



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**7th Session**

**11th Assembly**

**HANSARD**  
Official Report  
**DAY 7**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1990**

**Pages 126 - 148**

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1990

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo):** Orders of the day for Thursday, October 18, 1990. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

## ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

**Ministers' Statement 17-90(2): Forward Operating Locations**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the Legislative Assembly as to the status of the various forward operating locations, FOLs, to be constructed by the Department of National Defence, with particular reference to the Yellowknife forward operating location.

Under the North American Air Defence Modernization, Agreement, NAADM, the existing DEWline radar screen is being upgraded, and will now be known as the North Warning System. The five FOLs will be built at existing airfields in the northern communities of Iqaluit, Kuujuaq, Rankin Inlet, Yellowknife and Inuvik. The five, as components of the NAADM project, will serve as advance operational bases for the fighter aircraft tasked to intercept and identify intruders detected by the North Warning System. In keeping with their operational role, peacetime training exercises from the FOLs will typically focus on aircraft originating from locations other than in northern Canada, and for the most part, these forward operating location operations will be conducted at high altitudes. Supersonic flights will not occur below 30,000 feet above ground level and will not occur within 25 nautical miles of any northern community, except when required to conduct an active air defence mission and when so ordered by the controlling agency.

Present planning calls for one full-scale deployment of approximately seven to 10 days duration and two to five smaller deployments of three to five days duration each year. The full-scale deployment will involve six fighters and as many as 200 support staff. The shorter deployments will encompass approximately two aircraft and 30 to 50 people.

Since the forward operating location projects are being constructed at existing airports, DND's land requirements are usually met by acquiring a site from the federal Department of Transport within the existing airport boundary. However, in the case of the Yellowknife FOL, a parcel of Commissioner's land was also required immediately adjacent to the Yellowknife airport property.

The Department of National Defence has stated its commitment to maximizing job and business benefits to northern Canada and, in co-operation with the GNWT and DIAND, has developed a northern benefits policy which applies to construction and operations contracting and hiring for the FOL. The policy is a binding contractual agreement. Contractor performance will be monitored by both DIAND and the GNWT Department of Economic Development and Tourism

to ensure that the contractor meets all commitments.

**Site Features**

The FOL provides only the most basic facilities capable of supporting jet fighter aircraft. These facilities will be integrated with the existing civilian airport facilities. At Yellowknife, the FOL will be located on Commissioner's land at the south end of the west side of the existing airport property. The preferred location was selected after site investigations for the following reasons: 1) This site is sufficiently far from civilian facilities to ensure public safety in the event of an accident; 2) The access at the south end of runway 15-33 allows the fighters access to the full length of the runway. This allows a faster response time for take-off; 3) This location does not limit future civilian airport operations or developments by restricting land use. All existing civilian airport development is located parallel to, and on the north side of runway 09-27.

Access for vehicles from the highway to the FOL will be by a new access route southward along the western perimeter of the airport. The new access route was chosen to allow access to the FOL for maintenance contractors without having to interfere with airport security and operations. Moreover, the road will provide access for future development on the west side of the airport. This is compatible with the city's long-range development plans.

**Construction**

The site preparation contract was tendered in 1989 and was awarded in early 1990 to Robinson's Trucking Ltd. of Yellowknife. This work involves the construction of the access road, all rough fill for the site and removal of rock outcrops. The prime contract was tendered and awarded in the summer of 1990 to Cavan Construction of Edmonton. This contract will cover the final site grading, construction of foundations, erection of buildings, construction of the taxiway, aprons and all related work. Some subcontracts are expected to be awarded by Cavan to local Yellowknife contractors. The Yellowknife FOL is scheduled to be operational by December 1992.

**Noise Levels Of Aircraft**

Calculations of the peak noise level from CF-18 jet fighters operating at Yellowknife were made by DND in accordance with the expected operating procedures of the FOL. At the present time, at various residential locations near the Yellowknife airport, the highest airport noise levels are caused by civilian Boeing 737s departing southward, reaching peak levels of 116 decibels which are typical of riding on an older model snowmobile, or standing near an operating chain saw. Such civilian noise levels occur for about five seconds per flight. With the construction of the FOL facility, the CF-18 noise levels at the same location would reach a maximum value of 113 decibels; however, the CF-18 maximum noise level would last for about 20 seconds per flight. The excess duration of CF-18 noise over Boeing 737 noise is only six minutes daily when the FOL is being used for a military exercise. Therefore, the total time of exposure to these

maximum noise levels from both 737 and CF-18 over each day would be extremely short.

#### Low-Level Flights And Supersonic Operations

Air defence operations are essentially long range, medium and high-altitude interception of unidentified targets entering Canadian airspace. The FOL is not intended nor is it proposed to support low-level tactical training of the type undertaken from Goose Bay. Interim FOL operations have been conducted from Yellowknife, Inuvik and Iqaluit, since 1986. The FOL facilities will simply enable the military to conduct these existing activities in a more cost effective manner. There are no new low-level flights or supersonic operations being introduced as a result of the FOL project. All DND aircraft will, as a minimum, adhere to Canadian forces flying orders and air traffic control rules and procedures as promulgated by Transport Canada. Existing low-level flights are not part of the FOL project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Ministers' Statement 18-90(2): Goods And Services Tax

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few moments to review our government's position on the proposed goods and services tax. I also want to remind Members of the steps we have taken to make our views known to the federal government. As Minister of Finance, I have listened to and talked with individuals and businesses across the Northwest Territories. All of us have serious concerns about some of the effects of the GST on the economy of the Northwest Territories.

I have taken this message to Ottawa and to meetings of provincial finance ministers. The Government Leader has spoken to the Prime Minister and has emphasized our concerns during his presentations at meetings of First Ministers on the constitution and the economy. Other Ministers of our government have also taken every opportunity to ensure our position is understood. Our message has not been ambiguous. We have made it abundantly clear that our government does not support the goods and services tax in its present form.

Mr. Speaker, our position on the GST developed over the last four years as the federal proposal evolved. Our approach has been to present constructive recommendations that would eliminate unfair treatment of northern residents and businesses when compared to southern taxpayers. The foundation of this position was established after consultations with representatives of Northwest Territories business and community groups in late 1987 and early 1988.

#### Special Circumstances Of Northern Living Not Recognized

The reasons why our government does not support the GST in its present form are clear. For instance, the tax does not recognize the special circumstances of the North -- the higher costs of living and the higher cost of operating businesses and providing services. The GST will increase the already disproportionately high tax burden that the current tax system imposes on our residents, compared to other Canadian taxpayers. Northern consumers will be hit much harder than those in the South. Consumers in the North will pay more GST than southern Canadians because the tax will be paid at the retail level and therefore include higher northern transportation costs.

Our government has made it clear on many occasions that the proposed refundable sales tax credit should be higher to give NWT residents equal compensation for the higher amounts of

GST that they will pay. As well, we have expressed our concern that many northern residents will not be entitled to the full tax credit because of their higher nominal incomes.

Mr. Speaker, the inequitable impact of the GST on Northerners arises from two major sources: the higher prices that our residents must pay for goods and services they buy; and the high cost of transporting commodities to the North, which in part leads to these higher prices. The position that is consistently being put forward by our government was summarized in the brief which I tabled with the Senate standing committee on banking, trade and commerce, which I provided to all MLAs. It made five specific recommendations.

The first is that the current northern deduction should be increased from \$5400 to \$7600 to reflect inflation since 1982, and should be indexed to the consumer price index. This deduction has not changed since its introduction in 1987 and is based on the housing allowance that was in effect in 1982.

Second, that the goods and services tax credit should be 50 per cent higher in the Northwest Territories, and that the income threshold at which the credit begins to be reduced should be increased to \$37,200, about 50 per cent more than in the South. This would provide assistance to NWT residents who pay little or no taxes and who would not benefit from an increase in the northern deduction. It would also ensure that lower income residents in the Northwest Territories receive the same benefits as their counterparts in the South. The Senate committee supported the need to address this issue.

Third, the rebate for municipalities, schools, hospitals and Arctic College should be set at a higher rate in the Northwest Territories to reflect the higher costs and therefore higher tax payable by these institutions in the North. The tax burden facing these organizations in the North is higher than in the South because northern institutions face higher costs in delivering their services. Our government believes that the rebate offered to these institutions should reflect this cost differential.

Fourth, the recent decision to end the subsidy to Canada Post for the northern air staging network should be reversed in partial recognition of the effect of the GST on transportation costs.

Our fifth recommendation, Mr. Speaker, is that measures should be taken to compensate northern residents for the increased costs of utilities. This could be accomplished through either a tax reduction, administered by utility and fuel companies, or a rebate program. Mr. Speaker, although the federal government has not yet acted on these recommendations, they have been well received by both the Senate and the House of Commons committees.

#### GNWT Active In Presenting Northern Position

These recommendations are designed to compensate Northerners through changes to provisions in the Income Tax Act rather than the GST itself. This is important because our longer term strategy is to have Ottawa address the higher and increasing northern tax burden through changes to its Income Tax Act, an approach that would be easier to administer from a federal perspective.

Mr. Speaker, our government has spent a lot of time lobbying federal authorities on the need to recognize northern realities in its GST legislation or through changes in how it applies income taxation to the North in order to compensate for our situation. Over the past three years I have met with the federal Minister of Finance on numerous occasions and I have written to him at least seven times to explain our government's

position. We also convinced the chairman of the House of Commons standing committee on finance, Mr. Don Blenkarn, to have his committee hold hearings in Yellowknife so that Northerners would have the opportunity to present their views. In addition, the chairman of our standing committee on finance and myself met with Mr. Blenkarn in Ottawa to explain our government's and the Legislature's position. We briefed the standing committee on finance on our return from Ottawa. Our government presented a brief to the committee which was circulated to all MLAs, mayors and business and community leaders in the Northwest Territories.

We also ensured that the Senate committee on banking, trade and commerce held hearings in Yellowknife and I presented a brief to the committee and met its members. As well, my officials and I participated in drafting the joint provincial/territorial report on the GST which was requested by the premiers. Within the Northwest Territories I arranged an informal committee of business and community leaders to develop a consistent position on the GST. Some MLAs attended some of these meetings. In addition, we consulted with MLAs by sending them briefings on the tax and asking them for their suggestions and comments. Similar briefings were sent to community representatives throughout the Northwest Territories. Throughout the last four years officials of the Department of Finance have supported my efforts through active participation in federal-provincial-territorial discussions on the GST and through parallel representation of the GNWT's position at the officials level.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the goods and services tax is only the latest of a series of federal initiatives which increase the federal tax burden on northern residents compared to that of other Canadians. The recommendations we made to the federal Minister, to the House of Commons standing committee on finance and the Senate committee on banking, trade and commerce would offset this inequitable treatment, while at the same time providing some protection for Northerners.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to treat the proposed GST in isolation from our overall financial dependence on the federal government. Whether the issue is formula financing, program transfers or requests for federal participation in major initiatives such as the economic strategy or the transportation strategy, the GNWT has always stressed that the Northwest Territories faces unique economic and geographical circumstances. The design of federal policies must take this uniqueness into account. Our position and our recommendations on the GST are consistent with this approach. Thank you.

