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

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## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1990

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

## Appreciation To Interpreter/Translators

**SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo):** Before proceeding with the orders of the day, the Chair would like to recognize the services provided to this House by our valuable interpreter/translators.

---Applause

The service they provide, sometimes under difficult circumstances, I can assure them is appreciated by all Members of this House. Apart from Lok Saba, the federal House in India, we are the only other Legislature in the Commonwealth that provides simultaneous interpretation in as many languages. As Members will note, we are also providing a number of House documents translated into a number of our official languages and this will increase in the years ahead. I would like to also remind Members that when participating in debates in the House, it would facilitate interpretation if Members' diction, volume and rapidity of speech were a consideration. I know how hard it is in the heat of debate, and sometimes within your two and one half minutes in particular, to remember these things. But I am sure that you will bear this in mind as we do not wish to miss one word you have to say.

Once again, I commend all interpreter/translators for working for the Legislative Assembly, sessionally and inter-sessionally.

---Applause

Orders of the day for Thursday, October 25, 1990. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

## ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

**Ministers' Statement 35-90(2): GNWT Reorganization On Political And Constitutional Development Issues**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you. For some time the Government of the Northwest Territories has identified the importance and special challenge of co-ordinating the implementation of land claims with the Northern Accord and the transfer of responsibility for the remaining province-like responsibilities still exercised by DIAND, such as the administration of land and water and minerals. Over the last year the Government of the Northwest Territories began to prepare itself and assemble resources for the intensive and careful planning and preparation which was necessary to provide for the orderly implementation of land claims in conjunction with the transfer of control to Northerners over renewable and non-renewable resource development. To that end, this government undertook a reorganization of the personnel and resources dedicated to the several initiatives contributing to the political and constitutional development of the Northwest Territories.

The demand for the reorganization stemmed from three

factors: The first was the growing emphasis on the Nunavut question, because of article IV of the TFN agreement in principle. The second was the commitment of this government to the implementation of self-government at the community level and to provide for aboriginal self-government in the context of public government. The third was the need for resources dedicated to the planning required for the orderly transfer of administration over land and water in conjunction with the implementation of land claims and the Northern Accord.

**Use Of Existing Resources Where Possible**

The reorganization consisted of a reprofiling of existing resources whenever possible and only then the identification of additional resources. The position of adviser on Nunavut affairs was created, working out of the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat, and contract funds provided in order to meet the demands presented by our obligations under article IV of the TFN agreement in principle.

The position of self-government adviser was created, and an experienced official was seconded to work out of the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat on the development of self-government with the Dene/Metis and Inuvialuit.

The government formed a centrally-based unit called the devolution/implementation working group by committing the resources of the devolution office as the nucleus or base, and is asking for additional funds by supplementary appropriation to ensure that a full contingent of resources and personnel is in place this year. This will be a three year project and the working group will consist of six person years and funds to contract specialized expertise in the areas of law, finance, public administration and resource management.

The primary focus of this group is the planning necessary for the transfer of administration over land and water, but in doing this it is necessary to ensure careful co-ordination with the implementation of land claims, which is the responsibility of the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat, and the Northern Accord, which is the responsibility of the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. This co-ordinating role will be the responsibility of the working group, which reports to the political and constitutional development committee of cabinet.

This work is required to ensure that the two outstanding land claims settlements are effectively implemented to the long-term advantage of the claimant groups, the Inuit and the Dene/Metis, and to other Northerners as well. It is one thing to negotiate a claim, another to implement it. Implementation is especially demanding when it is so intricately linked to the Northern Accord and the public administration of land and water as it is in the case of the Dene/Metis and TFN land claims. We have also learned from our experience in attempting to implement the Inuvialuit claim that more work must be done on our part, even to successfully complete the implementation of this claim.

### Possibility Of Regional Implementation

Mr. Speaker, recent developments in the Dene/Metis claim have not changed the need for this work. Indeed, another level of complexity and urgency is added. We may have to plan for the regional implementation of the Dene/Metis claim, if that is the direction the federal government and the Dene/Metis take, and we need to plan on the basis of whatever other contingencies may apply in the case of the Dene/Metis claim.

Recent developments regarding Nunavut have added another element which contributes to the importance, complexity and urgency of this exercise. Division is now once again high on the agenda for political and constitutional development, and legislation creating Nunavut is contemplated for 1992. This requires careful co-ordination with the implementation of the land claim and the planning of the development of a comprehensive regime for the management of public lands, waters and renewable and non-renewable resources for both Nunavut and the rest of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking of the economic, political and social security of Northerners and I am pleased to report on the commitment of the government to protecting and promoting that security. Thank you.

--Applause

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

### Ministers' Statement 36-90(2): Child Day-Care Program

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to provide the Members of the Legislative Assembly with an update on the interim child day-care program. The government's involvement in child day-care is relatively new. The interim child day-care program was introduced in the spring of 1989. During the 18 months of administering this program of assistance and support, significant progress has been observed in various areas related to child day-care.

First of all, the number of licensed child day-care spaces available in the Northwest Territories has risen to 750. During the 1989-90 fiscal year start-up funds were issued which resulted in 234 new spaces. This year, start-up funds have contributed to the creation of an additional 74 new spaces. There are now 690 day-care spaces in licensed child day-care centres and 60 spaces in licensed private day-care homes.

Last winter I informed you that the program had directly contributed to the creation of approximately 100 jobs in our northern communities. In general terms, for every five new licensed child day-care spaces created, one new job is also created. As of today, approximately 150 new jobs have been created as a result of the program. I am pleased to observe that most of these new jobs are filled by Northerners. In 1989-90, the program distributed just under \$800,000 to the North's non-profit child day-care facilities in the form of operations and maintenance contribution payments. An additional \$400,000 was paid as start-up grants to newly licensed facilities.

This year, the program's operations and maintenance contribution payments are expected to be in the neighbourhood of \$1.1 million and start-up grants will total approximately \$200,000. We anticipate the creation of an additional 130 new non-profit spaces before March 31, 1991. The program's user subsidy component, which is a direct grant paid to parents who are in full-time training or school or whose income falls within the program's income eligibility guidelines, has not been used to the extent anticipated. In an

effort to improve the level of assistance this government can offer to parents experiencing difficulty in paying their child day-care bills, some amendments to the administration of, and eligibility for, this direct subsidy will be considered for implementation on April 1, 1991.

The department has also, Mr. Speaker, worked closely with Arctic College to ensure that training opportunities are available to the North's child day-care workers. Funding from the program has allowed the college to offer accredited early childhood education courses to individuals in the day-care field. The department's own child day-care staff trainer has visited many of the North's child day-care programs and provided the employees with some hands-on training.

Overall, Mr. Speaker, the interim child day-care program is successful. However, we are still awaiting the federal government to fulfil their obligations for the creation of a national child day-care program. I want to advise my colleagues that regardless of the inactivity of the federal government, the progress of the child day-care program in the Northwest Territories continues to be significant and, as a government, we can be proud of the major role we have played in this process. Thank you.

---Applause

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

### Ministers' Statement 37-90(2): Freeing Of Whales Trapped By Ice

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to give an emergency statement. On Monday, October 22, a hunter from Clyde River reported that a number of bowhead whales and narwhals were trapped in the Eglinton Fiord just north of Clyde River. A pan of pack ice had blocked the mouth of the fiord. A Canadian coast guard icebreaker was rerouted to that area. Bad weather conditions prevented the coast guard helicopter from investigating the fiord until yesterday. By then the high winds on Tuesday opened up leads in the pack ice where the whales could escape. Mr. Speaker, the president of the Clyde River Hunters and Trappers Association was in the coast guard helicopter. I am pleased to report that as of yesterday when they were in that area, the whales were not in the fiord. Thank you.

---Applause

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

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On Full-Time Social Worker For Fort Providence

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some further comments on the delivery of social services in Fort Providence. The social worker attached to the community is officially a full-time position. However, Mr. Speaker, the individual in question lives in Kakisa and is responsible for both communities. I have been advised that this person leaves for work from Kakisa at 8:30 each morning and arrives in Fort Providence at 9:30. She leaves Fort Providence at 3:30 each day to return to Kakisa. She is not available for night calls or emergencies because the ferry at the Mackenzie River does not operate between midnight and 6:00 a.m. Most social work situations require immediate attention and cannot wait until morning. So in my view, this is not a full-time position.

When I made my statement yesterday, I was referring to a situation that happened around two in the morning. A lot of problems arising from family disputes, child abuse or child neglect, do not take place during the hours of a normal working day. Many of these incidents happen during the evening, in the middle of the night or on the weekend.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion a full-time social worker is a person who resides in the community and is available to deal with problems as they arise, whatever the time of day or night. I appreciate that the present social worker is trying to do the best she can under the circumstances. I am not criticizing her work in any way. However, I believe there is a requirement for a full-time social worker who resides in the community of Fort Providence. But, for the time being, we will have to continue to rely on the resources available in the community to deal with issues that really require the attention of a trained social worker. Mr. Speaker, I am certainly glad that people like the RCMP are there, and that they are willing to help out whenever the need arises. Thank you.

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

#### **Member's Statement On Prime Minister's Comments Re Older People**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the ordinary Members' committee this morning we discussed the issue of some very unfortunate comments that were made by the Prime Minister of Canada on Monday in Vancouver, within a question and answer session with high school students, and I must put this in context. He was answering about the Senate. What he said was that this has got to be the only country in the world where a 71-year-old man walks around with a cow bell and a kazoo and a whistle and gets paid for it and calls himself a Senator. Then he goes on to say that they should be in bed at 71 years of age, having milk and cookies.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Shame!

**MR. LEWIS:** This morning we talked about a motion, and I will just paraphrase the kind of motion that we had in mind: Whereas the people of the Northwest Territories have a profound respect for elders; and whereas the Prime Minister of Canada showed complete contempt for elders in his remarks to high school students on October 22, 1990, this Legislative Assembly directs the Government Leader to write to the Prime Minister of Canada deploring his behaviour.

However, having some respect for the Government Leader and for the fact that he has perhaps shaken hands with this man, we decided that we would not put him in that embarrassing position. However, Mr. Speaker, in the Northwest Territories we have a profound respect for old people. It is part of the tradition of the people that when you get to a certain age you have paid your dues and you have survived very often a harsh life, and it is not showing very good leadership for the leader of this country to show such contempt for people who have contributed so much. Thank you.

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

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Commissioner's Award To Judge Slaven**

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My conscience compels me to speak publicly, Mr. Speaker, on a matter which

has troubled me since the opening of this session, and that is the matter of the presentation of Commissioner's Award for public service at the highest level to Judge James R. Slaven. I learned about this on Tuesday, October 9, 1990, and on October 10, in the morning, wrote a letter to the Commissioner expressing my feelings against the award. I provided to each Member of this House the same morning a copy of that letter, plus other documents, in support of my position.

Mr. Speaker, there was ample time on that day to at least have changed the Speech from the Throne by omitting the paragraph announcing the award. The government chose not to change the speech, Mr. Speaker, and the announcement of the award, as the rest of the speech, is therefore now the property of this House.

The Government Leader has also stated, in reply to my Question O76-90(2) on October 16, 1990, that the Throne Speech is, and I quote: "the responsibility of the government and, therefore, it is the government which takes direct responsibility for any flaws or merits in that speech." I can therefore only interpret this to mean that our government agrees with this award.

Mr. Speaker, in July of 1985, Judge James R. Slaven, when presiding over proceedings in court in a sexual assault case, made comments from the bench which caused an outrage in my constituency and a demand by petition that the judge be removed from the bench. Mr. Speaker, the comments allegedly made by another judge more recently outside the courtroom pale by comparison to those made by Judge Slaven from the bench and documented in court transcripts.

During the last session all Members of this House spoke strongly and passionately during the debate on violence and our Justice Minister has since spoken forcibly on the need for a better and more appropriate application of the justice system, particularly toward women, especially aboriginal women.

Mr. Speaker, my conscience does not allow me to remain silent. The announcement of the award is the property of this House, the decision is the responsibility of this government. If this House and this government remain silent it can only be seen by the public as approval of the award.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Your time has expired. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

#### **Member's Statement On Order Of Canada Award To Sister Cecile Monpetit**

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special person. Mr. Speaker, Sister Cecile Monpetit, the nurse in charge at the Rae-Edzo Health Centre, has been awarded the Order of Canada by Governor General Raymond Hnatyshyn, yesterday. The award is in recognition of Sister Monpetit's many years of nursing service in the Northwest Territories.

Born in Montreal in 1930, Sister Monpetit joined the congregation of the Grey Nun Sisters of Montreal in 1947. She received her registered nurse certificate from a hospital in St. Jean, Quebec, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Ottawa. She began work as a public health nurse in Fort Smith in 1955. Sister Monpetit's nursing career has taken her to every community in the South Mackenzie, as well as many High Arctic communities.

According to a statement issued by Government House in Ottawa, Sister has dedicated her life to nursing in the more remote nursing stations of the North. Many nurses would

prefer not to work in these smaller settlements, yet Sister Monpetit readily accepts serving on short-term assignments and in emergency situations. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve, frequently attending the sick in the wilderness areas. The Sister remains a shining example of the Grey Nuns' devotion to the region since their establishment in Fort Providence in 1867. Through her hard work, her willingness to serve and her spirit of sacrifice, Sister Monpetit humbly dedicates herself to others and truly enhances the quality of life in her northern community.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Sister Monpetit the community of Rae-Edzo and the former chief recognized that she did a lot for the North so they put forward her name to receive the Order of Canada and the Governor General...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order. Time has expired. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

#### Member's Statement On Alternate Energy Sources

**MR. WHITFORD:** Mr. Speaker, the events in the Middle East over the past three months have once again sparked the fears of global energy, or oil shortage. Within a week of the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, gas and fuel prices started their climb upward. Mr. Speaker, these events were reminiscent of the mid-1970s and early 1980s when it was deemed that oil was finite and we would soon slip into a cold and dark existence. In Canada, where petroleum is an important part of our economy and a necessity of life itself, the federal government made an all-out effort to stave off this disastrous energy shortage by a conservation program. There were programs that looked into domestic energy conservation by adopting new building techniques in construction, rehabilitating by insulating and sealing, by energy saving through improved energy efficiency in appliances, fuel burners and operating methods and as well, Mr. Speaker, most importantly, through the research into alternate energy sources, renewable energy sources such as solar power, wind energy, water power and energy through renewable biomass.

Mr. Speaker, something has happened between the last oil crisis and this one. First of all, the federal government slowed down on conservation in its energy programs and then withdrew incentives to research into alternate energy sources. Mr. Speaker, we are not out of the woods yet and I think it is something that every consumer, every person in the Northwest Territories, and this government must be keenly aware of, that alternate energy sources are something that must be looked at. I wanted to raise this issue because there is some talk about looking into wind power in the Northwest Territories, and I believe there are talks going on right now between this government and some research people which were perhaps victims of the last energy conservation cuts by the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Member's Statement On Prime Minister's Remarks Re Elders

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, have a statement to make regarding the comments of our Prime Minister, Mr. Brian Mulroney. As we have been told, Mr. Brian Mulroney said, "They should be in bed at 71 years of age, having milk and cookies." I am appalled, Mr. Speaker, angry, and cannot believe that such a statement would be made by the Prime Minister of Canada about our beloved elders. Mr. Speaker, what is the Prime Minister going to come out with next?

