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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1990

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Mr. Crow, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Lewis, Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Morin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, 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 Wednesday, October 24, 1990. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 31-90(2): Co-Management Plan For The Hook Lake Bison Herd

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, as you know, there has been a great deal of concern expressed by communities in the South Slave region about the future management of diseased bison herds in the Slave River lowlands. During the environmental assessment review panel hearings my department concluded that the only long-term solution to the disease problem was to get rid of the diseases and breed healthy bison. This approach has been used successfully in the past to establish the Mackenzie wood bison herd and several other herds of wood bison elsewhere in Canada, and we believe it can be used again.

The Fort Resolution Hunters and Trappers Association approached the department earlier this year for support to develop a plan to salvage a healthy herd of bison from the diseased Hook Lake herd in the Slave River lowlands. This concept, Mr. Speaker, is consistent with the position that my department took at the EARP hearings, and subsequently with the findings of the EARP panel. The environmental assessment review panel report specifically mentioned the Hook Lake herd as one which should be considered for salvage.

The Hook Lake bison herd differs somewhat from most of the diseased herds in that it is mostly isolated from the others. Some scientists believe that the animals may closely resemble the original wood bison that were found in the area before plains bison were introduced into Wood Buffalo National Park in the late 1920s. The Hook Lake herd occupies some of the best bison range in the region and has the capacity to support at least 2000 bison as it did in the past. It is the desire of the Deninoo Band Council and my department to develop a plan whereby this goal could be achieved again with healthy bison.

Accordingly my department has entered into an agreement with the Fort Resolution Hunters and Trappers Association to develop a co-management plan for the Hook Lake herd. The plan will include the following components: methods for salvaging healthy bison from the existing herd which now numbers about 200 head; testing and quarantine procedures for selecting and maintaining healthy stock; disposing of diseased animals yet making use of meat and other usable parts of slaughtered animals; providing for a continuous supply of bison meat for Fort Resolution; management of the genetic resources of the herd; population management objectives, including herd size and structure and range management.

My department will assist the hunters and trappers association with access to information resources and expert advice. This initiative supports a community-based approach to a larger regional problem. I hope that during the next few months it will be possible to establish a management group which will consider a comprehensive plan to resolve the diseased bison issue. Only in this way can the long-term interests of individual communities and of the bison resource be served. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 32-90(2): Justice Of The Peace Administrator

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to provide an update to the House on the appointment of a full-time justice of the peace administrator. I appreciate the kind remarks made by the Member for Yellowknife South on October 15, in this regard.

In 1989, amendments to the Justice of the Peace Act were passed by the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the recommendations of the task force on justices of the peace. Part of the mandate of the task force was to develop a justice of the peace program to meet the special needs of our northern justice system and the people it serves. One of the recommendations was the hiring of a full-time justice of the peace administrator reporting to the chief judge of the territorial court.

Mr. Sam Stevens has been appointed justice of the peace administrator and assumed his duties on August 8th of this year. He had been, since 1984, the director of the native law program at the University of British Columbia. Aboriginal rights and native justice issues are his main areas of interest. He is the president of the native law subsection of the Canadian Bar Association. As well, he co-ordinated the aboriginal issues program for the western judicial education seminar held in Lake Louise, Alberta, last May.

Mr. Stevens is now responsible for providing direction and training to justices of the peace located throughout the NWT. Among other things, he is developing a training curriculum, delivering training programs and will be providing advice to justices of the peace on the interpretation and application of laws. To date he has visited a number of communities to meet JPs, to swear in new JPs and to begin a dialogue with the communities on the development of a community-based justice system.

This October he held training workshops in Yellowknife and Iqaluit for new JPs in the Northwest Territories. Early in 1991 a number of more advanced workshops will be scheduled to upgrade the present knowledge and skills of all JPs. We are very pleased to have a man of Sam Stevens' knowledge and dedication in the position of justice of the peace administrator.

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

Ministers' Statement 33-90(2): Literacy Initiatives

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today I will table the NWT literacy strategy. It is significant that I will table this document today since October 24th is United Nations Day and 1990 is International Literacy Year.

The goal of the NWT literacy strategy is to improve individual literacy levels and to increase the rate of literacy in the NWT. The strategy covers a five year period from 1988-89 to 1992-93. We expect that approximately 2000 people will participate in literacy upgrading through Arctic College and community-based programs during each year of the strategy. The literacy strategy includes six major initiatives. There are three public program initiatives including increased resources for literacy through Arctic College, the implementation of a public awareness program and active support for literacy volunteers. There are three initiatives within the Department of Education which will strengthen support for literacy programs. These include analysis of illiteracy in the North, development of appropriate curriculum and materials for literacy programs and the encouragement of new programs through pilot projects.

Communities are the foundation of the literacy strategy. The community literacy projects fund is administered by the Department of Education and is intended to encourage residents to get involved with literacy. An amount of \$250,000 is available to community organizations to design and deliver innovative literacy projects. In 1990-91, 11 projects have been funded, including projects that offer literacy classes in English, Slavey, Inuktitut and Chipewyan.

Arctic College is a key component of the literacy strategy. The college's new strategic plan places priority on literacy, adult basic education and upgrading for the next five years. In 1990-91 the college has received an additional \$315,000 for literacy which will be used to support literacy programs in approximately 31 communities across the North.

I am pleased to also table later today a newly published book of grade nine student writings called "My Point of View". I would also like to invite my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly to take the time to watch a new videotape called "Whole Language: A Northern Experience". The video, which was made in Coppermine last year, describes an innovative approach to teaching language. The videotape will be shown during the break this afternoon at a special reception to mark International Literacy Year.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Members to join me in the lobby for a few minutes at the start of the coffee break. We will be assembling as a government and will be presented with a book called, "The Book Voyage". This is an International Literacy Year project, sponsored in Canada by the movement for Canadian literacy, and in the Northwest Territories by the literacy council. It began as a blank book, but it has travelled to communities throughout the North and is filled with the writings of adult literacy learners. Pages from our book will be placed in the Canadian book. Pages from the Canadian book will then be placed in the international book and presented to the secretary general of the United Nations. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Ministers' Statement 34-90(2): Classroom Assistants Poll

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the last session of the Assembly, Motion 23-90(1) was passed,

directing the Minister of Personnel to arrange for a poll to be held among classroom assistants asking which bargaining unit they would like to belong to. The Minister recognizes the interest and concern behind this motion; however, as a government we do not believe that as an employer, we should get involved in a dispute about the bargaining agent for a particular group of employees. The employees themselves must decide who will represent them. Accordingly, no poll has been taken. Thank you.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement On RCMP Performing Duties Of Social Worker**

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been requested by the mother of a teenage girl to give special recognition to two members of the RCMP in Fort Providence. They are Corporal Rick Sargent and Constable Dennis McGuffin. On June 17, 1990, at about 2:10 a.m. in the morning, the local detachment was called to assist in a life and death situation involving a young girl on the Mackenzie River. These two RCMP officers both jumped into the icy cold waters of the river to save her from drowning.