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

#### **Ministers' Statement 19-90(2): Goods And Services Tax**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to report to this Assembly the serious concerns I have over the likely effect of the federal government's goods and services tax on transportation costs in the Northwest Territories, and the efforts I have made to date to seek some relief from this tax for the people of the Northwest Territories. A little over a year ago, at the September 1989 meeting of the Canadian council of ministers responsible for transportation and highway safety, I moved, seconded by the Hon. Maurice Byblow, the Yukon Minister for Community and Transportation Services, that the council have a report prepared on the implications of the goods and services tax on transportation in Canada.

As a result of the motion, all the provincial and territorial Departments of Transportation across Canada, including our own, analysed how the tax would affect the delivery of

transportation infrastructure and transportation services in their jurisdictions. The separate reports were compiled and consolidated this past February and forwarded by the council of ministers to the federal Minister of Finance, the Hon. Michael Wilson.

The most important finding, and the one which concerns me the most, is that the goods and services tax will apply to the cost of transportation services. Mr. Speaker, at that time we did not know if it would or not. Transportation costs, particularly in a country as large as Canada, are a substantial component of the input costs in the production of goods and in their movement to market for final consumption. The further a product moves, the greater is the transportation component in its final price and the greater will be the final tax that consumers must pay. I do not think I need to explain to the Members of the Legislature what this will mean for Northerners.

I find it most disturbing that, for all I have heard over the years about the importance to Canada of overcoming its regional disparities, I now see a federal government imposing a consumption tax on Canadians that it knows full well will apply most severely in the regions furthest away from the centre.

On September 11, I sent a letter to the Hon. Doug Lewis, the federal Transport Minister, again asking his government to reconsider the effect the goods and services tax will have on the fragile economies of our small northern communities. This government has worked hard for many years to stimulate the local northern economies. Transportation costs are always the biggest single obstacle to getting northern businesses up and running successfully. My fear is that, without an exemption in the goods and services tax for transportation services, the tax may undo what we have tried so hard to accomplish.

As you might appreciate, the federal government does not seem to hear well over great distances. So far, I must admit, we have not been successful with our requests but we do not give up easily and we will continue to request the federal government to remove this tax on distance. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

#### **ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

##### **Member's Statement On Compensation For Wilfred Giroux**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to bring to the attention of this House a grave injustice that was done to one of my constituents in 1959. The problem has not been resolved today, over 30 years later. In September of 1959, Mr. Wilfred Giroux and a fellow worker were cutting wood for the local Rocher River school, which was run by the federal government. The buzz saw that was used was the property of the federal government and was set up on the school grounds. While they were working, the blade shattered. Mr. Giroux's co-worker was killed and Mr. Giroux's right arm was cut off below the elbow.

An application was made to the Alberta Workers' Compensation Board. Mr. Speaker, Northern Affairs employees in both the NWT and Alberta regions, with the superintendent at Fort Smith and the regional superintendent in Edmonton, wrote in support of his case. They documented that he was an employee since he was paid a wage. Despite this, Workers' Compensation denied the application saying that he was not an employee. They did not give any documentation to back this up. Senior federal employees continued to support Mr. Giroux's case. The superintendent in Yellowknife warned in a letter, and I quote, "I am firmly

convinced that the case could provide a grave injustice." The senior administration officer with Northern Affairs and Natural Resources said he entirely agreed that Mr. Giroux should get compensation. A third senior federal official warned of the grave injustice that was being done, but Ottawa was not prepared to support Mr. Giroux. He was told in a letter that Ottawa's legal advisers had ruled that he was a contractor, not an employee, and therefore not entitled to any compensation. At the time, there was no legal aid in the NWT. Mr. Giroux never had the opportunity to press his case further with the advice of a lawyer.

He spent the last 31 years raising his 11 kids in the traditional lifestyle. As a right-handed trapper who depended on his physical ability for his livelihood, he had a difficult struggle. He is now an elder in the community and an example to younger people, but he still has not received any compensation for his injury. I urge all Members of the Assembly to help and support me to get a just settlement for Mr. Giroux. I will be bringing forward a motion on it later in this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Co-operatives No Longer Buying Carvings**

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today concerning my constituents. I do not know why the co-ops are not buying any more carvings in the northern communities. In my constituency, carving is the biggest wage-earning business in our area. I regret that the co-op is not buying any more carvings from the local Inuit, especially in Lake Harbour. Our wage earning has been taken away from us. I stand today for this reason. Since the carvings are not being bought by the co-op any more, our government, I think, will have to support the people in my area much more so that the people can earn wages. Now they are stopping the wages earned from carving. Also, the sealskins are so cheap nowadays. The co-op is not buying any more carvings so there is no possibility of earning wages in our area. I would like to ask the government to support us, as to how we could have more job opportunities in our area. Thank you.

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

#### **Member's Statement On Stu Hodgson's Contribution To The Public Service**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Minister responsible for Personnel did an interview in which he discussed the changes to the Public Service Act. In this discussion he indicated that he would now have no different kinds of powers to the former Commissioner of the NWT, Mr. Stu Hodgson. It is about Stu Hodgson today that I would like to make my statement, Mr. Speaker.

I think the Minister has very little understanding of the kinds of problems that a very, very hard-working, dedicated man had to overcome in the early days in trying to establish a government, to establish a public service, and to try to get a public union organized. I was never a friend of his but he was a neighbour and I can testify that that man, for all his faults, for all the scars, was very often working until the very early hours of the morning, 2:00 and 3:00 o'clock in the morning. He was a very hard working individual. To start building a government from the floor up -- it is true that people were recruited from the South to take on certain jobs but I will point out, Mr. Speaker, that during this era where

this man has been given many, many criticisms on what he did, he very, very quickly made sure that those people that were in the system, who had learned from the floor up, who began in small communities, were given opportunities and he was fair and used the merit principle in the promotion of people. He made sure that that happened in the public service.

So though you can point to people who had been in the war or been in the military and so on, or lived in BC, as qualifications to get into the government, it is not true to say that those things were abused in the way that this Minister seems to think he can now abuse the job as being Minister responsible for Personnel. I think there were real reasons why you had to get experienced people in the early days to get things going. The development since that time will show that this public service has been developed to a very, very good level because of those very, very strong foundations that were made by a very hard-working man. His memory should not be thrown around for dogs to eat in the way some Members would like to have it done.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would like to introduce the mayor from Hay River, His Worship Walter Kudelik.

---Applause

Members' statements. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

#### **Member's Statement On Thanks To Dettah Drummers**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With a mentality of the creation of the Creator, and the diplomatic aspirations as a politician, I would like to publicly say "Thank you" to the Dettah Drummers who took part in the opening of this session. The Dettah Drummers' opening prayer is the instrument of peace, unity and understanding of all creatures and the one Creator. I hope and pray that the opening prayer has touched us all to be the instrument of good will.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and my constituents, "Thank you" to the Dettah Drummers for the wonderful opening prayer that you have performed for us. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members' statements. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

#### **Member's Statement On Tragic Accident On Mackenzie Highway**

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I regret to have to report a tragic accident that happened yesterday near the city of Yellowknife. While travelling from Rae-Edzo to Yellowknife a car driven by Mrs. Bernadette Michel went off the road and overturned into a frozen pond. A passer-by noticed the car not long after and called the police. Mrs. Michel and her two children who were travelling with her died in the accident. They were her daughters Connie, age eight, and Deanna who was only two and a half years old. Mr. Speaker, I believe the accident was caused by slippery or icy road conditions at that time.

Mrs. Michel is survived by her husband, Charlie, who works at the Colomac Mine, and her five year old son Bradley. They were on their way to Yellowknife to meet Charlie, who was returning from the Colomac Mine.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deep condolences at this sad time to the Michel family. Further, Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone who is travelling on our NWT highways to



remember that at this time of the year we must all be extra careful when driving since the road conditions can be very unpredictable. Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

**Member's Statement On Comments Of Government Leader On Question O59-90(2) Re Community Self-Government**

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to make some comments on Question O59-90(2), which was posed to the Government Leader on Monday, October 15th, on community self-government. Mr. Speaker, in the reply the Government Leader stated, "...twice this government has tabled comprehensive, thoughtful, far-reaching papers on political and constitutional development...and there has barely been a whimper of a response from Members of this Legislature. We are eagerly awaiting the profound ideas that Members of this Legislature undoubtedly have on the political and constitutional future... We will eagerly look forward to hearing them when the Members are ready to make their views known to us."

Mr. Speaker, I think these are very inappropriate comments coming from the Government Leader. The document tabled twice, as he says, by the government was a government document. It was moved into committee of the whole by the government and I need not remind the Government Leader that you have a Government House Leader and the procedure in committee of this House is always for the chairman in committee first to turn his head right and ask, "What does the Government House Leader wish to proceed with for today?" If this document has not been discussed in the House, it is not the fault of this side of the House, but your own fault. It is your document and it is up to your House Leader to initiate the discussion in committee. Granted, the committee approves it but the Government House Leader initiates it.

I feel that I want to remind the Government Leader and the rest of the Executive Members that you are a creation of this Legislature and, thus, I do not feel that you should treat those who created you with contempt or irritation merely because we dare ask you a question. I think the question was legitimate, the paper was yours, you wanted it discussed, you think it is important, your Government House Leader should bring it out. Do not try to put the blame on us. Thank you.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Hear, hear!

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Patient Care In The Keewatin Region**

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish, again, today to take issue with the Minister of Health. It also now appears that I have to make mention of the Minister of Public Works who, of course, is the same Minister, the Hon. Nellie Cournoyea. The matter deals with patient care in the Keewatin Region. The Minister indicated to this House that she had, and I quote, "I would like to say that up to this time I have had very good co-operation with the Keewatin Regional Health Board and we have discussed the various options...." The Minister of Health also stated that she would not be making a unilateral decision that would affect the people of the Keewatin Region. Today, Mr. Speaker, the Minister or at least her officials in the Department of Public Works, have been discussing the issue of the Winnipeg boarding home without the involvement of the Keewatin Regional Health

Board. It appears that the Department of Public Works, on the instructions of the Department of Health, have been discussing the present and future arrangements for the Winnipeg boarding home, and I have correspondence dated as recently as October 4, 1990, from the Keewatin Regional Health Board who found out, by accident, that these discussions were going on. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Health's hand knows what her Public Works hand is doing -- sneaky fingers. I insist, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister find out what her officials are doing as they are not consulting the Keewatin Regional Health Board or the people in the region, and it is obvious that the Minister may not be, either. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Members' statements. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Return To Question O91-90(2): Amendments To Education Act Re Aboriginal Languages**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, in response to a question asked by Mr. Morin on October 16, 1990, with regard to amendments to the Education Act on aboriginal languages, I wish to inform the House that the recommendations are currently being translated. It is my expectation that they will be ready for tabling next week. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O41-90(2): Enforcement Of Legislation Governing Four-Wheelers**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on Friday, October 12, 1990, regarding the enforcement of the All-Terrain Vehicles Act. The amendments to the All-Terrain Vehicles Act came into effect on April 1, 1989. The act applies equally to all the people and all communities in the Northwest Territories. The enforcement of the act is the responsibility of the RCMP and the municipal by-law enforcement officers in those municipalities which have them.