Let me inform this House briefly, Mr. Speaker, about the

customary treatment of our elders in my culture. Firstly, there has never been, and will never be, a question of disrespect toward elders among Inuit. When an elder comes into our dwelling, we the younger people stand up to ensure that the elder gets the best possible seat. Elders are always given the prize parts of an animal after a hunt. We were even taught to never call our elders by name, but by position, such as grandfather, grandmother, aunt, uncle or other respectful titles given to them. Inuit elders taught the younger generation to be good hunters, fisherpersons, to be observant of danger, to understand other people, to have patience and many other good things. My father, who died at age 71, was hunting and providing for his family right until the day of his passing.

I remind the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, of non-aboriginal leaders who are and were elders, who were respected and revered in their old age: former Prime Minister of England, Sir Winston Churchill, over 71 years; former President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, same thing; President of France, Francois Mitterrand, same thing; former Prime Minister, John Diefenbaker, also an MP at over 71; Hon. Stanley Knowles, over 71; and even Emmett Hall, whom the same Prime Minister called a renowned expert on international free trade and on medical services in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the knowledge and experience of elders is what gives the younger generation the guidance to go on. There is no question that we need our elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

#### Member's Statement On Proud, Hard-Working Elders In The North

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday my mother, Georgina, celebrated her 70th birthday. She continues to be a proud, hard-working mother to all of us, often providing us with many of the traditional clothes that we grew up with. She loves bush life, often going out to set up camp by herself and with her friends out on the river in the summer, even in the middle of the winter out on the land. She tans hides; sews clothing for all of us, including her many grandchildren; she cuts her own wood; and she sets up her own camps. I think I needed to say this in the context of what the other Members brought up. Having said that, I also want to recognize the many other proud, hard-working elders that we have still with us in the North today. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### Member's Statement On Children Going To School In Blizzards

**MR. NINGARK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the smaller communities education is very much a priority for the government in the North. It is a very top priority for the students in the smaller communities. During the winter we have snow blizzards happening and it is a very cold climate. The concern is that kindergarten to grade one pupils go to school during the blizzards and you can hardly see houses. This is a very unfortunate thing and if somebody were to get lost in these kinds of storms they could get very disoriented.

Also in the NWT some communities have a busing service. One of the communities that I represent has no hills at all. I think my colleague, Peter Ernerk, is aware of that. Gjoa

Haven has no hills at all and it has a lot of blizzards during the winter and it gets very cold. I want to let my colleagues consider these situations. In some communities when there are blizzards, this is very dangerous for the students who go to school. Even though their houses are not too far from each other this can be a very dangerous situation. This is what I wanted to say, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Further Return To Question O138-90(2): Use Of Aboriginal Language By Airlines And Other Companies

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ernerk on October 19, 1990, with regard to the use of aboriginal language by airlines and other companies.

Mr. Speaker, this is to advise the Member that I have again corresponded with the airline companies serving the Northwest Territories, encouraging them to put into effect aboriginal language services on all flights operating in the NWT. I will provide the Member with copies of this correspondence. I will also keep the Member informed of any responses I receive from these companies. For the Member's information, Calm Air does not receive any funding assistance from the Department of Culture and Communications. Thank you.

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

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

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question O190-90(2) asked by Mr. Ernerk on October 24, 1990, regarding the lack of CBC programming in Repulse Bay. Repulse Bay is one of 27 communities with a population under 500 and therefore my department provides receiving and rebroadcasting facilities for access to CBC radio and television. The receiving and rebroadcasting equipment in these 27 communities is maintained by Culture and Communications through a contract with a technical firm. The contract calls for an annual maintenance visit and the availability of an emergency, toll-free telephone contact number in order to handle any emergency difficulties.

Each community is responsible for naming a local person who is responsible for contacting the contractor to report any problems. The local person is talked through minor repairs by the contractor. In the event of more serious problems, new parts are flown in for immediate installation.

In the case of Repulse Bay, the radio difficulty arose while the local contact person was out of town. Therefore, someone in the community attempted to repair the problem by randomly switching wires and tightening down a variety of screws. This simply made the problem worse and more difficult to repair. I am pleased to report that the local contact, upon returning to Repulse Bay, talked with the contractor, additional parts were flown in, and he made the necessary repairs. Service is expected to be restored today.

In order to avoid this sort of problem in the future, my staff will again contact each community that is served, to remind them of the correct procedures to follow in the event of equipment failure. Thank you.

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

#### ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question O201-90(2): Macpherson Literary Award

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education. In 1985 a committee was set up to handle a sum of money which had been donated to establish a literacy fund. This literacy fund was to be used to encourage literacy throughout the Northwest Territories, in English and the aboriginal languages. I was a member of that committee but then I left the government so I do not know what happened to it. As far as I know, I am still a member of the committee, yet there have never ever been any awards made to encourage literacy in the NWT.

My question to the Minister is, does this indicate that his current interest in literacy is absolutely phoney because here we have a fund that was established to encourage literacy, or is it one more indication about the speed at which his department works?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am concerned about the question, in particular the use of the word "phoney" and I am concerned about the question itself. I should like to have an opportunity to review the question.

**MR. LEWIS:** Point of privilege.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Point of privilege. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MR. LEWIS:** To make your job easier, Mr. Speaker, I would like to apologize for the use of the word "phoney" and replace it by the word "ill-considered". Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** That is not a point of privilege, probably a point of order of withdrawing the question and asking it with a new choice of words. However, I will allow the honourable Member, if he so chooses, to answer.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** I choose not to answer the question.

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

##### Question O202-90(2): Office Space For Pelly Bay Housing Association

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Housing. I wonder if the Minister is aware that the Pelly Bay Housing Association occupies an old, substandard house as an office. If so, I wonder if the Minister has any plan to build a new one. Thank you.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I regret that I do not have immediate knowledge of any proposal the department may have to improve the situation of the housing authority in Pelly Bay. I will obtain the information and return the information to the House.

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



**Question O203-90(2): Maintenance Of Water Reservoir, Coral Harbour**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct a question to the Minister of DPW, in regard to the water reservoir in Coral Harbour. They would like to request the operation of the water reservoir. Can the Minister answer my question to see if he can consider the concern of the Coral Harbour residents?

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

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, can the Member rephrase the question? I really did not get the full context of what the question was.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Aivilik, can you rephrase the question?

**MR. ERNERK:** Can I take that question as notice?

---Laughter

The question is very simple and requires a very simple answer from the government. The hamlet of Coral Harbour requested, through myself, and I am sure through the GNWT to the Department of Public Works, to take over the maintenance of the water reservoir. Could the Minister give me an update on this request? Thank you.

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

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that question might be more appropriately answered by the Minister of MACA, mainly because the Department of Public Works is a service agency to the other departments and at this point in time I am not aware that that particular initiative has been referred to the Department of Public Works. So it would still be in the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I will have to take the question as notice and return a response.

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

**Question O204-90(2): Responsibility For Foundations In Public Housing**

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Housing. Could the Minister inform me who has the responsibility for the planning, decision-making and the financing for foundations of public housing, pads, piles, et cetera?

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

**Return To Question O204-90(2): Responsibility For Foundations In Public Housing**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I believe the planning is being done in our construction office in Yellowknife.

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

**Supplementary To Question O204-90(2): Responsibility For Foundations In Public Housing**

**MR. PEDERSEN:** And the financing thereof, as I asked you? Is it the Housing Corporation's responsibility to pay for the foundations under the houses as well?

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

**Further Return To Question O204-90(2): Responsibility For Foundations In Public Housing**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** For the piling, it is my understanding, yes; that comprises part of the house.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. Supplementary, the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

**Supplementary To Question O204-90(2): Responsibility For Foundations In Public Housing**

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary. In view of the shortage of funding that we always have, and you can blame the housing costs so much, could the Minister then find out for me why, in Coppermine, public housing this year is being constructed in, first, a land assembly that costs over one million dollars to put some 40-odd lots, then a huge gravel pad on top of that, then piles through the gravel pad, through the land assembly, into the ground and then houses on top? Could the Minister find out why it is being done that way this year? It seems an extravagant way of spending money.

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

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member indicated his concern with regard to that particular project earlier, and I did ask the corporation to provide me with an answer to the question that he has asked me. I do not have that answer yet, but I will provide it to him as soon as I do have it.

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

**Question O205-90(2): Education Funding For Metis People**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. Mr. Minister, I realize that it was before your time when education was transferred from the federal government to this government, but my understanding is that there were no moneys designated for Metis education when the transfer took place. There were moneys designated for Dene and Inuit. Does government now recognize Metis people for education funding the same as they would Dene and Inuit? Would the same sort of funding be in existence for Dene and Inuit as well as Metis?

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

**Return To Question O205-90(2): Education Funding For Metis People**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, the research that we had done a couple of years ago indicated that there never was any particular money earmarked specifically for treaty people when the transfer of education was made in the early years of this government. In fact I do not think there was even a comprehensive document signed that gave form to the transfer. The transfer was made almost administratively in a very ad hoc way. This government does provide money for

the education of treaty people, Inuit people, Inuvialuit and Metis people all the same. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O205-90(2): Education Funding For Metis People**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could it be at all possible that the government has actually destroyed the documents, or misplaced them, from that era? And also, Mr. Speaker, in the same line of questioning...

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

**Further Return To Question O205-90(2): Education Funding For Metis People**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** I am not aware that any government has destroyed documents related to this transfer, but the federal government might have. You would have to ask them.

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

**Supplementary To Question O205-90(2): Education Funding For Metis People**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, you had said there is education funding for treaty, Metis, Inuit, Inuvialuit. That is all under one block. Then there is another avenue that others apply to. So are all those aboriginal groups recognized as one when they apply for funding and other people are handled a different way? Is that correct?

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

**Further Return To Question O205-90(2): Education Funding For Metis People**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, the treaty people of the Northwest Territories, as they do all across the country, do have special programs that are available only to them. In the event that those people who are treaty, who are from the Northwest Territories, wish not to use our funding formulas to assist them in furthering their education down south, they alone have the option, as I understand it, to seek direct funding from the Department of Indian Affairs for post-secondary education. As far as how we support aboriginal peoples here in the North, our policy to provide financial assistance to all students who go south for education is the same for Inuit, for Metis, for Inuvialuit, for treaty Dene. It is all based on the same policy. Thank you.

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

**Question O206-90(2): Recycling Bottles**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for Government Services. On October 12, in a press release dealing with refundable deposits for liquor bottles and things, it says that some 12 million containers are going to be crushed for compact into land fill. The question I have for the Minister is, this deals with waste management, but did his department look into recycling these 12 million bottles, using containers that are left in communities after sealift to store them and then ship them south in the spring?

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

**Return To Question O206-90(2): Recycling Bottles**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Yes, Mr. Speaker and I think that that option will be taken up by those communities which find the transportation south viable and economic. The reference to crushing bottles and shredding cans would only occur in those communities that are so far away from southern recycling points that it was uneconomic for them to ship the items outside.

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

**Question O207-90(2): Policy Re Conduct Of Correctional Officers**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services. Madam Minister, I have been approached on a number of occasions on incidents that are happening within the correctional institution. I would like to ask the Minister, what is the policy governing correctional officers when they are being accused of beating up inmates? I can only refer to an article in the news with regard to Ken Beattie, but I have been approached on several occasions about inmates or people that were former inmates, saying that these things are happening. What is the Minister's policy regarding the conduct of correctional officers?

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

**Return To Question O207-90(2): Policy Re Conduct Of Correctional Officers**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no specific policy as to the conduct of correctional officers, but I am sure they recognize their responsibilities once they accept their position as a correctional officer. However, I do want to indicate to the Member that the question that he poses with respect to individuals alleging that correctional officers misused or possibly abused their powers as correctional officers in any facility is a serious allegation. Under the Corrections Act, through legislation, whenever these types of issues come to my attention I immediately have, in a couple of instances, set up a panel to review these types of allegations. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O207-90(2): Policy Re Conduct Of Correctional Officers**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister then, are the documents with regard to those committees that are supposedly reviewing allegations, made public?

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

**Further Return To Question O207-90(2): Policy Re Conduct Of Correctional Officers**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, no they are not, for a variety of reasons. I know the current one is under court proceedings and I do not want in any way to jeopardize any type of court proceedings that are happening. However, these types of documents are not made public. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O207-90(2): Policy Re Conduct Of Correctional Officers**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask Madam Minister, in the event that the allegations are true, what course of action can an inmate take with regard to those?

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

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** I think the question posed is unfair, because of the fact that you are presuming whether or not these types of allegations are correct or incorrect. There are a number of actions any individual can take, but I find this question to be somewhat presumptuous.

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

**Supplementary To Question O207-90(2): Policy Re Conduct Of Correctional Officers**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, in any investigation the RCMP is involved with investigating, whether there are allegations made or not, why is it, in the case of allegations regarding correctional officers, that an internal review has to be done as opposed to having the RCMP involved with the investigation of allegations?

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

**Further Return To Question O207-90(2): Policy Re Conduct Of Correctional Officers**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, I would presume that in any particular case, if an individual brings these types of allegations to the RCMP, then by all means it is the RCMP's responsibility to ensure that they look into the matter, and I am sure that is what the Member asked. I believe the RCMP are just fulfilling their responsibility.

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

**Question O208-90(2): Funding For Weather Observer/Communicators**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Minister, since the communities of Pelly Bay, Gjoa Haven and Spence Bay are serviced by air on Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure the safety of the public, I wonder if the Minister could somehow, somewhere, find some funding to have the weather observer/communicators work on weekends. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O208-90(2): Funding For Weather Observer/Communicators**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish I could say yes, but I cannot. I have to say no, not because I want to, but this is not our program. This is a federal program, and we are only a contractor. The federal government gives us X amount of dollars, it lays out what we have to pay for and what we do not pay for, it lays out all the terms and conditions of these stations. We have tried to influence them, and we have pressed, along with the Northern Air Transportation Association, for a minimum 12 hours per day seven days a week service in all of our communities. The federal government has refused up until this point in time. A lot of work has been going on, but this is still a federal

program and they will not release the extra funds necessary to do what the Member would like to do, and to do what we would like to do. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O208-90(2): Funding For Weather Observer/Communicators**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, supplementary. I wonder if the honourable Minister, as soon as the opportunity is given, would undertake to renegotiate getting more funding for the communities in my riding. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question O208-90(2): Funding For Weather Observer/Communicators**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you. We are in the process of negotiating right now, not just for the honourable Member's riding but for all of the ridings and constituencies across the North, because the exact same problem exists in the other regions as exists in the Member's constituency. There are intense negotiations going on right now, and I know that members of the Northern Air Transportation Association went to Ottawa recently to again lobby for money. We have threatened to withdraw our participation from the program if they do not increase funding because we are, along with the NATA people, extremely concerned about the safety aspect. We believe that safety is being compromised, and we have informed the federal government of this fact. In fact, I just signed a letter to the federal Minister of Transport four days ago on this subject. We are in the middle of intensive negotiations at this point in time. Thank you.