Mr. Speaker, as most Members are aware, the community of Fort Providence has not had a full-time social worker for many years now. If and when we have problems with our youth, family disputes, or child neglect, the local RCMP detachment have gone out of their way to deal with these problems, although this is an area where a trained social worker would be better able to handle the situation. Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, the local police officers have gone beyond the call of duty in addressing the social services needs of the community of Fort Providence. Certainly, in the opinion of the mother of the young girl who was pulled out of the river, the police officers deserve an award for bravery for saving her life. I agree, and perhaps the Commissioner will consider recognizing this.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, until such time as the community of Fort Providence has a full-time social worker, the local detachment and the nursing station will have no alternative but to deal with those local social issues, even though it is not their job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Etuangat Atsayuk

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to express a concern that is quite serious regarding an elder that I am familiar with. This elder, Etuangat Atsayuk, worked for medical services between 1940 and a little beyond 1950. At that time there was no air transportation. The method of transportation involved water travel and dog teams. In the winter this person would transport patients from the outlying outpost camps into the central areas so that they could receive proper medical care. He did this as an employee for medical services. There are many people who are not with us anymore that he helped, but he is still with us and I think we should recognize this person for his outstanding efforts. He saved many people who were in need of medical attention. In those days there was limited access resulting in a lot more problems associated with lack of medical care.

Today, this elder, Etuangat Atsayuk, records and speaks with authority on the historic park that was recently opened, which was a whaling site called Kekerten Island in our community.

He is quite familiar with the early development of that area and I would request that we give him recognition. I urge the government to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

Member's Statement On Appreciation Of Minister Of Renewable Resources

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of times in this Assembly in the past couple of years Members have seen me stand up and ask a lot of questions of the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. Some of them have been taken as notice and some have been answered to the best of his ability. Today, Mr. Speaker, I will not stand up and ask him any questions at this time but I would like to congratulate him and his department on moving in the right direction by joining in a co-management agreement with the Fort Resolution Dene wildlife committee. I think that it has been a long time in coming. Our people in the South Slave Region are very concerned about the buffalo and I would just like to say once again, Mr. Alloodoo, thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Location Of Post Office, Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to raise a concern about my constituency. I have been working for a long time on a new location for the post office in Resolute Bay. The reason is that a lot of the people, especially the older people, do not have the transportation to go and get their mail from the post office. It is seven miles from the settlement of Resolute Bay and is located in the airport. Finally they moved the post office to Northern Stores which is located in the airport. This means that before the move we had to go seven miles to get our mail. Now it is seven and a half miles that we have to go.

A lot of people are still concerned about the new location and they want to see the post office in the town settlement, what was Resolute Bay east. The airport is not in the settlement of Resolute Bay. Somehow in the near future we would still like to see a new location for the post office in Resolute Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Funding For Rankin Inlet Girls Volleyball Team To Travel To Yellowknife

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister responsible for sport, even before I ask the question, because he obviously answers very well. Mr. Speaker, I received the following letter which I would like to read to the Members of the Legislative Assembly of this House. It is from Rankin Inlet and it states:

"We, the junior girls high school volleyball team, have been invited to a high school volleyball tournament in Yellowknife on November 23, 24 and 25. Our estimated cost for our return air fare for eight girls and one coach is \$4050. We are asking businesses for donations to help pay for our air fare. We would greatly appreciate your donation to help us pay for our trip. Any donations will be received by Beverly Ford." Beverly Ford is their coach. It goes on to list the phone numbers.

Mr. Speaker, I support this request. At the appropriate time I will be asking the Minister responsible for sport, to see if he could assist in this very important recreational event. I think recreation is very important to all people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Mechanical Dog Built By Soviet Youths

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to praise the same Minister but for a different activity. Last night many of us were invited by the Minister responsible for Culture and Communications to see an exhibition of children's art, arts and crafts created by children of the northern part of the Soviet Union. Although it is not a big exhibition, Mr. Speaker, it indicates that in that part of the world young people are encouraged to use their spare time to do creative work. It is of a very impressive quality. But I was particularly impressed last night at this exhibition, with a mechanical dog which was built by a couple of 15-year-old youths I think. I have never seen a dog that is capable of so many movements as this mechanical dog. I do not know whether it had a fur on it that was indigenous to that part of the world but obviously the ingenious young people who built that, built the prototype of a toy which Mr. Wray maybe could take a look at and see if he could get the rights to it, so that we could create our own northern dog. Thank you very much.

---Laughter

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

Member's Statement On Child Sexual Abuse Program, Mildred Hall School

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to use my two minutes today to give recognition to the principal and the teachers of Mildred Hall Elementary School here in Yellowknife. Two of my children are attending and have attended the school. It has developed its own special spirit and energy, and the teachers and their principal are a major contributing factor to that. Something has happened in the last year I think, that deserves note. The whole issue of sexual abuse has come up at the school. The parents advisory groups, the teachers, and the principal, over the past year have had information nights with all the parents. They have since introduced the care kit which is a kit used in other jurisdictions which aims toward prevention of child sexual abuse. During the process the principal and the teachers of the school have shown tremendous sensitivity, compassion, patience and support to the concerns of the parents. I think that what has happened at that particular school, with the assistance of Diana Barr, who works with the Department of Social Services and my department, could be a model for many communities in the NWT in trying to deal with a very sensitive and difficult issue. Mr. Lidbury and his teachers deserve a lot of credit. Thank you.

---Applause

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: This is in response to a question

asked by Mr. Lewis on October 22 regarding appointments to the public service. The present Public Service Act does not provide the authority for the Legislative Assembly to direct the Minister of Personnel to make appointments to the public service. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O22-90(2): Taxation Of Dene In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Sibbeston on October 11. Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide more information to the Member for Nahendeh relating to his question regarding taxation of Dene. Revenue Canada has for some time recognized the right under the Indian Act of status Indians to be exempt from income tax on income earned on a reserve. There is a Revenue Canada interpretation bulletin which summarized Revenue Canada's interpretation and a number of court cases upholding this right.

The central question which has arisen in the case law is whether the income is property situated on the reserve for the purpose of the Indian Act. This question is not always as easy to answer as it might seem. Cases have gone to the Supreme Court of Canada on the issue, but there is still some uncertainty on the matter because the interpretation given to the provisions of the Indian Act will be dependent on the facts in each case. The federal government passed an order-in-council in August, 1985 which allowed its officials some discretion where the income was reasonably attributable to duties or employment performed on a reserve. This order was extended to cover subsequent years.

My staff will follow up with Revenue Canada to find out what its policy is with respect to exempting status Indians from income tax on income earned off a reserve. I will respond in more detail once we have this information, but I must say that this information may not be received in time to be submitted in the current session.

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

Return To Question O130-90(2): New Phone Numbers In Baffin Not Made Available

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I have a response to a question asked by Mr. Pudluk on October 19, 1990, regarding the prior information provided to subscribers when the new phone numbers were put in place in the Baffin. The new telephone system was installed in government offices in the Baffin Region on January 22, 1990. Notices were printed for two weeks in the Nunatsiaq News in English and Inuktitut. A notice in English was placed in News North on January 29th. The notices listed all the new numbers. The new listings were also sent to government liaison officers in the communities. In addition, for six weeks after the change, a forwarding system was in place. This means that when the old number was dialled the system automatically forwarded the call to the new main number.

I was not able to secure a copy of the notice that appeared in the Nunatsiaq News, but I have asked my staff to get one of those notices and I will provide it to the Member, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O179-90(2): Mobile Radios For Kakisa

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday when we had about 40 seconds left in question period I deferred my question until today. Mr. Speaker, the situation is that I have asked the Minister of Renewable Resources whether or not his department might be able to provide mobile radios or bush radios for the community of Kakisa. The Minister referred me to the Minister of Economic Development suggesting that perhaps the Minister of Economic Development is the appropriate person to address that. The Minister of Economic Development then referred me to the Minister of Culture and Communications to see whether or not it is in his area.

