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

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## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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 Monday, October 22, 1990. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

## ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

**Ministers' Statement 25-90(2): 1989-90 Arctic College Annual Report**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, today I have tabled Arctic College's Annual Report for 1989-90. The report outlines the initiatives and achievements of the college during the fiscal year completed on March 31, 1990. I am pleased to note some of the highlights of the report. First of all, Arctic College enrolments continued to increase. During 1989-90, the college recorded a two per cent increase in full-time enrolment and a 24 per cent increase in registration for part-time credit programs. These increases are due not only to enhanced participation in ongoing college programs, but also an increase in the number and variety of courses which the college has designed and delivered directly for employers and organizations across the North.

I am also pleased to note that the report outlines the results of a survey of students graduating from college programs in the spring of 1989. Ninety-seven per cent of certificate and diploma graduates and eighty-nine per cent of those completing career development courses are either employed or in further education and training. The annual report also outlines the activities of the board of governors during 1989-90. It notes the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for the college for the period 1990 to 1995. This plan focusses the direction and energies of the college so that it will address such issues as delivery of adult basic education, quality of education programs and the strengthening of partnerships between the college and industry.

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, 1989-90 continued to be a year of growth for Arctic College. Increased enrolment, increased program offerings and attention to the development of a planned future will allow the college to enter the next decade in a strong position to offer effective and efficient post-secondary education and training to Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

**Ministers' Statement 26-90(2): South Slavey Dictionary**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that the Department of Culture and Communications has published a verb dictionary of South Slavey. (Translation ends) Mr. Speaker, this dictionary will be a powerful tool in promoting literacy among South Slavey speakers. I am sure teachers and language specialists will no doubt find a daily use for their dictionary.

It will also be an important reference for students learning Slavey for the first time.

This dictionary is the result of over 35 years of research by Philip Howard, beginning in the 1950s in the Nahanni region. Over the years, the author worked with many people in the Mackenzie valley, including Ted Trindell, Andy Norwegian, Mary Kraus, Jimmy Betsaka and Willie McLeod. This dictionary is a tribute to all Slavey people, young and old, and especially to those people who have struggled to keep their language strong.

I am very pleased to present copies of the South Slavey dictionary to my honourable colleagues, Mr. Nick Sibbeston, Mr. Sam Gargan and Mr. Stephen Kakfwi, in recognition of their support for the preservation and enhancement of aboriginal languages. The Department of Culture and Communications, on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, intends to continue with aboriginal language promotion and development initiatives in the months and years ahead. Thank you.

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

**Ministers' Statement 27-90(2): Ministers' Meeting On Aboriginal Justice, Whitehorse**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Mr. Speaker, when the Ministers of Justice from all jurisdictions in Canada met last summer, one of the topics on our agenda was aboriginal justice. At that time it was decided that aboriginal justice was too important to simply discuss as one of many items on a crowded agenda. At the suggestion of the Hon. Margaret Joe, Minister of Justice for the Yukon, it was agreed that a special meeting should be held to discuss the justice system as it relates to aboriginal people. This meeting is intended to give Ministers of Justice from across the country, an opportunity to focus on aboriginal justice and to discuss this topic with representatives of the native peoples. At least half of the people attending the conference from each jurisdiction are to be aboriginal persons. The Ministers' meeting on aboriginal justice is planned to be held in Whitehorse in February of 1991. Officials of my department and aboriginal persons in the Northwest Territories will be asked to advise the organizers on discussion topics and speakers. This will be the first meeting of Canadian Justice Ministers which is totally devoted to aboriginal justice, and I welcome this recognition of the importance of these issues.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that this meeting has been the result of a number of years of intense lobbying and I would like to publicly give credit to the former Attorney General of Ontario, Ian Scott, who supported, over the last three years, the efforts of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon to have this issue discussed at the national level. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Ministers' Statement 28-90(2): Health Benefits For Metis**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, in February, 1990, the Legislative Assembly passed a motion in committee of the whole asking the Government of the Northwest Territories to consider providing Metis residents with health benefits equal to those which registered Indians and Inuit receive. All residents of the Northwest Territories are covered by the health care plan for insured medical and hospital services. Under the Indian Health Policy, the federal government provides supplementary benefits to status persons. These benefits include drugs, medical supplies and equipment, eyeglasses, dental care and certain medical travel expenses. Before qualifying for the federal health benefits, status persons must have accessed any applicable employer plans.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has recognized that Metis persons have similar health needs and has moved to address the most important of these. The supplementary health benefits for Metis who lack access to employer benefit plans include the following: 1) Under the medical travel policy, coverage, less a co-payment, is provided for necessary travel between communities. Boarding benefits in the NWT and Churchill were added this past spring; 2) Under the extended health benefits policy, drugs, medical supplies and equipment, and certain travel benefits are provided for persons with specified disease conditions. The list of qualifying diseases was expanded on April 1, 1990; 3) Under the seniors program, elders aged 60 years and over can receive drugs, medical supplies and equipment, dental care, eyeglasses, hearing aids and certain travel expenses. These comprehensive benefits were introduced two years ago; and 4) Under social assistance, indigent persons qualify for a number of health benefits from the Department of Social Services. In addition, many employers offer supplementary health benefit packages which cover Metis employees and their dependants.

Taken together, Mr. Speaker, these services do not precisely match the federal benefits provided for status persons. But I must emphasize that these benefits for Metis do address the most important needs. These programs focus on the elders, the poor, the chronically ill, and those without employer travel benefits.

If the financial situation improves in the future, the Government of the Northwest Territories may be able to adjust and expand available benefits. However, with the funding constraints currently facing the government, further extension of health benefits to Metis people at this time is not possible. During the last two years enhancement of government programs, combined with employer health benefits, have significantly reduced the differences in benefits received by Metis and by status persons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Just prior to proceeding to Members' statements, I wish to introduce students from Arctic College native studies program and their instructor, Ms. M.J. Patterson.

--Applause

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

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS****Member's Statement On Accomplishments Of Lorne Smith**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have mentioned on two other occasions the achievements of two non-native people who came to the Northwest Territories and made great contributions to our society, and also to the development of

our government. Today, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about another person, not as well known. His name is Lorne Smith. I have known Lorne Smith for 27 years. I was a teacher at Cape Dorset and Lorne was a teacher in Arctic Bay. He eventually joined my staff at Cape Dorset and took over as principal when I left there. What is unusual about Lorne Smith is that he was hired not because he was just a teacher but because he was a fully licensed mechanic. In those days it was required very often that whoever was hired to look after the school also had to look after the power plant and all the equipment.

Another interesting thing about Lorne Smith is that he was already an elite Canadian athlete who performed at the international level. In 1955 he won the 1000 metre North American kayak championship in Montreal. In more recent years he has achieved fame in the Iron Man Triathlon. This summer he came fifth in the event in his class at Oahu and he travelled at his own expense with just a small support from some corporate donors, with some assistance also from Canadian Airlines. He swam 2.4 miles, cycled 112 miles and ran 26.2 miles in 13 hours and two minutes. This is remarkable for a man of 57 years of age. In other words, Mr. Speaker, he is an international world-class athlete.

I first met Mr. Smith in 1963 when he was trying to learn Inuktitut and how to handle a dog team, which he used to take with him onto the land to teach children in the hunting camps. During his many years in the North he learned to become a highly skilled and respected photographer and passed his knowledge and skill on to many people, including many native people. He learned how to fly and got to know many of the historical northern places which many of us will never have a chance to see.

I remember his very early efforts in Education when there were very few personal computers in the Northwest Territories. He made himself an expert and he taught many people how to operate them and pass this knowledge on to other people. The North has attracted many people from the South of the very highest calibre, Mr. Speaker...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order. Order. Time has expired for your statement. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. LEWIS:** I would like to ask for unanimous consent to finish my statement, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre is asking for unanimous consent to proceed with his Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is time for us to raise some of the stereotypes that people who come from the South to the North must be here to get rich, to steal aboriginal land or to escape from a dismal future in the South. If Lorne Smith decides to enter the Hawaii triathlon next year, he should be sponsored by the Government of the Northwest Territories. We should continue to show the world that when we specialize, as we did in the era of the Firth twins, or when we pursue traditional events, as the Beck brothers do, then we can in fact be world class. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement On Child Sexual Abuse**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems, during the recent past, I have been hearing so much about child sexual abuse. To this society, this has never been and will not ever be acceptable. When I was growing up, I



was taught to know right and wrong. No right was ever, or ever will be, given to anyone who sexually abuses a child. Children are our greatest resource. They are so tender and precious. You know, Mr. Speaker, when we vote at elections, we have so much power. What we, the people, should be doing is to start once again, return to the value of kindness, caring and loving our children because they are our future. We, the elected representatives of the people, have an overwhelming responsibility and we need help in understanding it. Let us all carry out our responsibility and do something about this unacceptable act of crime and stop it and help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement On Cabinet Approval Of Funding For Lyall Construction Ltd.**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to speak today on behalf of Dennis and Christine Lyall of Lyall Construction Ltd. in Spence Bay. Dennis and Christine Lyall have noted their sincere gratitude goes to the Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works, and the Hon. Gordon Wray, the Minister responsible for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, for their involvement in getting the funding finalized for Lyall Construction Ltd. for the purchase of heavy equipment to do road construction in Spence Bay. Over the summer, I have had the opportunity to make a first-hand inspection of the road graded and constructed by the company. This project proves to be a very successful one in terms of hiring local labour, for doing an exceptional job, and for completing the job before the termination date. The Lyalls and the community take pride in having built their own community road.

Mr. Speaker, before my conclusion I wish to say that in times of relentless restraint, when demands for government services and programs outweigh the internal revenue and federal financial contributions, I think, Mr. Speaker, your cabinet has done remarkably well. Thank you.

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

**ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Return To Question O100-90(2): Restoration Of Fort Providence Church**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on October 17, 1990, regarding funding to restore a church in Fort Providence. Earlier this year my department was asked to fund repairs to the church in Fort Providence so that it could be put back into use. The initial estimate of the cost of the repairs was based on an engineering assessment, and my staff was concerned that other aspects of the building and its furnishings might have been overlooked. For that reason, we have made arrangements for an architect who specializes in historical buildings to examine the structure. This examination will provide us with a better plan and the capability for assessing restoration needs and associated costs. As a part of the architectural evaluation, we have requested short-term solutions to correcting the most serious problems, so that the church can be put back into service as soon as possible. A restoration architect will be travelling to Fort Providence within the next week to carry out this study. I also plan to fund a study of the historical significance of the church. I will provide more information on the architectural assessment within the next two weeks.

**Return To Question O21-90(2): Shortage Of Chipewyan Interpreters**

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I have another return to an oral question asked by Mr. Morin on October 11th, regarding the shortage of Chipewyan interpreters. Currently the language bureau has three Chipewyan interpreter/translator positions. Two are in Yellowknife and the third is in the Fort Smith Region. The Fort Smith Region position, based in Snowdrift, has been vacant since September, 1990. Efforts have been made to fill the vacant position in Snowdrift as soon as possible. The necessary documentation has been submitted to the Department of Personnel for staffing. The language bureau tries to ensure that there are sufficient language services available in the regions. Given the many communities requiring services in the five Dene languages, the language bureau utilizes its resources in the most effective manner to meet the demand.

During the Legislative Assembly, one day per week a different language is translated for broadcast on CKNM: Monday, Chipewyan; Tuesday, North Slavey; Wednesday, Dogrib; Thursday, South Slavey; and Friday, Inuktitut. This is done so that there is a fair coverage to aboriginal speakers. If the Legislative Assembly makes a formal request, we will provide the Chipewyan interpreter/translator in the House. I want to make it clear, though, Mr. Speaker, that if such a request is filled during the sitting that all other Chipewyan services will be suspended for the duration, including community services. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question O31-90(2): Training Of Qualified Electricians**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, this is in response to a question asked by Mr. Kilabuk on October 11, with regard to the training of qualified electricians. Through the Northwest Territories apprenticeship program it takes four years to train a qualified electrician. A qualified electrician's work is subject to the NWT Electrical Protection Act of the Department of Safety and Public Services to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Canadian Electrical Code.

To date, there are 51 registered apprentices in electrical trade in the NWT and only seven of these are located in the Baffin Region. Arctic College and the NWT Housing Corporation have begun to discuss the development of a program to provide training in basic construction skills to individuals who are building their own homes. Because wiring is not a basic construction skill, and because it must be done according to the electrical code, training in electrical wiring would not be included in this type of program.

It is important to provide local residents with the basic construction skills to build houses and to make sure that HAP units can be completed as quickly as possible, but the NWT apprenticeship program must continue to be the program providing training in the electrical trade. Above all, we must ensure that the HAP units are safe houses to live in.

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

**Return To Question O54-90(2): Whole Language Program**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Gargan on October 12, 1990, with regard to the question of why certain information was not made available to parents in Fort Providence earlier, on the matter of the whole language program in Fort Providence. Whole language is not



a new language arts program, but rather a learning approach that allows children to learn language arts skills through all subject areas at their own pace. This approach is being widely promoted through the revised kindergarten to grade six language arts communications curriculum. Over the last two years the Deh Cho divisional board of education has been informing parents and teachers throughout the Deh Cho region about the kindergarten to grade six communications curriculum.

In Fort Providence individual teachers have explained the changes that were taking place in their classrooms because of the whole language approach. Information on whole language was provided during parent-teacher interviews, and in one classroom the teacher held an open house inviting parents to observe the process and discuss this new teaching method. On September 26 of this year, when all the resource material and information packages were available in the school, parents were invited to an information session for the public on the whole language approach. A video which was produced at the school was shown, and parents were invited to visit classrooms, speak with the teachers, see the library resources and review samples of student writing. Since this meeting, several parents have told the principal that they are pleased to see a stronger emphasis on reading and writing in the school and that they support the efforts made by the school to keep parents informed. Some parents have said that since the whole language approach was introduced, their children are now more eager to read. The principal of the Elizabeth Ward School in Fort Providence welcomes parents' visits and is available to discuss the whole language approach. Thank you.

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

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I have two responses of the same nature. The first is in response to a question asked by Mr. Ningark on October 18, 1990, relative to the progress being made to establish a hockey arena in Pelly Bay. The Pelly Bay hockey arena project is currently in the planning year. Members of the department were in Pelly Bay in mid-September to work with the community to select a site for the building. In the normal course of events construction should begin on the Pelly Bay hockey arena during the 1992-93 fiscal year.

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

The second return is in response to one asked by Mr. Kilabuk on the same date with regard to progress being made on the recreational facility planned for Clyde River. The Clyde River community hall project is currently in the planning year. Members of the department were in Clyde River during the first week of October to work with the community to select a site for the building. In the normal course of events, construction should begin on the Clyde River community hall during the 1992-93 fiscal year.

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

**ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Question O141-90(2): HTA Office In Lake Harbour**

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I am very happy with his co-operation with the

hunters and trappers associations in the communities. On behalf of the HTA in my community, I would like to ask him, since the hunters and trappers association is not supplied with an office, they have their office in the meat processing area of the freezer building and according to the policies, it is a health hazard. My question is, Mr. Minister, would you be supplying them with an office in the near future if they request one from you? Thank you.

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

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have updated information about the office or the situation in that community. I am not sure if they will be requesting an office in the future and I will get back to you. Thank you.

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

**Question O142-90(2): Turnover Of Airport Terminal, Coral Harbour**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. A few weeks ago when I was visiting the community of Coral Harbour, and met with the hamlet council, the council wondered about a turnover of the airport terminal to the hamlet. Could the Minister inform this House as to the status? Thank you.

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

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question as notice and get back to the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member will take the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

**Question O143-90(2): Closure Of Fort Reliance Weather Station**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Minister, I have just received a letter from one of my constituents in Fort Reliance requesting information on when the Fort Reliance weather station is going to be shut down by the federal government. Mr. Minister, is there any truth to the report that the Fort Reliance weather station is being shut down and if so, what is this government doing to stop that?

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

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am batting a thousand today. I will have to take that question under notice as well.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

**Question O144-90(2): Visit By Minister To Pelly Bay**

**MR. NINGARK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Since he became Minister of Renewable Resources, I do not think he has visited my constituency. Up to the present they are still living off the land. I was wondering if you will be visiting my community in the near future? Thank you.



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

**Return To Question O144-90(2): Visit By Minister To Pelly Bay**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as I get a request from your community to visit, I will be willing to think about that, but I do not have any plans to visit that community at present. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary Question O144-90(2): Visit By Minister To Pelly Bay**

**MR. NINGARK:** (Translation) Thank you. Supplementary question. Can you visit my community if I ask you to?

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

**Further Return To Question O144-90(2): Visit By Minister To Pelly Bay**

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

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

**Question O145-90(2): Dock For Lake Harbour**

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will not be a new question. I have raised this issue before. Just last summer a dock was built in Cape Dorset, but the Lake Harbour residents are also requesting a dock. I would like to ask when they will be receiving a dock in the future? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O145-90(2): Dock For Lake Harbour**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give the Member a definite answer. As part of the transportation strategy, we are going to be seeking funds for dock work, particularly in the Baffin Region. Through our own dock program we have established a list of work that has to be done. However, we have a very small amount of money for that program, only half a million dollars, so we are having to tackle the top priorities at first. So I do not know where Lake Harbour is on the list in terms of dock improvements but I will attempt to find out from the Member and get back to him.

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

**Question O146-90(2): Initiate Study Regarding Gravel Crusher**

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs. When we met in Norman Wells I raised this question to him. As I recall, you said you were going to initiate a study and I was wondering if you have initiated the study for a crusher? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** I would like to call on my colleague,

the honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works for her assistance in answering this particular question. The responsibility for developing gravel sites is, as I understand, split. Sites that are outside of the community are developed by the Department of Public Works and timetables for providing gravel needs in communities are worked out between the Department of Public Works and MACA. Maybe Ms. Cournoyea might have a specific answer. Otherwise I will have to get back to the Member and take the question as notice.

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

**Question O147-90(2): Construction Of Dock, Coral Harbour**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. It is a supplementary question to my colleague for Baffin South. This has been raised a number of times and it is old news by now but Coral Harbour also requested a dock to be built. Perhaps we have given the Minister enough time to respond to this and to think about it. I would like to ask the Minister when he will be able to supply a dock for Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my answer will be essentially the same as that to the Member for Baffin South. I do not have a list of plan works with me. I know that we cannot meet all of the requests from the communities simply because we do not have the program. The amount of money that we have is so small that we cannot do all the work. The only hope that we have for some major work is if we can be funded through the federal government. Again I will have to take the question as notice and get back to the Member.

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

**Question O148-90(2): Status Of Projects Funded By Economic Development Corporation**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I asked the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism about the Economic Development Corporation. He indicated that some projects had, in fact, been funded. Could he tell the House what projects have been funded by the interim arrangements?

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

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If my memory serves me correct I took that question as notice before and said I would be making some statements this week. Off the top of my head, I know the craft centre in Pangnirtung is one of them but I do not have the details on the rest. I will be making an announcement this week.

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

**MR. LEWIS:** This is a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You cannot pose a supplementary. The



honourable Member has taken the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**Question O149-90(2): Investigation On Dr. Clemmy**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Health, about a year and a half ago there were some complaints about a doctor, Dr. Clemmy, and there was some investigation started. Has that investigation now been concluded?

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

**Return To Question O149-90(2): Investigation On Dr. Clemmy**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, the investigation did not go to its conclusion because my understanding is that the claimant withdrew the charges.

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

**Question O150-90(2): Policy Re Bankrupt Lodges In The North**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism. Last summer there was a lodge on Great Bear Lake, I believe it was, that had some financial problems and there were several people from southern Canada stranded and the territorial government bailed them out. The public perception of this is that this is the policy of this government. What is the policy of your department when it comes to lodges that are owned by southerners that go bankrupt and strand tourists in the Territories?

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

**Return To Question O150-90(2): Policy Re Bankrupt Lodges In The North**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Talk about a loaded question. The situation that happened this summer was fairly unique. The government moved to take action simply because of the large numbers of people involved and the very bad press that we felt the industry might get as a whole. There were approximately 100 fishermen who could have been stranded. As it is, the fishing lodge industry is going through some pretty tough times right now and we were extremely afraid that something like this would place a very major black mark against the Northwest Territories as a whole in that industry in particular.

We did not bail them out but we moved, with the assistance of other lodge owners, to redirect some of the fishermen. There were some expenses involved to the department, namely that of sending a couple of my officials to Edmonton to intercept those fishermen and to help them with alternate arrangements. We did not have a policy but I can tell you we are going to have one fairly soon. There are amendments coming forward in the winter session to the Travel and Tourism Act and it was coincidence but we were beginning to anticipate that this kind of situation might occur and, therefore, we were planning on changes to this act to look after problems such as this. It has been going on now for about two years in terms of ongoing consultation and feedback from industry.

The recent events did prompt us to change the outfitters regulations and the tourism establishing regulations, and what

we can do now is appoint an auditor outside of the public service to examine books and records of tourism businesses where there are grounds to believe that the business is unable to meet its obligations. This is an attempt to safeguard the industry as a whole, and when you see the amendments in the winter session to the Travel and Tourism Act, they will be fairly consistent with this theme, that the government's role is to try and protect the name of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O150-90(2): Policy Re Bankrupt Lodges In The North**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does your department have the amount that this one particular incident did, in fact, cost?

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

**Further Return To Question O150-90(2): Policy Re Bankrupt Lodges In The North**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you. No, we do not have a specific amount of money budgeted for this. As I said, there was no bail out to the lodges per se. The expense involved was simply the time of staff and a couple of people travelling to Edmonton, which we ate from within our existing budget. However, I felt that the circumstances warranted it, because there could have been some serious ramifications for the industry as a whole in the North if we had not taken the prompt action that we did. Thank you.

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

**Question O151-90(2): Call-Out Charges By Fuel Delivery Contractors**

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister responsible for petroleum products. I am not a judge, but this was a question that I asked last year, and I just want to get some more clarification and information. People that get gas from the same tank, but for different uses, for canoe and heating oil and others -- you were supposed to look into this and I would like to find out whether you have information on this problem that we had and whether you have included tax on those purchases of oil. I just want to know whether the \$50 opening fee -- all the questions I asked last year, what kind of information do you have to date? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O151-90(2): Call-Out Charges By Fuel Delivery Contractors**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, yes I had the department investigate immediately when the Member brought that particular matter to my attention. I believe I indicated to him that it is certainly not a departmental policy, nor is it expected that contractors for the department would charge an exorbitant call-out fee. I know we were to make a poll of all our contractors throughout the North to see what the practice is, but I had indicated at the time that it is not the practice, and I would believe that the department has so informed the contractor. If the contractor is still charging that type of fee, I would like to know. I have not had the final report, but I will get it.



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

**Question O152-90(2): Subsidy On Kerosene**

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for petroleum products and it is with regard to the subsidy on naphtha. Say four litres costs five dollars. My question is whether kerosene is going to be subsidized also, because kerosene is used by numerous hunters and they use the same amount of naphtha and kerosene when they are out hunting. I want to know whether kerosene could be subsidized just like naphtha. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O152-90(2): Subsidy On Kerosene**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, as the honourable Member indicated, naphtha is subsidized and it is because the government recognizes that it is important that hunters and trappers receive as much assistance and encouragement as possible. I have not heard that kerosene has been considered to be subsidized under the same general approach, but I will, as the Member suggests, take a look at it. I agree that kerosene, likewise, could fall within the same category and could probably be justified for a subsidy under the same criteria.

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

**Supplementary To Question O152-90(2): Subsidy On Kerosene**

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not really sure if this is a supplementary question or not, but there are some of my friends in Iqaluit who are hunters. For four litres they pay somewhere around a little over \$11. I wonder if the hunters in Iqaluit also can get the same subsidies that we get in our community. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question O152-90(2): Subsidy On Kerosene**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, in those communities where our government is the distributing agent we do have some control over the price and do set the price for the product based on the cost to us. In communities where we are not the distributing agent, it is a more difficult problem. As the Member well knows, I believe Shell is the distributing agent in Iqaluit. I would look at his suggestion, but at the present time we have not been providing a subsidy in communities where the distributor is a private contractor.

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

**Question O153-90(2): Wood For Kakisa Seniors**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I travelled to Kakisa on Saturday and some of the senior citizens over there are concerned about getting wood. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not there is a directive sent to the department so that those communities that are entitled to wood subsidies are being given the wood now that the weather is getting colder.

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

**Return To Question O153-90(2): Wood For Kakisa Seniors**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since last year when we formulated our policy, all individuals over 60 years who rely on wood as their primary source of heat are allowed up to five cords of wood per household. If there are residents in Kakisa that are entitled to this under the policy, then we can certainly advise the department to ensure that the residents' needs are addressed.

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

**Question O154-90(2): Heating Fuel For Seniors**

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same Minister and sort of on the same subject, could the Minister advise me if this provision was extended to senior citizens who live in an area where there is no wood available? Was this program extended to heating fuel, as was suggested by this House? Has that been done yet?

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

**Return To Question O154-90(2): Heating Fuel For Seniors**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you. Unfortunately, due to the cost implications, the policy has not been adopted as yet, but I am certainly making efforts to address this issue in the future, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question O154-90(2): Heating Fuel For Seniors**

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the cost implication would not be any greater if the value was fixed at the equivalent to five cords of wood. Could the Minister advise if she is prepared to treat all elders in the NWT the same by immediately instituting the program up to the value of what is available below the tree line, the same above the tree line?

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

**Further Return To Question O154-90(2): Heating Fuel For Seniors**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** There is a cost implication, Mr. Speaker, mainly for the fact that if we did give the opportunity for a choice of wood or fuel, the additional costs that we did not anticipate for fuel is what we did not plan for, and the policy that we did formulate and adopt only addressed the needs at the time for wood. However, as I had indicated, I am trying to address this and I can keep the Member apprised with the progress that we will make in the future. Thank you.

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

**Question O155-90(2): Addressing Child Sexual Abuse**

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. During my Member's statement, I voiced my concern over the sexual



abuse of children and I think really, Mr. Speaker, everybody should get involved in trying to stop this situation in the North as well as in Canada. Mr. Speaker, my question is this, what is the Government of the Northwest Territories doing to address that particular problem in the North?

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

**Return To Question O155-90(2): Addressing Child Sexual Abuse**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Department of Social Services, in conjunction with other departments, particularly Justice, has made significant progress in trying to deal with the concern of child sexual abuse. However, no doubt, it is the responsibility of all the communities and all leaders in the North to also assist.

We have done a number of things. First of all we have set up a protocol system to ensure that people know, whenever an allegation comes forth, who it should be reported to, what involvements each department should have. In addition we have placed, I believe, in excess of a quarter of a million dollars into our yearly budget since I have become Minister, to create a couple of positions in the different communities. We have retained Margaret-Anne Gallagher and Diana Barr to offer training programs to the RCMP, the nurses, the social workers, and individuals in the community to let them know how they should be dealing with concerns in respect to child sexual abuse. There are a number of initiatives we have taken on as a department, but I guess the only point to emphasize is that it is not only the responsibility of the Department of Social Services but it requires the full co-operation of the community, the public and the assistance of all leaders, and particularly encouragement and support of Members of this House.

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

**Question O156-90(2): Effect Of Rising Fuel Costs On Power Rates**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. The question is related to the rising costs of fuel as a result of the Middle East crisis. What effect will the rising fuel costs have on the power rates in those communities that depend on diesel generation for electricity?

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

**Return To Question O156-90(2): Effect Of Rising Fuel Costs On Power Rates**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, at present we are not anticipating any increase in those communities. As the Member realizes, the fuel to those communities was delivered this summer at the old rates. At this point in time, we are looking at the situation between the Power Corporation, the Energy, Mines and Petroleum department and the Department of Finance. We do anticipate there will be some impact on the price of energy if this market continues to stay high, although I think the Member realizes that there is a fluctuating price right now. For example, from last week to this week, there has been a \$30 change projected. However, in terms of the community, a subsidized program is anticipated to continue to shield the communities in the area and the communities that rely on diesel generation. However, the full impact at this time -- we will not be able to deliver that summation until a little later when things sort of even out.

Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O156-90(2): Effect Of Rising Fuel Costs On Power Rates**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is the same question. It deals specifically with Yellowknife. Winter is coming on. There is a high demand. It is our peak demand of the year and already the diesels are running at Jackfish Lake and I do not think there is much storage there. Do you have guaranteed prices to ensure that we are getting a supply at a fixed price or is this going to affect the rate of power to the consumer here as the price of fuel goes up?

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

**Further Return To Question O156-90(2): Effect Of Rising Fuel Costs On Power Rates**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, at present there is no immediate decision to raise the cost because of the price of fuel; however, we are evaluating what we have to do to adjust to those increases.

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

**Question O157-90(2): Increase In Price Of Gas**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** (Translation) Gasoline costs 73 cents a litre and it is because of what is happening in Iraq and Iran that we have the increase in the price of gas. They were asking if this keeps on, whether the price of gas is eventually going to keep on going up. This winter and the next winter, I am wondering how high the price of gas is going to get. This is what I want to know.

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

**Return To Question O157-90(2): Increase In Price Of Gas**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member asks a difficult question, one that the government is trying to grapple with. There are a couple of things I think we have to consider. As we all know, the price of crude oil in the past few months has almost doubled, but when you try to apply the increase of the price of crude to refined products, it is not exactly two to one. Right now, we are trying to ascertain exactly how a two-fold increase in the price of crude translates in the cost of refined products. Between ourselves and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, we are trying to ascertain that right now. We have done a lot of investigation and made inquiries as to what the experts think is going to happen in the short, medium and long term.

There seems to be a consensus that if there is not a war in the Middle East, the price of oil will come down. There is a fear that if there is a shooting war in the Middle East, the price of oil will go up, probably for a year and a half to two years, conceivably into the \$100 a barrel category. But then after that, the price again will come down. The military experts now are looking at what capacity Iraq has to actually destroy the oil fields, themselves. What we understand, and the Petroleum Association of Canada would have been briefed on these matters also, is that the feeling of the experts right now is that Iraq does not have the capacity to totally destroy the oil fields. They do have the capacity to partially destroy the infrastructure that is on top of the oil fields. So the feeling



is that even in the midst of a shooting war, even if Iraq were able to inflict considerable damage on some of the oil fields in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, that still within two years they could bring that oil field back to full capacity. So we are right now trying to factor in what will be the cost to our government of the temporary increase in the price of oil and gas and try to factor that into our budget considerations.

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

**Supplementary To Question O157-90(2): Increase In Price Of Gas**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** (Translation) I would also like to ask about the GST. When the GST becomes effective in January, I wonder how high the price of gas will get to be.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**Further Return To Question O157-90(2): Increase In Price Of Gas**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Whatever happens with the price of oil based on the situation in the Middle East, there will be an increase to that price because of the GST. There are some factors that we hope will be able to modify that impact. One factor we are looking at right now is -- for instance municipalities. Municipalities under the GST will receive a 57 per cent rebate on the GST. We think there is argument to be made that because the government is exempt from the GST that small municipalities might be considered as under the arm of the government and perhaps they can have an exemption. The government itself will not be paying GST on our purchases, so that is another factor we have to consider. I think there will definitely be an impact of the GST but the major impact in the short and medium term will be because of the price of oil in the Middle East.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions, honourable Member for Nahendeh.

**Supplementary To Question O157-90(2): Increase In Price Of Gas**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** (Translation) I have some concerns about the people at the community level that need help. There are some people who are unemployed and a lot of people are living off the land. Some people have to make a living off the land using skidoos and there are some people who have problems with money. I would like to know what the effect of oil prices and the GST will be on these people.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**Further Return To Question O157-90(2): Increase In Price Of Gas**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** I have already indicated that I will table a technical document in this House which will explain, as much as we know now, what we see the impact will be on individuals and on government structures. Everything is not clear; we are still in negotiations with the federal government as to some of the fine tuning of the impact of the GST.

As far as people who are not working or people who have a low wage, there is a program where they can get a rebate quarterly. My officials have been in the regional centres explaining the technical aspects of the GST to government staff so they in turn explain these technical aspects to the municipalities. We are working quite hard on this and I will make available here a technical paper on all the information

we have. We will continue our efforts to make sure information gets out to communities and individuals as to how they can best respond to the GST.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**Question O158-90(2): Legislative Assembly Appointments To The Public Service**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By formal motion of this House and as a recommendation of our special committee on the northern economy report, we recommended to the government that they establish a public service commission. But they decided that they would rather have the selection of people in the public service under political control. Would the Minister of Personnel confirm that under the present act, by a formal motion of this House, we can direct him to make appointments to the public service?

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

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

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

**Question O159-90(2): Chairman Of The Keewatin Health Board**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. The health board in the Keewatin has a chairman that is an employee of the territorial government. I think they will be getting a chairman in the near future who is not a government employee. Can the Minister elaborate to the House if this will be the case in the Keewatin?

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

**Return To Question O159-90(2): Chairman Of The Keewatin Health Board**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes.

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

**Supplementary To Question O159-90(2): Chairman Of The Keewatin Health Board**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When are they going to get a new chairperson who is not a government employee? Can she tell me in this House what she has decided to do and when the new chairperson will be appointed?

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

**Further Return To Question O159-90(2): Chairman Of The Keewatin Health Board**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, it will be in the immediate future. I cannot say whether it will be tomorrow or the next day. The decision has already been made to do so.

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

**Question O160-90(2): Health Benefits For Metis People**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health made a statement today with respect to health benefits for Metis and basically comes to the conclusion that due to funding



constraints currently facing the government, further extension of health benefits for Metis people at this time is not possible. I am just wondering if the Minister thinks that any time in the foreseeable future when the financial situation of our government improves, will the government then do something to provide Metis people with medical services equal to that of the Dene and Inuit people?

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

**Return To Question O160-90(2): Health Benefits For Metis People**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that in our quest now to stabilize the delivery system in the NWT, we still have on the agenda the additional health benefits that have been identified from various Members from this Legislative Assembly, and from the communities.

I think that once we have reorganized ourselves and look at where we are there will be a continuing endeavour to try to accommodate better health support for all people in the Northwest Territories. I believe our records have gone a long way to show we have done as much as we can at this time, but we will continue to pursue with the health boards and the Members of this Legislative Assembly as to how we can better make this health delivery system applicable to providing equal services to all residents of the Northwest Territories, including the Metis.

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

**Supplementary To Question O160-90(2): Health Benefits For Metis People**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, I am really not that interested in medical services for all of the people of the North. I am primarily interested in getting improved medical services for Metis people. It just seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister ought to try harder than what she has done. I recall a number of years ago, when I was the Government Leader, I worked with the Minister of Health, Mr. McLaughlin, and we had extensive meetings and had meetings with the Metis people about how our government could improve services to them. We nearly reached an agreement but we were not able to agree and the matter was held there. An election ensued and we never really got back to them on that matter. Can the Minister go back to her department and look at the negotiations that had taken place and see if she could continue to use those negotiations that took place then as a basis to see if medical services can be improved for the Metis people? It is dire, it is significant and important, and I think if the government is to endear themselves to the Metis people of the North they must do something. What the Minister is saying here is dead-end. It is hopeless, and I think we can do better than that.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Nahendeh there was not a question that was posed during that statement. If you wish to pose a question -- but I remind you about your preamble that it should be short. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. SIBBESTON:** My question, perhaps it was not on the record, is whether the Minister would, rather than just saying it is a dead issue or there is no money, that she really take renewed interest in this whole matter and just give it one more try. We can encourage her and we can make a motion to help her in the next few days.

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

**Further Return To Question O160-90(2): Health Benefits For Metis People**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to say that the issue is not a dead issue and the statement was in no way to say that we will not continue to try to put the necessary energy toward dealing with this situation. I would like to say that in the last couple of years we have gone a long way in establishing particular areas which have been the priority areas that the Metis have felt should be addressed as soon as possible. Certainly we do not have to go through renewed negotiations or renewed deliberations on what the issues are. Mr. Speaker, we have, on a continuing basis, continued to look at how we can adjust ourselves to providing the things that the Member is requesting. I would like to say that on record of this Legislative Assembly; and since the takeover of the health services, health services to Metis and older people have substantially improved and have been identified, and we will continue to explore areas where we can improve them further. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O160-90(2): Health Benefits For Metis People**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, I have to dispute, and I do not like disagreeing with Ministers, but the Minister, in her statement today, outlined four provisions of services and is trying to say that these services have been provided. But these have been provided to everybody in the North; they are not unique to the Metis people. The old people, the people with specific diseases, seniors, and those people on social assistance -- it is not a program or anything for the Metis people specifically. What I am talking about is a specific program -- just as there is a program for the Dene and the Inuit people, a program for the aboriginal people of the North -- for Metis people who are excluded from government programs. I am talking about this and challenging the government to do something for the Metis people and I just urge and ask the Minister if she would really reconsider her stand and truly try to do something for the Metis people who are in dire need of medical services and not try to say she is doing something. Because what she outlined is for everybody and I am not talking about everybody.

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

**Further Return To Question O160-90(2): Health Benefits For Metis People**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the comments from the Member from Fort Simpson. I understand that he wants to identify Metis. I think the Metis are included as "other people" and we will move toward that, but not in absence of the other issues that are raised in this Legislative Assembly. I believe that the Metis have requirements. So do other people. What we have attempted to do as a Department of Health is to identify the areas which are a priority and within the scope that I could work with in the budget that was allocated. We are certainly willing to explore more for Metis but I am afraid I cannot say that I will do that in absence of the provision of services to other people in the Northwest Territories. But I will commit myself to providing the necessary information so you can see what the split is and what was left out. I would say here that very little has been left out in terms of the comparative services. Thank you.

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



**Question O161-90(2): Economic Development Officer For Coral Harbour**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister responsible for Economic Development. Perhaps this department can send an economic development officer to Coral Harbour. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O161-90(2): Economic Development Officer For Coral Harbour**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Presently I have no positions for economic development officers in Coral Harbour. Coral Harbour did have an economic development officer shared by Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay, who resided in Coral Harbour. That individual resigned and the decision was, when the replacement was hired, to have that individual based in Repulse Bay this time and service Coral Harbour, the other way around. That is the only method I have open to me right now but I have no positions for economic development officers in the communities. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O161-90(2): Economic Development Officer For Coral Harbour**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. When I was in Coral Harbour the Hamlet of Coral Harbour informed me that even visiting the communities regarding fisheries and other stuff can be very helpful to the people of Coral Harbour. The economic development officers do not go to communities as much as they should and help out the local people. Perhaps the Minister can tell me if his staff can go into the Keewatin Region a little bit more often and, perhaps, send them to Coral Harbour too. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question O161-90(2): Economic Development Officer For Coral Harbour**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The frequency of visits by economic development staff is not as much as I would like it to be but I think the Member has to understand that when it comes to field staff we are really weak on the ground. Among other things, I have only 37 economic development positions for 62 communities. I have very little in the way of staff resources at the regional level, and we are only now beginning to try to build those resources. I will attempt to find out just what visits were made, but I cannot promise increased visits due to my lack of resources both physical and fiscal. Thank you.

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

**Question O162-90(2): Implementation Of Recommendation Of Panel Re Minimum Wage**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for labour. Madam Minister, this morning I listened with great interest on CBC to James Evoy commenting on the minimum wage, and I understand that it has been recommended that the minimum wage be increased to \$6.75 an hour from five dollars. Madam Minister, why have yourself as the Minister and your department not agreed with these recommendations and why are they not changed? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Slave River.

**Return To Question O162-90(2): Implementation Of Recommendation Of Panel Re Minimum Wage**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, the panel report did recommend that the minimum wage be increased to \$6.75. Unfortunately, though, there was no substantiation within the report to justify an increase to \$6.75. There are a couple of things that I did take into consideration in reviewing the panel's report. One is the fact that the panel only took submissions here in Yellowknife. It did not go anywhere else in the Territories. Because of our economy in the Territories, I think it is very important to recognize that we do not know whether or not \$6.75 is a proper rate to consider. I have instructed that an internal committee be formulated to review and determine what is a proper rate structure, and I was planning to consider looking at the implementation of a new rate structure provided that cabinet would consider approving it for January 1st, being a new taxation year.

However, because the rate structure is in legislation, I have proposed changes to the legislation which is in committee of the whole to be considered on whether or not this House would allow this to be transferred from legislation to regulation. We are certainly looking at increasing the rate structure, but we have to justify a proper rate structure that will reflect the needs of all territorial residents. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you.

Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, a return to Question W1-90(2) asked by Mr. Morin to the Minister of Health, concerning current escort policy.

**Return To Question W1-90(2): Escort Policy Presently Being Utilized By Department Of Health**

Hon. Nellie Cournoyea's return to Question W1-90(2), asked by Mr. Morin on October 16, 1990, regarding the current escort policy: The honourable Member for Tu Nede requested me to table the present escort policy used by the Department of Health. I will be tabling an administrative directive in the House which outlines the department's practice with regard to non-medical escorts.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you.

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

**ITEM 9: PETITIONS**

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Petition 4-90(2) from the Hamlet of Lake Harbour and it is all documented. The deputy mayor has also signed this petition.

I would also like to table Petition 5-90(2) from the Baffin Hunters and Trappers Association chairperson. He is representing the communities on Baffin Island and he is making a formal request. Thank you.

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

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of

documents. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

#### ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 23-90(2), a letter from the Hon. Dennis Patterson, Government Leader, and Mr. Paul Quassa, president of the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, to the Right Hon. Brian Mulroney, dated October 19, 1990, regarding constitutional development. This document is in English and in Inuktitut.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 24-90(2), Arctic College Annual Report 1989-90, in English and in Inuktitut. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 25-90(2), entitled Medical Travel Administrative Directive, Department of Health, in English and in Inuktitut.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 26-90(2), Northwest Territories Power Corporation Annual Report for this year ended March 31, 1990. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Slave River.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 27-90(2), Workers' Compensation Board, Northwest Territories, Annual Report 1989.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 28-90(2), Duty Travel by the Executive from April 1, 1989, to February 1, 1990, plus an analysis of this duty travel.

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

#### ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

##### Notice Of Motion 7-90(2): Medical Services To The Metis People Of The NWT

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on Wednesday, October 24, 1990, I shall move the following motion: I move that the Minister of Health make renewed attempts at finding a solution and funds to provide medical services to the Metis people of the Northwest Territories on the same basis as that provided to status Dene and Inuit people under the Indian Health Policy.

---Applause

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

##### Notice Of Motion 8-90(2): Rankin Inlet Interagency Group

**MR. ERNERK:** Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 24, 1990, I plan to move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, that this Legislative Assembly requests the Minister of

Social Services to review the funding arrangements with the Aqsaraq Addictions Centre in Rankin Inlet to determine if the Department of Social Services can assist with the centre's economic shortfall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Notices of motion. Notices of motion.

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

Item 14, motions. Item 15, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

#### ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

##### First Reading Of Bill 14: Official Languages Act

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, be read for the first time.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 14 has had first reading.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 8; Tabled Document 6-90(2); and Tabled Document 5-90(2). The Chair has a difficulty in that no chairpersons are in the House at the moment. Could I ask your support in appointing another Member to take the chair.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Pudluk is 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. Bill 8 was deferred and we have Tabled Documents 6-90(2) and 5-90(2). What does the committee wish to deal with? Does the committee agree to deal with Tabled Document 5-90(2), Report of the 1989-90 Electoral District Boundaries Commission, Northwest Territories?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** We will take a 15 minute break before we deal with the report.

---SHORT RECESS

##### Tabled Document 5-90(2), Report Of 1989-90 Electoral District Boundaries Commission, Northwest Territories

We are dealing with the Tabled Document 5-90(2), Report of the 1989-90 Electoral District Boundaries Commission, Northwest Territories. We will start with the general comments. Mr. McLaughlin.



**Point Of Order**

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A point of order. The Speaker, quite correctly, warned me when I was asking questions about the BC electoral boundaries court case, that I was coming very close to discussing electoral boundaries which was currently before the Electoral District Boundaries Commission, which is a semi-judicial body. I would like to make a point of order that our Rule 35(g) (i) and (ii) deals with matters sub judice, something that is pending before the courts, and I would suggest it is out of order and against not only Beauchesne in general, but against specific rules of our House which say that, "In debate a Member will be called to order by the Speaker if: (g) he refers to any matter (i) that is pending in a court or before a judge for judicial determination;". Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Ballantyne.

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you. In your deliberations, Mr. Chairman, I think it should be made very clear that this particular rule of sub judice does not apply to bills, on the ground that legislation is action designed to alter the circumstances on which a court must reach a decision. The right of parliament or legislature to legislate as and when it pleases must not be limited.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** I rule that you do not have a point of order. Under the point of order for Mr. McLaughlin, I will take it, it is not a point of order either. Mr. McLaughlin.

**Chairman's Ruling Challenged**

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Mr. Chairman, I hate to do this because this always seems to happen to you but I would like to challenge your ruling.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Right on.

---Laughter

I will report to the Speaker.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would like to call the House back to order. Report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

**MR. PUDLUK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a point of order, under Rule 35(g), my ruling was challenged. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would like to recess for 15 minutes to deal with this particular item and then we can come back to the House.

---SHORT RECESS

**Speaker's Ruling**

In reviewing the matter on the point of order which was subsequently challenged, I would like to provide my ruling. The point of order raised by the Member for Pine Point under Rule 35(g) deals with allowing debate on a matter that is before the court and therefore may imply the use of the sub judice convention.

I have reviewed the matter and I want to indicate that under Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, Sixth Edition citation, and I quote 510, "The Speaker has pointed out that the House has never allowed the sub judice convention to

stand in the way of its consideration of a matter vital to the public interest or to the effective operation of the House."

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** That is a ruling that has been taken from the debates of the House of Commons of March 22, 1983, page 24028. Now to move specifically to the matter that the honourable Member for Pine Point has raised, as to whether this is a matter that is pending in a court. Freedom of speech that is accorded to Members is a fundamental right and should not be deterred or interfered with except in exceptional cases.

Now the matter that is before the House deals with the report of the 1989-90 Electoral District Boundaries Commission. That matter is not a matter of debate in the courts nor is it a matter of the court case that is pending. The report is a separate question that is before this Legislative Assembly not the courts. If the question of any new legislation is also to be considered, it is the right of the Legislature to legislate, and must not be limited, and it is not the role of the courts to determine. Therefore I uphold the ruling of the chairman of the committee of the whole, the honourable Member for High Arctic.

---Applause

We will move back into committee of the whole with Mr. Pudluk in the chair.

**REVERT TO ITEM 17: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS****Tabled Document 5-90(2), Report Of 1989-90 Electoral District Boundaries Commission, Northwest Territories**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** The committee will come to order. We are dealing with Tabled Document 5-90(2), Report of the 1989-90 Electoral District Boundaries Commission, Northwest Territories. General comments. Mr. Whitford.

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess someone has to take the first kick at the cat on this issue. The Electoral District Boundaries Commission Report was tabled last fall. First of all I want to offer my congratulations to the committee that took the time to travel around the NWT to listen to all of the people that had submissions, the Hon. Justice Tallis and Mr. Richard Hardy and Ms. Rosemarie Kuptana. I think they did a commendable job, they had a difficult task to perform. The electoral boundaries issue is not one that is very clear, very smooth, it can reach some very emotional points in people. They managed to get to almost all the places they had scheduled to go. They listened to the input from people, both written and oral. Then they weighed all these factors. They also took into consideration the often quoted, but sometimes not totally understood, BC case, and they came up with a decision.

I have to say offhand, as much as I congratulate them, I am not totally happy with the outcome of the report as it deals with Yellowknife. I represent a substantial part of the territorial population, the estimates vary anywhere between 8000 and 9000, it depends on who you talk to and when. The census last year of the city of Yellowknife showed there were some 13,500 people. Well over 8500 of them live in the constituency called Yellowknife South. So when I presented my points of view to the Commissioner, I spoke for those people, I spoke for the city of Yellowknife totally. When I asked the commission to consider representation by population for this large number of people, it was not something I did off the cuff. I had done a lot of research into it, I had read reports back in the 1980s when the Members



before me, Mrs. Sorensen and Mr. Richard, had spoken on the issue. Mrs. Sorensen spoke to the last Electoral District Boundaries Commission. At the time they pointed out, in their opinion and in many opinions, these constituents were underrepresented.

#### **Effect Of Imbalance In Representation**

What I had to take into consideration was not so much the fact that we were here or that we had a large urbanized population and that all the conveniences were here and we simply walk across the street to have access to Ministers and to all government services. I think the point I wanted to make, the main issue that concerned people and concerned my predecessors and concerned me as well, was the job that we are required to do for our constituents when we are in the House. Now I think that point was missed by many of my colleagues when I lobbied this issue with them, as others have I am sure, that there is a certain amount of value or weight that you have when you raise your hand here on the floor. In committee when you raise your hand to say yes or no to something, invisibly behind you stand your constituents, each and every one of them, and they speak through you. So when you have 8500 standing behind one Member and on the other side of the floor there are Members representing constituencies with less people, and they have a right to be there of course, but when they raise their hand, they can, in fact, cancel out whatever I would say on behalf of my constituents.

I made every effort to point out to the commission, when I spoke to them both times, that yes, we do have access to government here, we do have all these things that people say we have. I also made great effort to point out that I knew why we have smaller constituencies. I have been fortunate, Mr. Chairman, to travel to every place in the Territories except nine settlements. I know the difficulties in travelling, I know the difficulties in communications and the differences in the people that populate the many parts of the Territories. I took that into consideration and I said that, yes, I know why previous boundaries commissions allowed a riding to be established, based on a particular set of circumstances at that time. I have been fortunate in having gone to Sanikiluaq at least four times in five years, and I know the remoteness of it. I made specific reference to that and said that on the one hand I disagreed that a population of 450 people should be equally represented in the House as would 9000 under one vote. However, I said that it was because of those special circumstances that the constituency existed. I was not wanting any changes there.

What I had proposed was that Yellowknife, because of its population, be represented by five representatives. One constituency was already to be discontinued, as Pine Point was being closed down and that could be moved over, simply move the 25th seat into Yellowknife to balance that discrepancy. I had gone so far as to show them where this could be done and how it could be done physically on maps but, again, I tried my best to point out to them that I was asking for a fair distribution of votes by population. They asked questions saying, "Why do you think that, with a population of 15,000 Yellowknife will continue to grow?" If you look at the statistics it shows that the population is moving here from other constituencies, and other places because of educational and employment opportunities and those people require representation the same as anyone else does.

#### **Commission Recommendation Marginally Acceptable**

Mr. Chairman, after the commission went back and talked to everyone else and mulled it over, the recommendation was four. While I am not convinced, in total, that we are going to be that hard done by if we get four, I still think that we had

made a case for five and if we left all things equal, if we left all things the way they were, based strictly on population, that five would be fair. I realize, of course, that they weighed the factors that they picked up from the other submissions, that they had considered carefully that BC decision and how it would affect the issue, and it came up with four. It is totally unacceptable to many of my constituents and I have spoken to many. It comes down to a point where we will continue to put forward our case but it is not something that we cannot live with. A good number of people have said to me, "This is fine for the time being and we should take that and run."

I know that many efforts have been made in the past to get additional seats for Yellowknife, unsuccessfully, and I do not wish to see this as the case now. I have a lot of respect for commissions and for boards that we select. I am sometimes pretty disappointed when there is an issue to be researched before a decision is made and we appoint a board and people are happy because we appoint that board, but then they make their report the ink is not dry before someone is saying that this is wrong and that they were wrong. I do not want to say that about this commission. I think they have spent a lot of time and agonized over their findings but I do want to say, before I leave the microphone here, that I hope the other Members will look at the position that we are in when it comes to this main principle that I alluded to earlier on, that the equality of the right to represent people is not being denied the smaller constituencies, because they have a Member in here and there are many, many constituencies that are far, far below what I represent at the moment and yet on the floor of the House, when it comes to a vote, their vote equals mine and can cancel out mine. Yet when it comes to the number of people represented by that vote there is such a discrepancy, so I am asking them to consider that and not lose sight of that, as I have not lost sight of their special needs and considerations. I do not think that it will serve as an unfairness if the city receives additional seats, additional considerations, based on that fundamental principle.

I do not want to go on any longer, Mr. Chairman, because I may venture into the area that is in dispute right now, which is the matter of the court challenge. I probably will conclude by saying that I am prepared, when I have to consider that I will be part of this Legislative Assembly for the next year and that I must continue to work with my colleagues, to accept this report but perhaps with some minor amendments as a starting point for the next boundaries commission. Should this House last four or five more years as it exists, I will say that I will accept the recommendations of this report with minor amendments to accommodate subsequent discussions and points that the commission may not have touched on.

As I started to say in my final argument here, I think we select people to sit on boards and commissions to look at subjects that are delicate in nature, controversial, and then when they do make their findings we are still not happy. I find it hard to accept that. I think in many cases we pick good people to do that kind of work and we trust their judgement. We may not be happy but the point is, we do pick them. We said who they were going to be and what they were going to do and what we wanted them to do, and if they do that, if they go and listen to people as we asked them and they weigh all those factors and they come before us with this report -- I know we have a right to challenge it, it is only recommendations -- but I think we gave them that mandate and they have gone ahead and done it. The majority of people I represent say that is fine, we can get by with the recommendations in this boundary report, although there are still some that are not happy. As I said earlier on, I had petitioned for five, I will continue to work toward that objective within this Legislative Assembly, within the mandate that I have.



So Mr. Chairman, I will conclude with that and thank you for the opportunity for allowing me to have the first words on this subject.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** General comments. Mr. McLaughlin.

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Generally speaking, in the past, like most of the Members of the Assembly, I have been agreeable to the fact that some Members, like yourself Mr. Chairman, have a vast area to represent, two, three, four communities and you had a difficult job before you. I have basically supported the status quo that for people who have difficulty getting around their ridings, it was alright if they had smaller populations, in some cases very significantly smaller populations.

I believe that four times while I have been a Member there have been motions in this House to give Yellowknife an additional seat. I believe three of those motions occurred during the Electoral District Boundaries Commission Report which established the boundaries for the 1983 election. I supported the chairman of that commission's minority report which recommended that the 25th seat be brought into play and be moved into Yellowknife, at that time.

Later there was another motion by Mr. Richard, the previous speaker's predecessor in the House, recommending a fourth seat for Yellowknife. At that time I opposed it and in my explanation for opposing it, I did bring up such items as that eight Ministers live in Yellowknife and are available to Yellowknife groups; that by changing the balance in the House from 13 Members below the tree line and 11 Members above the tree line, that if we brought a 25th seat into play, things were so sensitive at that time on east/west divisions and the possibility of Nunavut, it would cause great difficulty and I voted against Mr. Richard's motion at that time for those main reasons, and also for the fact that I believe the Canadian system allows for fairly significant differences in population amongst ridings because of travel, remoteness and ethnic and cultural reasons.

#### Balance Between Eastern And Western Members

When I appeared before this current Electoral District Boundaries Commission, I brought up the point that obviously I was in favour of the commission being called. I believe I seconded or made the motion to establish the commission since it was obvious that the Pine Point constituency had terminated, because by the time the next election came it would have dropped from 1600 down to virtually no people, which is the present case. I suggested that the simplest thing to do would be to move the Pine Point seat to Yellowknife to establish four seats here.

As well I broached the topic of the 25th seat and I said that when they were looking at changing things -- because I had heard in the Eastern Arctic there had been a request for a shuffling around of seats over there by some people -- I gave them the advice that if they looked at using the 25th seat to ameliorate the problems in the East by giving Keewatin an extra seat to bring it closer to proportion with the Baffin, then it would be very difficult to do that. It would put the balance at 13 to 12 and the population of the average seat in the West is already significantly bigger than it is in the East and that would make it even worse. I also suggested that if they took the 25th seat and put it into Yellowknife, which is one way they could solve the request for some people for five seats in Yellowknife, that would then turn the east/west balance into a 14 to 11 situation and that would have political consequences. Due to the fact that we have a fairly fragile relationship between the eastern and western Members, trying to hold this territory together as one and to work efficiently for all residents

until we actually see the day when division of the NWT occurs, I basically cautioned them about taking that step at this time.

#### Allowable Variance In Distribution Of Seats

I cursorily read over the Electoral District Boundaries Commission Report, and I saw the BC court case and its possible applicability in the NWT, but I had not really read it thoroughly. After talking to people who had requested copies of it, I took the report and I spent about two or three hours reading it and making notes. When I did that I came to the conclusion that the judge in BC had made a very good case, that representation by population was and should be the primary factor in determining electoral boundaries. In our legislation which governs Electoral District Boundaries Commissions up here, I cannot remember the exact wording but we can probably get into it later, but the very instructions that we give the Electoral District Boundaries Commissions fails, and I want to say this because I want to make it very clear that I believe the three people on the commission, acting within our existing legislation, did an excellent job. They followed the instructions set out in the legislation and reported adequately and took things fairly into consideration. However, I do not think the resultant recommendations, which basically are going to establish four seats of approximately 3200 or 3400 people in Yellowknife, leaving Hay River with a riding of slightly over 3000 people and Iqaluit with a population of slightly over 3000 people, meet the representation by population criterion. In the federal system, once it has been established that there are so many seats for each province -- for example PEI gets four and the Territories gets two, Ontario gets 95 I think -- once that has been determined, the rules that govern the distribution of those seats within each province basically have to follow a 25 per cent variance. The 25 per cent variance is very generous and, in fact, in the honourable Justice's ruling in BC, using 25 per cent was her extreme case scenario. She cited other places such as Australia where there was a 10 per cent variance allowed and the United States where very careful, almost perfect, representation by population is in effect, and in fact she cited a case where the variance was less than one per cent and still the court ruled that redistribution had to occur.

This 25 per cent variance which has been outlined and is used in the federal legislation, I think now, because of that landmark ruling in this area, establishes that there can be a variance which almost gives the smaller communities a two to one difference. In other words, one vote in a small community can cancel out almost two votes in a large community in the federal system.

What we have here is a situation where the Electoral District Boundaries Commission Report has recommended that about five anyway, six I guess, ridings will be established or remain as they are, having in excess of 3000 people each in them and they will be five times bigger than some of the other existing ridings. I do not think that that meets the test. As I said before, before I read the ruling thoroughly and before I understood it, I was basically under the impression that we could do these extremes to make up for things, but as the judge in the BC case said, lakes and trees do not vote, people do. She made a very good case for representation by population.

I will be interested when we get down to specific areas in the report of having this debate revolve around some of the motions...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Excuse me, Mr. McLaughlin. Your 10 minutes are up.

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Right on, Mr. Chairman.



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

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Mr. Chairman, I was just concluding right then. Thank you very much.

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

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I am going to just talk generally right now. I am sure we are going to get into specifics later. First of all, this "representation by population" is a much maligned phrase. I know that my colleague from Yellowknife Centre is probably in a better position to give you the historical precedent of where that phrase came from. He was a teacher in the Old Country and probably knows a bit more about it than I do. I was only a student at the time.

The whole cry of "representation by population" sprang up in the 1800s in Great Britain, not for the purpose of having constituencies where the population was evenly balanced; it came about because you had in the countryside what was called "rotten boroughs" represented by one individual and in the newly established industrial cities like Manchester and Birmingham, where there were literally hundreds of thousands of people, no representation whatsoever because of the qualifications that were put on who was eligible to vote. The cry of "representation by population" stemmed from that inequity, not from having a constituency with 3300 down to one with 1700 people, where there was a six or seven hundred difference. That was where representation by population came from, I believe.

#### Report Of Electoral District Boundaries Commission Reasoned And Balanced

I think that when you read the report and the reasons under appendix four given by Justice Tallis and the commission, they have obviously thought about the whole question of the balancing of many of the different interests in the North, including that of population. I find in the report a very reasoned and balanced report given by one of the better legal minds in this country. I would not put too much stock into one court case in British Columbia that may or may not stand up, or in fact may or may not even apply to the Northwest Territories. It is not a case where what is good for BC is good for us. That does not apply in this. I think in the North there are many other factors that have to be taken into account, and the commission, under appendix four, has reasoned them out in a very balanced manner.

I think probably for once I have to acknowledge one of the better comments I heard on this whole issue by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, who essentially said that living in the North is all a balance -- balancing certain interests off against each other. The North is a developing jurisdiction with many different groups, many different ethnic groups, many different ways of living, many different types of regions. Perhaps one of the reasons that to a certain extent we are a model for the rest of the country on just attempting to harmonize the needs of the diverse types of residents in the North is because we are willing to accept that sometimes you have to be a little unequal to be equal. That is something that in the North we struggle with, but we sort of muddle through and manage to make these kinds of decisions with that in mind.

I think it also kicks in in terms of the deviations, not just in our own boundaries, but the 25 per cent figure is used in some provinces; but it is not a law, it is not a policy, it is not a regulation, it is not even a charter -- some areas of the country have decided that they want to allow it -- but there are bigger and other greater deviations, one of which we benefit from as

a jurisdiction. As the Northwest Territories with just over 52,000 people, we have two Members of Parliament, roughly 26,000 constituents apiece. If the law of 25 per cent deviation were applied even in federal legislation, we would lose out. If you look at Ontario with almost 10 million voters, and I believe it is around 95 Members of Parliament, it would mean that -- if there were to be allocation of seats on roughly 25,000 to 30,000 population -- Ontario alone would have 400 Members of Parliament in the House of Commons. Obviously a major exemption has been made for the NWT because of our size and our geographical diversity and our unique circumstances. The fact is that we have, between ourselves and the Yukon, three MPs for 70,000 people, whereas in Ontario they have only one MP for roughly every 105,000 people. Obviously it has been recognized in other areas that these types of deviations are legitimate at certain times. I think that we have to take that into account as well.

Other than saying that, for the time-being, Mr. Chairman, I think that when you read the report, with a couple of exceptions where there may be minor alterations, Justice Tallis and the other two members of the committee have done a relatively good job in trying to reconcile all of the very different interests that exist in the North, and it is a reasoned judgment. I think that in the long run the report will stand up to scrutiny, including legal scrutiny. I think that, yes, there are times when we do not like things, but always we have to remember that in the North we balance things off. It is an accommodation and that is how we get along with each other up here and that is how we have learned to live with each other. This is just another example of accommodating the many different interests in the North. Thank you.

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few general comments. Mr. Chairman, first of all I think I would like to give a vote of thanks to the members of the Electoral District Boundaries Commission. I think we were particularly fortunate that we were able to attract Mr. Justice Tallis from the Supreme Court of Appeal of Saskatchewan because, of course, he had served on the previous Electoral District Boundaries Commission and, as well, had travelled widely in the Northwest Territories as a Supreme Court judge.

Also, I think in light of the importance that has been attached by some to the Dixon case, I think that the fact that this report is authored by as eminent a judge as Justice Tallis, as well as having as one of the commission's members, a long-standing practising lawyer in the Northwest Territories of aboriginal ancestry, will give it credibility for those reasons.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is a tough job being on the Electoral District Boundaries Commission. Some would say it is a no-win job and I think we should start off by acknowledging Justice Tallis, Mr. Richard Hardy and Rosemarie Kuptana for the difficult job they did in a tight time frame. I think they went to every community that they were asked to go to with one exception, which was unfortunately prevented by weather. Having appeared before them in Iqaluit I was impressed that it was a very rigorous, arduous, schedule and that they worked hard.

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make a few general comments about the report. When the committee appeared before citizens of Iqaluit I stressed that it was important, in my view, that they retain the principle of balance in the Legislative Assembly between East and West. I am delighted to see that the recommendations, which I generally support, preserve that principle of balance. I argued that we have a delicate balance in the Northwest Territories at the moment and that if it were to be tampered with at this particular state of our political



development, and at this particular state of the resolution of important issues like aboriginal land rights, that could cause political instability and uncertainty; so I am pleased that that balance between East and West has been preserved by the recommendations of the Electoral District Boundaries Commission and I would urge Members to bear that in mind.

### Concept Of Representation By Population

Mr. Chairman, with reference to the urban-rural split and the concept of representation by population which has been brought into issue by certain Members, I would just like to make a few comments. Mr. Chairman, I am from a riding that, I suppose, could complain about under-representation. I represent 3000 people and I have discovered, to my surprise, that Iqaluit is the second largest community in the Northwest Territories. It is bigger than any other municipality after Yellowknife and I suppose I could be joining the few voices that I have heard saying Iqaluit should have two seats.

Mr. Chairman, I want to assure you, and perhaps there are some in Iqaluit that would urge me to do that, I have never suggested that and I would not suggest that. I think I am very fortunate to represent a riding that has excellent transportation facilities, pretty well daily jet service north/south, and a number of flights to chose from east/west. We have communication advantages. We have infrastructure in my community that makes it a much easier place in which to do one's job than the other communities on Baffin Island. Although there have been some, Mr. Chairman, who have said that the so-called urban or tax-based municipalities are under-represented in our Legislature and by these Electoral District Boundary Commission recommendations, I want to say that I disassociate myself from that school because I think there are substantial barriers in the Northwest Territories posed by geography, posed by climate, and posed by communications; and there are other barriers to do with language and culture that make it very difficult for smaller communities to have access to the places where decisions are made.

I do not want to talk about, particularly, the number of seats in Yellowknife but I want to say that as one representative of a so-called urban riding, although I really do not consider Iqaluit to be a particularly urban place, but as one representative of a tax-based and populous riding, in fact the second most populous community in the Northwest Territories, I would not press the concept of representation by population to the exclusion of others. I endorse the comments of Mr. Wray and others in that vein, that we have a delicate balance in the Northwest Territories and that it is not mere numbers alone that have to be weighed.

I want to just generally say, Mr. Chairman, that I endorse the recommendations of the commission as a whole. I think we have to look at them as a whole. I think if we start taking bits and pieces and trying to amend, substantially, certain parts of the recommendations, then the whole thing is going to fall apart. There are several places in the Electoral District Boundaries Commission, Mr. Chairman, where Mr. Justice Tallis made clear reference to the jurisprudence of the day, and I think he was bearing in mind the Dixon case. I know there was a discussion about the implications of the Dixon case at the hearing in Iqaluit. I think that we can be quite confident that that learned judge had in mind the Dixon case and any other current jurisprudence when he made his recommendations. I think we should take comfort from that fact, Mr. Chairman, and acknowledge that adjustments were made in the report which reflect the current jurisprudence.

I think he spelled it out specifically with reference to the seat in Sanikiluaq, Mr. Chairman, that perhaps because of these cases, maintaining one seat in such a small riding would no

longer be defensible. I have told Mr. Crow, and I sympathize with the concern of his constituents that they would lose their seat, but I think the biggest obstacle to his constituents about retaining that seat would be that recent case that we are going to be talking about when we consider this report. I think that Justice Tallis recognized that when he decided that an additional seat for Yellowknife was justified and that there would have to be other difficult decisions made, particularly with reference to our smallest seat because of this jurisprudence. I think there was also weight given to the other important factors of distance, geographical remoteness, communities of interest and the like, and that the end result is a beautiful compromise. It is a compromise in that not everybody is happy...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Excuse me, Mr. Patterson, your 10 minutes are up. Does this committee agree that we continue?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Proceed, Mr. Patterson.

### Tax-Based Municipalities Have Not Suffered

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Chairman, I do not want to take up a lot more time but I will just say, in conclusion, that not everyone will be happy with this recommendation, and I know that Mr. Whitford is going to have to deal with some constituents who will feel that they are entitled to more. I will have to deal with some constituents who will feel that Iqaluit should have two seats. But I think we all have to step back a little bit and look at the delicate balance in the Territories, look at the fact that so far we have managed to make things work so that no one could say that the tax-based municipalities have been badly treated by this Legislature. I include the capital city, Mr. Chairman.

I have heard some extreme remarks about the capital city having suffered from a lack of representation in the Legislature and I, quite frankly, think that anybody who lives here, and I think there are about seven or eight Ministers who live here full-time by the way, would say that this is a city with many fine amenities. There is never enough and things could always go further, but I think it would be absurd, if not unfair, to say that the capital city, or my riding, or any other of the urban ridings, has suffered because our population has not been represented perfectly and proportionately in this Legislature.

I do not think that has been the case and neither do I think there has been an imbalance toward the rural ridings. I think, by and large, we have managed to, in the composition of this Legislature, have more or less a balance between East and West, between rural and urban, between tax-based and non-tax-based, that has more or less worked.

So I do not think it should be tampered with radically. I think the boundary commission has heard from everybody and considered all of the arguments. It did not make radical adjustments to that delicate balance and I would suggest that, although there may be changes proposed here in minor ways, which I am open to, especially if they result from agreements from MLAs in certain areas, I do not think we should tamper with the general balanced character of this report. I think it is a good report, done by the best people we could possibly get and that we should respect their recommendations in the spirit of compromise and balance that has characterized the recent history of this Legislature. Thank you.

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



### Baffin South And Hudson Bay Should Be One Constituency

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Just before we start reviewing the report I would like to make a few comments and it will be a brief comment. Mr. Chairperson, we understand what has been said and we understand that the population has to be represented properly. We understand that but, for instance, I wanted to make a few comments that when you are a unilingual person and when you are an aboriginal person on top of that it is harder for the Members of the Assembly to represent only -- I represent a few communities, 1300 people to be exact, and if Sanikiluaq is included with my constituency there would be a total of 1800 that I would have to represent. When you are representing a small population it becomes harder for the Member to represent them properly just looking at it population wise. Even when it comes down to voting it becomes harder to have more impact on the votes.

I feel that Baffin South and Hudson Bay should be together as one constituency. That would be my recommendation. I understand that even if that is so it would be harder to represent those communities. These days you can go across Canada in one day and looking at that it could be easy to represent so many communities. The only problem is the weather. It stops us in travelling to these communities and Mother Nature is usually the cause of not visiting our communities. That is the only deterrent from representing our people properly.

If I am re-elected I would have to represent the communities of Sanikiluaq, Lake Harbour and Cape Dorset. I wanted to make a few comments to the Legislative Assembly on my views. I have heard some people opposing this recommendation and I, myself, talked with my people on this recommendation and I have heard from two people that they are opposing this recommendation but because there are only two people I cannot say that everybody in my communities is opposing this recommendation. I would accept the recommendation by the commission and my advice is that I would prefer the central and the southern Baffin to be put into one constituency and I am also referring to the community of Sanikiluaq.

I am not putting down the people of Sanikiluaq and I am not saying there are not enough people in Sanikiluaq but it is because they are too far away from each other and it would be hard for the people living in those communities to know who to vote for because they would not know those individuals who are candidates. This is what I wanted to say. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Thank you. General comments. Member for High Arctic.

### Unhappy With Changes To High Arctic Constituency

**MR. PUDLUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. We all know that we cannot agree on one thing alone. Looking at the recommendations by the commission I do not agree with all of the recommendations put forth by the commission. I am only concentrating on my constituency but it does not really matter in regard to other parts of the NWT. The recommendation to change High Arctic area, I do not agree with that. One area of concern that I would like to voice is that the transportation in High Arctic is getting worse, not better. Those communities in High Arctic -- there are no highways in those communities. The only means of transportation is by air.

Looking at the recommendation to change High Arctic constituency, it would be less to represent High Arctic because

they have made an addition of one community. They are proposing to change the constituency. Looking at it populationwise, I do not agree with that. Recommendations to High Arctic constituency, paragraph five in the recommendations, the population should be 1998; it states there are 52 people in Grise Fiord but there are actually over 100 people now. In Resolute Bay there are more people now than were there when this was outlined. It states the population of Resolute Bay as 164 but now they have 174 people. Beside the airport there are 75 people in addition to the 174 people, and LCI, Little Cornwallis Island, is not included in here. In the community of LCI the population is 275. Those are not included here in the recommendations. The communities that are not included are Eureka, North Bay and Alert. When it is time for an election those communities are usually included; they vote during election time. If the community of Pond Inlet is included with High Arctic, and if Alert and the other communities that I mentioned are included, along with Pond Inlet, it goes up to 2000 people that I would have to represent.

The other recommendations I agree with. But I am most concerned about High Arctic constituency because they did not consider those small communities that I mentioned. I support the fourth recommendation to get another Member for Yellowknife South. The 25th Member that is recommended, if that is the recommendation I will not support that. I will stop for now. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Mahsi cho. General comments. Member for Tu Nede.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to inform some of the Yellowknife Members, there have been 37 children born in Fort Res and Snowdrift during this past six months...

---Laughter

...and we would like to relieve you of some of your civil servants as well, to the communities. We will take any department you will give us.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Workers' Compensation Board.

**MR. MORIN:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to express the views that have been brought to my attention by my constituents in Tu Nede. The residents have expressed concern and opposition to increasing the number of Members that would be elected to represent Yellowknife. They are concerned about the power that they feel exists in the city of Yellowknife. They feel that the only power that they have which allows the community to affect government policy is the present number of seats that represent rural or aboriginal communities.

I want to say when the people of Tu Nede talk about power they view that in many ways: they first look to see who is developing and implementing public policy; they look at the economic status of the community; they look to see whether they are receiving equal treatment in programs and services; they look to see if the public service is responding to their concerns and needs; they look to see who is working in the public service and whether aboriginal people have been recruited or have a significant influence in the public service. Mr. Chairman, when they review these factors they do not feel that they are being treated equally; they do not feel that they are receiving the same results from government; they cannot say with great confidence that they are making any major strides in these areas.

Many will say that private enterprise is a big part of economic growth. However, any person knows that there has to be some factor that drives that need for business development. If one looks at the historical experiences, government, both



federal and territorial, have been a significant driving force for the establishment of business to respond to the needs of residents of Yellowknife. Mr. Chairman, we envy the economic situation that the city of Yellowknife finds itself in. We cannot talk about paving as Mayor Pat McMahon can when our roads do not even meet minimum standards. We cannot talk about private enterprise or the benefits of government like Mr. Walker when 50 per cent of my constituents are unemployed, not because of lack of trying to find employment. We cannot talk about improving existing sewer and water systems when we still have honey buckets. We cannot talk about market conditions for real estate when we still require basic housing.

We know in the communities that we may not reach the same level of economic growth, but we are striving to make our communities as self-sufficient as possible. Maybe it is time for the other communities to receive the advantages for growth and establishment of more government in smaller communities. I know we welcome Renewable Resources moving to Fort Resolution. Maybe move Transportation to Hay River or Fort Providence; they are on the highway system. Maybe that is one way of evening out the numbers, since it seems to be a numbers game that is in question here.

Mr. Chairman, it is very important that Members here recognize the problems that we in Tu Nede are encountering. They must begin to appreciate and help the people of Tu Nede and others throughout the NWT. You who live in our capital city represent all people. You have to take on some responsibility as a capital city to represent our concerns. You have in your midst our government; you have in your midst our public service; you have gained more from our public service in terms of expenditures and economic activity and community stability.

#### Lack Of Support From Yellowknife Residents

But what the people of Tu Nede have seen over the past few years is a lack of support from residents of Yellowknife on many issues. If anything, all we see is opposition to our concerns. For example, the FOL station in Yellowknife -- that was just proven the other day in the House -- Yellowknife gains. The contractor here gets a four million dollar contract, but yet we all know we cannot believe what the military is saying, and sure enough there are going to be low-level flights coming out of the Yellowknife air base, you watch. And who is going to suffer from it? Snowdrift residents. It is going to be the caribou in our area that are going to change their migration. It is we that are going to suffer, but Yellowknife gains.

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

**MR. MORIN:** Maybe not all the blame has to be placed on Yellowknife, but like Ottawa we look to the capital city for support and help. We view the public service as government and the majority of our public servants are residents of Yellowknife.

Mr. Chairman, I have thought long and hard about the issues and especially the recommendation of increasing the number of seats in Yellowknife. I have weighed the concerns of my constituents with those suggestions and views expressed by my Dene and Metis colleagues. I have considered the court judgments that have been made on this issue, and I believe that Justice Tallis, Richard Hardy and Rosemarie Kuptana took those factors into consideration. I believe that the requests by Dettah and Lot 500 and Ingraham Trail must be supported and they should be included in a Yellowknife constituency.

However, I caution that we should never get into the same situation that exists in our sister territory, the Yukon, where one community can have so many Members that they control

the political agenda for the whole territory. There should always be a balance between urban and rural influence, regional participation and aboriginal and non-aboriginal roles. This has worked well for all, including Yellowknife. I ask members of the public to view these factors as much as they favour the basic argument on total representation by population.

There are, however, underlying principles that have, in fact, been established through forums set up specifically to guide constitutional development, that have been developed through consensus, and they are crucial to achieving good government in the North.

An important principle that was established originally by the Constitutional Alliance of the NWT related to the assurance that a mechanism should be entrenched to enable each aboriginal community to flourish as a distinct cultural entity regardless of its proportion of total population, and to protect the individual rights of all its citizens, and the collective rights of its aboriginal peoples. These principles have been sanctioned again and again, not only by this House, but by this very government.

A year ago this month the government tabled a report entitled "Seize The Day", which described the development of northern government as a negotiation of social contracts between native and non-native peoples, between East and West, even between native peoples themselves.

Can I have permission to continue? Do I ask for that now?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Your time is almost up. Does the committee agree that we let the Member for Tu Nede continue to finish off his general comments?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Thank you. Continue, Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Clearly any discussions and decisions we take now affecting the North must be consistent with the major principles and agreements that we have made already. The establishment or realignment of electoral boundaries is a decision that does have major implications for the objectives that we have set for ourselves to recognize the rights of aboriginal self-government -- the objectives of maintaining distinct cultural communities and the desire to maintain the balanced representation between the East and the West.

One of the long-term representation implications that we must consider now relates to the possibility of developing a party system in the NWT. This government itself has acknowledged that the development of a party system is out of their control and that it could simply develop through individual candidates running for seats on a party platform. If we increase the seats for Yellowknife and other major centres too much it could be that in the future a party system could develop, and in that case you would have basically Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik and Iqaluit...

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Not Iqaluit.

**MR. MORIN:** ...running the North because they would have the numbers. I know those are good people over there. I am not saying that all people in Yellowknife are bad, either; there are some good people here. Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, this is a danger that we could face, and it is in no way right. The Dene/Metis people have said that they would participate in the public government system, and they do participate in the



public government system now, but if you increase the seats to where the Dene/Metis become a small minority in the western part of this House, then I think they would be revisiting their participation in the public government system. With that, and in closing, I would like to caution Members that we as aboriginal peoples in the West would like to continue to participate in the public government system, but remember that there is a balance, not only in numbers, but it is a cultural balance, a regional balance. At the right time, Mr. Chairman, I will be moving an amendment to the report so that Tu Nede is spelled correctly and also there will be some realignment of Tu Nede's boundaries. Mahsi cho.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Thank you. General comments. The Member for Natilikmiot.

**MR. NINGARK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, in my Natilikmiot region my constituency will not change. Looking at Yellowknife, the Members of the Yellowknife constituency have close government here and if they want to talk to them they do not have to talk to them over a long distance. If we want to see our government we have to go by airline and it costs, and we have to call them long distance. Various employees of the government have their offices right in Yellowknife but the people that come from far away have to call them by long distance or come to Yellowknife by air.

There is also an education system that is quite well in place in Yellowknife and they are also very close to health services, and they also have ambulance services and other good services here in Yellowknife as compared to our communities. For instance, all the services we request or want are not quite in place in our communities and it is a lot harder life for us in the northern part of the Territories. With regard to services and employment, they are a lot slower over there as well. We live a harder life even though our population is not as great as Yellowknife's and we are quite behind in regard to housing, education and health services and the government does not have very many employees in the communities.

I have no problem with the electoral district boundary of my constituency and I will be in support of my other aboriginal Members when it comes time to vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Thank you. General comments. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I should come in now so that we can get our regional viewpoints on the record. I had not intended to speak in this debate because, as you all know, my constituency is extremely average sizewise, and so am I.

---Laughter

In fact, if you divided the population of the NWT by 24 I think you would get my constituency almost precisely. But I do want to comment on the key word in this entire debate, which is "balance". It is a very delicate thing in the NWT, as many have said before me, and I certainly can sympathize with the Member for Yellowknife South and the Member for Iqaluit. The honourable Member for Iqaluit mentioned that when he goes home he no doubt will have to deal with some, emphasis on the some, constituents that will not be happy with this and that the Yellowknife Members will probably also have to deal with some constituents who are not happy with this balance that we achieve.

I just want to point out that when I go home to my region I do not have to deal with some, I have to deal with all my constituents when they talk about equality. They say to me, "How come we do not have a hospital, we do not have a high

school, we do not have any dentists, we do not have lawyers, we do not even have legal services, we have no highways, we have no employment services, paved airstrips, paved roads, docks, we have no banks, we have no adequate housing, we do not have any jobs?" So from someone who does not have these things we certainly can sympathize with those Members who have to go back and satisfy a few Members because they feel they do not have a sufficient number of seats in the Legislature. If that was our only problem!

We also have to realize that populations are mobile things. They move. When I first came to the North, certainly Iqaluit was not the largest community in Baffin then, and the honourable Member from there has now told us that it is the second largest community in the NWT. When I first came to Yellowknife there was a population of about 3000 people. The immense growth that has happened is a growth that has happened primarily because of the increase in the public service and that is a growth that this Legislature has allowed to happen in these various places. There have been calls for a greater equity in what we call decentralization. One positive point that this debate may have, and I agree with the honourable Member for Tu Nede, is that it may give a much better political will, a much stronger political will for the decentralization we talked about so many times in the past. There are two ways if it is found that we should have better equalization of population to numbers of constituents. You can move seats to people and you can also move people to seats, depending on the degree of compromise that people display in this House when we come to voting on this bill or this paper, and the desire to maintain the delicate balance that we have between rural and urban communities. I am sure that may have something to do with Members' desire to achieve equalization and better representation in other fields by other means than this report.

Mr. Chairman, when we do come to discussing the individual constituencies I will have a small amendment for my constituency and it would merely be to strike the word "west" from the constituency. We already eliminated Kitikmeot East and called it Natilikmiot. I think it is appropriate if we drop the "west" because there is no longer an east. Otherwise, I am quite prepared, in the spirit of compromise and of balance, to support the report as it is. I think, taking all of the factors into consideration, particularly the factor about balance, that it is a well thought-out, well put together report and its recommendations are worthy of support. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Thank you. General comments. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this debate and discussion about a fourth seat for Yellowknife has gone on for a number of years starting in 1983. At that time I was the mayor of Yellowknife and I made a submission, along with three Yellowknife MLAs, for a fourth seat for Yellowknife. For a number of reasons that was not successful. I also supported Mr. Richard's motion for a fourth seat for Yellowknife, that also was not successful. I appeared in front of the boundaries commission and again I supported a fourth seat for Yellowknife.

Many of the arguments that I have heard here today from Members from Yellowknife and from other communities, I tried to incorporate into my submission, and though population is a very important element as we define our constituency boundaries, in our evolving Northwest Territories it is obviously not the only consideration. In my submission to the boundaries commission I think I emphasized, as others here did time and time again, the importance of maintaining the fragile balance that we have been able to achieve in this Legislative Assembly. I have to say in my time in the Assembly, and prior to that in my time as mayor, I found that



although from time to time there are comments made about Yellowknife, I know that from time to time there are comments made in Yellowknife about the communities. I have to say that by and large in my experience it has been fair. I think the Members of the Legislative Assembly, as they have approved budgets, I think have been fair to Yellowknife. I would like to think that Members of the Legislative Assembly from Yellowknife, whether they are in the cabinet or not, have also tried to be fair to the other communities.

I, for one, see our role as Yellowknife MLAs is to bridge some of those differences between Yellowknife and the communities. I think by and large we have had a fair measure of success. I think what has happened in the Territories over the past few years and what has happened in Yellowknife are very strong evidence of the fact that the moderate, reasonable way has worked. It has worked for people in Yellowknife and it has worked for people in the regions. I, for one, think it is very important that we continue in that light of compromise and of a moderate approach to the whole area of constituent boundaries.

#### **Electoral District Boundaries Commission Given Difficult Task**

I think that when this Assembly gave to Justice Tallis and to Richard Hardy and to Rosemarie Kuptana the task of providing for us a blueprint, I think that we bestowed upon them our trust in their abilities and their credibility, in their wisdom. We gave them a very, very difficult task. They were very much aware of precedents in other legislatures and they were very aware of the Dixon case in BC. As they listened to submissions they took careful note of those realities. Justice Tallis is one of the most esteemed judges in Canada and I think it would be insulting of us to, in any way, imply that Justice Tallis did not take into consideration the importance of representation by population. Justice Tallis also took into consideration other important elements, elements of geography, regions and of an evolving Northwest Territories. I think that the commission, looking at all the factors, all the issues, came up with, I think, a fair and balanced approach.

I have read though many of the submissions and many people, myself included, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Whitford, many of the other MLAs made the point that it is very important that we keep this delicate balance; that we recognize the needs and the aspirations of small communities as well as being fair to the people of Yellowknife. I think one of the reasons that the commission, I am sure, did not put into play the 25th seat is for that reason. At this particular time in our evolutionary development there are many, many things that we have to agree upon ourselves. Mr. Morin brought up some of those. As we look over the next decade, as we move toward division of the NWT, we will be looking at new constitutional arrangements in the West. The delicate balance between the number of MLAs in the East and the West will be maintained by not putting the 25th seat into place. I think, of the seven submissions in Yellowknife concerning people's concepts of what Yellowknife should receive, is that everyone, including Mr. McLaughlin, anyone who appeared in front of that commission said that if the 25th seat comes into play then Yellowknife should get the extra seat. More than half of the submissions said if the 25th seat should not come into play, and this is what Mr. Lewis and I said, then Yellowknife should get one seat. So what has happened here essentially, is that the 25th seat has not come into play. There is only, essentially, one seat that is moving from Pine Point to Yellowknife, so I think it is fair, because of Yellowknife's larger population, that Yellowknife will get that seat. But there is still that flexibility in the future to ensure fair constitutional arrangements. I think that by accepting, with some minor amendments, the recommendations of the boundaries commission, I think we would have fulfilled our objectives as

legislators and I think that for the reasonable people in all our constituencies -- I am not talking about some people who will not be happy by any decision that any of us makes. I am sure there are people, as Mr. Morin said in his constituency, that will not be happy with Yellowknife getting a fourth seat, but there are also people in our constituencies that will not be happy with our not receiving two seats. But I think when all is said and done, if this Assembly adopts that recommendation of the commission, most people in the NWT will consider it a fair and reasonable compromise and feel that it is much more important than having a vicious battle over one or two seats. It is much more important that we get on with the business of development in the NWT, constitutional and political and economic, and that it is much more important to most people in the NWT that we are able to work co-operatively and well among ourselves. I think that the boundary commission's report will allow a spirit of co-operation to continue.

I, for one, have explained to my constituents, though a few of them have expressed some dissatisfaction with my stand, that I think it is a reasonable stand, a stand that will allow us to stay together and recognize Yellowknife's needs as well as the needs of regions and communities. I think it is a fair approach and one that we, as an Assembly, can build on. And in days and months and years to come I am sure that all of us will be making our vision of the NWT known and all of us will be expressing, here in this Assembly, where we think the Territories should go. There will be full opportunity for people of Yellowknife and for other communities to work together to develop the long-term constitutional framework for the NWT. So I tell people in Yellowknife there will be other forums, there will be other days, there will be other times, to debate these. In the spirit of fairness here in this House I am sure that those views of people in Yellowknife will be respected as we respect the views of people from other communities.

Mr. Chairman, with that I just want to say that, except for some minor amendments -- I would like at the appropriate time to bring forward a small amendment to my own constituency including Ingraham Trail and Dettah and Rainbow Valley -- that I will support the commission's report. I think the commission did an excellent job and I think that if we stay within the philosophy and the intent of the commission's report, I think we will have all performed our duties as legislators. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Thank you. Exactly 10 minutes. General comments. The Member for Amittuq.

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the people who did the study on the boundaries commission, the Hon. Justice Tallis, the chairman; Rosemarie Kuptana; and Richard Hardy. I would like to commend them for a job well done on the commission. (Translation ends)

...to do this task and was also able to meet with a number of NWT residents and the leaders to come up with this kind of report. I am sad to say that, for my constituents, the area that is outlined has broken up my constituency, and it is recommended that my particular community should go to the High Arctic. I do not agree with that, although I agree that we should have a seat for Igloodik and Hall Beach, and it is only right to have a separate seat to represent these two communities when you look at the population. We have been talking about population. The Member for Tu Nede mentioned it, Members from the Yellowknife district mentioned that the numbers are important.

When you look at the electoral boundaries in the Northwest Territories, there is no set magic number to have an MLA in



the NWT. The numbers range from 700 up to beyond 3000 in this report. If I were to go by numbers, in looking at some of the western communities, my constituency should have at least two Members. I will be opposing the report because of that reference to my constituency. I have no problem with any other changes proposed. I support the changes that were made, even though in one constituency we will be making a hard decision to move a constituency to another location. I know that because of the pressures from the Yellowknife region we cannot keep one community with a very small population to have a seat; or one of the constituencies that is represented by one of our MLAs with over 6000 people.

I have communicated the report to my constituents and they have come back to me with their concerns that the Pond Inlet area should have a constituency; also Igloolik and Hall Beach should have an MLA. The recommendation from my community of Pond Inlet suggests that we should have one constituency representing Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay and Nanisivik. That came to me today that it would make sense to have that constituency.

#### High Cost Of Travel In Eastern Arctic

Mr. Chairman, as it is now, if I were to travel from Yellowknife to visit my constituency in Pond Inlet, Hall Beach and Igloolik, I would pay up to or beyond \$20,000. I believe that that is too much. There is no regular air service between Pond Inlet and Igloolik and the only available aircraft in that area that could take me from Pond Inlet to Igloolik or Hall Beach is a Twin Otter, run by a company up there. One trip out of Pond Inlet to Igloolik is about \$10,000, and to take me back is roughly another \$10,000. It is quite difficult for me to represent those three particular communities. I would want to see my communities broken up into two regions, and that is the wish of my community of Pond Inlet. Also, if you are not going to change the constituency, I would put it on notice to the MLAs that constituencies' budgets should be increased for that area so that I could visit maybe at least four or five times a year, meaning that I would have to have at least \$60,000 to \$100,000 for travel money. This is what we are facing in the Nunavut territory because of the long distances between communities and also the availability of transportation.

(Translation) Mr. Chairman, it is obvious to the people from the Western Arctic when you are in this area, you are aware that it is very far to go to the Eastern Arctic. This is the headquarters for the government, and it is not easy access for the people in the Eastern Arctic and it is very expensive to go to the Eastern Arctic by airlines.

Since I have been in my office here, I have only been visited once by one of my constituents from my area. I have had quite a lot of visits from the western people because it is much closer, but for my constituents in the Eastern Arctic I have only been visited by one person since I have been elected. I think that if we are going to get our Nunavut and divide the territories into two, maybe things will be a lot easier. I am not supporting this report that Pond Inlet should be in the riding of High Arctic although I would support that Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay and Nanisivik should be one constituency. Also, Hall Beach and Igloolik should be another riding.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe):** Member for Aivilik.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, concerning the Electoral District Boundary Commission in the NWT that we appointed to do this study -- Richard Hardy and Rosemarie Kuptana were able to travel to different communities and people could give their reports and concerns to them, and they were open to receiving any letters of concern. They came back to Rankin Inlet once more, and I

thanked them personally while they were, and they heard my concerns as the Member for Aivilik. The previous mayor of Coral Harbour, Jackie Nakoolak, had given his report and concerns also. Marie Ernerk, from Rankin Inlet, also gave her concerns. Ray Mercer, the chairman of the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce, from Rankin Inlet, gave his concerns. The other organizations have written their concerns too. The letters that they wrote were considered very carefully by the Electoral District Boundaries Commission and I thank them for it.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to make my comments brief. If I try to make them long then I will not make any sense, I feel. First of all, one seat that is proposed for an MLA in Keewatin, that proposed seat will be called Keewatin Central and this is supported by my riding. Personally, the title Keewatin Central is not good enough for me. I disagree with that proposed title. Perhaps we will be able to change titles if we wish to, today, and we probably will find a different name for it.

In the Northwest Territories, as Inuit anywhere, we support one another when it is dealing with Northwest Territories' issues. When we look at this carefully, perhaps even today -- if we do not finish this debate but we will probably finish it on the second day and we have to consider things very carefully to make something concrete that everybody will agree with. Concerning the constituencies that we have in the Northwest Territories, I know that we will come into a concrete agreement but I would like to dwell on two issues today, concentrate on two issues today, and I know that some of the MLAs brought them up. One was the Iqaluit Member and one other from the Keewatin. I believe that in the Northwest Territories as a whole that we should consider making it balanced in our area called Nunavut -- it should be balanced and also in the land of the Dene people. I believe that I will see this happen and I will support them.

Another concern that I had, and I have considered this for a long time not just today, concerns the travelling between the East and West in the Northwest Territories. I know our previous commissioners had a study in the past concerning the Northwest Territories and also the court case that was done in BC is a good example. In the Northwest Territories there are a lot of communities that do not have road access, they only receive their goods by air and we use the airlines day-to-day. A lot of times it is hard to get anything shipped up. A lot of us use skidoos nowadays and we could use skidoos between the closer communities. I am just trying to elaborate so that you will have an idea of how we are situated in the Northwest Territories in the smaller communities.

I do not know exactly what is going to happen to this. I will know how the people will vote and I will get an idea from it. I have seen some of the motions that were made, and recommendations, and looking at them I agree with some of them. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. General comments. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief because most of the sentiments that I want to express have already been expressed. I would like to, just briefly, give you my experience in dealing with this issue in the city of Yellowknife. My position has been well-known right from the very beginning. I made two presentations to the commission and I thought, while I was doing it, that I was doing it with a good understanding of the Northwest Territories and a good understanding of Yellowknife. Only one person, one person, approached me and said that I was wrong and said that I should be fighting and yelling and screaming for more seats for Yellowknife, and that person was Brian Weir who is a mining engineer. He did not say I should be screaming but



he said that I should be tougher because when you get down to this business you should be negotiating and if I ask for six then maybe I would get five, ask for five and then maybe I would get four. But nobody else, not one person in this city has come to tell me and I am here at work practically every day. People phone me at home and I meet people on the street, and I took the position that if I made a reasonable case that that reasonable case would find itself in the commission report.

I live in a city and I represent a riding where everything is very close and convenient. I can walk around my constituency in one hour. I could drive around the city in about an hour, I suppose. It was that perspective that I brought to this presentation that I made to Justice Tallis, but when I read his report I realized why some people become judges because he has done, in my opinion, a masterful job of listening to everybody and understanding the unique nature of our evolving system of government. When I read his report I realized that I had been too Yellowknife-centred, even though I thought I understood everything out there and had a good idea of the problems people had. When I read his report I realized that even though I thought I had been very objective and very careful, had looked at all the figures, the problems of balancing, that I had not taken it as far as I could have. What he did was to recognize that under our act we only have 25 seats, we had already achieved a degree of balance over the years so that our House could work, under very difficult circumstances in some ways, but it works. Anything that you do that is going to really push too much the interests of urban areas is going to push us into party politics immediately. That was a concern that Mr. Wray just raised earlier on.

The origin of party politics goes back to that, the fact that if you get enough people representing a very clear point of view and a very clear interest, it is going to upset the balance completely and then we are going to be fighting all the time. Now we just push each other around a bit. If you are going to go that route, that will be the end result.

I took the position, and I have told constituents this, that what is best for the Northwest Territories is best for Yellowknife. That is what is best for Yellowknife. If we did not take that position that what is best for the whole system is ultimately going to be best for the capital of the system, then I think we have lost the point of this exercise.

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

---Laughter

**MR. LEWIS:** So I do not feel at all upset that some people in the city feel that we should be fighting for more. The one person I talked to the other night -- because as I said I did not get a whole pile of people coming to me but I did decide to phone a few people -- the answer I got that sticks in my mind from one person was "We elected you to do your best. Do you think you have done your best?" I said that I did think so. He said "Great, if you feel good about what you have done and you have done a lot of work to come to that conclusion, that is what we want from you." I said, that even if 50 people had phoned me and said that I was wrong, I would still stick by my guns to say on this one issue, you are wrong and I am right, and that would be the position I would take. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. General comments. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not feel that I would be representing my constituents if I did not express a few words on this issue of the Boundaries Commission. First of all in looking at the Boundaries

Commission, I would like, along with many individuals, to thank Justice Tallis and Richard Hardy, along with Rosemarie Kuptana, with respect to the work they have done travelling throughout the territories and trying to compile a report that would be acceptable to all of us. However, we all know that within this room there are 24 strong minds and each of us trying to ensure that whatever we accept is for the betterment all the people of the NWT.

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

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** And it has taken a lot of deliberation, I am sure, on everyone's part in this room. We all want to, hopefully, come out with what is best for everybody, which works for our consensus government and which makes our consensus government work. However, I do want to indicate that I am concerned when I hear publicly comments such as one certain area, particularly Yellowknife, being underrepresented in this House. I think we are very cognizant of the fact that there are many people in Yellowknife and they do have three MLAs. I find that we are fairly accommodating with them, and we certainly do try to assist them, but at the same time we have to ensure that people in the smaller communities at least be considered for the basics of life. Sometimes there are communities in the North that are just working at a bit of a quicker pace than other communities. I find sometimes that it is a struggle. I come from a community that has pavement, flush toilets and all the necessities of life, but fortunately where we are located it is easier to give us these types of necessities of life. It is easier to bring in lumber, it is easier to bring many things into Fort Smith in comparison with other communities such as Pond Inlet or Pangnirtung, or other areas of the North.

However, there are communities that do not even have the basic things, that are still very primitive to some degree, and I find that it is difficult and really frustrating -- I can sense the frustration when I travel into those particular communities -- and I really feel sorry. That is when I come back to Yellowknife and I think, people here in Yellowknife, and in the larger communities -- I even have to get mad at times at my constituents -- take things for granted. I think, being elected as an individual, we have to try to emphasize in our physical environment that the things we take for granted, we have to start appreciating them. At the same time we have to try to work so that everybody at least has the simple things in life. The small communities, even though they do not have the full population, should have the necessities of life.

#### **Reasons For Size Of Yellowknife Population**

When I sat down and I started to look at the population I thought, Yellowknife does have the greatest population, do they warrant another seat? I sat there and I wondered, why they have the population they have. They have the population they have because they have the mines here, but the majority of their population comes from the civil service. I think we have all recognized that. I looked at the total population in the Territories -- we have 5195 civil servants in the territories. Out of 5195, there are 1889, I believe, in Yellowknife. If we average it out to about probably at least three people per family from those 1800, you are looking at a population of already 6000 people approximately, as a result of government jobs alone, not counting the small businesses, not counting the mines and not counting other people that come into Yellowknife.

I sat back and I thought, what if the next government was a strong government and they were sincere and wanted to commit decentralization and started taking departments out like they do in other jurisdictions. What would happen to the population of Yellowknife and would it be fair to other communities that they should have extra seats here? How



would they address that? How would they address the fact that people want to make sure their voices count?

With all due respect, I recognize that Yellowknife probably can be considered for another seat because of their existing population, but I am concerned about the tactics that they want to use to get another seat. I will not, by any means, as an elected individual, be intimidated in any way by either courts or by people getting another seat or not getting a seat. I do not think it is fair.

I know in this room, and with all due respect to the MLAs from Yellowknife, they have never used the court ruling to try to get their other seat, but I know that many citizens in Yellowknife have used that, and I certainly do not appreciate it, and I do not think any MLA in this room appreciates that tactic.

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

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** When I looked at the population of Yellowknife and Iqaluit -- I am surprised not Hay River -- but Inuvik and Fort Smith, if you look at the population of the Territories according to electoral boundaries those are the major communities. You get Yellowknife, you get Iqaluit, then you get Hay River, then you get Inuvik and then you get Fort Smith. Then I did a breakdown of the number of positions in every region, and that is basically how they turn out to be, but surprisingly Fort Smith has a few more civil servants than Hay River, but not too many, especially if you take into consideration the Power Corporation.

I guess the point I do want to make is that no matter where we put the civil servants, that gives those communities a good base for their population. I do not feel that once we start looking at representation by population, I think it is going to upset the delicate balance of sensitivity in respect to our consensus government. It has taken a long time for us to always ensure that we look at each other's communities; what is best for the North in totality. But I feel that if we start looking at representation by population we are quickly asking for a party system government. I have said it many times that the people in the North, and particularly the aboriginal people, are only now understanding the system of voting, let alone throwing them into a party system. That would be very, very difficult for them.

So I looked at the boundary commission and I thought about it a lot and I initially resented the idea of an extra seat for Yellowknife. Of course I did not agree with an extra seat going into Yellowknife because I thought they had their MLAs right in Yellowknife, government is right in Yellowknife, what more do they want? You have to ensure that our balance is maintained, culturally, regionally. With the way our demographics are, it is so delicate that the balance has to be maintained. I know my position was to drop that seat from Pine Point in total and let us see if we can get a real consensus government working in this room; where we get 12 seats in the West and 11 seats in the East. It must be frustrating for people in the East when we have to take a position, knowing that we in the West have two extra seats. How committed are we to consensus government? I always try to look at the North in totality and maybe it is because I was born and raised in the North. I am trying to look at what is best for the North and not what is best for the West or best for the East. Sometimes I get criticized as a western Member for being supportive of certain areas.

I did want to let you know that I know my constituents would not be happy if I just allowed Yellowknife to take the extra seat; if I just sat back and approved the extra seat to Yellowknife. It is with reluctance that I agreed that I would consider supporting an extra seat for Yellowknife. There is no way that I would support more than one seat to Yellowknife

-- in fact I would drop my support for one seat if more than one seat came forward. I do want to reiterate that it is in order to maintain our consensus government in the North, in order to continue to try to work together, and I know that I will get flack from my constituents, but at least I want to show to this House that I am committed to working toward a consensus government where we can all work together for the benefit of the territorial residents. Thank you.

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

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I will not make a lengthy comment; the views I was going to bring up have already been raised by some of the Members. Looking at the NWT geographically, the Eastern Arctic communities are farther apart than those in the Western Arctic. The West has easier access to their communities. It was harder for Members in the past because they did not have proper transportation. Right now we are just reviewing the recommendations of the commission. At this point we can voice our opinions on this matter. Looking at the NWT you can notice yourself that the Eastern Arctic does not have access to highways and the communities are farther apart. The government is located in the Western Arctic and I always have to voice my view on this because we do not have proper transportation when it comes to the land. I understand that Members want to properly represent their communities but I, myself, feel the same way. I know that everybody from the cabinet and the other elected Members are properly representing. I know that, and we try to represent properly. If Yellowknife is going to get an additional seat I do not agree with that because Yellowknife Members do not even have to travel to communities that they represent. The Eastern Arctic MLAs do not experience that; they have to use the airlines to visit their communities. I agree with Madam Minister's comments that there has to be a consensus government and I agree with that.

The Eastern Arctic people are sometimes not properly represented judging by the number of Members of the Legislative Assembly. When Yellowknife is trying to get an extra seat -- why did I have to come here to meet during the sittings? For instance, the Legislative Assembly meets here in Yellowknife and I would have to either go to my communities or use a telephone system to hear their concerns; but the Members of Yellowknife they do not even have to travel to listen to the views or the voices of the people in their constituency.

The smaller communities do not have that many government employees. I know in Yellowknife the government employees are the largest in number and they were not accounted for when they made recommendations. The Eastern Arctic communities -- when you look at the statistics the government employees in the Eastern Arctic are smaller in number.

Mr. Chairperson, I would like to have a consensus on this matter when we are trying to accept these proposed electoral boundaries. I understand the High Arctic MLA and his concerns. The communities are far apart. I understand that we should divide the electoral boundaries according to population, I accept that, but we also have to consider all areas that are concerned. I wanted to mention this and I will also try to get a solution to what we are debating now. That is all for now, Mr. Chairperson. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. General comments. The honourable Member for Pine Point.

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few things that I thought of as the Members were speaking so I thought I might as well stay in general comments instead of waiting for different parts of the report.



One thing is Mr. Wray's comment about having it made one way with our two MPs federally, and not having it another way in our own Assembly, talking about the 25 per cent variance. When I was saying that maybe I did not make it clear that the 25 per cent variance that I was talking about deals with the federal seats. It does not deal with the provincial seats in the province, but it deals with the federal seats. Once they are allocated to a specific province, such as PEI which gets four seats even though they only have 100,000 population and 100,000 is about the average seat in the country, they divide them up using a minimum/maximum of 25 per cent variance. What that does is, it means that the smallest -- for example, if there are 100,000 people in a riding, the smallest seat would be 75,000 and the largest would be 125,000, which almost gives a two-to-one voting difference between smaller ridings and larger ridings.

The other thing that I would like to emphasize is that when the Electoral District Boundaries Commission did its work under this act I would also like to state that they did a very excellent job. The hearings here in Yellowknife were conducted very well and I would like to say, just to make it clear, at that hearing in Yellowknife I advised them that if they were going to go with just 24 total seats that they should just move the Pine Point seat to Yellowknife and that would ameliorate the situation and would not disturb the balance between the East and West. However if they were going to put the 25th seat into play and try to use it somewhere, then they would almost have to use it in Yellowknife because of the population and I think I implied, at that time, they would be better off leaving the 25th seat alone.

Another comment I would like to make is that since the electoral boundaries were first established up here for a fully elected House, in 1975 when there were only 15 Members, a lot of things have happened. Members now have a big enough salary that this can be your only source of revenue for living. I believe in 1975 it might have been as low as \$10,000 a year. I think when I was elected the basic salary was \$18,000 a year, in 1979. I am not exactly sure on those figures but now Members that attend all of their committee meetings and attend all of the meetings in the House and do not have any deductions made from them for absenteeism can make in the order of \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year. So people can certainly make a living and put themselves in a full-time job representing the people, which was not the case in 1975 or even 1979. Now travel expenses for all Members have been enhanced to make sure that they can get around to their ridings. Communications are much better and there are scheduled airlines in the Baffin that did not exist before so you can get around better. There is a constituency assistant budget available for Members and basically we have a full-time helper, each of us. In the case of the Executive Council, elected Members are running the government. A lot of things have changed. What I would like to emphasize is that in the court case in BC, which convinced me that we should be looking at things differently, population is emphasized as the main thing. In our Electoral District Boundaries Commission Act, the section which gives the instructions for the items to be considered -- section 10(a) of the act, specifically, is the interesting one and it says: "The commission in preparing a report shall take into consideration (a) geographic and demographic considerations including the sparsity, density or rate of growth of the population or of any part of the Territories and the accessibility, size or shape of any part of the Territories." Then it lists (b), (c), (d) and (e) which are other things to consider. It does not list population as being the most important thing; it just mentions all sorts of things to consider. I think our instructions in our act do not reflect the main issue that was addressed by the judge in BC.

That is why I have been asking the Executive Council, through the Minister of Justice, to take this issue to court ourselves, as

a government. We could have worded the question the way we wanted to word it as a Legislative Assembly or as a government, and obtained a decision, which the Electoral District Boundaries Commission could have taken into consideration, and which this House could have taken into consideration when making recommendations or passing actual legislation.

Now we have ourselves in a situation where other people have gone and taken the question to court and worded the question the way they wanted to word it, and therefore we are not in control as much as we could have been had we taken the question to court ourselves as a government. That is another point I would like to make.

The other two things I would like to talk about in general are, when you think of the history of parliaments, how do they come into existence? Basically it was to raise taxes, to give the king some money to go fight a war, for example. The tax laws that apply in the NWT through our legislation, particularly through the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, do impose different tax measures on different people. It is my contention that people that live in municipalities are taxed differently and have different issues facing them and are not represented in proportion in the House like other Members are. That is a point.

The other issue is constitutional issues. After the land claims are settled, there are going to be issues in the territories, there will be land selection, sometimes within municipal boundaries, that are going to affect the way municipalities operate. It might even affect taxes in municipalities because some of this land may be tax exempt, some may not. When these issues are discussed in this Assembly, will there be enough Members to represent those municipal issues and concerns when votes are taken? I think not.

Another matter I would like to address is the whole issue of what happens if extra seats are put into Yellowknife -- for example if five seats go to Yellowknife. The largest native population in the NWT that lives in any one community lives in Yellowknife. There is no reason why we could not make the fifth seat, if such a seat were approved, a seat at large which only native people could vote on, which would guarantee representation for native people in Yellowknife. I would have no qualms about that. I realize the balance that we are trying to achieve, but I would feel a lot more comfortable if there were a native person from Yellowknife who paid municipal taxes and understood municipal issues in the House. I also know that in some other communities like Iqaluit, if you wanted to create two seats there, an Electoral District Boundaries Commission could draw a line through Iqaluit, dividing the community in half, knowing who lives in which area, to make sure, to guarantee, that a native person would be elected there. I do not think that by giving people who are understanding of municipal issues more seats in the House you are necessarily going to disturb the balance of native and non-native issues, for example. Those are just some points that I wanted to make as a result of what other people said in the House. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** The hour being 6:30 I will now rise and report progress.

#### REVERT TO 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 High Arctic.

**MR. PUDLUK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has

been considering Bill 8 and Tabled Documents 6-90(2) and 5-90(2), and wishes to report progress.

**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:** Item 19, third reading of bills.

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

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, meetings for Tuesday, October 23rd: ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m.; at 10:00 a.m., caucus.

#### ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, October 23rd.

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: Bill 8; Tabled Document 6-90(2); Tabled Document 5-90(2)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Assent to Bills
21. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 23rd, 1990, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT