that to see what we can do to deal with some of these very serious social problems that we have. Thank you.

Motion To Recommend Inquiry Into How Justice System Treats Victims Of Violence, Carried

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

---Carried

Thank you. We are still on the issue of family violence and abuse. Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as Minister responsible for the department that delivers the program and tries to meet the needs of the victims of family violence across the Territories, I would like to take the time to thank the Members for recognizing how serious the problem is in the North and for bringing it to this forum.

I would also like, at the same time, to thank the Members for encouraging us in the Executive to look for additional funding. Mr. Chairman, I feel family violence is not only in the area of spousal assault, it comes in many different forms. It has been indicated in this House that it covers not only spousal assault but also child abuse, child sexual abuse, and also basically violence within our society. However, I still believe and I guess my opinion differs from some of the Members, that one of the major factors and causes of family violence is the abuse of alcohol and drugs in the Territories.

Along with family violence the department has many other social problems to deal with. We have substance abuse, prevention of suicides, alcohol and drugs and I am sure my list can go on. I also want to indicate that I believe most of these social problems will certainly be dealt with more effectively if we allow the community to take the responsibility and assist them by encouraging them through moral and financial support. Unfortunately, within our government we are limited to our financial resources. However, I certainly think that what attempts we have made as a government have been significant if we look back even six years.

I recall not too long ago in the North it was not acceptable in society to even talk about family violence; it was not acceptable to speak about spousal assault and people have shied away from discussing it. I have always believed that until leaders take hold of problems and discuss them, whether it is in this type of forum, and bring it out in the open that it is more effective in filtering to the communities and that it is a lot easier to indicate to the communities that our support is there and it is a lot easier for them to deal with the issues.

Significance Of Rapid Change In Northern Society

There have been comments this afternoon with regard to why family violence is so significant in comparison to 20 or 30 years ago. I believe it is because of the rapid changes to our society in the North. We are quickly changing in the North and sometimes I do not believe our communities are ready for the significant changes we impose on them. There have been many changes, whether through transportation infrastructure which has made it a lot easier for many different things to

come into different communities, which has caused different social problems that have to be dealt with. I believe that with the rapid changes in our society we have to recognize that there have been cultural changes. There have been many barriers placed in front of different communities in having to deal with the changes that they have had to accept. I also believe that another important area is the lack of an economy in our communities, the frustration in the communities because of the lack of work. People have too much time on their hands, and as a result many of the frustrations are recognized as being violent.

I must say that as the Minister responsible, I have tried to be very supportive with regard to dealing with the social problems, but I think that society has to recognize that it cannot only be one department and it cannot only be government which must address the problems. I think we have to recognize that people within the communities have to work together to try to deal with these different social problems that we face.

I have noted a couple of recommendations that the Members have made, particularly in trying to deal with the individuals who are the perpetrators. We have looked at the different programs we try to deliver through the communities to deal with these people. I know one community has initiated a program to deal with individuals who beat their wives, and the success of that program is difficult to really measure. I think we have been trying to deal with family violence in many different ways. We have been trying to deal with it by placing safe shelters in different communities. In some areas, people do not feel a safe shelter is the answer. Many people feel that it victimizes the victims and it hurts the victims, as opposed to trying to look at other ways of dealing with them. I think it is at least a step to give an opportunity to an individual in a community who is in a state where they are beaten or in a state where they have basically nowhere to turn, that could be in a violent situation.

I think it will take many years for us to feel that we have dealt with the problem because it is a problem that has been with society for, I believe, many years, but it was a problem that was hidden and it was a problem that we never wanted to deal with, until recent years.

Mr. Chairman, I did want to indicate that to show our support as a government, we did not allow it to be a program that was an interim program when I first came in as a Minister. We have made that commitment and we have put the program into our base funding. We said it would be an ongoing program because we recognized it to be an ongoing problem.

However, as I have indicated it is very difficult to try to deal collectively with many different social problems that we are facing. I have always tried to encourage the communities to try to take on the responsibility and to assist with dealing with these significant social problems that we face in the North.

I would like to ask the Members of this House, and leaders, to go back to their communities and not only talk about this issue here in the House but to go back to their communities and assist, whether it is moral support, whether it is support in directing their communities on how they can deal with their problems in a way that will lessen family violence in their society.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I think the Members around this room today have expressed many different ideas. They have expressed very good points and they have expressed some areas of looking at solutions. So I thank the Members for considering and giving us advice. It certainly gives us a better feeling to know that we have the support of the House in trying to deal with the social problems. I would like to also

mention that if we deal with them collectively and if we all take part in recognizing that the responsibility lies on each and every one of us, it will make it a lot easier to rectify this problem in the North. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Are there any further general comments? Is this item concluded now?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I will report progress.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: Item 18, report of the committee of the whole. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 16-90(1) and The Issue of Family Violence and Abuse, and wishes to report that consideration of The Issue of Family Violence and Abuse is concluded, with two motions being adopted, and that Bill 16-90(1) is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, your committee 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

Item 19, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Third Reading Of Bill 16-90(1): Status Of Women Council Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 16-90(1), Status of Women Council Act, be read for the third time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

Motion To Amend Motion For Third Reading Of Bill 16-90(1)

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that the motion be amended by adding the following words after "time", that it be read for the third time "this day six months hence".

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, the motion is just that the bill

be read for third reading six months from now.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion to amend. The honourable Member for Baffin South.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Question has been called. To the motion to amend. The honourable Member for Deh Cho. Thank you. Final argument has been received. To the motion to amend.

AN HON. MEMBER: Recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Recorded vote has been called. Is there a request for a recorded vote?

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Speaker, I would request a recorded vote, sir. Thank you.

Motion To Amend Motion For Third Reading Of Bill 16-90(1), Defeated

MR. SPEAKER: Recorded vote has been requested by the honourable Member for Hay River, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour?

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. All those opposed?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Wray, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Allooooloo, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Butters, Ms Marie-Jewell, Mr. Ningark.

MR. SPEAKER: Abstentions. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, three in favour of the motion to amend, 13 against, with no abstentions.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion to amend is defeated.

--Defeated

--Applause

To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Bill 16-90(1) has had third reading. Item 20, assent to bills. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to return to Item 12, notices of motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Deh Cho is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 12, notices of motion. Are there any nays?

AN HON. MEMBER: Nay!

MR. SPEAKER: That was a "nay" stated with courage.

adjourned until Wednesday, April 4, 1990, at 1:00 p.m.

--Laughter

--ADJOURNMENT

Unanimous consent has not been given. Item 20, assent to bills. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to give assent to bills?

ITEM 20: ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER NORRIS: Please be seated. As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby assent to Bill 16-90(1).

MR. SPEAKER: Item 21, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the special committee on constitutional reform after adjournment this evening. Meetings for Wednesday April 4: adjournment at 9:00 a.m.; at 10:00 a.m. standing committee on legislation; at 11:30 a.m. special committee on aboriginal languages.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, April 4th.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion
13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills: Bills 2-90(1), 3-90(1), 4-90(1), 5-90(1), and 7-90(1)
16. Second Reading of Bills: Bill 1-90(1)
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Committee Report 1-90(1); Bill 9-90(1); Committee Report 2-90(1); 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

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