I have gone through three Ministers with no apparent results. I would like to ask the Government Leader whether or not he might be able to answer this question with regard to the needs of the community of Kakisa, in fact the needs of all hunters and trappers who pursue this life and require radios. Who is responsible to answer their enquiries or requests?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I can understand the honourable Member's frustration. I will be pleased to review the matter with appropriate Ministers and provide an answer this session. I will find out.

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

Question O180-90(2): Financial Assistance To Rankin Inlet Volleyball Team

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I mentioned the volleyball members coming over to Yellowknife for a competition. I believe the appropriate Minister, Tom Butters, is the person I should ask this question. Will you be able to help? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return To Question O180-90(2): Financial Assistance To Rankin Inlet Volleyball Team

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I can rise to the expectations of me that have been created by the honourable Member, but I do know, as the honourable Member does, that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is very dedicated to supporting sport throughout the North in the communities. I know that there are little pots of money here and there for various sporting activities and, on application, those amounts are divided and doled out. I cannot respond to the Member's question, yes or no, but I will look into what is available and see what assistance might be offered to the young people who are seeking to come to Yellowknife.

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

Question O181-90(2): Whales Stuck In Ice

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Renewable Resources. I have heard a rumour that there are some whales that are stuck in the ice. I was wondering if the Minister will be able to help in freeing these whales. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O181-90(2): Whales Stuck In Ice

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to my understanding, the rumour is true. There are bowhead whales and narwhals that are stuck in one of the fiords due to the freezing of the ice. According to our updated information, the ice-breaking ship is en route to that area to see if it can free the whales. I will keep the House informed as I receive information. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O181-90(2): Whales Stuck In Ice

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the same Minister whether he will be assisting the people that are trying to free the whales. Will you be developing a plan so that you can free the unfortunate whales? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O181-90(2): Whales Stuck In Ice

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

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

Question O182-90(2): Date Of Tabling Of Northern Accord Package

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader in the absence of the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. I requested, a week ago or so, the tabling of the proposed Northern Accord as well as the memorandum of understanding between the Metis and the Government of the NWT. Does the Government Leader have any idea when that will be tabled?

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

Return To Question O182-90(2): Date Of Tabling Of Northern Accord Package

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Energy Minister is attending a Kitikmeot Regional Health Board meeting today with two other honourable Members of this Assembly. I recall her making a commitment to provide a report on progress in the Northern Accord matters to the Member and I am quite sure that it is intended for this session, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O182-90(2): Date Of Tabling Of Northern Accord Package

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary, Mr. Government Leader. Would you assure me that your Minister would make that information available to the Legislature prior to the last day of this Legislature so that if there are any more questions, we may ask them in this House?

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

Further Return To Question O182-90(2): Date Of Tabling Of Northern Accord Package

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I see no reason why the honourable Member cannot be provided with a response to his question during this session and I will undertake to arrange that with the Minister of Energy. Thank you.

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

Question O183-90(2): Extra Assistance For Whales Stuck In Ice

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. In regard to the whales that were brought up, you were saying you were going to try and find out more information on this matter, and I was wondering if you will ask the Baffin Hunters and Trappers Association to assist in the freeing of the whales. I also was wondering if you will be asking the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation crew to film the freeing of the whales. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O183-90(2): Extra Assistance For Whales Stuck In Ice

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be approaching the Baffin Regional Hunters and Trappers Association, and if need be I will inform IBC on this matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

Question O184-90(2): Increases To Social Assistance Food Rate

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, every year her department includes inflationary increases within its budget. Yet her department does not pass them on to the various programs that they were intended for. For example, the food rate and scale. I would like to ask the Minister why they are not brought down to the program level?

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

Return To Question O184-90(2): Increases To Social Assistance Food Rate

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I indicated to the Member quite some time ago that the increase to the food rate and scale is required and that increase is made through regulation. It also requires an increase in our budget and in order to address this, I have indicated to him some time ago, it would cost the government to the tune of about three million dollars. I am trying to address it in the budget and up until then, it is certainly not just an increase that will be automatic. Like every other program, these things are taken into consideration and every attempt is made to address these types of issues. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O184-90(2): Increases To Social Assistance Food Rate

MR. ZOE: Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not quite understand what the Minister is trying to say. Every year, during budget session, there are inflationary increases that are included within the budget. How could we fall behind, say for example, in the food rate and scale? It seems as if the department has not been increasing the food rate and scale and they have fallen behind for a number of years now. Could I ask what she has been doing with the inflationary increases that have been put into her budget?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Slave River.

Further Return To Question O184-90(2): Increases To Social Assistance Food Rate

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, the inflationary increases required by the Department of Social Services have been addressed in many different ways. They have been addressed with increased amounts as requested by many different communities for alcohol and drug programs that have been approved. They have looked at increased amounts for different programs, whether they are related to family and children services, to family violence, or to many different social issues that we have identified.

The concern that the Member brings forth in regard to the increase in the food rate and scale is set by regulation and it requires cabinet approval and the approval of this House. In trying to address the increase in the food rate and scale it is going to cost this government some three million dollars. I have indicated to the Member that we are trying to deal with it and all I can say is that we are still attempting to deal with this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O184-90(2): Increases To Social Assistance Food Rate

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is that concerned with regard to the food rate and scale why has she not approached the Executive with this matter?

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

Further Return To Question O184-90(2): Increases To Social Assistance Food Rate

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I believe there have been attempts to deal with it. However, at the same time, the Member must remember that there are other social issues that have had priority, that need to be addressed by the department. In order for myself, as Minister, to ensure that these priorities are addressed I have to determine which areas I can look at during a budget session, which areas need immediate addressing. The problem that I have had is that I have had to deal with creating programs with regard to child sexual abuse. I have had to look at increasing the amount allocated to dealing with family violence, which will be a substantial amount. I have had to look at trying to place treatment centres in the Territories to deal with alcohol abuse. There are other areas that I have had to address and it so happens that in order to prioritize, to cabinet, I have to require that a substantiation, first of all, which I know is warranted with the food rate and scale but there is only so much money and other priorities have taken precedence. Thank you.

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

Question O185-90(2): Musk-Ox Co-Management Plan, Snowdrift

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Minister, as you may be well aware, the community of Snowdrift does have a very good working relationship with your department, especially with Jim Bourque and Bob MacLeod. The community of Snowdrift just recently has had the ability and, I guess, permission of this government to start hunting musk-ox. They did have a very successful hunt this fall. I understand that it was carried out quite well. So Mr. Minister, would you be discussing at all, in the near future, a co-management plan of the musk-ox with the community of Snowdrift?

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

Return To Question O185-90(2): Musk-Ox Co-Management Plan, Snowdrift

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, this is the first time that this quota of musk-ox has been allowed in the Snowdrift area. We have been talking with the community leaders, on the advice of the Denendeh Conservation Board, on the harvest of the musk-ox. I am sure that through the Denendeh Conservation Board we will be getting some recommendations if there have to be any changes in the harvesting activities in that herd. I will be very glad to hear the concerns that community might have with respect to the harvest of musk-ox as well. Thank you.

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

Question O186-90(2): Clyde River Co-operative

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. You probably know about this because I brought this up at the House last year with regard to establishing a co-operative for Clyde River. You gave me a good answer, that you assigned this work to your staff in Iqaluit. I had a short discussion with the staff in the Baffin Region in July, and they said they would have to talk with the NWT Co-op Federation but we have not heard anything further on this subject. The Clyde River residents are not aware of anything that has happened, even though they have made this request. This is your responsibility and it is up to you to supply them with money.