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

**Question O209-90(2): Policy On Foundations For Housing Corporation Houses**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, the NWT Housing Corporation has been making some progress in the past few years in building all of its HAP houses on either proper foundations or basements, and it was quite a surprise to me when this summer three houses in Nahanni and one in Trout Lake were built on building blocks. I was so upset, and although I did not have the authority, I almost fired this manager on the spot. I am wondering if the Housing Corporation has a policy for the southern part of the North where there is no permafrost, that all of its housing be built on proper foundations, either a cement parameter foundation, or cement or treated-wood basements?

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

**Return To Question O209-90(2): Policy On Foundations For Housing Corporation Houses**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, there is a policy, and I think it was developed during the time the honourable Member was responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, which, generally stated, says that where the ground permits, and the water tables and various other conditions do not militate against, such construction could occur. With regard to the concern that the Member mentioned having witnessed personally, I did investigate that issue at some length because we did arrange the year before to have a HAP house built in Nahanni on a cement foundation, and I believe that project went quite well.

In the particular case I am aware of, counselling did go forward and I believe that the individual who was allocated a house decided that the cost of putting in a cement foundation would have been more than putting in the other types of supports -- I think it was pads and wedges. I believe that was the reason that that particular unit did not go up on a cement foundation this year.

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

**Supplementary To Question O209-90(2): Policy On Foundations For Housing Corporation Houses**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, will the Minister do all he can in his power from now on to ensure that houses are built on proper foundations, recognizing that a house on proper foundation is worth two or three times a house on a floppy, moveable base?

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

**Further Return To Question O209-90(2): Policy On Foundations For Housing Corporation Houses**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Yes, I would, Mr. Speaker, and I know this is a concern of other Members of the House as well as Mr. Sibbeston, not only in the zones where permafrost is discontinuous, but in the Arctic areas as well.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Tu Nede.

**Question O210-90(2): Recycling Project In Snowdrift**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Minister, it has been brought to my attention in Snowdrift this weekend that the community is interested in starting to recycle cans and things like that, that could be of some value if shipped back out. Could you make a commitment to send someone in to show them how to set this up and where to find funding and things like that so they know what to do?

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

**Return To Question O210-90(2): Recycling Project In Snowdrift**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Yes, I would, Mr. Speaker, and I congratulate the residents of Snowdrift for taking this action so quickly.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Tu Nede, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O210-90(2): Recycling Project In Snowdrift**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason they are doing this is to raise money for their new community hall that will be coming in the near future, I hope.

---Laughter

How soon could you send that person in there?

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

**Further Return To Question O210-90(2): Recycling Project In Snowdrift**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** I will discuss with the Member when the time would be most propitious and I will see if we could get somebody in there on that occasion.

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

**Question O211-90(2): Counting Fish In The Rankin Inlet Area**

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please let me direct this question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Last summer Fisheries and Oceans were counting arctic char and other species of fish from Meliadine River. The number they reached was 1210 char and others. I wonder if the Minister could find out from Fisheries and Oceans if they are planning to count fish on Diana River, which is a very important one because many people fish there.

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

**Return To Question O211-90(2): Counting Fish In The Rankin Inlet Area**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will find out what their plans are.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Honourable Member for Deh Cho.

**Question O212-90(2): Workers' Compensation Board Appeals Committee**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. A member in my constituency filed a claim with the Workers' Compensation Board maybe three or four years ago. Last week I was in contact with a girl who works with the person making the claim; she is a workers' adviser or something. She said that the gentleman will appear before the appeals court sometime this week. Also she informed me that there is a long waiting list and people are waiting to appear in front of this appeals committee. Could the Minister inform this House how often this committee meets?

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

**Return To Question O212-90(2): Workers' Compensation Board Appeals Committee**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That appeals committee for the Workers' Compensation Board was appointed in August of 1990. Exactly how many times they meet and how many appeals they have pending, I would have to find out the details. But I know they were recently appointed and they probably have a long list because of the fact that the appointments were made just recently.

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

**Question O213-90(2): Spruce Budworm Infestation**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. I would first of all like to extend a thank you to his department for providing us with a satellite photograph of the Liard valley.

My question deals with the infestation of spruce budworm in the NWT. Apparently we are the only area that has this problem right now because of overmature trees. Can this Minister give me a status report on what is happening with the budworms?

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

**Return To Question O213-90(2): Spruce Budworm Infestation**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Spruce budworm in the Liard valley is a serious problem and my department, along with the community representative and Forestry Canada, has been discussing how to approach the problem. The infestation of the budworms in that area has increased from 56,000 hectares to 114,000 hectares since 1987. There was an attempt to harvest those infected trees to minimize the problem. Also, we asked Forestry Canada to look into the problem and this summer they were in that area making assessments and discussing the problem with the communities and with our officials. They will be coming forward with a recommendation of how to deal with the budworm problem in that area. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O213-90(2): Spruce Budworm Infestation**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is this the only area in the NWT presently infected?

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

**Further Return To Question O213-90(2): Spruce Budworm Infestation**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The problem seems to be occurring as far north as Birch Island, south of Fort Norman. Thank you.

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

**Question O214-90(2): Construction Date For Dock In Pangnirtung**

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Transportation. I think that Fisheries and Oceans are involved in this area and it is pertaining to the dock that is being planned in Pangnirtung. When are they going to start the building, 1991 or later on in the year? These dates are not in the plans. I would like to find out exactly when the dock will be built in Pangnirtung.

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

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is our hope that work can start next summer. However, there are joint negotiations taking place between ourselves and Fisheries and Oceans in planning the design of the building. I will have to get more details for the Member as to just exactly how it is going to be funded and staged. If my memory serves me correctly, there is supposed to be some initial work done next summer. I will find out more for the Member, so I will take it under notice.

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

for Natilikmiot.

**Question O215-90(2): School Busing For Gjoa Haven**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Education. Mr. Minister, you will recall that you and I had a trip to Gjoa Haven and a joint meeting with the hamlet council members and the community education council. The concern that the community had was getting a busing service for Gjoa Haven. I wonder if you have initiated any program to get the matter dealt with. Thank you.

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

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin South.

**Question O216-90(2): Little People Sightings In Kitikmeot Region**

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. Last summer I heard that there were some little people that were seen in the Kitikmeot area. The people are saying that there are some weird things going on and people have been seeing little people running around in the community of Cambridge Bay. I would like to find out if this is true. I would like to find out where these little people live. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Just prior to the Government Leader answering that, I would just to remind Members that under Rule 55(2), an oral question shall be concisely and clearly put, and shall refer only to a matter which can reasonably be assumed to be within the present knowledge of the Minister to whom it is directed. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

**Return To Question O216-90(2): Little People Sightings In Kitikmeot Region**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of these stories of little people in the North. We even see them occasionally in Yellowknife.

---Laughter

I know, Mr. Speaker, that in Scotland and Ireland these little people are known to live in the hills. I am not sure exactly where they live in the Kitikmeot area but I am glad to hear that they have been sighted. I think, perhaps, their existence may help to attract tourists. Thank you.

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

**Question O217-90(2): Increase Visits Of Doctor To Snowdrift**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. Madam Minister, in the budget session of last year I requested, on behalf of the community of Snowdrift, an increase in the visits of the doctor to Snowdrift. Right now he visits only once a month and we wanted to increase it to once every two weeks. Has that been done yet? Thank you.

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

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, because these arrangements are continually being revamped I would like to take that question under notice to see just exactly when those visits are being conducted at this time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

**Question O218-90(2): Working Relationship With Economic Development Officer, Fort Providence**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, I have a problem in Fort Providence. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. The community of Fort Providence was not happy with the working relationship with the economic development officer in Fort Simpson, so that arrangement was changed. The arrangement was made for them to work with economic development officers out of Fort Smith. They were not too happy with that either, so they have requested that the Minister consider having a working relationship with the economic development worker here in Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister this question about two weeks ago and I would now like to ask him if he has resolved this issue to the satisfaction of the residents of Fort Providence.

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

**Return To Question O218-90(2): Working Relationship With Economic Development Officer, Fort Providence**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you. You may be asking for the impossible there. I guess the Member has me confused because we have just finished transferring the responsibilities from Fort Simpson to Hay River. Now you want me to transfer it from Hay River to Yellowknife. I really do not know if that is a functional move. There was some problem with the Hay River office because of the lack of resources, but we are moving to beef up the resources in Hay River. So I think I would have to say that for the time being I would prefer, having just transferred it from Fort Simpson to Hay River, to leave it in Hay River for a little while until we have our resources up and running there and see how that works out. And if there are still problems continuing in a few months, then perhaps we will take a look at Yellowknife.

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

**Supplementary To Question O218-90(2): Working Relationship With Economic Development Officer, Fort Providence**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, this is kind of embarrassing.

---Laughter

I would like to ask the Minister if perhaps he would visit the community of Fort Providence to resolve this issue once and for all. Every time the community is not happy, they want to work with other communities to settle their problems. It does not make a Member's job easier. Could the Minister travel to Fort Providence to resolve this?

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

**Further Return To Question O218-90(2): Working Relationship With Economic Development Officer, Fort Providence**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** I understand what the Member is saying and he has my assurance that I will attempt to resolve this problem to the satisfaction of the community. It may necessitate a visit, it may not, but I will try and work something out. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions.

Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Item 9, petitions. Honourable Member for Deh Cho.

**ITEM 9: PETITIONS**

**MR. GARGAN:** I have Petition 6-90(2) to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs from the residents of the Hay River Reserve. It is with regard to the desire of the residents of the Hay River Reserve to have an above-ground swimming pool built, as part of the five year capital plan. Mr. Speaker, there are 94 signatures and I would also like to personally thank my constituency assistant, Germaine Michel, for circulating that petition. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Honourable Member for Sahtu.

**ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 35-90(2): "My Point of View, More Writing from Grade 9 Students", and a summary in Inuktitut.

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

**MR. KILABUK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to return to Item 6, written questions.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Requesting unanimous consent to return to Item 6, written questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

**ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**Question W9-90(2): Fuel Price Discrepancies**

**MR. KILABUK:** Would the Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs be able to provide some facts concerning oil and gas prices for smaller communities?

1. Why do oil and gas vary when used for various consumptions, such as heating, aviation or marine, since it all comes from the same tank farm?
2. Is it because we have to pay taxes that prices vary?
3. Is it because we have to compensate the distributors for overhead expenses?

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

**REVERT TO ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Wray, during the boundaries discussion, raised the issue of representation by population. I would like to table Tabled Document 36-90(2), an excerpt from "The Queen's Government" by Sir Ivor Jennings, which explains how we move from representation by land and property to representation by people.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

**MR. WHITFORD:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 37-90(2), a copy of an article from a local newspaper entitled "Minimum wage hike overdue". It was written by Jim Evoy. It will give you some good insights of what the problem is from his perspective.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 38-90(2), a package of four documents containing transcripts of court proceedings dated July 9, 1985: a letter to the Judicial Council from the MLA for Kitikmeot West, dated July 25, 1985; a petition dated August 8, 1985, from Cambridge Bay addressed to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the NWT; and a letter to the Commissioner of the NWT dated October 10, 1990, from the MLA for Kitikmeot West.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

**ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION****Notice Of Motion 9-90(2): Ownership Of Sand And Gravel Under Dene/Metis Claims**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 29, 1990, I shall move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nede, that this Legislative Assembly request the Executive Council to instruct its negotiators to conclude negotiations on sand and gravel rights and to agree to the selection of sand and gravel deposits and pits by the Dene/Metis; and further, that this Legislative Assembly request the Executive Council to suspend its present policy on the development and use of sand and gravel until the land selection has been completed to the satisfaction of the Dene/Metis. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Notices of motion. Honourable Member for Nahendeh.

**Notice Of Motion 10-90(2): Review Of Roles, Responsibilities And Programs Of NWT Housing Corporation**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 29, 1990, I will move the following motion: I move that the Minister responsible for Housing undertake a review of the NWT Housing Corporation to assess the roles and responsibilities of the board of directors of the NWT Housing Corporation; its relationship with the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation; and NWT Housing Corporation's mandate in relationship to the Government of the NWT; and further that the review include the rationale for the implementation of a corporate structure for the delivery of social housing in the NWT; the circumstances of today and how they have changed the relationship between the Housing Corporation and the Government of the NWT; and the relationship between the NWT Housing Corporation and its federal funding partner, Canada Mortgage and Housing

Corporation.

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

**ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS****Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 16: Elections Act**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 7-90(2). The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

**ITEM 14: MOTIONS****Motion 7-90(2): Medical Services To The Metis People Of The NWT**

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nede, that the Minister of Health make renewed attempts at funding solutions to provide medical services to the Metis people of the Northwest Territories on the same basis as that provided to status Dene and Inuit under the Indian Health Policy.

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

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Mr. Speaker, the major point about the motion is that the Minister make renewed attempts to deal with the issue of non-insured medical services to the Metis people. What has prompted my reaction is that the Minister, in her statement on Monday, said, "No." She said two things. She said that, first, the Metis will be treated the same as non-native people in the North, that there will be no special provisions for the Metis people; and second, that there was no money and there is no possibility of money being made available in the foreseeable future.

I reacted and decided to proceed with a motion such as this because I felt that the Minister's response was too harsh and, I thought, somewhat insensitive to the situation. I just believe that the Minister and our government can do better than they have done to date.

In making this motion, I do it having faith and confidence in the Minister, that she can rise to the challenge. It is a challenge to the government to try to deal with what I know is a very difficult problem. It is not easy but I just really do think that it is possible if the Minister works at it sincerely and if the government and cabinet, as a whole, take another thorough look at the matter.

In dealing with the matter I ask that the Minister and cabinet Members recognize that Metis people throughout the North, but particularly in the small communities, are essentially the same kind of people as the status Dene people and the Inuit people who are presently getting funding for health purposes in the North. In many of the small communities the Metis people and the Dene are relatives; they live in the same economic conditions. We have a federal government and our government who provide funds for the Dene and the Inuit people but really do not for another group of aboriginal

people, and I think it is just not fair that they be treated in such a way. So on a day-to-day basis the Inuit and status Dene are really in the same situation as the Metis people, so they need to be dealt with in the same way.

The Metis people do not come to this issue without any rights at all. Metis people have aboriginal rights like the Dene and the Inuit people. When treaty was paid to the Dene people in 1921, a scrip was paid to the Metis people. So generally, in Canada, it is recognized that Metis people are aboriginal people with the same rights that Dene and Inuit people have.

#### **Scrip Payment To Metis People**

Scrip is one of the areas that I researched when becoming a lawyer in the North and I discovered a great deal about the issue. Scrip was paid on a one-time basis to Metis people in recognition of their aboriginal title. In the 1920s when the federal government was trying to distinguish the aboriginal rights of the native people in the North, they gave treaty to the full status Dene people, and they gave scrip to Metis people. The payment was \$240. It does not seem or sound like it is too much but I have spoken to many Metis people who said, "That was a great deal of money." I remember one older fellow in Providence who said, "I bought all my materials, all the boards, the windows and doors to build myself a house." So aboriginal people and Metis people, without question, have aboriginal title and I think as a government we need to deal with them the same way that we deal with Dene and Inuit people.

In the 1970s, when the federal government began dealing with the land claims issue in the North, it was recognized that the rights of the Dene and Metis were so closely intertwined that they ought to be dealt with at the same time. That is the reason why comprehensive land claims for the Dene and Metis are being treated as one process, rather than separately.

Mr. Speaker, I do believe that we have a government in the North which is supportive of aboriginal rights and I query and wonder, in part, why I as a Metis person have to beg the government to help the Metis. We have a Minister who is a Metis person, we have cabinet Ministers who are Dene and Inuit people and others who either are married to them or have worked all their lives in association with them, so they ought to be very sensitive to the plight of the Metis people who are aboriginal people.

I have respect for Ms. Cournoyea and I believe that she was very instrumental in the Inuvialuit getting their land claims and I respect her for that. I believe we have a cabinet that is very sensitive and supportive of aboriginal rights so I would hope that after today, after Members express their feelings and support for this, that the government will react very positively to this motion.

#### **Program Of Medical Help To Metis Could Start Small**

I recognize that in dealing with the matter cost is a factor, but I believe that something can be done. Perhaps initially not the full range of programs that the Dene and Inuit people have, but a program can be instituted where it starts in a small way but over the range of years, the full program is provided to the Metis people. I am not suggesting, at this stage, or insisting that the government should provide a full range of benefits, but if a start is made then through the course of years, eventually, as money becomes available, the Metis will be put on the same footing as Dene and Inuit people.

Mr. Speaker, there are 6000 Metis people in the North, according to the Metis Association. Over one half are without adequate medical services today. They are not covered by

any of the programs that are available to employees or else they are not old or they do not have specified diseases under which the government has programs.

Mr. Speaker, this situation reminds me of my uncle, Ted Trindell. When he was alive he told me of his experience in the 1930s. He had been suffering from a stomach ailment -- I believe he had appendicitis -- and he was out in the bush trapping but came into town because he was very sick. He could not trap any longer out in the bush and he came to town to see a doctor at the hospital in Fort Simpson. On seeing him, the doctor said, "I appreciate that you are sick but I really cannot help you." At the time they did not have the equipment and the doctor did not feel that he could operate. As I understand, his ailment required a major operation and the doctor in Simpson could not do anything to help him. So Ted, a Metis, said, "Well, why do you not send me to Edmonton?" It was just the start of planes flying in the North so there was a quick and fast way to get out to Edmonton, but the doctor said, "I cannot send you to Edmonton because you are not treaty, you are Metis, and I cannot do that." So Ted said he had a choice to just give up and die or try to make his way out to Edmonton. He said he sold everything he had. He sold his traplines; he sold all of his equipment and by dog team, he took off to Edmonton. So he hit the trail to Edmonton through Trout Lake, Fort Nelson, and he said he eventually worked his way out to Fort St. John, Dawson Creek and that area, caught a horse and buggy and made it to Edmonton and had an operation. But he had to pay for it. He had his operation and recovered and slowly made his way back north.

That is what happened to a Metis person years ago and I am not suggesting that for Metis people in the North things are that tough or that extreme, but I do know that Metis people are very proud people. They do not really like to beg the government. I know that in any instance where you do not have the money, you can go to the government and ask for social assistance, but it is a very humbling experience and I know that many Metis people do not want to be in that situation. They would rather just have the right and the program to provide for the medical situation rather than to have to beg the government. I know Metis people who suffer very quietly and patiently because they cannot get medical services.

I had an uncle just a few years ago, who for many years did not even want to take old age pension. When he reached 65 and the government wanted to send him an old age pension, he said, "No, what have I done for it? What is this all about?" For many years he was proud and did not want to take old age pension. He eventually did and when he was sick, he just suffered patiently because he did not want to bother the hospital; he did not want to bother the nurses. Last winter he finally died; he had been very sick and he finally just died.

#### **Negotiations With Metis Never Concluded**

I would like to encourage the Minister to do what she can about this matter. I know that it is not impossible. I know when I was involved in the government a number of years ago and Mr. McLaughlin was the Minister of Social Services, I know that we did have quite a number of meetings with the Metis Association. We attempted to reach agreement with the Metis Association and had many meetings and there were times when I thought we were close to an agreement, but in the end we did not reach agreement, in part because we ran out of time and there was a change in government. I think this is part of the reason that we never came to a final conclusion. I think that a start in this area has been made. I would suggest that the Minister find some of the correspondence and some of the documents that had been used by myself and Mr. McLaughlin with the Metis Association



and see what can be done to reactivate the negotiations that had gone on.

The Minister has one year left and I would like to see her put all her skills and energy into this matter. The Minister's responses in the last few days I think is her attempt to respond to a motion that was made last winter at the winter session, where a motion was made that attempts be made by the government to deal with the Metis medical issue. In asking the Metis Association executive and president whether the Minister had any discussions with them, I was sorry to hear that there had not been any meetings with the association about this. I feel that in some respect, for some reason that I cannot understand, there does not seem to have been a very serious attempt made by the Minister to deal with the Assembly's motion, and whereas that is kind of the past, I encourage the Minister to take renewed steps on this issue and see what she can get done in the remaining time that she has in cabinet. Mr. Speaker, in politics, I think opportunities come and go and I see, with this new motion again, an encouragement to the Minister to make renewed attempts, that it is an opportunity which the Minister should seize and try her best at. I think if she can accomplish this and work hard in the next year, I believe something is possible, that we can end our mandate, we can end our term as an Assembly, as a government, having done something very useful for the Metis people of the North. I would heartily encourage the Minister and the Government to do all they can in the ensuing months to deal with this problem. Mahsi cho. Thank you.

---Applause

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

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here we go again. Same thing we did last year. Same thing we did back in 1987. We are once again addressing the issue of a Metis health care package, the same as that enjoyed by treaty and Inuit people of the Northwest Territories and as well as Inuvialuit. The only difference would be that these are Metis, that their father or mother may be white. That is the difference.

#### Metis Inuit

In my travelling in the Eastern Arctic, I noticed that in some of the communities they are all called Inuit. They are all Inuit people, but there are some Metis Inuits. They may have a white mother or a white father, I did not notice that, but they are all treated the same. They all get the same health benefits. They all get the same education benefits. Our government, the Minister of Education, said today that Inuvialuit, treaty, Inuit and Metis all get the same education benefits. That is something this government did. That is something this government recognizes. The whole reason for the transferring of the health policy, and one of the main reasons you transfer something from the federal government to the territorial government, is so it is closer to the people, so it is more accessible to the people and then the policies can reflect what the people want. That is the idea of transfer.

It was last February 13, in this same House, Mr. Speaker, that we did have a debate on a Metis health care package, a Metis health care plan in this Assembly. At that time the Minister of Health went on to say, "As much as the government tried...", talking about our government, "...we were unable to get them...", the federal government, "...the provisions they will respect all aboriginal people". They had their own criteria which they were willing to live and be accountable for. It is not discrimination at the territorial level but discrimination at the federal level. She went on to say, "I just want to make

sure that this Assembly is clear, that discrimination was not at this level. I just want to make sure that the burden of blame should be put at the right level."

That was fine, Mr. Speaker, when the federal government was in charge of health, but now it is in our hands. It is at this level here, the cabinet level; that is where it is at now, Madam Minister. There is nothing in this world stopping this government from bringing forward a health policy to recognize Metis people. If you have the political will and the backbone to do it, you will do it because it has been approved by this Assembly in the past. There have been other motions passed in this Assembly. You have the support of the House to do it. There should be nothing stopping you from doing what we are requesting, that Metis people get full health care benefits, the same enjoyed by the treaty, Inuit and Inuvialuit.

#### Native Organizations Lose Metis Staff For Lack Of Health Benefits

It is very disturbing to me, Mr. Speaker, when this government cannot look at Metis people. They have to group them into the same group as other people. You do not have to do that; we have never asked to give full health benefits to all people of the Northwest Territories, only to recognize aboriginal people all at the same level. A lot of our native organizations lose aboriginal people to government because they go and work for the government so that they can get the health care benefits. That is one of the major reasons people work for them.

I know that at this time our Dene/Metis colleagues sitting in cabinet cannot vote on this issue; they will probably abstain as a government. But I also know that their heart is with us on this motion.

I will be listening with great interest to the rest of this debate, Mr. Speaker, and later on in this debate I will also be asking for a recorded vote because as you are aware, Mr. Speaker, I represent a population of approximately 300 Metis people. There are other Members in this House that also represent Metis people. I would be very interested because I noticed from the debate in committee of the whole last year that other Members were not present in the House when the vote came. I will be watching and listening, and I will be very interested in seeing, for example, how Mr. Pollard out of Hay River, who represents the second highest Metis population in the Northwest Territories -- I will be interested to see how he votes on this motion. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will close for now. Mahsi cho.

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

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, in February of 1987 there was a motion that I presented with regard to health benefits for the Metis people, and in that it just says "health benefits available to territorial employees, the Inuit, and status Indians, respectively". This motion is, again, to have the government renew attempts in achieving that.

#### Minister Of Health Complimented For Areas Of Progress

I would like to compliment the Minister of Health in the areas where progress has been made with regard to some medical travel, drugs and full coverage for specific diseases and for dental care, eye glasses and hearing aids for senior people and help through the social assistance program. I would like to compliment the Minister for that.

We still have a situation, Mr. Speaker, in the communities -- in Fort Providence we have over 500 people but it is pretty obvious that what the status people take for granted, it is

difficult for the Metis to obtain. That difference is there; it is obvious, and in order to establish unity in the communities you have to have some balance there, and it is not there. For this reason, when I first got elected for my second term, I did agree that as part of my mandate during this Assembly I would support, as much as possible, making as much gain as possible for Metis to have the same kinds of benefits as status people now enjoy. For this reason I support this motion, and I also encourage Madam Minister to make some extra efforts with the federal government to achieve that goal. Thank you.

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

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was able to talk to the seconder of this motion to see exactly what was intended by it, and I told him I would like to abstain on this motion. We have a tradition among ordinary Members that we do not block what ordinary Members would like to achieve, so we tend to say, "Well, if that is what you want, I will not stop you."

#### **Term "Metis" Should Be Defined In Motion**

However, Mr. Speaker, I have expressed my concerns to the persons that have moved this motion and my problem is that we tend to sometimes confuse what we mean by a Metis. Is it a Metis as defined under the claim in the Northwest Territories that is being proposed, or is it any Metis person? Somebody who just comes in from Manitoba or Alberta -- does it include that group of people? This motion seems to me makes it a service which would be provided to all Metis people, whether they are under the claim or whether they, in fact, come from elsewhere to reside in the NWT.

I have always been moved by the story of Ted Trindell, who was a Metis that was forced to come all the way into Fort Simpson several hundred miles by dog team because he had an appendix problem. They refused to operate on him in the hospital because they had a kind of a rookie doctor, I suppose, in those days who was not sure what he should do. Trindell ended up selling everything he had, his dog team, all his equipment, so that he could pay for the air fare to go to Edmonton to get his appendix out. That has always stuck in my mind, and of course the honourable Member from Fort Simpson is continually reminding us of this story.

For that reason, although I told the Members earlier on that I would likely abstain because of the concerns I have had about having a distinction between Metis from somewhere else and Metis under the claim, I will be supporting the motion.

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

--Applause

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

#### **Case For Metis Health Benefits Should Be Heard**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I really do not have any difficulty with the motion, and whether there was a motion or not I would continue with the commitment to try to reach the ultimate goal. First of all, I would like to say, just to clarify a few things, I do not see the motion put forward by any Member here, or by the Metis, as begging. People are making a case, and I think the case should be listened to, and certainly if possible an attempt should be made by the government to support it.

I think that due respect has to be given to Members to represent their constituencies and certainly this case has been a problematic area for a great number of people. I was quite

surprised that when the Dene/Metis were negotiating their claim, the way that the claim was finally settled was that when you have your enrolment criteria, the people that are enrolled were not considered as one group of people which would come under a claim. I do not really understand why that was not done.

As well, I am very much aware of the past. At the same time I believe it all relates to who signed the treaty and who did not, and it is a long-outstanding issue that the federal government did not wish to resolve. Hopefully, in the future they will be able to come to some conclusion on that that would help us to do our job in terms of the monetary support for this type of submission.

As I say, I do not have any problem with the motion, but I would like to say that I appreciate one the Member's statements that we have not been diligent in doing something about the previous motion. I have been able to go to the Executive Council on a couple of occasions to follow up on our commitment. In October, 1988 we did put forward \$324,000 in the budget for the seniors programs and on the specified disease expansion; on April 19, 1990, we did secure another \$321,000 out of the territorial budget; in April, 1990 we put another \$595,000 in the boarding benefits. We have attempted to address those issues. I certainly feel that we are attempting to do that. We will continue to try to reach that goal.

To clarify, I did not say "No", I was only trying to bring to the attention of this Legislative Assembly that the Department of Health, like any other department, has to take into consideration what other things people and Members want throughout the whole Northwest Territories, and I am told how much money it is possible to give toward the Department of Health responsibilities. We have spent a great deal of time in the last couple of years with community representation and board representation to try to work those programs out so that we make better use of the resources that we have been given.

I would like to say, to have some respect, that we are trying to address the issue and we will continue to do so, with or without the motion. I believe I would like to congratulate, certainly, the Inuit and the Inuvialuit because they have been able to build into the claims process that everyone is the same no matter whether you are one quarter or whether you are part Afro-Asian from the whaling days, or whatever. I suppose we had that privilege because there was not a treaty signed.

#### **Minister Striving Toward Objective Without Providing False Promises**

We are battling the same thing and certainly, as Minister responsible, you certainly have my support in trying to resolve the issue. But I do not want to provide false promises and have people feel that we are very much on board and we are standing up here and supporting this cause because if we cannot deliver -- you are asking me to deliver a program and what is required in this day and age is that dollars are required for the program. My cabinet colleagues and I, as Minister of Health, will continue to reach for that objective to bring closer together the benefits between the Metis and status people whom the federal government recognizes under the Indian Health Act, and infuse money into the government system for the overall Department of Health responsibility. We will certainly continue to do that. So I have no problem with the motion. With or without it, I am certainly committed, and I know my cabinet colleagues are, to try to bring that difference together.

The other thing that I was concerned about is, yes we have had meetings with the Metis and I am sorry that perhaps other

things were involved with those particular meetings. But I have certainly committed to the Metis that we will continue to try to meet the objective that they have set for their people and we will do that with total respect. Not just because they are begging for anything but because I believe that is within the responsibilities of the elected Members, whether it is of this Legislative Assembly or if it is with the Metis organization to try to bring about equalization of support for medical services for their people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** I will not say anything this time. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief on this one. I think whatever was necessary to say on this subject has been eloquently put by the Member for Nahendeh and the Member for Tu Nede on the subject. I do want to say that I will support this motion and point out to other Members that there are quite a large number of Metis people living in the constituency that I represent that will be affected by this motion and that it is on their behalf that I speak in favour of the motion.

There are a good number, of course, that are not affected by it because they are already covered under one or another federal or territorial health care plans. But a good number of issues that have come up in the past two years since I have been working on behalf of the people had to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis with the Department of Health, to ensure that the rights of Metis people seeking medical assistance, and the payments for such services, have been resolved. Having Metis people covered under the plan in the same manner as treaty people would certainly go a long way toward ensuring that the rights of the Metis people are recognized and upheld by this government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the motion. The honourable Member for Pine Point. Just prior to proceeding I just want to remind Members here and Members in the gallery that it is not traditional practice to have the gallery participate in the debate. However, that is just a reminder. The honourable Member for Pine Point.

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will only speak briefly because Members who have spoken already have covered all the ground. However, I would like to clarify a few things. The health transfer that occurred and was initiated by the federal and territorial governments while I was Minister of Health was dependent, as far as the federal government was concerned, upon the involvement and agreement of the Dene, Inuit and the Inuvialuit. I and my cabinet colleagues thought that the Metis of the NWT should also be involved. We already have an education policy which gives benefits similar to aboriginal students for Metis who can trace their ancestry to original Dene in the North. The federal government, itself, recognizes these Metis people in the very aboriginal rights and land claims negotiations that it is carrying on up here right now.

#### **Federal Government's Aboriginal Rights Commitment Sets Precedent For Health Care**

It just seems to make sense to me that if the federal government does recognize those Metis people, especially the ones that can trace their ancestry back to Treaty 8 and 11 recipients, as being eligible under the aboriginal rights and land selection process, surely that should be the door that opens for us to go to them as a government and attempt to get federal funding to recognize those people because of that specific commitment the federal government has made under the aboriginal rights issue up here.

As well, we should ourselves take some initiatives in some areas. I must confess that the main thing I remember from the negotiations was our attempt to get the agreement of the Metis before we proceeded with the transfer, but we were unable to do that. During discussions I remember Mr. Sibbeston speaking about a few things that we could maybe do. For example, when doctors or dentists or dental teams are flown into communities to deliver services to all the school students of Indian ancestry, there is no reason why that same doctor -- once we got the contract from the federal government to do it ourselves -- we could surely manipulate within the budget the small extra costs that it would take to have the doctor see the extra half dozen-odd students in a community and find that money in our budget. That is an example of things that we could do if we are unable to convince the federal government to treat the Metis people up here as Dene who are involved in the Treaty 8 and 11 aboriginal rights and land claim negotiations. If we cannot convince them to treat them the same through the federal Indian Health Policy, then we should be able to find some areas, at least some common sense areas, in our own budget even if we do not have the total physical capacity to deliver the whole program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the motion. Question has been called. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, final argument.

**MR. SIBBESTON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I just request a recorded vote please?

#### **Motion 7-90(2), Carried**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Nahendeh has requested a recorded vote. To the motion. All those in favour, please rise.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Crow, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Morin, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Whitford, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Gargan.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those opposed to the motion, please rise. All those abstaining from the motion, please rise.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Pollard, Mr. Wray, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Allooooloo, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Butters, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Count for the recorded vote, 12 yes, no opposition, nine abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Item 15, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

#### **ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS**

##### **First Reading Of Bill 16: Elections Act**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. 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 16 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

#### ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 16.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Slave River is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 16. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

#### Second Reading Of Bill 16: Elections Act

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Elections Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Elections Act to provide that the hours of a polling station may be extended where the opening of the station has been delayed; to provide that a candidate who gives surplus campaign contributions to a charitable organization shall provide a notice of the gift to the chief electoral officer; to provide that a candidate at an election may pay and be reimbursed for his reasonable travel and living expenses; and to provide that an unsuccessful candidate may apply to the chief electoral officer for an extension of the time for making a declaration respecting campaign contributions and expenses.

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 16 has had second reading. Second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 8; Bill 16; Tabled Document 6-90(2); Tabled Document 13-90(2); CR 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):** Thank you. The committee will come to order. What is the wish of the government? Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask the committee if we could start dealing with CR 4-90(2)?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** The chairman of the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions is requesting that we deal with the report of the committee. Are we agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. I guess Members all have a copy of that already. We will take a 15 minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

#### CR 4-90(2), Report Of The Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions

The committee will now come to order. We are dealing with Committee Report 4-90(2), Report of the Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions, with Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions has reviewed a number of selected regional health boards and the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Board and reported its findings to the House yesterday. The report itself clearly defines what the concerns of the standing committee are. At this time, Mr. Chairman, I do not have any general comments.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Do we have any general comments? Mr. Ernerk.

#### Participation By Aboriginal Organizations In THIS Board

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Initially I thought with regard to the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Board that it was being a too government-controlled organization, and I noticed one of the recommendations coming out of the report is that more people at the community level should be more involved with the operation of the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Board. In other words, I am trying to say that more aboriginal organizations in all of the regions in the NWT should be more involved in participating with regard to this particular agency.

When I was asking certain questions of the Minister of Health it became obvious to me that the THIS Board was making more decisions for the Department of Health than the Minister herself was aware of within her own department. I guess what I am trying to put on record, Mr. Chairman, is that until we provide a place for more community organizations and regional organizations to participate, only then will you have more responsibility with regard to what is going on with the THIS Board.

Obviously the Minister is not here and perhaps she is not interested in what I have to say about the THIS Board, which I think is an extremely important organization. For the record. Thank you.

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

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** I am interested in questioning the cabinet decision on the establishment of these different kinds of boards. I guess, in lieu of the Minister of Health, I would ask the Deputy Government Leader, who represents the cabinet in the House at this time, if he recollects, regarding the decision the Financial Management Board and/or the cabinet made at the time, why they chose to establish these new boards which would have a lesser relationship with THIS than the existing boards do.

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

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you. There is no quorum in the House.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** We do not have a quorum. Would the Clerk ring the bells to get the Members back into the House? The Chair recognizes a quorum. For the benefit of the Deputy Government Leader, I would like to ask Mr. McLaughlin if he would ask the question again.

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Ernerk was before me and stopped because he could not ask or make comments in the area of the Minister responsible, so I

will defer to Mr. Ernerk.

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

**MR. ERNERK:** I will take that question under notice and ask the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre to go first.

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

#### **Comments From The Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions**

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday our standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions reported its findings to the House. We have four parts to our report, and I will deal with the first part, Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act.

#### **Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act**

Our 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.

#### **Department Of Health And The THIS Board**

Mr. Chairman, 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.

Our 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, Mr. Chairman, that the roles and responsibilities for the employees of the department and the THIS board must be separately defined.

#### **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 chairman of the THIS Board seems to be a source of confusion for regional 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.

Another area that the committee has concern over, Mr. Chairman, is 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 communities. This was one of the conditions through which the support of the aboriginal community was obtained. This understanding, Mr. Chairman, 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, Mr. Chairman, is basically that "the form should follow function". In other words, duties and responsibilities must be clearly defined first and then the adequate structure and resources to fulfil the mandate must be facilitated accordingly.

Our 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 in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, those three items that I mentioned, the department, the THIS Board, and the regional health boards and their representation on the THIS Board, make up the first part of our report under section A. Maybe I will conclude there and give other Members time to comment on section A before I go further in dealing with sections B, C and D.

While I have the microphone, Mr. Chairman, our committee recommendation number one is as follows: Upon a review of selected regional health boards, the THIS Board and the Department of Health, our 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.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes our first recommendation under section A of the standing committee on agencies, boards and commission's report. Maybe I will stop there and give other Members a chance to comment on the first section of our report. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Mr. Zoe. General comments. Madam Minister.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Chairman, I think that the board's consideration of this item is the same consideration that we have been giving to the reporting relationships, roles and responsibilities of community health committees, regional health boards, the Department of Health, and the THIS Board. I have not appointed anyone new to the THIS Board, mainly because in dealing with the evolution of the responsibilities at the regional level there has been a great deal of discussion, as this report reflects, as to whether it is necessary to have a THIS Board at all, given some of the roles that the regional health boards want to take over.

#### **Definition Of Areas Of Responsibility Required**

I think, when standing back from this issue, it would be in the end a better reflection of what the individual regions believe is the best way to relate to the central agency, whether it is with this in-between board, and what the positive things are that can happen by having a THIS Board, as opposed to whether they relate directly to the Department of Health.

There is certainly some indication that health boards feel that there should be a more direct relationship to the headquarters office, given that they are taking a lot of the responsibilities over and also taking into consideration that there are a great many changes being requested by the clients of the health delivery system.

I believe, that we concur partially with the findings regarding the whole question of which agencies stay or do not stay, and if an agency does stay it has to be more clearly defined what that agency does. Certainly we go along with that recommendation. However, the committee has gone even so far as to say that there is a question as to whether it should

exist at all, given how the health boards are presently set up, in the recommendations to review and clarify the standing of the THIS Board. In addition I would think that we are going further in examining whether it is necessary at all. Certainly with the financial accountability and the fact that the health system is continually experiencing high cost of delivery, where do the checks and balances come in? I certainly would suggest that the particular responsibility has to be reviewed, not only to define a clearer line of what it does but maybe to discover whether it should exist at all. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Madam Minister. General comments. Mr. McLaughlin.

#### **Difficulty In Maintaining Accountability**

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this particular area of the THIS Board, one thing I would suggest that the government should consider is the physical resources that are spent by the department itself, and by the THIS Board, which really does not have any employees. Maybe that is one of the problems. Maybe there should be a Department of Health which is clearly defined which establishes the policies for health in the Northwest Territories, and then the central board carries them out through the North and also through the regional boards.

In the fiscal area, when you are doing a support service for boards that are running hospitals there is the possibility that those expenses, if they are properly kept track of and are on the THIS side rather than on the department's side, might possibly be charged against the operation of the hospitals and recovered under the Canada Health Act. I think that when you do not have something like that you do not know what your costs of running the hospitals are. I think there is a problem with just using other departments, but even within the department itself, whether those health care costs end up actually being charged to the department in the end.

Related to this committee's work in this area, the standing committee on public accounts also did some work in this area and one thing that was observed by the committee and witnesses appearing before the committee was that, I think, only something like 18 or 19 per cent of this government's budget went to Health where some provinces spend over 30 per cent. So it poses the question, are people up here healthier? People up here are maybe younger and we do not have as many people using the health care system. Maybe because there is such a long distance to go for health services for some communities the people are just reluctant to travel even for the health services. Or is the work being done by Public Works and all these other departments, actually being charged back? For me that is one of the biggest difficulties I see with not having an act that clearly creates a Department of Health and then decides what the roles of all the boards are.

If you do not have a funding mechanism that keeps the money clearly defined within the Department of Health and within an overall board that governs the whole Territories' health system, which THIS does now, you lose control of the accountability of the dollars. I think that that has happened now. An example of that is if a hospital or health board wants to order some materials and it is done for them by the Department of Government Services, say it is linen for example, the linen gets shipped up here and the cost of the linen gets charged to the hospital board -- we hope. Does the freight get charged to the hospital board? Does the time that the employee in the Department of Government Services took to make out the order, does that get charged to the health board? Does the time of the secretary who typed up the forms that the purchasing clerk required, does that get charged to the health board? What about phone calls related

to the purchase? Also the desk he sits in, who bought it and paid for it? The office that he is in is being leased by DPW. Does that cost get charged back to Health? And the fuel that heats the buildings, what department puts the fuel in the tank? Is it POL or is it DPW? If all these things occurred within a structure that clearly charged all those costs to Health, maybe we would be up in that 30 per cent area. Maybe we are foregoing millions of dollars a year that we could be getting under the Canada Health Act if we had everything happening under a regime that accounted for all the dollars. That is one thing I would like the government to consider when they are doing this.

As a Member of the public accounts committee, I am going to pursue some form of audit of the department and all these service departments to make sure that that is currently happening, by auditing the previous couple of years' actual costs to see that that has actually happened.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Madam Minister.

#### **Necessity Of Recruiting Qualified Staff**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** It may be that the honourable Member is a bit behind times in terms of the efforts that health boards have been making in their attempt to become working, functional agencies. There has been a great deal of difficulty in securing for the health boards adequate financial people, executive people, in the region. I think that those are the areas that are very problematic for us, no matter what those responsibilities are. In the initial document on what was going to be allocated for the various departments to carry out the specific responsibilities for the health board, they very clearly define how much is put in for the Department of Public Works and how much is assigned to Government Services, et cetera. So I think it is pretty clear that once the hospital boards get more sophisticated and get their own financial accountability in place, I certainly have the utmost confidence that they will be tracking all those expenditures. At this point in time I believe it is fairly clear where the money is sitting.

Perhaps one of the areas that goes generally back to the individual health boards is on the billing for the non-insured benefits. I guess we could probably do better, and certainly we are working with the health boards to try to get that accountability up. One of the problems that health boards have had is to get the properly qualified people within their own system to work along with the departmental people, and I believe that relationship will iron itself out. I do not believe that you can place the problems necessarily on one or the other, but rather on the fact that we have to get proper support services for the health boards as it is. Certainly in all dealings with the health boards it seems to me that they are very aware of exactly where the expense items have been placed in terms of working with the various departments. Some working relationships have been very good and other areas have broken down. That sometimes has a lot to do with whether, say for example, the Department of Finance has proper people in place or enough people in place at the regional level, and sometimes it has to do with the health boards not being able to recruit or having difficulty with the people that they hire, and trying to get the properly qualified people to deal with their board issues. I believe that in the evolution of people at the regional level they are getting more involved.

#### **Official Support For Health Boards**

There are certain problems that the health boards are facing and I believe that as we go along the government has to come in and lend them support for a period of time. Getting all these administrative issues straightened away at a regional

level has become very difficult because health boards have had some very difficult times with some of the technical people they have hired. It has not been because they did not want to carry out their responsibility or make sure that there was not a breakdown. But on a number of occasions, they have not been able to find the people to hire who are qualified at the necessary technical level. We have talked a lot about the problems in recruiting nurses in the various communities to staff the health stations but there has been increasing difficulty in getting the financial and the technical people recruited to serve the boards.

So certainly, at this point in time I feel that the working relationship has been very good in trying to lend that support because the ultimate goal is to make those health boards able to function. The idea of trying to put together the health board concept was very good. The concept was there but then the implementation of getting the boards working and providing them with the confidence to carry out their duties certainly was more difficult than putting the concept forward. I believe that for a period of time there will be some growing pains and I feel that we should expect that. I think that the working relationship that we have with them is going to take whoever is responsible for the Department of Health, whether it is myself or another person in the future, a given period of time to continue to render that support. Thank you.

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

#### Budgets For Health Boards Should Include All Costs

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make it clear to the Minister and Members that I am not opposed to the fact that sophisticated services outside the ability of the newly established boards obviously cannot always be delivered from within. I realize you might have to go to the private sector for help, or even, where it is more practical, to government departments for help.

The point I am trying to make is that if all the funds related to health, which have to be what I would call "laundered" through the Canada Health Act -- medical service bills and the cost of operating the hospitals -- if those are not clearly defined in an area, either in the regional boards' budgets or in the THIS Board's global budget, then are we sure that we are getting all the charges properly in place? What I am trying to say is that I do not believe that even some of the old, established boards could do everything within house, and certainly the new ones cannot, but it should be in their budget, and if the Executive Council believes that these should be made to purchase services from certain departments, I agree with that too. The point is that it should be in their budget and they should then be billed by the department and then pay that bill. In that way the total cost of doing the work will be in their budget, and if money can be reclaimed through the Indian Health Policy or through the Canada Health Act, then we will not be suffering the loss of it.

What I am trying to say is when a person is ordering materials for a board, if he is an employee of the board, all of his support services -- the paperwork that is done, the receptionist, the telephone calls, freight, desk he is sitting in, the office that is being leased for him to use -- are in the health board's budget. Then you are sure you are not going to lose it. If you have the money outside of the board, and even outside the department, which we have in some circumstances, how do we know when our costs are going too high? What control do they have over the lease that DPW may make for the Department of Government Services? Maybe the board would have done something more cost effective if they had had control over it.

I am concerned that if you have the employee doing the work

on behalf of a board, in a facility owned and operated by the board, or if that is not the case then at least the funds for that person's work are in the board's budget and they can contract out that work, then you can be assured that you do not lose the money when you are trying to charge things to the Indian Health Policy or the Canada Health Act. That is the point I am trying to make. Not who should be doing the work, but who should have the money in their budget and have control over what is happening to their budget.

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

#### Complications In Financial Systems

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Chairman, when we bill the budgets for the health boards, all the money is identified in the health board's budget. Certainly I would say that as to the accountability for billing back, I think it is to the contrary right now. We are having an ongoing difficulty with the federal government because they feel that we are billing them back too much, not too little. I think that really because of the complication of the two systems and the fact that we did make a commitment to make sure that the system covering the non-insured status people, who are accounted for differently, is not disturbed at all, that the accounting is always going to be a bit difficult. It is not a pot. The aboriginal organizations insisted that they should not lose that one relationship to the federal government in order to secure the ongoing benefits under the Indian Health Policy. It is always going to be difficult in financing, and I know that the health boards find it a bit difficult because it is a complicated system. We are trying to work with them now to try to get that ironed out so it is simplified.

I understand the Member's comment that accountability is necessary for us to get the proper resources from the agreement.

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

#### Need For THIS Board Questioned

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to make a point, I do not want to sound derogative, but I think that the THIS Board is just a drag between the ministerial office and the regional boards. We talk about devolution of powers, and I think this is the high time to get rid of the board. If you have the full support of the House, that is the way I see it.

Madam Minister, you will remember yesterday we had a meeting in Coppermine with the Kitikmeot Regional Health Board and I suggested to two of my constituents from Pelly Bay and Gjoa Haven that I thought that the THIS Board was just a drag on the system. Thank you.

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

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I would tend to support the latter part of the recommendation -- actually both (a) and (b). In (b) it indicates "better reflects the government's philosophy of supporting regional autonomy".

As far back as I can remember, we have made a number of requests to the Government of the Northwest Territories to appoint a member from, I believe, the Keewatin Inuit Association to begin with. Looking at the resolution from the Keewatin Regional Health Board, they are indicating to the government that they have been trying to get membership in this organization for the past two years, without success.

I would support redefining responsibilities of the THIS Board.

I think it should give much more involvement to the people at the community level, and stress the need to involve more of the aboriginal organizations in each of the regions. Thank you.

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

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Chairperson, I have explained on a number of occasions when questions came up on the appointments to the board, and I just want to reclarify, that I have not moved in the direction of putting additional board members on because in the last year and a half or two years we have been getting an increasing number of questions from the health boards and we have put more emphasis on trying to get the health boards up and running.

As you all know, when you put members on a board sometimes you are still trying to look at the legitimacy of whether it is right or wrong. You put people on a board, they get in these positions and they say "We had better find a role for ourselves." What I have tried to do is work with the boards, getting them going and seeing how they feel their way around because things keep changing. As more people get involved they have different views and it is these people who are involved on an ongoing basis that generally have an indication of what is important to us and where we should go. I certainly think, as well as looking at a role for the THIS Board, another option would be to explore whether it is necessary or not in light of regional boards taking over more and more responsibilities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Mr. Zoe, general comments.

#### **New Act Required To Clearly Define Lines Of Authority**

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize what the Minister is trying to say but when these various boards appeared before our committee, they were concerned. They do not know what their authority is. Even the department did not know where the line of authority was. The results of our findings is that there is an unclear line of authority and an uncertainty among the organizations and individuals involved about their authority, roles and responsibilities. I realize that the Minister is saying, "I am trying to get these boards up and running", but once you put these boards in place, if they do not know their authority how are they going to function?

This whole area of the THIS Act which governs the health system in the Territories has to be reviewed and looked at seriously so that all these things can be defined properly. The roles of the Department of Health, the THIS Board, regional health boards, community health committees, and so forth, could be laid out in this new act. That is all that the committee is asking for. We know there are problems there, all the problems that the Minister is encountering now.

Mr. Chairman, when the transfer took place the Baffin Regional Health Board was supposed to be the model that all the other health boards would follow. The Baffin Regional Health Board was given full autonomy, regional autonomy, but the others that were created, the Mackenzie, Keewatin, Kitikmeot do not have that type of autonomy. There is one group that has full autonomy and the others do not because they are utilizing various government service departments and so forth. After the committee heard presentations from the regional health boards and the Department of Health, the committee could have come up with all types of recommendations but we felt that the four recommendations that we were bringing forward would be adequate at this time.

The first recommendation that we are making, with regard to

the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act, is that they should repeal this whole act, the act that is in place now which governs our health system, and put in a new one which establishes and clearly defines the authorities and responsibilities of the Department of Health, the THIS Board, the regional health boards, the community health committees, and so forth. That was our major recommendation that we are making right now. We know of all of the difficulties that the boards are having in the relationship between the boards, the THIS Board and the Department of Health, and that it is not working right now. There is a problem and we recognize that. That is why we are asking that they undertake to develop a new act and repeal the THIS Act.

The Minister indicated also that there is a question of staffing, that staffing is a problem. I do not think staffing is a problem. It is the process and authority over staff for the boards which is the problem. When Baffin was established there was no growing problem at that time. They hired their own staff; they accomplished that. I do not see a big problem with staffing but I think it is the authority over staffing that is being questioned here also.

What we are saying is, let us repeal the old act and define all of these boards and who is going to do what and so on, that is what section A is basically saying. Thank you.

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

#### **Recruiting Difficulties Faced By All Boards**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Chairperson, I certainly did not mean to be argumentative about this whole issue of looking at the responsibilities of the various agencies. I am not really disagreeing but I would think that it would be very remiss of me, given that the ongoing relationships I have with the health boards, not to bring people up-to-date on what their thinking is. I would like to make a correction. Yes, the Baffin does have problems in getting staff as well and I did not mean to imply that it was something that was unique. The whole problem is that all of the boards have had difficulty with it.

The hiring of an executive director, or something like that, has nothing to do with the authority at all. The fact is that the health board is completely in control of whom they hire, such as an executive director. They go out and they advertise and they do that job themselves. They are involved with the personnel that has been hired by them. Technical matters are handled by different departments, to an extent, but the fact is that the health boards themselves are basically making all these decisions but they do have difficulty. If you say that the Baffin hospital did not have growing pains you are extremely wrong. They did, and they continue to have growing pains. As more people get involved with the health delivery system, there are more demands and it does not matter whether it is a central agency, community agency or regional agency. I am not being argumentative about it but I would like to see us address the issues. I think the recommendation is fine here. However, I just did not feel that I could respond and say the recommendation is fine without pointing out that we deal with the issues, and I think it is wrong to suggest that there is more to the problem than the fundamental problem that faces every health board, including the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital in recruiting staff, including the Department of Health in Yellowknife in recruiting staff, no matter who does it, including the regional boards who have difficulty even though they recruit their own staff and put out advertisements. It is just a difficulty. At a certain point in time we have to be supportive of each other to make the system work. That is all I am saying. I did not mean to be argumentative or argue against your recommendation but just to place before you some of the



issues that are a day-to-day occurrence and that should be addressed. I do not see that the working relationship between the boards and the department is the problem. The problem is just trying to get the individual boards up and running and they require a great deal of support from everyone.

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

**MR. ZOE:** Mr. Chairman, our committee has heard the problems of various boards, the problems that they have encountered, the boards that were in existence and the post-transfer boards too. The line of authority is unclear right now. There is uncertainty among organizations and individuals. They do not know what their authority, roles and responsibilities are. So our committee felt strongly that new legislation could resolve many of these present uncertainties and the new act could provide a clear understanding of the line of authority, which is essential for carrying out the management of health care. So basically, we figured the best way to approach this is to bring in new legislation because of uncertainty among all the groups that are looking after our health care system. Our committee is suggesting that the THIS Act be repealed and a new act be enacted.

**Motion To Repeal THIS Act And Replace With New Act, Carried**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion. I move 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 community health committees; b) that it reflects the government's philosophy of supporting regional autonomy.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Ernerk, your point of order.

**MR. ERNERK:** Point of order, Mr. Chairperson. We have no quorum.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** The Chair recognizes that we do not have a quorum. Would the Clerk please ring the bell? The Chair recognizes a quorum.

The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Mr. Chairman, my motion speaks for itself. I request all Members to support this particular motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

We are on page 4. Mr. Zoe.

**Comments From The Standing Committee On Agencies, Boards And Commissions**

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second section of our report, section (B), deals with the use of memoranda of agreement. Four regional health boards, created after the 1988 health transfer agreement, have entered into memoranda of agreement 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.

Our committee has three concerns regarding this practice. First, the 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 NWT, 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 our standing committee's view, Mr. Chairman, 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 among all parties during the transfer negotiation process.

Our second concern, Mr. Chairman, is with regard to financial control. The 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 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 operation, but also for the territorial government. Without accurate and timely 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 the operation.

Third, Mr. Chairman, our committee also has a concern that the present system is contrary to our government's 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 levels. 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 more complicated, inefficient and costly. Our committee accepts that the use of MOAs is desirable and necessary in certain communities for certain services. Therefore it is our view that this process should be available to regional health boards on an optional basis. It should not be applied on a mandatory basis as is now 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 accountability provisions contained in the Financial Administration Act.

Mr. Chairman, our committee made its second recommendation upon its review of the post-transfer boards' reliance on government departments for a range of services under the MOAs.

Those are the three concerns and the recommendation in regard to the use of memoranda of agreement from the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions, Mr. Chairman.

#### **Motion To Discontinue Requirement That Regional Health Boards Use Service Of Government Departments, Recommendation Two**

Mr. Chairman, I move 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.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Zoe, your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Wray.

#### **Growth Of Bureaucracy Is Cause For Concern**

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** Thank you, I guess of all the recommendations this is the one that causes me the greatest difficulty, because I do not think the Member fully understands what he is saying here. I do not think the Member fully understands the cost implications. I do not think the Member fully understands why we are requiring the boards to do this. One of the biggest problems in the North and the continued complaints that we get from the Members opposite in this House, is above all: Why are not enough local people hired? Why is there not enough money for nurses? Why is there not enough money for specialists? Why is there not enough money for dentists? And yet they make a recommendation which is the basis of why there is not enough money.

What is happening all across the North, and it is why the government has been killed and it is why there is no money left, is that every time we create one of these bodies, it immediately wants to create its own bureaucracy. It wants its own department of personnel, it wants its own department of finance, it wants its own department of government services. And it is exactly because of what we saw happening in Baffin that we brought this in. Because immediately, Baffin wanted to create its own separate service departments. Now if it could have been accomplished by taking existing PYs from the government and moving them over, then there would not have been any cost implications. But we could not do that. In fact, they were going to create bigger service departments than the government had in place in Iqaluit to service an entire region. Where was the money going to come from? The money was to come from the health programs. It was going to mean fewer nurses. It was going to mean fewer doctors. It was going to mean fewer program specialists. And that is what this recommendation does, and what this government has been attempting to do, is to try and stop the growth of this huge bureaucracy that is springing up all over the North.

#### **Creation Of More Jobs For Southerners**

What are the other major implications of this bureaucracy? Does this bureaucracy come from inside the North? No, they are almost always hired from the South. So are we even creating jobs for our own people? No, we are creating more

jobs for Southerners. What do we do when we hire them from the South? The first thing we have to do is build them \$200,000 houses. So there goes more money out the window. That is what is happening all over the North. Every time we create these new bodies, they first of all want their own bureaucracy, so immediately more of our money has to go into bureaucracy. That is happening.

Look at the number of bureaucrats we now have in the North with 55,000 people. We have over 6000 bureaucrats. And think of it. If it was our own people that were getting those jobs then maybe it would not be such a bad idea. But almost all of them are being brought in from the South and we are having to support them with huge salaries, housing, all kinds of things. What is its meaning? It means that we have less money for our programs. It means that we cannot fund our welfare programs and we cannot increase our welfare rates. It means that we cannot have the teachers we want to have. It means that we cannot have the nurses we want to hire. That is where all our money is going, because we cannot create more money and we cannot print more money. Every time you bring more of these people in it means that money has to come from somewhere else and it always ends up coming from the programs.

The other thing about the boards is, in fact, if I had my way I would force all these boards to live under our affirmative action policy, which they will not. They will not even apply it to themselves. They will not even apply northern preference. In fact, most of these boards, the first thing they do is turn around and go south and buy all their supplies. I know that most of them do that.

We defeat ourselves all the time and we always do it under the guise of control and all it is is a power game of who is going to have the most civil servants, who is going to have the most money. The problem is that the people who lose are the people in our communities because the money for the programs ends up getting taken from them.

I think there has to be a debate in the North on how we are going to govern the North and who is going to govern it. If we keep on going the way we are going we will have no money left for programs; it will all be going into administration. If you look at the government's budget now, the majority of its money goes to administration. It is going into salaries, housing, all kinds of things. But what it is not going into is programs. And that is what discourages me more than anything about this recommendation because all you are doing is creating more bureaucracy, bigger bureaucracy. Even though it is not bureaucracy that may work for the GNWT, even though it is bureaucracy that may work for the Baffin Regional Health Board or the Keewatin Board of Education or the Stanton Yellowknife Health Centre Board, it is still bureaucracy that is funded by us. We fund this bureaucracy. It is not funded by them. They do not raise their own money. Money comes from us and all we do is expand bureaucracy after bureaucracy.

#### **Source Of Funds To Support Bureaucracy**

I cannot imagine why, when I sit around here and I hear the Members continually wanting money for real things -- to raise welfare, to raise navigational aids to airports, money for new roads, money for more teachers -- why you would come with the recommendation that only increases the bureaucracy and takes more money away from those very programs. I do not think people quite understand the relationship between the creation of all these bureaucracies and where the money comes from. It is not money that we get from the federal government; it is money that we have to take from within. So I know it is only a recommendation, but I think there has got to be some realization of what that kind of recommendation

will do and where the money will come from for all these bureaucracies. You are not talking about one bureaucracy; you are talking about bureaucracies in every region. Not only does the health board want its department of personnel and its own department of finance and its own department of government services and its own translators, but the education boards want their own departments of personnel and their own departments of finance. Where are they going to come from? It is not our people that even get hired into those jobs. It is people that they bring in from the South. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. General comments. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

#### Decentralization Versus Central Control

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is amazing how people change their point of view once they are sitting on the other side.

--Laughter

When they are ordinary Members all we ever hear is the importance of decentralization, the local people have to have control, make decisions and so on. Suddenly there is a great transformation. Suddenly when you are on the other side of the House and you are a Minister you want to have all the power yourself. You want to make sure that nobody else has it. I see that tremendous transformation. I have gone through Hansards and it is amazing how people's voices change when one minute they are talking on behalf of the people and what the people want and what the people should get, and then suddenly they become a Minister and then they tell us what the people should not have and what powers they should not get. It seems to me that we could debate this issue about decentralization and local control and the powers of agencies, boards and commissions but I would like to remind Members, all Members, whether they are on that side or this side, that the agencies, boards and commissions committee was set up to look precisely at this problem; that there is so much money now which is out there and over which the government itself, the people with executive responsibilities, do not have control, that it presents a certain kind of dilemma as to how you handle it. The demand for control is always going to be there.

It seems to me that there are several ways in which you can resolve that issue. What the government has decided to do is that the only way to solve it is to have complete hands-on control "We will keep our mitts right on top of them so we will know every move they make." In other words we are not really decentralizing control. It is a myth. It is a phantom. All you are doing is saying, "Well, we will give you control as long as you do what we tell you to do." That happens in practically all these agencies which are really not arm's length.

So my guess is, although this committee was set up to deal with this serious problem of having incredible demands for resources in the different agencies, boards and commissions, that there must be some other way to solve the problem, other than to say "We have given you control; now you listen to us."

Perhaps one of the solutions could be that this government demands and insists that the condition of having that control is that you follow the government policies as it refers to affirmative action, as it refers to northern business preferences, and if you do not do that you do not exist. You are dissolved. You do not have that responsibility because unless you follow these guidelines -- that is the kind of job that governments do; governments say, "Look, you can have control but the thing is you depend on one source for resources. You do not have any ability to raise revenues.

You have to come back here to the pot all the time. But if you want to play the game that is acceptable to us, you are going to have to go half-way to recognizing that you are not really independent. There are some controls. But why do you insist that you have to stick right on top? If you want to buy a pencil then we will tell you what kind of pencil and where you get it." That is what happens under this system. You go right through the government system of determining exactly how even the most minute thing should be done, which really defeats the purpose of decentralization.

It seems to me that if you are really serious about development then what you do is to say "Look, I know that you find it really tough to have to recognize that there are limits on the kind of money that exists to provide these programs but we really would like to see people take on responsibility and authority." What we should do is to say "You can have this authority as long as you play by these rules. If you get all your resources from us then what you have to do is to live by our policies." So that, for example, jobs that are available in boards, commissions and agencies will in fact be filled by northern people and if you want to buy supplies you do not just send your purchaser on the plane down to Montreal or down to Edmonton. You say there is a northern business policy. If we were not really serious about economic development and trying to find ways of integrating our economy we just tell them straight, "You are bound by our policies." You are not really doing an economic or any other kind of development job if you say, "Here is the power, but this is how you do it." That is wrong. You tell people that these are the realities. They want these authorities, but they have to abide by the policies set by this government. This government still acts as if it is the town council of Yellowknife. That is how you want to act. You cannot do that. If you really believe in development you tell people, "You have got the responsibility, but you do it according to our policies." That is what this committee is asking you to do; set down policies that they have to abide by. If they do not, take it away and look after it yourself.

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

#### Growth Of Bureaucracy At Expense Of Programs

**HON. GORDON WRAY:** I think the Member is right in most of what he said. I do not think there is anything on control on this side because most of us have been on the other side and in fact have worked for many of those regional bodies. What we are seeing and what is disturbing us is that if you have a region, and let us say, for example, you had a personnel department of the government with six PYs, which looked after teachers and nurses. Then we create two boards. We create a health board and an education board. They want to have control over hiring, et cetera, et cetera, which is fine with me. I do not happen to think that that is the most important thing you should control. I think to set the policy to deliver the program is more important; but even if you wanted it, if you could say, "We have got six PYs in personnel here. What we will do is we will take two out of that and give them to the health board; we will take two out of that and give them to the education board; and we will keep two and things will run fine." If that would happen, then I think everybody could live with that.

The problem is that in nine years in this government I have never seen it happen once because it does not happen. In theory it sounds good but it never, ever happens. What happens is, the government keeps the six PYs. The health board goes out and gets another three or four PYs and the education board goes out and it gets another three or four PYs from within its existing budget. So now where before we had six people running those functions, now we have 10, 12, 14 people running those functions and the money has come

from within the Education and Health budgets. It is money that has had to come from programs. That is what happens. That is the reality of what happens. Everyone here knows that is what happens because we have seen it happen time and time again. The bureaucracy just keeps getting bigger and bigger and bigger. No matter what we do and in spite of all our best intentions, we cannot seem to stop it because it is always done under the guise of power or control. We need to control. We have got to have our own people.

All I am saying is that every year we see it happening more and more, and more and more of our budget is going into finance and administration, personnel, that whole side, and less and less for programs. If we keep on going like this, in the not too distant future we are going to have no money left for programs. We are running out now. That is the problem. If the minds around this House could figure out a way to stop that, then I would be more than happy. But we know that is what happens because we have seen it happen time and time again. All I am saying is that we have got to stop it. Somehow it has to be stopped.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Ms. Cournoyea.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Just a point, when the Department of Health says to use the existing agencies that are available like the Departments of Public Works and Personnel, these are regional people. I travel through the Baffin Region, and by and large that is what they do anyway. In a community a lot of times it is difficult to get a plumber or an electrician, and if you do not look at just one department -- I try to look at things in terms of the total department and the services that you provide and the opportunities you have for building up a group of people that can serve the region. It is extremely difficult, and the Department of Health, to me, is only one agency of all the government. I firmly believe in decentralization, but when we say to use the existing departments, we are talking about the existing departments at the regional level.

#### **Regional Service People Best Utilized When Working For All Departments**

As you travel around the North, just forget about Health for a minute and look at the regions and how best to utilize the people that we have there. I look at the Department of Public Works where we provide a certain amount of services. We should do more for the people who are working within that system, but at the same time it is extremely difficult to get fully trained people, whether it is ourselves or our own people who can work into the system and provide that service. What I see is that if we can work all the departments together, maybe we can get a delivery system there with our own people, providing them with a career path, and they know that there is a regional place for them.

Let me tell you, certainly before we began to clamp down on it, and it has been a concern for many years -- at one time we used to have the various departments flying in a plumber to Clyde River, and the next day another department flying in someone else, and then the federal government, all to do about the same job. As a government, in order to cut down on the number of expenses to deliver services like plumbing and electrical, now with our new heating systems that require more highly qualified people, I think that we have a delivery system which consists of a lot of aboriginal people and Northerners who can provide the services, but they are not going to stay unless within the other agencies we provide the backup to allow them a role within the total delivery in every region.

#### **Power At Regional Level Not At Stake**

I do not think what we are attempting to do at a regional level takes away from our power as responsible people representing everybody. I think that, certainly in Baffin, even though it is not written, when it comes to the crunch the health board and local committee of the Department of Public Works have a plumber or electrician or someone that is more qualified in the more sophisticated heating systems that we have and they are able to draw on it. I would think that in delivering at a regional level we have to think more about building up that group to support the various agencies, whether it is a health board or whether it is an education board. I would think that it would be a bit premature just because a health board, in this particular instance, says "We request this and we do not want to do this any longer, we do not want to use the Department of Public Works people who are in the field," because they are going to do it anyway.

This is something that will tie together, I believe, the various services that the government is delivering at a regional level. Certainly I think that has an efficiency but it has to be more than just the Department of Health supporting this type of initiative. It has to be the total group that is delivering government services in the region.

I believe that boards can be much more strong and efficient if they have a technical support system, preferably a support system that consists of people that we have educated, put on apprenticeships and built up into a support group, to serve the boards and agencies. I do not see this as taking away anything from the boards. It is really to try to put together the support system that does work.

I think in places like Yellowknife, and maybe in Inuvik as well, because they are closer to transportation systems, you could probably have more choice; but a lot of times in some of the other communities there is not a whole lot of choice. If something breaks down, I would rather see one or two people who are within the system, who have received training and continue to be educated, receiving upgrading in various technical areas within their career path, that can provide that service on an ongoing basis. I do not think that takes away from the fact that from time to time you have to use, probably, the private sector, and maybe sometimes you do have to bring somebody in from Yellowknife; but I think we have to build that, but you do not just build that for the Department of Health, you build it for the whole region.

I hope that in this discussion that it is not felt that we want to centralize or keep the power. I think within the health boards' mandate it will serve them better, particularly in the more remote areas, to try to work this out. I just wanted to make those statements because I did not want you to feel, or anyone to feel, that these statements with regard to recommendation two was to take away anything from health boards, but to rather try to build an ongoing service that is of value to each region. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Madam Minister. To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to belabour this too much more, but I think what most Members who heard what these health board witnesses who came before us had to say, they are not saying so much that service departments should not be used when it makes sense. They are not saying that there should be a public works section for each health board, but what they are saying is that the money that is allocated for health should be in that board's budget, and they should decide...

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Recommendation two.

### Accountability Of People Doing Work

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** Yes, that is what I am on, recommendation two. What they are saying is that basically right now some of the functions that happen for these boards are forced upon these boards to have to use them. The people that are doing this work are not accountable to the boards, and that is the problem. It is not that someone else is doing it, it is that they are not accountable.

I can remember a case in Pine Point where the school principal had leaky taps and stuff. In those days, this was quite a while ago, the DPW people had to come from Fort Smith and fix this leak, which was leaking through a wall onto a floor in the school -- and no one even knew how to turn it off, otherwise the whole school would have no water and they would have to shut the school down. A maintenance person and his assistant -- and I hope I do not know them because this actually happened -- came over to Pine Point to fix this early the next morning. They brought the wrong parts. They phoned back to Fort Smith to get the parts and they spent the night in the hotel in Pine Point waiting for the parts to come on the bus the next day. They fixed the thing the next day and then they left. The principal was happy because the leak was not there any more. Story over, as far as he was concerned, because it was not in his budget so he did not care, all he cared was that the tap got fixed.

In actual fact, if there had been a local education board who had the maintenance of the school in their budget, which is the situation here in Yellowknife, then they would have called a local plumber who was available in the town. In Pine Point they could have got the mine staff to come and do it because they maintained houses. In fact, I think that is where DPW finally got the parts: from the mine warehouse. They could have fixed the thing for about an hour's worth of work. So those are the decisions that are taken away from the board, through this process. I think that if the money was in the board's budget there could be a policy of the Executive Council which says, "You must use local DPW to do the work."

The point is that DPW would have to send them a bill for the work and when the bill came to them they would have to pay it because they would not have much choice, but they would then have the opportunity to say, "What would this have cost us if we had done it another way?" If they get a bunch of instances like that, they can convince the Minister of Health and the Minister of Public Works, and the rest of the cabinet to change the system. Until we do that these boards are going to be frustrated by a system that they cannot have a say over. All they do is they just find out it got fixed, and all of a sudden they are over budget in certain areas which other departments caused and which they have no control over.

I think that is the point. We are not asking for another bureaucracy. We are asking that the board be put into the position so that they can pick the best way to deliver the service, for the least amount of money. I agree that initially the boards should probably be forced to use the existing regime of the government. I agree with what started out being done but I disagree with the fact that the money is not always in their budget and they do not have accountability for it. That is the problem. The Inuvik board came before us and told us that in one area of their budget they were told that they were way over. They did not even know they were way over until nearly the end of the year because nobody was invoicing them, nobody was sending them any kind of paperwork to let them know. That is the difficulty.

In relation to that, as well, the federal government did not have boards in existence and part of the negotiation -- whether it was entirely a success or not only time will tell -- was to get some funding for boards and support staff. Quite

a few extra person-years were designated and I do not know if they were all put out in the field or not, and I am not too concerned about that, but I would hate to think that they were all put in Yellowknife. The thing is that I would hope that you understand that we are not asking for more money, we are just asking for ways the people who have the responsibility on the ground can discharge that responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

### Memoranda Of Agreement Should Be Optional To Regional Boards

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our committee is not suggesting that we abolish all the memoranda of agreement. We realize that the current practice has become complicated, inefficient and costly. The committee accepts the use of MOAs. It is desirable and necessary in certain communities for certain services.

Our committee is suggesting that this process should be available to regional health boards on an optional basis. It should not be applied on a mandatory basis, as it is now. That is what my motion is saying. It is saying that if the regional board approaches the Minister or tells the Minister that they do not want a memorandum of agreement with DPW, the board has to give reasons why they do not want that, to the Minister so that the Minister can consider them and then decide if she is going to grant that to the boards. There are a number of MOAs in place right now, for Government Services, DPW, and so forth. All we are saying in my motion is that if a regional health boards requests it, then you should consider it seriously. We are not saying that you should abolish the memorandum of agreement, but we realize that it is needed in some areas and regions and so forth. That is basically what the motion is saying.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Zoe. To the motion, please. Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to be brief. Mr. Chairman, on page four of the committee's report there is a fundamental statement that the committee chairman has just repeated, that the memorandum of agreement system has proven to be cumbersome, difficult, inefficient for the post-transfer boards, rendering them less able to fulfil their mandate to run the health systems and operate hospitals under the THIS Act.

Mr. Chairman, if it is true that requiring these boards to take advantages of the services of government departments is inefficient, cumbersome, difficult, then I guess I would ask the committee, even though it is probably outside of your mandate, would you say the same about the government departments? I would remind Members of the committee that these rules that are being applied to the boards are rules that we apply to our own government departments.

The Department of Social Services and the Minister of Social Services, if she has a problem with plumbing or legal advice, a requirement for interpreters, a requirement to hire people and have personnel services, a requirement to purchase items for her department...

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** I am speaking to the motion, Mr. Chairman. I am talking about the principle on page four on which the motion is based. I am saying, Mr. Chairman, very simply, that the structure seems to be working for government departments. They have to use Finance, Personnel, DPW, Government Services. They do not make

their own purchases or hire their own staff. Let us get that straight. I have not heard the Members of this Assembly saying that is wrong and each government department should have its own purchasing department, its own DPW, its own department of personnel. I have not heard Members of this Assembly say that, Mr. Chairman. I have to say that the system seems to be working okay for our government departments. It does not seem to be preventing them from exercising their mandate, so why should it prevent health boards from exercising their mandate?

Mr. Chairman, I will try to make it as simple as I can. I think that when the Health transfer came up we spent a whole budget session, I remember answering questions almost daily on the issue of services to health boards. It became an issue of centralization and decentralization. There were charges that the government was trying to keep everything in Yellowknife. It also became an issue of power and that is what the committee report talks about in its preliminary background remarks to recommendation two.

#### **Efficiency Is Real Issue**

Mr. Chairman, I think the real issue, especially in a time of declining financial resources, the real issue is simply efficiency and I think that these boards should worry about running hospitals and health systems and making policies and making them work, making the health system work, introducing preventive concepts into the health system, dealing with difficult problems like AIDS and community health services. I do not think they should give a hoot about who fixes the utilidor or about who ends up purchasing the pencil.

I must correct Mr. Lewis. The intention of the policy is not to tell the board what kind of pencil to buy or what kind of syringe or what kind of equipment. The intention is to avoid having a health board employee do a purchase in a region where there is already a purchasing department in place, with expertise to put in orders and buy things. It is a mechanical administrative function that we are talking about, not the blood and guts of determining health policy and setting priorities for expenditures. The board makes the decision; it is the mechanical function of who does the administrative work to allow that to take place.

I like what I heard Mr. Lewis say about the need to have boards follow government policies. I am encouraged to hear that. Mr. Lewis said this is what the committee recommends. Unfortunately, I do not see a recommendation in these four that talks about having health boards and health departments follow, for example, the affirmative action policy, follow northern preference policies in purchasing. I do not see that in the recommendations. But I do welcome those comments because I think in the climate of mistrust and suspicion that was created by Members of this Legislature around the time of the Health transfer, it has been very difficult for our government, either by gentle persuasion or logic or reason or otherwise, to persuade health boards that there are policies set by this Legislature for the benefit of all the people of the NWT that they should pay attention to, that they should apply.

I would welcome this kind of direction from the Legislature, because frankly I think that the boards are going to see our attempts to encourage them to follow government policy to be interfering, to be an issue of power or perhaps an issue of centralization. This Legislature should be encouraging public dollars to be spent in keeping with the policies that are supported if not demanded by this Legislature.

Mr. Chairman, one final point. I heard Mr. McLaughlin just say that all the boards want is the money. Mr. Chairman, they have the money. They have the money to pay for these services. That compromise was made long ago. The dollars

for direct services are in the board budget. Utilities, employee benefits and the indirect services are in the Health Department budget, not in the budget of the Department of Public Works or the Department of Personnel or the Department of Government Services. So I think the Health people, whether it be departments or boards, do have the money to pay for these services.

#### **Goal Of Efficiency Is Shared**

Mr. Chairman, in listening to this debate I have a terrible feeling that we all really agree about the end goal, which is to use public money in the most efficient way possible so that when services are provided, they can be provided in the most efficient way so money can be spent for what we care about, which is doctors, nurses, services that affect our communities rather than our bureaucracy. I endorse Mr. Wray's comment that how are we going to pay if boards -- because they want independence, because they see it as an issue of control or an issue of centralization, decentralization -- decide that they are going to have their own? In my experience with government, it is a phenomenon that people like to expand the size of their own departments. The bigger the department of personnel in the hospital or finance in the hospital or purchasing in the hospital, the more important that manager is and the bigger his or her remuneration and status is in the system.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** I am sorry, Mr. Patterson, your time is up. Mr. Gargan.

#### **Problems With Present System Cited**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to recommendation two, I support the motion and one of the main reasons I support the motion is with regard to having a system of checks and balances. I guess a lot of examples that came out were from the Inuvik Region. The administrator of the Inuvik Health Board said that on a number of occasions, emergency situations, there were certain kinds of medication that you could not get. You have to go through Government Services to get a purchase order. So he phones Yellowknife for that and the girl who answers the phone said he did not have the authority to approve that. I think it went through three or four different people before final approval was given for a certain kind of medication. That was one example.

Another example he gave was with regard to using DPW. Even though they had so much for maintenance built into their budget, at the end of the year after DPW did their analysis of the amount of services that was required by the Inuvik hospital, the bills that went to the Inuvik Health Board were double what they had estimated. So because they do not have control over that kind of money, it is difficult for them to make any kind of forecast. That is another reason. And certainly they also used the example of changing a light bulb, they have to phone DPW and that sort of thing. So it is happening out there.

#### **Restriction On Money For Person Years Controls Bureaucratic Growth**

Mr. Chairman, I could only refer to my own region where we do not have a health board. The Mackenzie Health Board is here in Yellowknife and it is a bunch of administrators who decide on what should happen in my area. But also we have a divisional board that is operating in limbo, sort of, and the Deh Cho Regional Council, too. They do have the dollars to operate but they are restricted from adding more PYs, or whatever the case might be, because their budget only requires maybe three people at the most to operate. You also have certain moneys that are allocated for those regions and

for meetings. During the last two winter sessions we have requested the government to increase the budget of those regional councils and that has not happened. Although I am hearing the Members saying we are creating more of a bureaucracy, I do not see how that is possible when they do have that restriction on how money is being spent on the person years.

I agree with some Members who did mention that the bureaucracy is too big. With regard to ratio or comparisons with the rest of Canada, the NWT has the highest civil service per population. So it is there, it is quite evident. I do not see that giving more control to the regions and giving more person years to operate should be a concern of the government when they, too, realize that we do have a big bureaucracy. Perhaps it is time we start reducing and start giving more control to the regions.

I would think that although some of the Members are saying we have to use the affirmative action policy, the northern preference policy -- for example, in the Deh Cho region where the government has not increased their budget for the last three years, can you actually put conditions for them to use services up here that cost a lot more? On a very restrictive budget you have to be a bit choosy about where you purchase. Further, there are costs for non-insured health benefits for status people that are based on bills that come in and the time that a physician uses to dedicate themselves to those people. But that is 100 per cent covered. That should not be a concern.

Although I do have a concern over social services, I have yet to see a community where that is under the control of the regions. It has not happened yet. So as long as that is the case, then it is still the problem of the government to come up with the extra money to provide that service, although that is not the question at hand. The question is with regard to the boards and I understand what the intent of the motion is, that in areas where there is dissatisfaction then the regional health board should have those regions. I also understand that, at least in the Inuvik case, they are not operating under an approved budget, it is just whenever the costs are required.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Mr. McLaughlin, to the motion.

**MR. McLAUGHLIN:** In response to what Mr. Patterson said, I agree in that I think we are all concerned about trying to get the best bang for the dollar up here in the government system, no matter what department it is. What we have to realize is that you cannot always do that the same way, in the same region and in the same service. The Government Leader went to great lengths to say how fine and well-served the different departments were by the other government departments. That is all fine and well, but I know that there are basically monthly statements that come out on a timely basis to let each department know where they stand. The Inuvik board was not getting these monthly statements and did not know where they stood. The Government Leader said these people should be concentrating on delivering preventative programs in health instead of worrying about who is fixing the leaky taps. Well, if you are told nine months through your mandate that your whole budget is spent because the guys that are fixing leaky taps blew your budget so you cannot spend your budget on your preventative programs, that is not what we are trying to achieve, either.

#### **Use Of Service Departments When That Is Most Cost Effective**

I agree that we have to do it in the least costly manner possible, without duplication, and I became reluctantly convinced that we should use the service departments

whenever that was more cost effective. I agree that should be a policy of the Executive and the department, but the thing is, I think you have to make those departments responsive and they are not being responsive, certainly to the Inuvik board. I also have to say that a couple of departments did very well, according to the witnesses we had, and a couple did pretty terrible.

What we have to keep our mind on is that you have to have the people that have been given the responsibility, you have to give them the information and you have to give them the ability to make recommendations to the Ministers responsible -- the Health Minister and whatever other department is involved -- so they can say, "Look what it cost us. We could have done it by using a local person for half as much." You have to give them the information so they can do those things. You cannot just arbitrarily have a policy that says, "You are required to do this, that is it, and you are going to get the bill and you are just going to have to live with it." That is not the way to spend the government's money in the most cost effective manner.

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

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I remind committee Members of Rule 80(2) of this House, in committee of the whole, subject to the discretion of the chairman, a Member may speak more than once to any matter under discussion, but not until every Member wishing to speak has spoken. Some Members have spoken twice and three times already and others have not yet spoken.

Mr. Chairman, I am not a Member of this committee and if I had been I certainly would not have endorsed recommendation two. I cannot agree with it. Speaking specifically to the words that that motion contains, the chairman of the committee not long ago said that all it was intended to do was direct the Minister, where requested by a regional health board and the health board would give good justifications to the Minister, sufficiently good to convince the Minister, who should then take it seriously.

That is not what the motion says. The motion says specifically that if they request it, then the Minister is to take immediate steps to discontinue the practice of requiring them to use the service of government departments. There is nothing in there to convince or give good reasons or anything else.

#### **Rules And Policies Understood In Budget Not Passed On With Funds**

I am not prepared -- I have said that many times in the past -- to continue to pass a budget and then have part of that budget given out to agencies, boards, et cetera who do not follow the same rules and policies that I understand go with the expenditure of the money that I passed in that budget. When we pass the budget every year in this House, as far as I am concerned what goes with that is the authority to the government to spend that money in the manner prescribed in that budget. But also there is the condition that the money must be spent in accordance with the policies of expenditures that we have approved in this House, which includes such things as your affirmative action hiring policy and the northern preference policy. This certainly has not been the case, and although some Members said that it should be either/or, that they should either follow these or they should be on their own, in this recommendation there is no either/or, there is no instruction to the government in this recommendation that they should ensure that the boards follow the agreed policies.

I have had considerable problems within my own region with the Kitikmeot Divisional Board of Education and their hiring policy. As late as last year they were advertising in the

papers in the North and across Canada for teachers and saying that the minimum qualification required to teach in the Kitikmeot Region was a bachelor of education degree. I simply cannot accept that, because when they do that they exclude from employment, in my region, those constituents of mine who have bothered to take their education seriously and have gone through the teacher education program, have become teachers under our Education Act, have obtained a valid teacher education certificate for teaching in the NWT, but who may not possess a bachelor of education degree, and yet that is what the ad read. They have since changed that and withdrawn it and I am pleased that they have done so.

At this very time I have a letter in my briefcase from someone in my constituency complaining that the same board of education is retailing software that they obtain at cut-rate prices out of the United States. I do not think that is quite according to the policies that we want and there is no control over it. I think with the right approach to them probably this can also be stopped.

We are all talking about decentralization and that it is a good thing but we are not identifying what we mean by decentralization. I support decentralization but not if decentralization means setting up a whole string of more bureaucracies. That is not what it is. Decentralization to me is that we give some of the power we have here out to another level of government that already exists, and that is the community governments or hamlets. I am not interested in seeing a small region like mine suddenly having boards for every single thing there is. If we do that then we undermine the hamlet councils. My concept of decentralization is that if we want to decentralize Health then give it to the hamlets. If we want to decentralize Education, give it to the hamlets. Do not set up additional bodies that do not have to comply with anything that either this government says or the legitimate government of the community, the hamlet government, says.

#### Poor Public Interest In Election Of Boards

In many cases the boards that we work with, not in all cases but in many cases when election to these boards take place, there is not a very high interest. The Minister of Education, across, can certainly confirm that for local education boards in many instances we have to go to acclamation and we have to solicit people to run for it. There is not the public interest to let their name stand for election. In cases like that I just feel that it is not a representative body. We have people, whether or not they could be elected if there was an election I do not know, but we will never know that. If there is no more interest in the community than that you cannot even get enough candidates to conduct an election, then I do not think that the board that springs into existence as a result of this interest should have the power to spend a sizable portion of a budget approved by this Legislature. I just do not think that we can operate that way, and I am not prepared to support a motion that suggests that we should just give carte blanche authority to the boards to take over the services and spend the budget the way they see fit. That is not my concept of decentralization. Mr. Chairman, I wanted there to be no doubt in what I say. I cannot support and I will not support recommendation two.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Mr. Pedersen. The Chair does not recognize a quorum. Would the Clerk ring the bell please? Madam Minister.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Chairman, while I was listening to the statements that were being made I was going to express the same thing as the last speaker did. It seems that we all recognize that everything is not working one hundred per cent, and we can all cite individual issues and circumstances that arise. I still do not believe that the

arguments really support that particular worded motion.

#### More Clearly Defined Budgets For Boards

Certainly the honourable Member for Pine Point stated that really what people wanted is more the funding within the identification of a board, and I think we are working towards just cleaning that up so that there would be a more clearly defined budget. I have no problem with that, but we are looking at that because it is a bit complicated.

The other thing is with regard to the present policy. It does not say that in this motion, but the present policy is that if a board comes forward and does have a good argument, we can make exceptions. That is already in place. I just feel that the motion is very difficult to support because it does not seem to be saying what the statements are. It may just be the wording, so it is difficult. What has been said certainly is understandable and to a large degree it is being addressed now, and the intention is to address those two issues. One is to clearly identify funding in the health boards and simplify the bill-back and bill-in procedures. That is being done. We recognize that.

In terms of the policy on the use of agencies of government, we want to keep that very strong, but there is still that provision where people can get out of it, if justified.

I guess why it is difficult to support this motion is because the wording is very definitive, that if someone requests that we immediately discontinue. That is why it is difficult, and perhaps if the wording was a bit different, we could probably accept it with no argument at all on this point. I apologize for extending this debate because I believe that the intentions that the committee had put forward are certainly things that we are addressing and can address, but the motion itself I do not think is supportable because it does not say those things. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Any further comments? Mr. Gargan, to the motion.

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Chairman, with regard to the presentations that were made to us by four different boards, one of them was the Baffin, Inuvik was another, Stanton Yellowknife Hospital and another one. Most of the people that made presentations who were with the boards that were made after the transfer were having problems with the everyday operations. After several years of operations they know what the problems are and they have identified those problems.

#### Need For Local Authority In Emergency Situations

I just asked research to give me a copy of the recorded minutes that were done in our committee. One of the things that George Gillis was saying with regard to the working of the Inuvik hospital is that what he has to do is go through Government Services for purchasing orders before he can supply those drugs, presuming they do have a drugstore in Inuvik. But they have to phone Government Services here in Yellowknife in order for them to get the drug in Inuvik. On this occasion he approached the purchasing clerk, who felt she was not in a position to give the purchase order the go-ahead with the order of the drug. So the purchasing clerk went to her supervisor who, in turn, did not feel that he would provide the purchase order, and who then went to his superintendent. After he went through three people here in Yellowknife he was able to tell the Inuvik drugstore, "Yes, this is the purchase order number so now you may go ahead." The difficulty that they are having is that when it comes to a life-threatening situation, to go through that process is stupid, ridiculous. This is where you have to have some power over where these moneys are spent. If there is a drugstore that the



government is insisting that they use, through the northern preference policy, then the administrator in the Inuvik hospital should have that authority to go to the drugstore in Inuvik and make those purchases there and then, instead of going through the long process. In the event that they do have a bad situation, and what do you do? For medivac it would be the same situation. Thank you.

**Motion To Discontinue Requirement That Regional Health Boards Use Services Of Government Departments, Recommendation Two, Carried**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Are there any other general comments on the motion? Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Mr. Chairman, I move that the sitting hours be extended until the committee report is concluded.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** There is a motion to extend the sitting hours. All in favour? All those opposed? Six and six. I am going to ask one more time. All in favour to extend the hours, please raise your hands. All in favour? All those opposed? The motion to extend is carried. Mr. Zoe.

---Carried

**Impact Of Goods And Services Tax (GST)**

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The third section of our report, section C, deals with the impact of the goods and services tax. Our standing committee, during its review, recognized that the proposed goods and services tax may carry implications for the operation, not only for the regional health boards, but also for other agencies, boards and commissions throughout the NWT.

**Motion That Government Examine Impact Of Goods And Services Tax, And Ways To Extend GST Exemption, Recommendation Three, Carried**

Therefore, our standing committee recommends, and I move (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 NWT.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Zoe. We have a motion. Any comments? To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Zoe.

**Motion That Executive Council Table Comprehensive Response To Recommendations In Committee Report 4-90(2), Recommendation Four, Carried**

**MR. ZOE:** Section D of our report, Mr. Chairman, deals with the comprehensive response by the Executive Council. Our

standing committee makes the following recommendation, and I move, 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.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Any comments? To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Zoe.

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the standing committee will continue to fulfill 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. Thank you.

---Applause

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

**MR. ZOE:** Mr. Chairman, that concludes the report of the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. Does the committee agree that this report is completed? Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk):** Thank you. I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 18, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 16 and 8; Tabled Documents 6-90(2) and 13-90(2); Committee Report 4-90(2), and wishes to report that Committee Report 4-90(2) is concluded with four recommendations adopted.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

Item 19, third reading of bills.

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

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the standing committee on legislation immediately after adjournment this evening. Meeting at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, ajauqtit.

**ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Orders of the day for Friday, October 26th.

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 and Bill 16; Tabled Document 6-90(2) and Tabled Document 13-90(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 10:00 a.m. Friday, October 26, 1990.

---ADJOURNMENT