The Departments of Transportation and Justice agreed that the laws were new to the people in the communities and that enforcement activities should also emphasize public education and safety awareness in the first several months. The act has been in force now for 18 months. My officials at the Department of Transportation have made enquiries of the Department of Justice and the RCMP who report that they are applying the laws as uniformly as possible in the communities. The Departments of Transportation and Justice are planning to meet with the RCMP in the next month or so and this issue, along with other motor vehicle concerns, will be discussed. I am unable to comment on municipal by-law enforcement practices as these are a matter for the community councils' direction. Thank you.

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

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Question O111-90(2): Progress On Pelly Bay Hockey Arena**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs. I wonder, Mr. Minister, if you could update

me on the progress of a hockey arena for Pelly Bay. Thank you.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I regret I will have to take the question as notice. I do not have that note with me.

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

**Question O112-90(2): Regional Director, Baffin Region**

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Mr. Speaker, to the Government Leader. Could the Government Leader inform me who is the regional director for the Baffin Region?

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

**Return To Question O112-90(2): Regional Director, Baffin Region**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** The Baffin Regional Director is Maureen Cochrane, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O112-90(2): Regional Director, Baffin Region**

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. When was that appointment effective?

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

**Further Return To Question O112-90(2): Regional Director, Baffin Region**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot recall the exact date, but it would have been August, I believe some time in the vicinity of the month of August. There was a press release about the appointment and in the ordinary course of events it would have been faxed to MLAs as well. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O112-90(2): Regional Director, Baffin Region**

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary. I noticed there was a Minister's statement on the appointment of the area directors in Fort Simpson and Fort Rae. I certainly did not get any press release, and I have inquired in ajauqtit. This is the first official knowledge that any of us have that there was a change of the regional director in Iqaluit. Did this change, Mr. Government Leader, take place as a result of compensation? Was the position advertised, did it go out for competition, or was this a direct appointment?

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

**Further Return To Question O112-90(2): Regional Director, Baffin Region**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, the regional

director incumbent, Mr. Ken MacRury, has been given leave to attend the Scott Polar Institute in Cambridge, England, for a year and the government, therefore, in those circumstances directly appointed Ms. Cochrane as the regional director and also, I may say, at the same time, by direct appointment, appointed Mr. Joe Kunuk to be the assistant regional director. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

**Question O113-90(2): Status Of Winnipeg Boarding Home**

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health with regard to the Winnipeg boarding home. As the Minister knows, the present boarding home in Winnipeg is at 5 Eastgate and most of the time it is very full. When it is very full, many of the patients are housed at various hotels in Winnipeg. Mr. Speaker, I have seen this letter dated October 2, 1990, to Nomatt Real Estate Ltd. in Winnipeg from the Government of the Northwest Territories accommodation services property management, in which they indicate that they are looking at Delaware Lodge as an alternative. My question to the Minister is, how was this decision arrived at?

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

**Return To Question O113-90(2): Status Of Winnipeg Boarding Home**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly appreciate the Member giving me the opportunity to deal with this particular issue this afternoon. First of all, the issue of Delaware Lodge and the capability of the Winnipeg boarding home to handle the number of patients has been under discussion for approximately three or four years. The issue of how we ultimately handle the medical referral system in all parts of the Northwest Territories has been under continuing discussion with all health boards of the NWT since the takeover and previous to the takeover of the health delivery system.

In Baffin we have the issue of the boarding home in Montreal, which has a number of issues and complaints around it. In Keewatin we have the issue of the boarding home in Winnipeg, and yes, indeed, when the full capacity is reached the patients are housed in private accommodation like hotels. The Edmonton boarding home receives patients as well and the overload there is also handled by hotels.

In trying to determine the whole make-up of how the medical delivery system is going to work, there are a number of circumstances and issues, and very long consultations are taking place. With reference to the Keewatin health delivery area, over the years the issue of Churchill as a referral centre has also been in play. The issue in terms of going to another province and the issue relating to receiving birth certificates, because of births in Manitoba and therefore not being NWT residents, and the fact of the difficulty and high expense of going to Churchill; and the fact that Churchill also relies heavily on the NWT allocated dollars to continue with that health facility in the community of Churchill; these all impact on what we do with further services being leased and built in Winnipeg. Because of these discussions over the years I, as Minister of Health, working with the Keewatin boarding home, deal with the people of the Department of Public Works to say, "What is the best thing for us to do?" What we are presently doing is looking at the options, taking into consideration what the referral patterns could be to provide the best health care system in the Northwest Territories. This is what is being done.

The Keewatin Regional Health Board had asked that some options be presented to them. These options are being looked into now and being developed. Subsequently, they will go to the Keewatin Regional Health Board who will have to evaluate it with the total delivery system that they have. So the inference that we are doing something outside of the Keewatin Regional Health Board, I do not believe is warranted at this time because we are not going to be making decisions without the involvement of the Keewatin Regional Health Board. At this time if we cannot provide options, costing and future arrangements for referrals we would be doing the Keewatin Regional Health Board an injustice, because they would have nothing to deliberate over and this is what we are doing at this present time, including consideration of the purchase of another unit which is bigger and may be more appropriate. So these would be presented to the Keewatin Regional Health Board.

I hope that with this work done the Keewatin Regional Health Board can make an informed decision, taking into consideration the very complex referral system that they have. This would be the appropriate direction to go and I would like to say, again, that we are not making unilateral decisions; we are using the present professional ability within the department to provide Keewatin with the resources to look at the options that may be available to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question O114-90(2): Minister's Statement On Forward Operating Locations**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Minister, I listened with great interest to your Minister's statement on forward operating locations. It was good military propaganda. I am just wondering if you had the military write your statement for you, like you had the military write an agreement between the territorial government and the Department of National Defence? In a letter to the Dene Nation on June 8, Mr. Minister, you can take quotes exactly out of this letter from the Department of National Defence and they are in your memorandum of agreement with the Department of National Defence. That is why I am wondering if the Department of National Defence wrote this agreement for you and just had you sign it?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have to think about the question. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

**Return To Question O114-90(2): Minister's Statement On Forward Operating Locations**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, the speech was edited by myself and it was written by the department. It was certainly not written by DND, nor was the memorandum of understanding. This memorandum of understanding was developed between the legal counsels of this government and the Government of Canada and I had personal discussions with Minister McKnight on a number of provisions in this document. So it was not written by the military at all.

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

**Supplementary To Question O114-90(2): Minister's Statement On Forward Operating Locations**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe we should look at the legal counsel we hire because the Department of National Defence seems to have gotten the best of us on this one. In the agreement that you have signed with them you

have no provisions to even have them report to this government on a yearly basis of what they are doing out at the FOL base...

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member, I would ask you to pose the question please.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why was there no reporting process in the memorandum of agreement?

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

**Further Return To Question O114-90(2): Minister's Statement On Forward Operating Locations**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, this agreement is one that requires obligations on both sides. It will be our responsibility to monitor the activities of the Department of National Defence and ensure that they live up to their agreement. We will monitor their activities.

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

**Supplementary To Question O114-90(2): Minister's Statement On Forward Operating Locations**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, will that add an extra burden and cost to the Government of the Northwest Territories to supply a person to monitor the Department of National Defence?

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

**Further Return To Question O114-90(2): Minister's Statement On Forward Operating Locations**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, in my remarks earlier today I said that the present planning calls for one full-scale deployment of approximately seven to 10 days duration and two to five smaller deployments of three to five days duration each year. The full-scale deployment will involve six fighters and as many as 200 support staff. It is a very, very small operation. It is not a base, it is a forward operating location for the CF-18s that are going to be protecting our northern seaboard.

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

**Question O115-90(2): Infrastructure Built By Military**

**MR. LEWIS:** My question today, Mr. Speaker, is to the same Minister, the Member for Inuvik. Would the Minister confirm, on the basis of knowledge that he has acquired in investigating the work of the military in developing forward operating locations, that nearly all the infrastructure that we have in the Northwest Territories, including the runway in Iqaluit, seven runways up through the Mackenzie Valley, the highway system that we have, was all in fact built by the military and using Canadian taxpayers' money, and that this has formed the basis of the infrastructure which Mr. Wray's department is now trying to build on so that we can solve many of our transportation problems?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Inuvik.

**Return To Question O115-90(2): Infrastructure Built By Military**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I am not the Minister for

territorial defence, but I would agree that the military have an enviable record of construction activity in the North over a period of some 50 or more years. Speaking for my own constituency, I know the military was very active on working on our recreational arena. There is an advantage to having the forward operating location to Yellowknife as adjacent to that location will be a diversionary road so that industrial traffic coming along the highway can be diverted from in front of the recreation area and the airport, to the industrial area of this community. This community will benefit as well from that particular development.

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

**Question O116-90(2): Dene Nation Review Of Agreement**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of MACA again. I guess Yellowknife will benefit, but the smaller communities like Snowdrift would not. Mr. Minister, the Dene Nation was promised the opportunity to review the agreement that you tabled in the House yesterday before it was signed. In a letter dated August 15, you confirmed this arrangement and went on to say, due to media pressure, you could not hold off any longer. The agreement was still not signed for another week which would have given enough time for a review by the Dene Nation. Mr. Minister, why did you not honour your commitment to the Dene Nation for a review of that document before it was finally signed?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, the honourable Member for Inuvik.

**Return To Question O116-90(2): Dene Nation Review Of Agreement**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I think as I recollect, because I do not have the letter in front of me, that I did put into the letter the elements that were contained in the agreement. If the Member would provide me with a copy, I think that is what will be indicated.

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

**Supplementary To Question O116-90(2): Dene Nation Review Of Agreement**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. Mr. Minister, also there is no option for calling for a public review anywhere in that agreement. Why is that -- a public review at a later date?

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

**Further Return To Question O116-90(2): Dene Nation Review Of Agreement**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, the matter of reviewing the whole program was carried out under the environmental review process that is current in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. We used the federal environmental review process which is a three level arrangement, the third level being ordered by the federal Minister of Environment. Our government and the committee that examined the environmental evaluation could not find sufficient concerns with regard to the environment within the document to recommend to the Minister of Environment that a third level process be instituted in this case, and it was not carried forth. I am aware that the Dene Nation and others have requested the Minister of Environment for such a review, but this was not done. In fact, I was not aware of this initiative until much

later. I think it was in February of this year when I learned that, while the Dene Nation had not been communicating with our government about their concerns, they had been dealing directly with the federal government. When I did write the federal Minister, I indicated that I felt they had been treated very shabbily and their concerns should have been addressed.

What is being built out there is a hangar which will be used for a very few days a year. The military already have a base there. I was able to get in the agreement, admission from the Minister that the FOL would not relate to low-level flights and some other concerns that have been expressed by the Dene/Metis organizations. I extracted that promise from the Minister himself, not from DND, because that was not in the agreement until I had discussions with Mr. McKnight and indicated to him those concerns. Furthermore, in the Quebec situation, because of Quebec legislation, the Kuujuaq base does require, an environmental examination. I also received from Mr. McKnight a guarantee by him that concerns, any environmental concerns, developed as a result of that hearing would be included into our present agreement and this agreement would be opened up to permit more additions.

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

**Question O117-90(2): Funding For Dumping Site Clean-Up, Rankin Inlet**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of MACA. I think he already knows what my question is going to be. You suggested before that the funding would be available to clean up the mine dumping site in Rankin Inlet and you were going to get some more funding from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, has the federal government made any indication whether they would be able to help with the funding to clean up?

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

**Return To Question O117-90(2): Funding For Dumping Site Clean-Up, Rankin Inlet**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, the Member has pursued this topic on a number of occasions. The last information I was able to provide him was that our government had identified \$50,000 that we would put toward the consultant's fees. The federal government did contribute, I believe \$30,000, and with the \$60,000, a consultant was hired to study the tailings pond at Rankin Inlet and I believe, also, to keep the community informed of what was going on. I have indicated to the federal Minister, in view of the fact that the authority for pursuing the development of the Rankin Inlet mine was given to the owners in 1958 or 1959 when the territorial government was a very minuscule body, that I would expect that any clean-up costs would be borne by the federal government. I regret to say that as yet the federal government has not agreed with me on that position and I feel that we are going to have to pursue them much further when we get the final report from the consultant, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

**Question O118-90(2): Construction Of Clyde River Recreational Facility**

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I have a question that is in the same area to the Minister of MACA. I made a motion last year to update the recreation complex for Clyde

River, and Clyde River residents continue to want to get their recreational facilities as soon as possible. Since we passed this motion last year to put the construction date ahead for the Clyde River recreational facilities, what has the government done about that? What action have you taken so that the Clyde River community hall can be built earlier? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question O118-90(2): Construction Of Clyde River Recreational Facility**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, once again I do not have the progress note on that particular item, but on the general question, I would say that many communities who are still awaiting recreational facilities, as they are entitled to under the program, are desirous of having their particular project put ahead. This is very difficult to do because of the competition for funding and by moving one facility up, another community may suffer. I am not responding now in the specific case of Clyde River, but there is serious consideration given to any request for moving a particular piece of capital infrastructure up in the capital program. Unless it is very urgently needed or can be justified, it usually does not get done.

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

**Question O119-90(2): Community Health Representative, Pelly Bay**

**MR. NINGARK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Health. Community health representatives are being recruited throughout the North and this is being done in Pelly Bay, but our position is only part-time and this person is sorely needed in that community. Her main role is to educate the residents about health. This person is really important in that community because there is no doctor resident in that certain community. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O119-90(2): Community Health Representative, Pelly Bay**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I did not understand that there was a question, but I presume that what the honourable Member is requesting is that I look into the matter to see if the part-time position can be upgraded to a full-time position. I will do so.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, is that a correct question? That is a correct question, the honourable Member for Nunakput. The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

**Question O120-90(2): Doctors Visiting Communities**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, on August 1, I wrote a letter to the Minister, received a letter of acknowledgement on the 17th and the Minister responded to my letter on the 23rd. At the same time I also wrote to the Minister with some concerns I had with regard to doctors visiting the community on July 4, and letters were written by the band office to Tom Menzies, who is the executive director, on August 8, 15 and 23. This is the fourth month now since I have written a letter to the Minister. I would like to ask the Minister if she has responded I have not received the letter

and if the concern about doctors visiting the community has been addressed, and if not, when?

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

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware whether Mr. Menzies has replied to the honourable Member's letter. The matter of doctors' visits to communities is one that we have been addressing in all regions of the NWT. On his specific region, I would have to take that under notice to see exactly where we are with that particular region. Thank you.

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

**Question O121-90(2): Laws Re Sale Of Condominium Units**

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation and it refers to the difficulty that I know at least two condominium projects in the NWT have run into, and that is the requirement of, I believe, an 80 per cent sale of units in the complexes that are being built before the people can get title to the units. What happens is that the developer ends up carrying the principal for the whole building and the people that buy the units end up paying rent rather than building up equity.

I was wondering if the Minister is aware of this problem and if he could possibly take the request to the federal Minister responsible to see if there is a possibility of changing the 80 per cent level down to a lower level so that both the developer and the people that wish to purchase these units can get themselves in a better equity position, since the financial climate, high interest rates, everything in the whole country, is going to make it difficult for these 80 per cent occupancy levels to be achieved.

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

**Return To Question O121-90(2): Laws Re Sale Of Condominium Units**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the problem and on occasion in the past have acted in the manner requested of me by the Member. With regard to the particular projects identified by Mr. McLaughlin, I have not taken any action, but I would be pleased to convey to the federal Minister, this concern.

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

**Question O122-90(2): Establishment Of Economic Development Corporation**

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Speaker, during the last winter session the Minister responsible for Economic Development was very eager to see passage of a bill to establish an economic development corporation. I would like to ask him whether this corporation is now operating and doing the job that we had wanted it to do.

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

**Return To Question O122-90(2): Establishment Of Economic Development Corporation**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is

in its early stages. I will be making an announcement in this House in the next few days on some of the activities it is undertaking, hopefully on the senior staff and on the board itself. It is coming together and I will be making an announcement shortly.

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

**Supplementary To Question O122-90(2): Establishment Of Economic Development Corporation**

**MR. LEWIS:** Since this board is operating and doing the work that we wanted it to do, could Mr. Wray tell us the names of the people who are on the board of this corporation?

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

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** I wish I could. I cannot tell you them all because I have forgotten some of the names. It is part of the announcement. The new board has not yet met, but in lieu of that the Financial Management Board has been acting as a board and approved one or two projects that we want to go ahead. Mr. Noseworthy was named as the interim president so that we could get on working while we were in the process of getting the board together. I prefer to wait and give you all of the names in my announcement because I am afraid of missing somebody out. I think there are seven or eight. I will advise the Member within the next few days. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O122-90(2): Establishment Of Economic Development Corporation**

**MR. LEWIS:** Since there was an interim board, why was there no public announcement that this board is operating and this is what is happening, because this is an important issue for the people of the Northwest Territories?

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

**Further Return To Question O122-90(2): Establishment Of Economic Development Corporation**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you. Because I was waiting to make the announcement in the Legislature. I felt that it was proper that I make the announcement in the Legislature before anywhere else and that is why I have been waiting for the fall session to make the announcement.

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

**Question O123-90(2): Clean-Up Of Old Oil Spill In Rankin Inlet**

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question again is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and it has to do with an oil spill in Rankin Inlet in the 1970s. I notice that consultants were around this summer looking around and observing, studying, and whatever else they were planning to do with regard to cleaning up the oil spill. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of MACA could indicate to this House what is being planned to clean up the oil spill for the summer of 1991.

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

Inuvik.

**Return To Question O123-90(2): Clean-Up Of Old Oil Spill In Rankin Inlet**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, the problem of the spilled oil was brought to the attention of this government, and I believe the Member and the Rankin Inlet council and mayor, through a report by Thurber Consultants which indicated from the result of a two-day study that quite a bit of oil had been spilled around and below the tank farm south of the community over a period of years. The report was not conclusive so we asked that a subsequent study be carried out this summer and tests were made of run-off and ground conditions. Those samples have been taken south for laboratory tests. I was informed that the consultant should have been in Rankin Inlet this week. I do believe he has consulted with the Member in the summer and I expect he will be returning this week for consultations with the mayor and councillors. It is expected that he will have a number of options and lay those options before both the community government and this government and then we will look at the projected costs and see how we can go about correcting that situation.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. Honourable Member for Pine Point.

**Question O124-90(2): Use Of Recycled Paper By Government**

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a statement previous to this session regarding the pollution of the northern Alberta rivers by pulp mills, as it relates to the production of high quality writing material and that it did not look very good for our government to continue to use new, non-recycled, paper and that we should take the initiative in this area. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Government Services if his department or any other departments are looking at co-ordinating their activities in such a fashion as to start using recycled envelopes and consider changing government paper from high quality white letterhead to off-coloured, such as the Assembly and the Executive uses, so that recycled materials could be used instead of brand new materials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Member for Inuvik.

**Return To Question O124-90(2): Use Of Recycled Paper By Government**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, as a result of direction provided to this government by the Assembly, there have been steps taken to attempt to clean up the environment and also to address this matter of recycled paper. Obviously to economize we will use up the stocks of paper that we currently have. The first paper we are out of and are seeking new materials, is envelopes. I thought I had some samples of recycled envelopes here somewhere. Here they are. These are provided by a Hay River entrepreneur and I do believe we have already placed an order for envelopes. I will have these passed along to the Member so he can see what we are doing.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Honourable Member for Pine Point, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O124-90(2): Use Of Recycled Paper By Government**

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, will the government consider, as some of the larger corporations have done, as a means of showing the

general public that we are serious, to put the words "recycled material" somewhere on the outside of the envelope, so people will realize we have taken that initiative?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Inuvik.

**Further Return To Question O124-90(2): Use Of Recycled Paper By Government**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Yes, I believe it is being looked at by departmental officials. I think there is a symbol that can be affixed to the paper. But, yes, we will look into that.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Aivilik.

**Question O125-90(2): Training Of Weatherman In Keewatin**

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. (Translation) Last summer in Repulse Bay, for two months or longer they did not have a weatherman there. It was dangerous for airplanes for coming into Repulse Bay. The Minister knows what I am talking about. I met with him in September. Could the government train somebody to work as a weatherman in the Keewatin in case the official weathermen has to go on holidays?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Kivallivik.

**Return To Question O125-90(2): Training Of Weatherman In Keewatin**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** (Translation) Yes, I understand. (Translation ends) The Member raises a legitimate concern but one that I think is shared by almost every Member in this House who has a small community in his constituency. We are having, to put it mildly, severe difficulty with the federal government. You see, this is a federal program that we deliver on their behalf, but the hours of operation, the money provided, the job descriptions, are all laid down by the federal government. We have a continued problem with the fact that they will provide only a small amount of money for each station and essentially it means that if a trained observer, communicator is sick or wants to go on holidays or wants to have a day off or his wife is in labour and wants to go to the hospital, there is nobody to take over from them.

We have asked, along with the Northern Air Transport Association who are extremely concerned, that the federal government provide us with a little more money so that we can provide back-up service at these airports. We have been unsuccessful, the NATA people have been unsuccessful. We thought that we had an agreement that would allow us to train some more people, such as a hamlet foreman or somebody else in the community that could do it or even a regional person that could then go into the community on sort of an as-needed basis, and they would provide some money. They have recently told us that they can no longer provide us with the money to even do that.

In fact it is even going to go further, and as I mentioned yesterday, we are now in a position say that a community like Fort Franklin, one of the busier airports in the Western Arctic, may not have any weather service at all because they have threatened to close it down. So I have just written a very strongly worded letter to the Minister of Transport and said quite seriously that I am considering withdrawing from delivery of this program unless they are willing to improve it. Because quite frankly the program is not being well run, it is not being properly funded and I have concerns about its contribution to aviation safety across the North. We are becoming very concerned with it. I hope that this strongly worded letter will

maybe jolt the Minister's office into some action.

But I can certainly appreciate the Member's concern because it is a concern that is all across the Arctic and I can only say that we will keep working on it and I will try and keep the Members updated as we deal with Transport Canada. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Honourable Member for Tu Nede.

**ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**Question W4-90(2): Operating Policies Of Health Boards**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do the operating policies of the Government of the Northwest Territories apply to agencies, boards and commissions, and further, are they being applied to the following: Baffin Health Board, Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Board, Hay River Hospital Board, and the Fort Smith Health Board? If not, when will this policy apply to these boards? Thank you.

**Speaker's Ruling**

**Question W3-90(2), Ruled Out Of Order**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Prior to proceeding with written questions, I wish to advise the House that during routine proceedings under the item of written questions, the Member for Tu Nede, Mr. Morin, filed two written questions. The Chair has the responsibility to rule on written questions as it does on oral questions. I have reviewed Question W3-90(2), filed by Mr. Morin, and rule the question out of order as the material filed does not contain a question.

Thank you. Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions. Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 9, petitions. Petitions. The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

**ITEM 9: PETITIONS**

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is Petition 2-90(2) from a committee in Pangnirtung. It is concerning child abuse in the world. This is a very serious issue and the children have to be protected. Also, people who are disturbed emotionally, as well as abused and battered women. These people have to have a better place to go. There is a place in Pangnirtung for the battered women to go but they are asking for funding so that they can pay for the fuel and electricity. This is a request for the government to support that group in Pangnirtung. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Petitions. Petitions.

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

**ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 13-90(2): The SCONE Report: Building Our Economic Future.

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

Item 12, notices of motion. Notices of motion. Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

**ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**

**Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 14: Official Languages Act**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 22, 1990, I shall move that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, be read for the first time. Also, Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to move this bill to have first reading. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Amittuq. Item 14, Motions.

**ITEM 14: MOTIONS**

Motion 1-90(2) is dropped from the order paper. It has been called twice. Motion 3-90(2), Support for Senators Attempting to Defeat GST Legislation, the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**Motion 3-90(2): Support For Senators Attempting To Defeat GST Legislation**

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, that this Legislative Assembly support the efforts of those Senators attempting to defeat GST legislation which will have a negative impact on the economy of the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Speaker, I believe it is pretty clear now that 85 per cent of the people in this country are appalled that the federal government has decided to introduce a tax reform which is going to hurt consumers. We already pay a high level of personal income taxes at one end and now we are going to be taxed at the other end when we buy things. We have been free of this tax in the Northwest Territories. Only Alberta and the Northwest Territories have not had to pay this tax, up until now.

I raise this motion, Mr. Speaker, not out of any sense of approving one party or another party or another party in this fight. It has nothing to do with that. It has to do with the fact that people are tired of dishonesty and one of the dishonest things about this tax is that when it was introduced and the notion of it was being discussed across the country everyone was told, "Look, all we are doing is replacing one form of taxation by another form of taxation. In the past we had a manufacturers' tax, a tax of 13 per cent, and what this does, in fact, is to get rid of that so that we can have a new form of tax." But of course what the public was not told is that there was a huge range of things up until today which were never, ever taxed, such as the services of lawyers and consultants. Seventy per cent of our economy is in the service economy, providing services to people, not buying cars or buying electrical appliances. Our economy has shifted away from just products toward services. As people began to look at this tax they began to wonder as to whether the government was being honest with them or not, and was this really just simply a matter of having a new tax which would replace an old tax and would not give the government any new money?

The reason I brought this subject up, Mr. Speaker, is because it has been an issue that is raised continually by constituents of mine. This is something that they talk about a lot. It is a concern that they have. I suppose the major concern is that when this tax goes into effect, whatever government is eventually going to get into power, whether it is the Conservatives who will stay there forever or another government who will stay there forever, it will provide large amounts of money. If the government had been honest with us at the beginning said, "Okay, we have a huge problem of debt and we will introduce this legislation because we need a lot of money. Our economy is suffering because we have a huge deficit and we need you to help us to pay these debts that really are all of our debts. It is money that we have spent on your behalf and we cannot survive any more unless we begin to get rid of it." So if the government had been honest and said, "Look, we need billions of dollars to get rid of this debt and since this money has been spent by your government to provide you with services, you have to pay for it somehow. So we are introducing this tax so that we can get rid of this huge debt that we have accumulated and more countries, perhaps, would be prepared to engage in business with us. We could get a better credit rating because we would be less of a risk. Other institutions may look at us as a good place to invest. All kinds of good things could happen to us if our debt were reduced." But the government did not say that, Mr. Speaker. What they said was that this was a neutral thing and they were just tidying things up.

Everybody knows that one of the terrible things about this public trust of government is that we keep on promising people more things and it is the people's money that will be used to pay for those things. So I think many people would be much happier if this tax had come in and the public had been told, "Look, we need to get rid of this huge debt of \$350 billion and once that is gone we will take the tax off. You have done your job, you have paid for all of this debt that we have built up giving you services and now that we have done it, the tax goes." It is my guess, Mr. Speaker, that whichever government gets into power over the next five or 10 years, once this tax goes in, whether it is Liberals or Conservatives or NDP, the tax is going to stay. It is for that reason that I am introducing this motion. It has nothing to do with this kind of Senator or that kind of Senator but people are really very, very sceptical and cynical about what governments do in buying people's votes with their own money and making promises that the public is then going to have to pay for. This is not a partisan issue, and although it is rather late in the week to bring a motion up like this, I felt it was important that people should have a chance to put on record that for the Northwest Territories this tax is going to be a terrible burden; much more than anywhere else in the country.

I have already heard of people coming to Yellowknife over the past week to talk to the Minister of Economic Development. He is hearing horror stories of what is going on right now without a GST, without greater inflation, without a dollar at around about 83 cents, where it should be to make us competitive. We have terrible problems and it is for that reason that I wanted us to debate it in this House. It has nothing to do with what kind of Senators are doing what kind of battle. I do not care who inherits this huge debt of ours. I do not like to see this con game of governments getting great war chests of money which they will not use to pay down that debt but they will use to buy the next election. That is what I am objecting to and I hope Members will support this motion. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The seconder, the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What does one say as a seconder after the mover of the motion speaks like



that? I am not going to say very much. It is a bad tax for the Northwest Territories. I do not have to convince anybody about that. All I have to do is refer to the two Ministers' statements today that contain all of the horrible things that it will do to our economy up here; particularly that of the Minister of Finance which goes into many fields and also, particularly, the Minister of Transportation.

I certainly view this motion and agreed to second it because I do not think it is a party partisan motion in any way, shape or form. I am convinced that there are many Senators who are not of the party that officially opposes it now that secretly oppose it too. They are, perhaps, being bought to vote a particular way, as the mover of the motion suggests and I would suggest that would be particularly the case for the eight junior Senators in the chamber right now. I think this is a terrible tax for the Northwest Territories. It is a bad tax for Canada. I am convinced of that, but it is a disastrous tax for the Northwest Territories and because of that I am prepared to second the motion, support the motion and would urge others to do the same.

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the motion. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I respect and understand the very strong concerns of Members on this issue and I know concerns expressed by the mover and the seconder are views shared by, I am sure, the vast majority of people in the Northwest Territories. The government does have a little bit of a problem as to the strategy. In the last four years we have crafted a strategy that is based on a broader concept than just the GST. It has been my realization over the past four years that the GST is one federal government initiative among many and the cumulative impact of them all is what concerns me more than anything else. Our strategy has been crafted so that we do not specifically deal only with the GST. It has been my opinion from the beginning that the GST probably will pass, but even if it does not pass, we still have some fundamental structural problems in our tax system in the Northwest Territories and we have been very careful to craft our strategy so it attacks the Income Tax Act, not just the GST itself. That means even if the GST passed, I think we have been able, over the past four years to develop a very broad base of information we have given to a number of parliamentary committees. I think we have been building a very strong case for changes to the Income Tax Act, whatever happens with the GST.

Yes, we will be abstaining from this motion, not because we do not support the intent and the feelings that Members have about the GST, but we would like to stay with our strategy and attack it in a broader base. I am not convinced, and I understand the Member's point that they are not doing it as a partisan issue, but I am not convinced that the Senate either has the ability or has the inclination to defeat the GST. I think we will be faced with a reality and by carrying on with the strategy that we have, attacking it on a wider basis, building our evidence, I think we will be in a stronger position in the long term. We will not be opposing the motion, but we will be abstaining, just for strategic reasons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully understand the motion, that it wants support from the Senators in Ottawa to defeat the GST before they implement it. I rise up, Mr. Speaker, that I will be supporting the motion. The NWT Member of Parliament has continued to oppose the GST. The GST will have a great impact in the communities. In the

East, especially for goods or clothing or air fare, that will be a great increase and it will have a great impact on us. As we already know, in the East the prices are very high already and, Mr. Speaker, for the small private businesses, it will also have great impact on them. The motion, which asks to get support to the Senate to defeat GST -- I will be fully supporting the motion and I fully understand. I am not even thinking about whether I am Liberal or PC. I fully support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

**MR. PUDLUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to show my support for the motion. The people who are opposed to the GST, I fully support them because of the impact that it will have on us. It will even hurt us, especially in my constituency where the price of everything, the inflation is quite high. Even without the GST, if I wanted to purchase a canoe or boat maybe from Winnipeg -- somebody bought a boat and it cost \$5000 to purchase it. By the time it reached my community, the total cost just for the freight, the total cost was \$10,000. It is getting more difficult for the hamlets to get funding and they have to have vehicles in order to service the community. The small private businesses will be hurt too, especially the hunters in the communities will be hurt because of the equipment that they need. Today equipment costs a lot and if GST goes through, then the prices will be even higher. These are people who are unemployed, and for some people their only means of income is hunting.

As my colleague mentioned earlier, I am not talking about blaming which government, but the idea of GST will have great effect on the smaller communities and the bigger communities especially in the Northwest Territories. We have to pay over a 50 per cent markup. If I was to live down south, then it would be a lot cheaper if I wanted to purchase anything. In our region, by the time the goods arrive in the community, the cost is outrageous. I am pretty sure we will be going through very difficult times because we do not particularly want to go back to the way we used to live. Mr. Speaker, I fully support the motion on behalf of my constituents. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the motion. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, will be supporting the motion put forward by my colleague from Yellowknife Centre. In light of the comments made by other Members -- it speaks for itself and I do not think I will be adding anything further. It is a bad tax for the NWT and it is going to hurt us severely, as the Government House Leader has indicated. The rationale put forward by the Government House Leader on the strategy that they have in terms of dealing with this particular federal initiative -- I do not agree with it. If our two Members of Parliament are against the GST legislation, and the Members here in this House are also against it, I assume that they, too, would be against it because we are the ones that put them on the Executive to support the motion and they have to carry out the wishes of the House. I would encourage the Executive Members to support this particular motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the motion. Order please. To the motion. Order please. Order please. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

**MR. NINGARK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot be ordered by the Prime Minister to support what they are proposing, and I have to speak on behalf of my constituents. Since there is high unemployment in the North,

and the hunters go through hard times, I will be supporting the motion on the GST because I am fully against the GST. I know for a fact that the Inuit in my communities go through enough hardship already without the GST. I fully support the motion. Thank you.

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

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to indicate, even though I will be voting on the motion -- what my colleagues are saying is exactly true and I will be fully supporting the motion. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the motion. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, it just seems to me that if this Assembly and the Ministers who are representing us are really and truly and sincerely against the GST and if, as the Minister of Finance has said -- he showed us today pages and pages showing all the work he has done, all the meetings he has had, all the letters he has written, and all the discussions he has had, and it seems the government Ministers have worked so hard on our behalf these past months trying to stop the GST -- why would this government or any Minister be shy or unwilling at this stage to support the Assembly in sending our views to the Senate?

It just seems to me, when you are against something truly in your hearts, and are sincerely interested in doing something, stopping something, you stop at nothing, you go all out. If you have to stop it, drive a truck to Ottawa, do everything necessary to stop it. To me, obviously we are not going to stop the government from proceeding with this plan, so one last hope for Canadians, for Northerners, is the Senate. If Mr. Ballantyne is sincere, if Mr. Patterson is sincere, then they should stand up, do a dance, show their full support for this motion. Only in this way can we be assured. Otherwise they are just paying lip service -- "We are doing our job, going through the motion of writing letters, but we do not really have our heart in it." That is the way I will interpret any of the Ministers that do not stand up when the time calls for us to stand up in the North.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Agreed.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Can you dance?

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

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any doubt whatsoever where the Ministers of this government stand on the GST. In fact, I was the Minister representing this government who went to Iqaluit and spoke in front of the Liberal caucus for over an hour on our opposition to the GST. In fact, I suspect that I gave them some of the arguments that they are now using.

I think the problem we have here, and the question we have to ask, is we are saying that we are going to support the Senate in stopping the GST. I have to really caution Members, are you really sure that the Senate is going to stop the GST and are you really sure that that is what they are trying to do?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** They are trying.

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** The question is, are they trying? We have seen all of a sudden a hard line position that was taken by the Senate break down yesterday and all of a sudden now there are negotiations taking place, all of a

sudden they are talking. Are we sure that the next step is not going to be that at some point in time the GST will go through the Senate remarkably fast and the opposition will sort of disappear because now the political point has been made? We have to be sure, as an elected body, that we are going to hang our hats on a successful strategy, and I am not convinced as yet that the strategy that has been employed in the Senate is really designed to stop the GST. I think there may be more politics going on than a real honest effort being made.

I guess the other point I have to make is that unfortunately we are dealing with an issue where overwhelmingly, 85 per cent, of Canadians are opposed to it. The Liberal Senators know that, so they have nothing to lose by opposing it and then at the last minute having some kind of technicality prevent them from stopping it. Obviously they are looking two years down the road to an election, and it is going to make a great election platform; but the bottom line is that the GST is still there and now the new government is in full receipt of all the revenues. In the meantime we are hanging our hat on a body that is not elected -- and whether we like it or not, they are not elected.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** To the motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order.

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Mr. Speaker, the motion is to support the Senate to stop the GST. The motion is not to stop the GST. If the motion were to stop the GST, fine; but we are asking another group of people to do it for us, not an elected group of people. And think of the principle: this is an elected body and how would you feel if you were undertaking a course of action and some non-elected body came along and said, we are going to stop you from exercising the democratic rights that your voters have given you.

I am very concerned about the principle that we are enshrining with this motion. I am also concerned that we are going to support a group of people that yet, to my mind, I have not determined whether they are really sincere in trying to stop the tax or not. We may hang our hat on a strategy and find that at the end of it we were the only legislature in the entire country that did that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

**MR. WHITFORD:** No heckling now.

---Laughter

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would probably be remiss in my duty if I did not support the motion.

---Laughter

Pardon me. Slip of words. Mr. Speaker, I will start from the beginning that I would be remiss in my duty if I did not support the motion to axe the tax. I think, of the issues that do not exactly fit in within the territorial Legislative Assembly, that is one of the main concerns that constituents have voiced to me over the past few months. We are not only talking about a small sector; we are talking across-the-board here. We are talking about people that can ill afford to pay more for goods and services than they are already paying.

When I looked at this issue I understood that the tax was to replace a manufacturers' tax that already existed but was hidden within the price of items and that this tax would be to remove that and impose an across-the-board tax. One of the

main concerns that small businesses have is the complexity of the administration of this tax. So much so, Mr. Speaker, that yesterday on the news, Summerside, Prince Edward Island, a community that has been selected to provide the civil servants that are going to be needed to administer this tax, is very concerned that the tax might be stopped. It means jobs for them. We are looking at thousands of people that are going to be employed just gathering these taxes. Our concern here in the North is with the small businesses that have to administer this tax. I understand it is very complicated. Some things are going to be tax exempt, other things are not. The same item under different circumstances will have a tax on it and in some cases not. How is the small businessman in the NWT to cope with that? That is a very serious concern to small businesses, the administration of this tax, and I think we in the North pay a greater percentage on our goods and services than people in the South and it is going to affect us proportionally more.

When you look at an item that has to be transported in, there is a tax on the transportation and handling of goods. It not only costs more to get it here but we will pay the goods and services tax on top of all that. It is going to place an extreme hardship on the people of the NWT, and for what purpose? I ask. Mr. Speaker, I will not go on any longer but I must in all conscientiousness personally support the motion and on behalf of my constituents speak to it and support it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Baffin Central.

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to see this motion on the floor and for the comments by the Members so far. I think the comments are all good and I think it is going to be very hard for taxes to be levied against us on top of what we already pay. I think this is going to hinder the progress we have been making in trying to establish our own businesses. I think the GST is being put forth to slow down the progress we have been making.

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the motion. Honourable Member for Pine Point.

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am basically against any increase in taxes. We already have a government in this country that is too big. There are too many people working for the government in proportion to the number of people they are supposed to serve. I believe there have been studies that say that by the time you have earned your salary from January to May or June, depending on which province you live in, only then will you finally start making money for yourself. Up until then all the money you have made, your gross salary, is what the government gets, at either the federal, provincial or territorial level.

I am against taxes and I am also disappointed that the federal government had to be put in a position where they have had to take a tax measure to have a general sales tax. In some provinces what is already provincial sales taxes -- I think in Newfoundland they are already somewhere in the 15 per cent range. When you buy something from the shelf there will be 20 per cent added on to the total cost. So it is unfortunate that our federal government is in a position where it sees this as a way where it has to raise more money.

But on the other hand, the federal government currently confronts a situation where, between the provinces and the federal government, there is approximately \$500 billion of total debt and approximately \$250 billion of that debt is outside of Canada. So when the interest is paid on that debt, that interest churns around in the economy of other countries.

### High Interest Rates Caused By High Debt

As well, high interest rates that are in this country now to some degree are a product of what the government is trying to do. Some people have said we have a homemade recession. But also, in actual fact, our provinces and our federal government, when they try to issue bonds to do projects, to raise money for their jurisdictions, they are being asked to pay as much as five per cent more interest than governments in the United States are who are being asked to issue bonds.

So we have a situation where, because our large, high, total debt is mostly outside our country, we are worse per capita than Mexico is right now, with the amount of per capita debt right now that is owed outside of our country. This is causing a situation where, if our government had to continue to pay five per cent more than similar bonds being issued by the United States and other governments, we are going to have to continue to have this high interest rate just to borrow money. So we have a very serious problem. The government is having to take some new tax measure. I am not happy to have to do it, but the reality of the situation is that if they have to raise enough money in order to get the deficit down to zero, then once they have done that they can try to start paying off the principal on some of their loans. But when one-third of our budget, one-third of what the government spends each year, is to pay the interest on the national debt -- we are borrowing \$30 billion a year just to pay the interest on the debt -- that puts the government in a bad situation. They have to raise money and this is one of the only ways of doing it.

I would be a lot happier if somehow the GST could be specifically put in place to pay off the principal of the national debt, especially the offshore debt. But you could never begin to do that as long as you are still borrowing money to pay the interest that you already have. So they are in a box.

### Appointed Senators Should Not Hold Elected Government To Ransom

I also find it very cynical for the Liberal Party and the leader of their party -- in fact he has been caught on this and he was never able to be tied down by the media during the leadership campaign, whether he would kick the GST out when he got in or not. So he told us a good line there. In actual fact, the opposition in Ottawa probably wants this tax measure to take place because they are going to need that money when they get there and it will prevent them from having to bring in a similar tax measure. Maybe not the same one, maybe just raise income tax, but it is going to save them from having to do the same bad medicine. So they are saying, "No, no, a thousand times no" but in the end they are going to have to pass it in the Senate.

So I have all sorts of misgivings that our country is in such a financial chaos that we have to go to this measure. But I also find it very cynical that parties will say one thing just to get votes and then do another thing when they get there. It reminds me of when the NDP supported the Meech Lake Accord before the election and were against the accord after the election when they got no seats in Quebec. So that type of cynicism is a bad situation. But in particular I am going to vote against this motion because I do not believe that any appointed group of people in the Senate should hold elected people to ransom. I do not think it is right. The next election the people can kick the sitting government out of office for passing the bill if they want, but the appointed Senate has no right to hold up a tax measure of any government. So I am against the motion primarily because it supports the Senate's action. I am not against the motion because I do not realize

the GST is going to be bad for our northern economy. It is going to be bad for the whole country's economy, according to some people. But unfortunately it is a tax measure that the federal government is going to have to take and if the PCs do not pass it, the Liberals will probably pass it as soon as they get in there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. I was a bit lenient in terms of allowing the honourable Member to speak about issues other than supporting the efforts of the Senators. I just remind Members that the question at hand is that the Assembly support the efforts of those Senators attempting to defeat the GST legislation which would have a negative impact on the economy of the NWT. To the motion. Honourable Member for Tu Nede.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will vote in favour of this motion because basically as Member of this Legislative Assembly, one of the things that guide me on how to vote on motions is by listening to my constituents and listening to what they have to say. I am one of the more fortunate Members in this Assembly in that I do have a good communication with my constituents and they are very concerned with this proposed GST tax. Most of the people that I represent, Mr. Speaker, are aboriginal people that make their living off the land. A good portion of them have very low incomes. Even though they do have low incomes this tax will have an effect on them. It will make it a lot harder to make a living out on the land. Like I have said before, Mr. Speaker, I am one of the fortunate Members of this Assembly in that I am held responsible to my constituents. There are other Members who do not have constituents to hold them responsible so they can vote any way they want.

--Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I will vote in favour of this motion. Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Slave River.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was not going to speak on this motion but I felt that it was only fair that I did, mainly for a couple of reasons. One is that I felt it was somewhat unfair for the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre to state that the government should take a position. When I took out the motion and read it, it does not state that the Government of the Northwest Territories supports the efforts of those Senators attempting to defeat the GST legislation. This motion states that it is the efforts of this Legislative Assembly to support the efforts of the Senators attempting to defeat the GST legislation.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Right on.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** So it is not directing the government to review or to support but it means we, collectively as an Assembly.

The only problem that I have with respect to this motion is the fact that you want us to support the Senators. The Senators being an appointed body is the issue and the principle that I have. I, as an elected Member, being given the responsibility to be accountable to the public, feel it is totally unfair for appointed people to tell me what to do; especially when the GST was an issue that was at the polls prior to the last election. We, as Canadians, voted that government in when they brought forth to us that they were going to implement the GST. So we did give them a mandate as Canadians when we elected that government. I think it is totally unfair that we should allow appointed individuals to unravel that mandate that Canadians were given prior to the election.

On the principle of the fact that appointed individuals are going to throw in barriers to elected individuals, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support the motion as worded. If the motion was amended to indicate any other person other than the Senators I would fully support it because I do not support the GST, but I do not support the motion as it is worded. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

#### Amendment To Motion 3-90(2)

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there may be a way to deal with this difficult issue, Mr. Speaker. I would move, seconded by the Member for Amittuq, that the motion be amended by adding the words following "efforts of those Senators attempting to", add the words "amend or defeat GST legislation". The new words would be, "amend or defeat GST legislation". Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** If I could first resolve the question of whether or not it is in order. The amendment is in order. To the amendment. Could you read the total motion?

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have furnished you with a copy. The motion, as amended, would read: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, that this Legislative Assembly support the efforts of those Senators attempting to amend or defeat GST legislation which will have a negative impact on the economy of the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the amendment. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could just briefly speak to the amendment, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that the honourable Members would have recommended action that took notice of the -- I would humbly suggest -- rather carefully thought-out strategy which was outlined by the Minister of Finance in his statement today. This amendment will reflect that carefully considered strategy and will reflect that we have concrete recommendations which can and should be considered to temper the blow of this tax which so profoundly concerns the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I will not speak at length because other Members have expressed, eloquently, the concerns about the motion itself. But I think this amendment reflects the government's strategy, which is basically that we would recommend changes we could live with to the GST; otherwise we would oppose it. Therefore, if this amendment could be supported by the honourable Members, Mr. Speaker, I believe we can have unanimity in this Legislature on this important matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the amendment. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the amendment put forward definitely will satisfy the government and it does fall into line with the strategy we have consistently put forward -- that we want changes or we will oppose it. This allows that strategy to play itself out and it means that it will give the honourable Senators every opportunity to deal rationally with the amendments that we proposed. If they do not, fine; that is what we have said. More importantly, I think on an issue like this it is very important that this House is united because I think if we are fragmented we send a mixed signal to Ottawa. So I think this particular amendment satisfies, I think, our needs and our strategies and it satisfies, I hope, the needs of Members and

we can together send a strong message to Ottawa. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Pine Point, to the amendment.

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amendment removes some of my concerns because the efforts being made by the Senators are not attempting to defeat the GST at this moment, they are operating in such a manner as to prevent debate which would also prevent amendments which would just force...

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the amendment.

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Mr. Speaker, I am speaking to the amendment because what it does is talk about the Senators being allowed to amend the GST rather than just defeat it and by having this in, it means that it will be encouraging Senators to allow debate to occur so amendments can happen in the House. If there is no attempt to amend the legislation, then our problems will not have a chance of being addressed. If there is just a big fight and it stops by being killed and dies, or if that potential is there, the majority of the Senators in the Senate now will just ram it through without amendments. So I am in favour of the government's motion because it will, hopefully, encourage the Senators who are opposed to debate it so that possible amendments could occur which will be in our favour.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the amendment.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the honourable Member for Iqaluit, final argument.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Question.

**Amendment To Motion 3-90(2), Carried**

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the amendment. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The amendment to the motion is carried.

---Carried

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Recorded vote.

**Motion 3-90(2), Carried As Amended**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Recorded vote has been called. All those in favour?

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Crow, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Morin, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Wray, Mr. Alloodoo, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Butters, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Ningark.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those opposed? All those abstaining? The motion as amended is carried with 18 for, none against and no abstentions.

---Carried

Motions. Motion 4-90(2), the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**Motion 4-90(2): Tabled Document 5-90(2) Moved To Committee Of The Whole, Carried**

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Tabled Document 5-90(2), entitled "Report of the 1989-90 Electoral District Boundaries Commission Northwest Territories", be moved into committee of the whole for consideration.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Speaker, Members have been very, very interested in this motion for several months now, and for that reason I think we should not delay discussion of this electoral district boundaries report. For that reason, I have asked to move it into committee of the whole.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

**MR. WHITFORD:** I agree that we should move it into committee of the whole for discussion. It is something that we have all been waiting for. It is important, certainly for all of the Northwest Territories, that we hear the views on this and I think it is best that we do this without further delay.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, final argument.

**MR. LEWIS:** I am ready for the question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Item 15, first reading of bills. First reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

#### ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

**Second Reading Of Bill 13: Local Authorities Elections Act**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to set a deadline for the payment of municipal property taxes by a candidate and to allow local authorities to place photographs on ballots.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 13 has had second reading. Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

**Second Reading Of Bill 3: Civil Emergency Measures Act**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River, that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Civil Emergency Measures Act, be read for the

second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Civil Emergency Measures Act to allow a local authority to conduct a search outside the boundaries of the community.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

--Carried

Bill 3 has had second reading. Second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bills 3, 8 and 13; Tabled Documents 6-90(2) and 5-90(2), with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** The committee will come to order. Mr. Ballantyne.

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Mr. Chairman, if I could have five minutes to consult with the chairman of the legislation committee.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. We will take a 15 minute coffee break.

--SHORT RECESS

Order please. The Chair recognizes a quorum now. What does the government wish to do, Mr. Ballantyne?

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government is prepared to move ahead with Bill 3.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

--Agreed

#### Bill 3, Civil Emergency Measures Act

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Butters, as Minister for this bill would you like to make opening remarks.

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make it from the witness table. This bill when it appeared before the standing committee on legislation elicited a very great deal of interest in emergency measures generally, and I would like to have a witness brought into the chamber, Mr. Eric Bussey, director of emergency measures.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** You have my permission. We are on Bill 3. Mr. Butters, could you introduce your witness?

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Eric Bussey is the director of emergency measures with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

#### Minister's Opening Remarks

If I may make a few brief remarks. I am proposing an amendment to the Civil Emergency Measures Act to provide statutory authority for local authorities to conduct search

operations beyond municipal boundaries. This amendment is required because the jurisdiction of a municipal corporation coincides with the limits of its boundary.

The amendment proposed would enable a local authority to conduct searches outside of the municipal boundaries. This amendment will also complement our policy for contributions for community organized searches for missing persons. This policy has just been amended to provide increased levels of financial assistance and broader parameters on the eligibility of items.

The search policy and the proposed amendment to the Civil Emergency Measures Act are concerned with community organized searches. Such searches are organized by the local authority and are not to be confused with the public search which is the responsibility of the RCMP. Community organized searches provide an opportunity to conduct a search, either before the public search commences or after the public search has ended.

This amendment is supported by numerous public groups including the Baffin Regional Council and the Keewatin Regional Council. Emergency Preparedness Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs also support this initiative and are satisfied that it does not infringe upon federal responsibilities in this area. The RCMP were also consulted throughout the process. The RCMP understand that community organized searches are not intended to be a substitute for public searches. This amendment does not affect the RCMP responsibility to conduct ground searches for missing persons. Nothing we are proposing interferes with the RCMP mandate to deal with criminal matters. We are only concerned with ground searches for missing persons, we are not concerned with searches which relate to criminal matters.

Finally nothing in this initiative is intended to interfere with existing arrangements which address responsibilities for air and marine searches. By effectively organizing a search capability at the community level, we are providing a resource which can be utilized in a public ground search, or in an air or marine search when the agency responsible determines such assistance is necessary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Ernerk, as chairman of the legislation committee.

#### Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. This bill would amend the Civil Emergency Measures Act in the way the Minister has described it. It would allow local authorities to conduct a search outside the boundaries of the community. During our discussion of the bill on September 18, and subsequently on October 18, 1990, the standing committee was assisted by the attendance of the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Hon. Tom Butters.

Initial concerns during our first review of this bill were expressed. Members wished to be absolutely certain this amendment would not create community confusion in the organization and carrying out of searches.

Also the standing committee was uncertain as to whether the inclusion of certain activities might have financial implications related to funding of civil emergency responses. For that reason we submitted the bill for consideration by Mr. Pollard's standing committee on finance. My honourable colleague may have some comments later on.

In the standing committee on legislation any concerns about this bill were resolved during our second meeting with the Minister and his officials. There may still be a few things

Members may wish to address today. There are no limits in this legislation as to how far afield community searches can venture in carrying out a search. There is no definition of what a search is.

The standing committee was generally satisfied with the Minister's response to our concerns and at our October 15th meeting we agreed to refer Bill 3 to the House for consideration. In doing so, however, we were mindful that the ability a community has to respond to a search situation is critically important in our northern communities. For that reason we believed there might be further discussion of this amendment in the House today.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Pollard.

#### Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

**MR. POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on finance has looked at the bill and recommends it to the House. It looks kind of innocent, a one-pager, Mr. Chairman, but it does have some implications. I think it is a good bill but I would wonder if the Minister would go on to explain to the House the kinds of financial assistance that the department lends to community searches? I think it was our opinion, or the opinion of some Members of the standing committee on finance, Mr. Chairman, that it was not nearly enough money to conduct a search properly. A pittance is what I would describe it as. Perhaps the Minister could tell us of those amounts, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Minister.

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Chairman, thank you. The standing committee on finance impressed this point upon us during our appearance before them, especially the concern that the amount of money that was available for such activity was insufficient. The money is currently managed at the regional offices in our government. I do not know that there is a stipulated or set amount at that level but there is a stipulated or set amount for any particular search. Up until a few weeks ago the amount which was identified for a particular search was some \$500 which would be used for gas and oil and supplies of that nature. Recently the amount has been doubled to \$1000 and I recognize that it is still minuscule in terms of the need in some cases, but that is the amount allowable at the present time. It is managed by the regional director in consultation with the community. I would imagine the senior administrative officer in the community and the regional director would consult on the need with the mayor.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

**MR. POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, we are pleased that the Minister has seen fit to raise it from \$500 to \$1000 but it is still not a lot of money when a community is trying to organize a search for somebody from that particular area. I would ask the Minister if there is a ministerial override? Could the Minister, under certain conditions, advance more money to continue a search or enlarge a search? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Chairman, the last segment of the policy reads, "Nothing in this directive shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Executive to make decisions or to take actions respecting contributions toward community organized searches outside of the provisions of this directive." So there is an override at the Executive level.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Pollard.

**MR. POLLARD:** I am glad to hear that, Mr. Chairman. There has been some concern that if you extend a search outside a community, how far do you encroach upon somebody else's area? I think it is not designated in the act. I would just see common sense being used in that particular situation, Mr. Chairman. I compliment the Minister on the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. General comments. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am in favour of the bill also but I have a question for the Minister. I realize there are two types of searches that can occur at the community level. Could I ask the Minister who co-ordinates the community search and the RCMP search? Who is going to do the co-ordination so that the two searches do not happen at the same time?

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Chairman, this question was asked in the standing committee on legislation. On my first go-around I did not have expert advice with me so I would ask Mr. Bussey if he would respond because there are quite separate responsibilities and it is important to know when each group ceases to have responsibilities and when another one takes over. Maybe I could ask Mr. Bussey to go through that process covering the community search and management and when the public search is set up, and possibly even make a reference to the air and sea searches.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Bussey.

**MR. BUSSEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer Mr. Zoe's question, in the first instance a community organized search, as described in our government's policy, is a search co-ordinated by the local council. What we are trying to do is move community organized searches under the organization of the local emergency response committee. The community organized search would be co-ordinated by the local emergency measures organization, which is established under an emergency plan which is approved by a by-law of that local council.

The public search -- these definitions are all listed in the search policy -- the public search is the responsibility of the RCMP. Our community organized search is meant to occur prior to or after the public search. So it is not meant to be conducted at the same time or to therefore, confuse the matter. The public search is a decision of the local detachment commander of the RCMP. That local detachment commander is the person who determines when the public search will be activated and also when that public search will be stood down or ended.

What we are trying to do in our policy is to provide some flexibility in a situation where a public search will not be commenced until some lapse of time occurs, or if we wish to extend a search beyond the winding down of the public search, and we have flexibility in that area. Those are very separate and we try to be very clear in the separation between the two.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What Mr. Bussey has referred to as the public search, occurs first. Does the commander at the detachment consult with the emergency measures committee that is established by the municipality? Is he going to be required to consult with these people that

are in the community?

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** I will ask Mr. Bussey to indicate the relationship and communication, but the public search is not first necessarily. We are devolving this responsibility and supporting the local authorities in this regard because we feel that they are in the best position to judge when somebody is overdue or somebody requires help. The police may not move as quickly as they may want. This gives them the ability to get their own organization together and begin to organize people to get out on a search. When it is obvious that more resources are needed, which the RCMP can provide and the police recognize that it is time for them to get in, then the two work together. Maybe Mr. Bussey could explain how that occurs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Bussey.

**MR. BUSSEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer Mr. Zoe's question I guess the answer is, yes, we hope. What we are trying to do is to bring community organized searches under the auspices of the local emergency response committee and at the same time encourage co-operation between all the agencies within that community. The RCMP, in every community, are members of that local emergency response group. So whether it is a community organized search or whether it is a public search, which is the actual responsibility of the RCMP, we are still encouraging and trying to ensure that communication and co-ordination of effort occurs whether it is a community search or a public search. In some cases in the public search the RCMP may utilize resources of that local emergency response group in conducting the public search, or vice versa, the senior administrative officer or the co-ordinator on the local emergency committee may ask the RCMP to assist them in conducting their community search.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you. That clarifies my question, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask the Minister or Mr. Bussey, in terms of marine, who has jurisdiction as to who does a search on water. For instance, somebody that gets lost on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, or in Yellowknife Bay, who has that responsibility? Is it the RCMP or is it the coast guard, or is it the local emergency response team? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Bussey.

**MR. BUSSEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are various acts and arrangements in place at the federal level which outline responsibilities for ground, air and marine. The Shipping Act provides for the Minister of Transport, through the coast guard, to conduct search operations on water. The national search and rescue manual is really a summary of all the various pieces of legislation and agreements which deal with search and rescue responsibilities. That outlines within Canada which agency is responsible in which instance.

Within the NWT, Great Slave Lake, for all intents and purposes, would be considered a ground search and the RCMP would be responsible for conducting a search on Great Slave Lake. In the Beaufort Sea and other coastal waters, the Canadian coast guard would be responsible under the Shipping Act.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you. So, Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that other lakes, including Great Slave Lake, are considered as land, they are treated as land like any other inland water?

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Bussey.

**MR. BUSSEY:** Yes.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Mr. Chairman, I am quite pleased with the proposed amendments. That clarifies all the questions I have at this time. Thank you.

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

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I want to get a clarification from the Minister. In the last two to three years in Rankin Inlet, as well as the other communities that I represent, we have had a very good working relationship with the local detachment with regard to search and rescue. Prior to that, I can recall a number of confrontations between different organizations and the RCMP where certain rules existed within the RCMP which we thought were always in place. I am particularly talking about the policy concerning the passage of 48 hours prior to any search being conducted by the RCMP, or with the assistance of the RCMP. I think in a way, the Minister spelled it out when he said that it is up to the local detachment to make a decision as to whether or not a search will, in fact, be carried out. Under the leadership of Sergeant Chris Banham, we have had a good working relationship in Rankin Inlet when it comes to searches.

I guess what I am trying to ask the Minister is to confirm that there is no national policy with regard to this 48 hours, there is no 48 hour policy when it comes to the NWT. In fact, this 48 hour policy was the policy of a local detachment, anyone who was in charge of the local detachment two or three years ago in the Keewatin Region. Can the Minister confirm that there is no such thing as the 48 hours?

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Chairman, with the Member for Aivilik, I too was under the impression that there was a 48 hour delay. I do not know where I got the idea, but on investigating it at the request of his committee, I did find out that it was a widespread belief that there was a 48 hour delay before they began to search. However, discussions with the RCMP "G" Division have indicated that this is not correct. It is as the RCMP are acting in Mr. Ernerk's constituency or community now. They do respond in accordance with the community's need and direction. In fact, Mr. Bussey has been told that if he hears of any specific detachment where this type of a delay is mentioned the RCMP would be pleased to send off a directive and advise there is no such 48 hour delay requirement before a public search is instituted.

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

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to get a clarification on the act here. It is my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that the act does not necessarily stop the local authority from initiating a search on its own. Thank you.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** No, the mayor and SAO and the various people on that body decide when to institute the search. I should point out something, too, which this piece of legislation does. People that go on searches are now also covered under the Workers' Compensation Board in the event they experience any injury. That is additional support for



these people who do risk their lives and their persons in working for their fellow residents.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. General comments. Does the committee wish to go clause by clause? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Clause 2. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Clause 3. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Clause 4. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Does the committee agree that Bill 3 is now ready for third reading. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. What does the Government House Leader wish to do now? Mr. Allooloo.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Chairman, the government wishes to proceed with Bill 13.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Does the committee agree that we proceed with Bill 13? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Bill 13, Local Authorities Elections Act

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Butters, do you wish to make opening remarks?

#### Minister's Opening Remarks

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. The amendment I am proposing to the Local Authorities Elections Act deals with two issues. One is regulatory and the other is permissive. Section 21 of the Local Authorities Elections Act lists certain conditions under which a person is not eligible to stand for election as a member of a municipal council. The

legal interpretation of the subsection regarding indebtedness has been the focus of some attention in the courts. To resolve the uncertainty, the amendment to section 21 requires that a candidate for election to council in a tax-based municipality pay his or her property taxes up-to-date by the time nominations close.

The other amendment concerns the ballots used in local authority elections. For some years a number of local authorities have assisted voters by including photographs of candidates on the actual ballot papers. The Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities has requested an amendment to the act to legalize that practice on the understanding that is no more than an option, and I have endorsed the proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Would the chairman of the standing committee on legislation like to make any opening remarks?

#### Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

**MR. ERNERK:** Yes, sir. This bill would amend the Local Authorities Elections Act by clarifying the payment deadline for outstanding municipal debts and also by allowing communities to put candidate's photographs on ballots during local elections. The Hon. Tom Butters, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, first met with the standing committee on legislation on September 18, 1990 and after some discussion agreed to return with an amendment to the bill.

The standing committee reviewed the bill, again, on October 15, 1990, with the Minister once again in attendance. Revisions to the bill were sufficient to address concerns stated by committee Members about the payment provisions during our first review of the bill. Mr. Chairperson, at the October 15th discussion the standing committee agreed to refer this bill for consideration by the House. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act. General comments. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that this amendment would make people that have not paid their property tax ineligible to run as a candidate at the municipal level. Mr. Chairman, I have a problem with that for the simple reason that the communities that I represent, Snowdrift and Fort Resolution, especially in Fort Resolution, there has been a mistake by Mr. Butters' department in informing them where they would have to pay their tax. It would make them, the people, ineligible to run. So I could not support this amendment until he straightens out that mess. He has committed to do something with it with the Department of Finance so I would like that clarified before I would vote in favour of this.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister, do you have any witnesses that you wish to bring into the House?

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** I may have to, but not really. The bill does not apply to small communities. It only applies to tax-based communities which experienced problems in last year's elections. It is only the tax-based communities that are being addressed in this legislation.

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

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this Local Authorities Elections Act applies to all municipalities, no matter if you are tax-based or non-tax-based. This is the legislation that they follow, unless I am wrong. This act

governs tax-based and non-tax-based. The problem that I see here that I do not think was addressed, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that their general taxation area, the Government of the Northwest Territories collects on behalf of municipalities. Where do those people stand in terms of running for office? Are they bound or is it deemed that because they are property owners in a municipality, that they cannot run, or could not run, if they owe money on property? I am having a little difficulty with this legislation unless it is clarified, Mr. Chairman.

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** My understanding is that the amendment to section 21 applies to a candidate for election to council in a tax-based municipality. That is what I have been dealing with and this is what I assured the standing committee on legislation when I dealt with them. This is my understanding.

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

**MR. MORIN:** Mr. Butters, you are 100 per cent sure it will not affect the two communities that I represent?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Butters. Can we ask our Law Clerk to give an opinion to that? Ms. MacPherson.

**LAW CLERK (Ms. Sheila MacPherson):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That particular section of the act only applies to municipal taxing authorities which are defined as cities, towns or villages, or a hamlet or chartered community declared to be a municipal taxing authority in accordance with the Property Taxation and Assessment Act. Therefore, it would only apply to cities, towns or villages, or charter communities, of which I understand there are none, or hamlets which have been declared to be a municipal taxing authority. Therefore, the Minister's answer is correct legally, sir.

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

**MR. ZOE:** So section 21.1(d) applies only to cities, towns and villages? Am I correct, Mr. Chairman? My understanding, the way I read the legislation, is that if you owe more than \$500 for more than 90 days to a municipality, no matter if it is tax-based or non-tax-based, you cannot run for office. That is the way I read the legislation, unless I am wrong. I think all they are deleting from the current legislation now is "other than in respect of any current taxes; or", and that is what they are taking out. So how could it apply only to tax-based?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Can I get a legal opinion on that? Madam Law Clerk.

**LAW CLERK (Ms. Sheila MacPherson):** Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that this amendment was brought forward because there were some difficulties interpreting what a debt to a municipality was. In the taxation year people can owe taxes but they do not have to be paid right away, and the current act is quite unclear on the issue of taxes. It is my understanding, sir, that this amendment is merely to clarify the position with respect to when taxes are overdue. Currently section 21 does provide that a person is not eligible if they are in debt to a municipal corporation. However, the amendment before the House today deals with the issue of taxation, which has been viewed as a separate issue from the issue of a debt to a municipality because taxes are not always debts. If you owe taxes to a municipality they are not debts until they actually have to be paid and they are overdue.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** The key words in (f) are "municipal

taxing authority" which is a tax-based community.

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

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under section 53(1), it is my understanding that it is not mandatory to get a photograph of candidates. It is up to the authority to pass a by-law in order for the candidate to get a photograph. Am I correct in this, Mr. Minister? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister.

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** It is an option of the local authority. If the local authority decides as a body to do that, then the candidates, I would expect, would be required to do so.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. General comments. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Minister.

#### **Motion To Defer Bill 13, Carried**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** In view of the hesitation of Members I will defer the bill for later discussion -- but it does not affect you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. There is a motion to defer. The reasons are that some of the Members are having some difficulty identifying municipalities and hamlets and charter communities. There is a motion now to defer the bill. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Ballantyne.

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Mr. Chairman, the government's business is finished and it is up to whatever the committee wants to do.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** Mr. Chairman, I move that you recognize the clock.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Is this a motion to report progress? It is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise now and report progress.

#### **ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 3 and 13 and wishes to report that Bill 3 is now ready for third reading.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

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

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, there

will be a meeting of the Nunavut Members in the caucus room immediately after adjournment today. Meetings for Friday, October 19th: ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Orders of the day for Friday, October 19th.

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
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bills 8 and 13; Tabled Documents 6-90(2) and 5-90(2)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, October 19, 1990, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
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Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
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