The residents of Clyde River are still interested in what is happening with this issue. I just got a telephone call from that community a short while ago. Why are the Iqaluit staff members not keeping the residents of Clyde River informed about the progress that is being made, if any? Can you indicate to me what is happening with this? I will convey your answer to that community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O186-90(2): Clyde River Co-operative

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The latest information that I have is that a co-operative was incorporated on June 22, 1990, under the name of Akunnik Co-op. However, the Department of Economic Development staff really cannot do much more. It is up to the people in Clyde River, the co-op members to deal with ACL in Winnipeg to decide

what their future plans are. We have told them that we are available to assist them when they decide on what they want to do. They have indicated a couple of things that they might be interested in. I gather they have indicated an interest, perhaps, of buying a store there that is owned by somebody else. However, I also understand that ACL has some concerns that the building might not be a good investment.

We are not really part of the process but we will be available to ACL in Winnipeg or the co-op members in Clyde River to assist them when we are asked. Really this is up to the members of the co-op themselves in Clyde River to deal with. I am not quite sure what more we can do other than respond to requests that we get. If information is not being communicated back to the people of Clyde River, then I will inform ACL in Winnipeg of the concerns of the community and ask them that they do so because that is their responsibility. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O186-90(2): Clyde River Co-operative

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response, Mr. Minister. The proposal that was made before will probably be outdated. I think that if they are making a new proposal, if they request some assistance from your department -- perhaps I can convey that message. As you said, you do not know what more you can do. Perhaps I should tell that to the Clyde River co-operative and perhaps they should make a new proposal on what they want to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Further Return To Question O186-90(2): Clyde River Co-operative

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a proposal and the information I have is that ACL had some real problems with their proposal because the money that was requested by the community, I guess it was \$20,000, was for a pool hall. ACL in Winnipeg, the umbrella co-op, did not support the proposal because it did not think that the investment was a good one, which puts us in a problem. We really only act as a middleman between the community and ACL in Winnipeg. I gather that ACL in Winnipeg has some trouble with the proposal.

However, I do know that there is some talk with regard to a store, and my department has contracted the co-op there to be agents for the soapstone that we shipped into Clyde River. There is some activity, but I admit there is not much going on. I will communicate the Member's concerns to ACL in Winnipeg and perhaps ACL in Winnipeg can look at perhaps keeping the community better informed about what is going on.

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

Question O187-90(2): Arctic Char Project, Rankin Inlet

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to my honourable friend responsible for Economic Development. Yesterday the Minister sent around cans of arctic char, along with a letter. My question for the Minister is, a few years ago, back in the 1970s, an experiment was done in Rankin Inlet dealing with canned smoked char. To the best of my recollection, it was a failure. How is this program going to be different from that one, Mr. Speaker?

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

Return To Question O187-90(2): Arctic Char Project, Rankin Inlet

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I happened to be living in Rankin Inlet at the time that experiment was conducted. I was secretary-manager of the hamlet. In my opinion, the char that was produced in Rankin Inlet back in 1973, 1974 and 1975 was actually better than the char that we have just produced. However, it was not so much that the experiment in Rankin Inlet was a failure, what happened was, they were trying different processes, but in those days -- it is 15 years ago now -- production methods were fairly crude at the time and the fish was being flown in from quite far away, places like Barbour Bay and the Chesterfield Inlet, and was being flown in by Single Otter and Beaver. The cost of bringing the fish into Rankin was very expensive.

Consequently the experiment ran its course and the government decided not to pursue it, and I think it is because in many ways it goes back to some of the comments made during the economic strategy. The government at that time could not make its mind up whether it was going to be in or out of the economic development game. As you know, it was at the same time that they were flirting with the kiln in Rankin Inlet and the different experiments in arts and crafts shops, so it really did not know what it wanted to do; it was experimenting. I think they closed those things down, as opposed to that they were failing.

We have received indications that there is some thought that there is a potential market for canned char. After the Rankin Inlet char ceased to operate, for many years -- and in fact still today -- we have people who still ask us if they can get that Rankin Inlet char. In fact, I know where there are some cans of that Rankin Inlet char still around.

There also seemed to be some indications that the tourism market, sort of as a novelty item, would be appropriate, so we decided to experiment just to see if the market was there and what kinds of adjustments we would have to make. I think we are going to have to improve on the product a little bit better, but I think now that the government has decided that it is serious about economic development and that it wants to push the renewable resource economy, if the markets are there I think we can make this a viable success, but it is still experimental in nature. Thank you.

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

Question O188-90(2): Laws Governing Life Preservers

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister responsible for Justice with regard to life preservers, in boats mostly. Firstly, I would like to thank the Royal Life Saving Society of Edmonton for providing me with the information that I received concerning the number of drownings in the NWT in the past eight years. If I could just provide some statistics: In total there have been 87 drownings in the NWT. I think this is very shocking, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to indicate to this House that I am very appreciative that the honourable Member for Yellowknife South made mention of this during one of his Members' statements this session. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister this question. What laws govern the use of life preservers in the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for

Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: There are a number of laws dealing with safety in boats, and what I would like to do is take the question as notice and get back to the Member with the specific laws.

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

Question O189-90(2): Acceptance Of Recommendations, Coroners Act

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, the Minister just today spoke about the implementation of the Justices of the Peace Act. There were at the same time questions or recommendations given to the coroners, which fall under his department. Can the Minister update me -- I asked him last year on this -- on which, if any, of these recommendations have been implemented into the Coroners Act?

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

Return To Question O189-90(2): Acceptance Of Recommendations, Coroners Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have expressed the view in this House a number of times, and I am sure the honourable Member for Yellowknife South will concur, that when the task force on JPs and coroners got into their work the major emphasis of the recommendations was in the area of JPs. I think it was recognized by everyone that more work would have to be done for coroners. As I recall, there might have been some recommendations -- I do not recall right off the top of my head -- more training was a recommendation. As I recall, an updated coroners manual was one of the recommendations.

There has been fairly good progress in training. There were regional training seminars, since April of this year, held in the Inuvik Region, Fort Smith Region and the Kitikmeot Region. There will be regional training seminars held in the Keewatin and the Baffin Regions. The training is being done in co-operation with the coroners offices in Edmonton and also in British Columbia, I believe. We have made quite a bit of headway, I think, in training for coroners, and the new updated manual has been completed and I believe it is out for printing right now. Thank you.

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

Question O190-90(2): Lack Of CBC Reception In Repulse Bay

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Culture and Communications. I have been told by the residents of Repulse Bay, with regard to CBC radio, that for the past two months, or perhaps longer, they have not been able to receive CBC programs. I wonder what our government is doing to assist in the restoration of communications in the NWT and the rest of the world.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not too clear about the question that has been

asked by the honourable Member regarding Repulse Bay not being able to receive programming on CBC radio. I do not know the status of what we are doing, but I will take the question as notice and I will make a reply later in the House.

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

Question O191-90(2): Shareholding Plans, Pangnirtung Fishery Project

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Baffin area we have been given a lot of assistance from Economic Development and Tourism, and we appreciate the assistance they have provided to us. The Pangnirtung fishery has been a good project, but I am not too sure if the fishery is going to be continuing. Perhaps the Minister is aware of what the plans are for that project. I think the government is going to continue to be involved in that project, and I am proud to say that Pangnirtung residents are going to be major shareholders; perhaps they will be owning 51 per cent of the shares. What is the arrangement between the government and the shareholders of Pangnirtung in the fishery project? Perhaps the Minister could supply me with an answer.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O191-90(2): Shareholding Plans, Pangnirtung Fishery Project

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be making a Ministers' statement in the next couple of days on some economic objectives that we are going to undertake. One of them will be the Pangnirtung fishery, and so I prefer to wait until that time to give a little bit more detail. However, I can assure the Member that the Cumberland Sound fisheries will continue. It will continue with government support. We are confident that it will be a viable operation. It has had its hiccups, but it is a new operation. It was to be expected; people were just learning.

We have come a long way in a very short time, but we are going to go a lot further, and as people gain more knowledge, particularly in the management and different ways of doing things, that fishery will get better. I can say with certainty that yes, that fishery will continue and I expect it to grow and to become a major part of the economic climate of Pangnirtung in that area. Thank you.

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

Question O192-90(2): Policy On Inmates Chewing Tobacco

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services. On October 11, 1990, I tabled Petition 1-90(2), from inmates of the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre, with regard to chewing tobacco. The Minister has responded since, and instructed her officials that the appropriate action be taken when chewing tobacco is requested. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not we have a policy for the corrections services with regard to chewing tobacco in the event that the inmates wanted to dispute that refusal.

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

Return To Question O192-90(2): Policy On Inmates Chewing Tobacco

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Prior to the Member tabling his petition, I did request the department to address this issue and to ensure that inmates would be able to take up their privilege and be allowed to chew tobacco whenever they requested. Since then, I believe the department has addressed this concern, and whenever inmates request to chew tobacco, they are allowed to do so. This issue was dealt with prior to the tabling of the petition.

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

Question O193-90(2): Tree Planting Program

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. He recently made an announcement that there will be a tree planting program. A tree planting program is usually associated with those areas where there has been clear-cut logging, where everything has been cleared off and you have to plant these trees to replace all the ones that have been knocked off. So where in the Northwest Territories has there been clear-cut logging which requires planting of this nature?

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge at the present time of clear-cut logging in the Northwest Territories, but I will get back to the Member once I get the information.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

Question O194-90(2): Social Assistance Scales In Communities

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services again. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has not increased the food rate and scale subsidy, even though she knows that inflation has been racing ahead. Inflation, unemployment and economic pressures affect communities differently. It is obvious, Mr. Speaker that the Minister is not prepared to go forward for more money; therefore the only way to get more assistance, I believe, is to change the community level. My question to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, is, how does a community that has been hard hit by things beyond its control change its classification or level, and who authorizes it?

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

Return To Question O194-90(2): Social Assistance Scales In Communities

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have indicated to the Member a number of times that the different levels that we use to determine social assistance, these levels are determined by the department in conjunction with the costs of food listed in consumer price index. If I recall, last budget session I asked the Member to pick up one of those books, just to see what the cost of food was in different communities. This information helps determine our scales that we base our social assistance on in the different communities. What types of factors are taken into consideration -- I am not quite clear as to what the Member means by different factors that could be considered when determining the different levels of food scales for disbursement of social assistance.

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

Question O195-90(2): Capital Projects, Hay River Reserve

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, for some time the Hay River Reserve has been having problems with regard to capital projects. One of the main reasons is because of the reserve status. I have a letter here, Mr. Speaker, from the Minister indicating that this problem has been resolved, other than using ministerial guarantee with regard to the senior citizens home and the alcohol and drug treatment centre. I would like to ask the Minister, since the issue of ministerial guarantee is now resolved, will the senior citizens home and the alcohol and drug treatment centre go ahead as planned?

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

Return To Question O195-90(2): Capital Projects, Hay River Reserve

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable Member mentions, he does have in his hand a letter which I think I sent to him some two weeks ago. I do not have a copy of the letter with me, but I do recollect that in both instances in which he questioned me with regard to the progress being made, that I answered I believed that any roadblocks had now been removed and the projects would be proceeding. I will have to check with my staff to determine whether or not there has been some new information since that time that would suggest that is not the case. I do not know if anything has occurred in the last two or three weeks which is different from what appears in that particular communication.

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

Question O196-90(2): Alternative Mechanism For Raising Minimum Wage

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services, actually for her Labour Standards responsibility for setting the minimum wage. When the Minister brought her proposed legislation to the standing committee about a month ago, there were a couple of us, probably the majority of us there, who advised her we would not support that measure in the House. I was wondering if, because of what happened then and because of what happened in the House the other day, if she has considered an alternative to what she would do to raise the minimum wage in the Northwest Territories if her present legislative proposal was not going to go ahead.

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

Return To Question O196-90(2): Alternative Mechanism For Raising Minimum Wage

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I am still reviewing that particular matter; however, I will indicate to the Members that I am seriously considering requesting an immediate change to come into effect for the minimum wage sometime in the new year. But at the same time, because of the concerns that I do have with the report, I still do want to follow through with the initial plan that I did make of allowing a committee to be set up to determine a minimum wage that may be appropriate for the Territories, taking into consideration different factors, possibly different rates, and

also to look over a time frame so that we can phase in minimum wage increases over a period of time -- you know these types of minimum wage increases are not overlooked for a period of in excess of three years at a time -- and that we look at possibly different amounts of minimum wage, taking into consideration the cost of living, taking into consideration the inflation. However, I do want to indicate that prior to session concluding, seeing that the particular bill is still on the order paper for committee of the whole, that I will be making some attempt to address it. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O196-90(2): Alternative Mechanism For Raising Minimum Wage

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister consider amending the clause that is going to propose turning the establishment of minimum wage to a regime by regulation and just amend it to change the wage rate right now to somewhere between what is the minimum wage right now and what was proposed? Then she can, after long deliberation, establish another minimum wage at a later date.

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

Further Return To Question O196-90(2): Alternative Mechanism For Raising Minimum Wage

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, actually I am considering both. I am considering an immediate change to the minimum wage to come into effect in the new year. At the same time I am still considering the request for changes to the minimum wage to be dealt with by regulation. Thank you.

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

Question O197-90(2): Upgrading Of Sewage System In Coral Harbour

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. In Coral Harbour the sewage system, as you are aware since you saw that system in Coral Harbour, is eroding the surrounding environment because it is leaking and it is destroying some of the plants around that area. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister can tell me today if he can assist us with funding to upgrade the surrounding area for the sewage system in Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Inuvik.

Return To Question O197-90(2): Upgrading Of Sewage System In Coral Harbour

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the department and I, as well the Member, are aware of the need to do something about the conditions which he described at Coral Harbour. I used the opportunity yesterday, following the close of question period, to investigate what is being done with regard to addressing the problem that the honourable Member put before this House.

The existing community dump serves as a solid waste and sewage disposal site. There is not sufficient gravel at the site to provide proper cover in the landfill operation and the sewage is disposed of without proper attention. The approved project will provide a stockpile of gravel for cover, a lagoon treatment facility, and disposal for bag sewage. I think that is

the type of response the community would like to hear and know about.

In 1991-92 there has been \$30,000 identified for the design phase. In 1992-93 funding of \$150,000 is identified for construction and \$10,000 in 1993-94 for the warranty phase. Again these expenditures are required to be approved by the House at the appropriate time but it is being addressed by the department, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O198-90(2): Reimbursement Of Income Tax Paid By Treaty Indians

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Minister, it has come to my attention that there are some treaty people in my region that have received all of their income tax money back, all the income tax money they paid out over the year. They got it back because treaty Indians do not have to pay income tax. I think they used a clause in the Indian Act where it says you are exempt from federal taxation if you live on land reserved for Indians or surrendered Indian lands. It is under surrendered Indian lands that this person used to get her income tax back, I believe. There are quite a few people in my region that are paying income tax unnecessarily. So would your department look into the matter and possibly hold a workshop in Fort Resolution and Snowdrift to let people know about what their rights are when it comes to income tax and how they can get their income tax back? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O198-90(2): Reimbursement Of Income Tax Paid By Treaty Indians

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have already made a commitment to the House that I will undertake a review of what is happening. The information is not as clear-cut as it may seem and we are getting different opinions and we are not sure right now if there are some bureaucratic interpretations being made of certain federal acts or, in fact, if there has been an acceptance of certain principles to do with treaties. This is still, up to this point, unclear. I definitely will undertake to review the whole matter and get back to the House as soon as I can with the information as I get it in.

I would also like Members to think about the larger picture, which is that ultimately taxes provide revenues for government services and at some point, if everybody is exempted from taxes, we cannot pay for government services. So there are two sides to the coin and I think it is worth consideration also. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O198-90(2): Reimbursement Of Income Tax Paid By Treaty Indians

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, I do understand there are two sides to the coin. When you speak of one side it is treaty rights and if they are not getting their full treaty rights then it should be addressed. I am not talking about everybody being tax exempt. Will the Minister make a commitment, when he does gather his information, to meet with the people in Fort Resolution and Snowdrift and have a workshop to inform them of their rights on taxation? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O198-90(2): Reimbursement Of Income Tax Paid By Treaty Indians

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to clarify to the Member that I am not, in any way, saying that people should not get their treaty rights. Our agreement with Ottawa on the formula financing arrangement is that if something happens in this area it would have to be renegotiated significantly or overall funding to the government would drop. I am certainly looking at all aspects of this and I will report back to the House as soon as possible.

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

Question O199-90(2): Improved RCMP Services In Repulse Bay

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Justice. I received a letter today from the assistant mayor of Repulse Bay. It seems that the RCMP do not visit that community often enough and when they do visit they do not stay for very long, although there is a great deal of work to be done in that community. I wonder if the Minister of Justice can help out to ensure that when the RCMP visit the community that they stay for a longer period and to do the work that should be done. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O199-90(2): Improved RCMP Services In Repulse Bay

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly convey the concerns of the Member to the RCMP and ensure that if there is some problem with the service being provided to the people of Repulse Bay that that will be rectified. Thank you.

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

Question O200-90(2): Tabling Of Northern Accord Proposal

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify a question that I asked earlier today to the Government Leader. He sent me a note saying that there may be a problem of publicly tabling the whole package.

Mr. Government Leader, the part I did want you to table is called "Government of the Northwest Territories Proposal for the Finalization and Implementation of the Northern Accord". Is that the part there may be a problem in tabling?

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

Return To Question O200-90(2): Tabling Of Northern Accord Proposal

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for me to answer a question of that detail in the absence of the

Minister of Energy, who will be here in the House tomorrow. I would just indicate to the Member, Mr. Speaker, that this is a matter on which we expect to negotiate with the Government of Canada. I would just caution the Member that in my view we may be prejudicing our negotiating position if we reveal all

of our strategy publicly before the negotiations have even begun.

However, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Member is primarily concerned about the issue of community and northern benefits, and that area, Mr. Speaker, has been extensively discussed publicly with the Dene Nation and the Metis Association, and I am quite confident that we can provide a high level of detail on our intentions with respect to community benefits so that Member will be able to direct questions to the Minister.

There are other parts of the package, Mr. Speaker, which I am sure the honourable Member might agree it would not be to our strategic advantage to reveal at this point. That is all I intended to suggest, Mr. Speaker, but I will urge the Minister to provide information in a timely fashion so that the matter can be further pursued during this session. Thank you.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary to the Government Leader. Yes, the portion I was concerned about was for community aboriginal benefits, contracts, jobs and things like that. I do not see any problem, Mr. Speaker, tabling that document in the House when it is a dime a dozen on the street corners in the oil industry in Calgary and consultants -- can I have permission to extend question period, please?

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, they are a dime a dozen, if this is the same thing he is talking about, in the oil industry in Calgary; it is readily available, as well, from some consultants in Yellowknife, and they are floating around the Yukon as well. I have a problem that it is not tabled in the House to at least give it to Members of the Legislative Assembly. We are supposed to be part of this government and I do not see where you have a problem, Mr. Government Leader, to table such a document for fellow Members. They may have some different concerns than I do once they have read the document. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I heard a statement, I did not hear a question. Just to remind Members again of the need to ensure shortness with regard to the preamble to the supplementary. The honourable Member for Tu Nede, question.

Supplementary To Question O200-90(2): Tabling Of Northern Accord Proposal

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Government Leader make available a copy of the proposal for a Northern Accord to Members of the Legislative Assembly, the same as it is available to the oil industry, people in the Yukon and consultants? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O200-90(2): Tabling Of Northern Accord Proposal

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I would hesitate to make a commitment in the absence of the Minister, but we will examine the Member's suggestion. I do not know which draft

he is talking about that is floating in the public and I do not know what authenticity it has, but I will examine the matter with the Minister and undertake to provide a prompt response.

I do appreciate, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable Member would not want to prejudice the negotiating position of the Government of the Northwest Territories by asking us to discuss privileged aspects of the negotiating strategy in the public eye. I am sure that that will not be a problem if we do provide information. Thank you.

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

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W5-90(2): Compensation For Former Employee Of Yellowknife Correctional Centre

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. In 1973 a former guard at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre was injured in a prison riot. He sustained both physical and psychological injuries. He has since been seeking compensation. Can the Minister advise me on the progress or the status of this incident and these inquiries? Thank you.

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

Question W6-90(2): Direct Appointments Within The GNWT

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a written question to the Government Leader.

- 1) Would the Government Leader indicate how many direct appointments were made over the past three years to senior positions: a) deputy ministers, b) assistant deputy ministers, c) regional directors, d) regional superintendents, e) area superintendents. This information should include positions in all our agencies, boards and commissions.
- 2) Would the Government Leader divide this information into the following office locations: a) headquarters, b) regional, c) community, d) area.
- 3) Would the Government Leader indicate which positions were advertised and which positions were filled without public competition?
- 4) If public competition was not used, would the Government Leader indicate the process used to fill each senior position?
- 5) Does the affirmative action policy, which was adopted as public policy, apply when filling senior public service positions?
- 6) If so, how many positions were filled when applying the affirmative action policy?
- 7) How many aboriginal people filled senior positions in the Government of the Northwest Territories?
- 8) How many aboriginal people are being trained to fill senior positions?
- 9) What is the length of the training periods for these positions?
- 10) Will the Government Leader indicate whether he will appoint these trainees directly and immediately upon completion of their training program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question W7-90(2): Application Of Affirmative Action

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written

question to the Minister of Personnel. It is in the form of a letter from the Mackenzie Times. "I have for the past three years, as editor of the Mackenzie Times, requested from the Government of the Northwest Territories equal employment in the distribution of government advertisements. I have applied under the affirmative action policy and northern native preference, and to my understanding this is legislation. The Metis people of the NWT are recognized and enshrined in the Canadian Constitution and why, I ask, is the government treatment to the Metis as if they do not exist? I believe that when legislation is passed by the House it becomes law. The government refuses to address these issues. I am again requesting government advertisement under the legislation that the government has endorsed, the affirmative action native preference."

My question is, does this policy apply only to the Inuit and Dene, and if so why are the Metis excluded? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. With regard to the final written question I would just remind Members that questions should be posed by the Member and not by reading a question from the public to a Minister or the government. Written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Question W8-90(2): Reforestation In NWT

MR. LEWIS: To the Minister of Renewable Resources. Where is reforestation taking place in the Northwest Territories? How are these places chosen? Why was the decision made to plant trees rather than thinning out trees in burn areas at a much less expense?

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Written questions. Written questions. Point of privilege, the honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise a point of privilege. I have received the honourable Member for Deh Cho's statement which indicated that Fort Providence does not have a full-time social worker. I have confirmed with my Department of Social Services that a full-time social worker has been in Fort Providence since 1985. With that I would request the Member to apologize to the department because we...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. You do not have a point of privilege. You might have a point of correction, but that can be dealt with through a Ministers' statement or a return to oral question, depending on the area in which the honourable Member dealt with that issue. But it is not a point of privilege. However, the matter is on record. Returns to written questions. Returns to written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Report Of Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions has the honour to present its report on the review of selected regional health boards and the Territorial Health Insurance Services Board, and recommends it to the House.

The standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions, under the authority given to it by this House, has completed a review of three regional health boards and the Territorial Health Insurance Services Board. The following boards were included in the committee's review: Baffin Regional Health Board; Inuvik Regional Health Board; Stanton Yellowknife Health Centre Board; Territorial Health Insurance Services Board.

Throughout the review process the committee focussed on the following aspects: authority, mandate and power of each board and the Department of Health; pertinent legislation, regulations and policies; organization and functional structure; and operational environment since the 1988 transfer.

Mr. Speaker, the committee wishes to acknowledge the co-operation and thoughtful presentations provided by the representatives of each of the boards and the officials of the Department of Health. The committee extends its appreciation to the committee staff and the special consultant, Mr. John Noble, the former deputy minister of Social Services and Health with the Government of British Columbia, for their assistance during the review.

Observations And Recommendations

A) Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act

The committee is mindful of the fact that the Department of Health has had to assume a greater level of responsibility over the last number of years. Despite these changes in responsibilities, however, the THIS Act which governs virtually all aspects of the NWT health care system, has not been substantively amended since it was enacted in 1974. The result has been an unclear line of authority and an uncertainty among the organizations and individuals involved about their authority, roles and responsibilities.

1) The Department And THIS Board

Under the current system the senior departmental officials are intricately linked to the THIS Board by statutory appointments pursuant to the THIS Act. They have a dual responsibility of fulfilling the departmental responsibilities, for example policies, as well as advising the THIS Board as consultants. The standing committee is not necessarily questioning the quality of the work being provided. It is a matter of having the checks and balances necessary in all public entities. It is the committee's view that the roles and responsibilities for the employees of the department and the THIS Board must be separately defined.

2) The THIS Board And The Regional Health Boards

During their presentations all three regional health boards expressed a concern about the blurred line of authority in their relationship with the THIS Board and the department. The deputy minister's role as chairperson of the THIS Board seems to be a source of confusion for regional health board officials at times. This is contrary to the formal organizational chart of the NWT health system which clearly depicts the deputy minister's office and the THIS Board as separate entities concurrently reporting to the Minister.

3) Representation On The THIS Board

An implicit understanding between all parties who were involved in the 1987-88 health transfer negotiation process was that the THIS Board would be restructured to allow a broader representation of regions and the aboriginal community. This was one of the conditions through which the support of the aboriginal community was obtained. This understanding has not been fulfilled in the current state of the THIS Board. A

decision has to be made about what the proper function of the THIS Board is supposed to be. Should it exist at all? If it should, it should be given the proper and necessary resources, separate from the department, to fulfil its mandate. If not, it should be eliminated. Perhaps, with proper representational make-up, the board could function as a useful advisory and consultative body to the Minister.

The committee's position is basically that "the form should follow function". In other words, duties and responsibilities must be clearly defined first, then the adequate structure and resources to fulfil the mandate must be facilitated accordingly.

The standing committee feels strongly that new legislation could resolve many of the present uncertainties and provide a clearer understanding of the line of authority essential for effective health care management of the Northwest Territories.

Recommendation One: That The THIS Act Be Repealed And A New Act Be Enacted

Mr. Speaker, therefore, upon its review of the selected regional health boards, the THIS Board and the Department of Health, the standing committee recommends: that the THIS Act be repealed and a new act be enacted which: (a) establishes and clearly defines the authorities of the Department of Health, the THIS Board, regional health boards and the community health committees, and (b) better reflects the government's philosophy of supporting regional autonomy.

B) Use Of Memoranda Of Agreement

Four regional health boards, created after the 1988 health transfer agreement, have entered into memoranda of agreement, which are also referred to as MOAs, with various government departments to obtain a range of services. The agreements were to foster economies of scale and efficiency by a co-ordinated use of resources. The committee had three concerns regarding this practice.

1) Legislated Mandate And Power

According to section 11 of the THIS Act, the mandate of a regional health board is to control, manage and operate hospitals and health programs in the region.

The pre-transfer boards such as the Baffin Regional Health Board and the Stanton Yellowknife Health Centre Board have agreements with the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories which give them greater autonomy over their operations than that of the post-transfer boards in the Inuvik, Keewatin, Mackenzie and Kitikmeot regions. The latter organizations are obligated to fulfil their mandate through the use of MOAs.

In the standing committee's view, operating under the MOA system has proven to be extremely cumbersome, difficult and inefficient for the post-transfer boards, rendering them less able to fulfil their mandate under the THIS Act.

A case in point is that of the line of authority. In some post-transfer boards, a considerable number of employees work in the board offices without having to report directly to its administrator. They perform the duties under the authority of various government departments, as provided by the MOAs. This entails a large component of human resource allocation without a built-in accountability mechanism to the management of the board.

The position of the department is that the post-transfer boards must meet requirements such as adequate experience, a population base to attract suitable staff, and time and opportunity to learn the role before taking on full responsibilities. However, the Baffin Regional Health Board

had limited experience in managing health operations of the current magnitude when it took on new responsibilities. Board members and staff at the Baffin Regional Health Board have managed to develop working solutions because they were given the necessary resources and control to do so.

Therefore, it is the committee's view that the same level of support and opportunity must be given to the post-transfer boards. The Baffin Regional Health Board must be used as a model to be followed by all post-transfer boards as it was intended to be. This was the understanding between all parties during the transfer negotiation process.

2) Financial Control

The standing committee is extremely concerned about the effect the use of MOAs has on the ability of officials to obtain a clear financial picture of their respective operations. The officials of both the Department of Health and the regional health boards have expressed dissatisfaction with the difficulties encountered in obtaining financial reports from each other and from service departments.

The implication of this is serious, not only for the regional health boards in running their operations, but also for the territorial government. Without accurate and timely financial information, full compensation from the federal government for health expenditures cannot be obtained.

The complicated method of direct and indirect service created by extensive use of MOAs with government departments seems to contribute greatly to financial reporting problems. Post-transfer boards, bound by the MOAs, are unable to know exactly how much the services are costing their operations.

3) Contrary To Government Philosophy

This required use of MOAs runs directly counter to the government's philosophy of supporting the transfer of territorial responsibilities to the community and regional level. Furthermore, economies of scale intended by the use of MOAs are not being achieved by the post-transfer boards.

In the early history of territorial health funding, the idea of using MOAs was actually initiated with the support of the health community. In current practice, however, the process has become much more complicated, inefficient and costly.

The committee accepts that the use of MOAs is desirable and necessary in certain communities for certain services. Therefore, it is the view of the committee that this process should be available to regional health boards on an optional basis. It should not be applied on a mandatory basis, as now is the case.

Operating and managing the total budget allocation must be the sole responsibility of a given regional health board. It should be up to each of the boards to decide how it operates its facility, programs and services, within approved budgetary limits and the accountability provisions contained in the Financial Administration Act.

Recommendation Two: To Discontinue Use Of Memoranda Of Agreement

Therefore, upon its review of the post-transfer boards' reliance on government departments for a range of services under the MOAs, the standing committee makes the following recommendation: That the Minister, where requested by regional health boards, take all necessary steps to immediately discontinue the practice of requiring regional health boards to use the service of government departments.

C) The Impact Of Goods And Services Tax (GST)

Recommendation Three: That The Impact Of The GST On All Government Agencies Be Reviewed

The standing committee, during its review, recognized that the proposed goods and services tax may carry implications for the operation not only of the regional health boards, but also of all other agencies, boards and commissions throughout the Northwest Territories. Therefore, your standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions makes its third recommendation: (a) that the government undertake a review to examine the impact of the GST on the cost of operating all government agencies, boards and commissions and report the findings to the Legislative Assembly, and (b) that the review should include proposals for ways in which all government-funded agencies, boards and commissions could receive the same GST exemption as the Government of the Northwest Territories.

D) Comprehensive Response By The Executive Council

Recommendation Four: Request For Comprehensive Response From The Executive Council

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the standing committee requests, in recommendation four, that in accordance with Rule 94(4), the Executive Council table a comprehensive response to all recommendations contained in this report to the Assembly within 120 days of the presentation of this report to the House.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the standing committee will continue to fulfil the mandate given to it by this House. It will endeavour to address important issues and provide advice to the Legislative Assembly on all aspects of the agencies, boards and commissions of the Northwest Territories.

Motion To Receive And Move To Committee Of The Whole CR 4-90(2), Report Of Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the report of the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions be received and moved into committee of the whole for consideration. Thank you.

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

---Carried

This is considered Committee Report 4-90(2), and it is moved into committee of the whole for today. Before we take a break, just a reminder to Members about the display out in the lobby which will include a presentation on the International Book Voyage. Members are also invited to meet students from Coppermine who are featured on a new video on Whole Language learning. Their video will be played in the lobby during the break. So we will now take a break and recess for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

I will call the House back to order. Item 11, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 32-90(2), a document entitled "A Strategy for Literacy in the Northwest Territories", in English, Inuktitut,

Dogrib, Slavey and French. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 33-90(2), a document on a general legal opinion on Indians and the income tax.

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

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 34-90(2), a letter from the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce to the Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Minister of Public Works. It joins with the Iqaluit Chamber of Commerce in voicing concerns about the awarding of a contract for an Iqaluit apartment complex, without public tender.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents.

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

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 17: Environmental Rights Act

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 26, 1990, I shall move that Bill 17, Environmental Rights Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 14, motions. Motion 7-90(2) and Motion 8-90(2).

Item 15, first reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bills 8 and 14; Tabled Documents 6-90(2), 13-90(2); Committee Report 4-90(2), with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will come to order. What is the government's wish? Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The government would be prepared to proceed with Bill 14, Official Languages Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The government is requesting that Bill 14, Official Languages Act, be dealt with. Is the committee agreed? Proceed, Mr. Allooooloo.

Bill 14: Official Languages Act

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Chairman, these amendments will postpone until March 31, 1992, the coming into force of the provisions of the Official Languages Act that relate to the requirement for legislation to be in both English and French, that was scheduled to come into force on December 31, 1990. You can be assured that this government is committed to meeting all other obligations to both French and aboriginal residents under the Official Languages Act. This amendment will require an amendment to the Northwest Territories Act by the Parliament of Canada to be valid. My colleague, the Hon.

Michael Ballantyne, has consulted with his colleague, the Hon. Kim Campbell, about the required amendment to the Northwest Territories Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Chairman of the standing committee on legislation, Mr. Ernerk.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. This bill would delay the date for completing the translation of the Northwest Territories legislation and regulations into the French language. The standing committee on legislation has dealt with this matter twice in preparation for the seventh session. Most recently, Mr. Chairperson, the standing committee reviewed this bill on October 15, 1990. We met at that time with the Minister of Culture and Communications, the Hon. Titus Allooooloo. At an earlier meeting on September 19, 1990, the standing committee also had an opportunity to discuss the status of federal-territorial negotiations with the Hon. Michael Ballantyne.

Mr. Chairperson, the standing committee believes strongly that we cannot retreat from our hard-fought victories in the area of official languages legislation. For the first time, the aboriginal languages of northern Canada have been recognized as official languages. Services and information will eventually be available in aboriginal languages, and the office of an official languages commissioner will soon be established.

I am very pleased to report that the bill before the House today will not affect in any way the implementation dates for the strides we have achieved in the establishment of status for our aboriginal languages. The implementation of French translation of Northwest Territories statutes would, however, be delayed by this legislation. The standing committee on legislation realized that this is a necessary response to certain logistical problems that have plagued the completion of this project. The standing committee urged the government to ensure that the time extension would be sufficient to complete the translation project with competence and finality.

The standing committee was also interested in determining the Minister's approach in dealing with the Government of Canada regarding amendments that will have to be made to the federal NWT Act. This may be difficult, given the current state of affairs on Parliament Hill.

Because of these areas of concern, Mr. Chairperson, there were some comments during standing committee meetings that the Minister consider delaying the implementation of French translations for an even longer period of time than is proposed by the bill before us today. That may be a matter for consideration in our committee of the whole, Mr. Chairman.

Our review of this bill was intensive and I believe that the government responded seriously in providing assurance of their present commitments to establishing official language status for the Dene languages, as well as Inuktitut. After a thorough review, the standing committee on legislation agreed, on October 15, 1990, to refer this bill to the House for consideration. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. General comments. Are there any general comments? Mr. Allooooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Chairman, I would like to request that my officials be at the witness table.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in his witnesses? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is my deputy minister, Mr. Dave Porter, and to my right is the deputy minister of Justice, Mr. Geoff Bickert.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. Are there any general comments? Does the committee agree that we go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, is now ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and his officials. Mahsi cho.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne, what is the government's wish?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The government would put it back into the hands of the committee for a decision on what they want to do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): What is the committee's wish? Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairperson, I move that you report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Your motion is in order and it is not debatable. We do not have a quorum. Mr. Clerk, will you ring the bells? We have a motion on the floor to report progress. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise now and report progress. Thank you.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 8, Bill 14, Tabled Document 6-90(2),

Tabled Document 13-90(2) and CR 4-90(2), and wishes to report that Bill 14 is ready for third reading.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 19, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with third reading of Bill 14.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Amittuq is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 14. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Third Reading Of Bill 14: Official Languages Act

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, be read for the third 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? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 14 has had third reading.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings for Thursday, October 25th: ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m.; at 10:00 a.m. special committee on constitutional reform; and at 11:00 a.m. special committee on the northern economy.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, October 25th.

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 13-90(2); Committee Report 4-90(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 Thursday, October 25th, 1990, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT