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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1990

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo): Orders of the day for Wednesday, October 31, 1990. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 45-90(2): Child Sexual Abuse Initiatives In The Justice System

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that Members of this Assembly share my deep concern about the problem of child sexual abuse. Children depend on adults to care for them, and their dependence makes them vulnerable. Education about child sexual abuse in communities and schools and for members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is an important factor in helping abused children get help.

Margaret-Anne Gallagher of Social Services has tremendous expertise in this area. She has been providing invaluable training sessions to many members of the RCMP. She has also worked closely with Crown counsel on various aspects of some child sexual abuse cases and has had occasion to work with five child witnesses in preparation for court.

As well, I am pleased to inform the Members that Diana Barr, a teacher from Fort Smith, has been seconded to the Departments of Justice and Social Services for the 1990-91 year to work exclusively in the area of child sexual abuse education. Ms. Barr has extensive experience in educating teachers about child sexual abuse and has also co-ordinated a court preparation program for child witnesses in British Columbia. Diana Barr is in the final stages of writing a booklet called "Kids in Court". Children who have been victims of sexual abuse often have to explain what happened to police and lawyers and then testify in court when the abuser is prosecuted. "Kids in Court" will explain, in simple language, what will happen in court and what will be expected of the child. This booklet is aimed specifically at children in the Northwest Territories and depicts the circumstances which children in the North are likely to encounter. The "Kids in Court" booklet has been prepared with advice from the Crown prosecutor's office, the RCMP and the Departments of Justice, Social Services and Education. It is expected to be printed and available for distribution later this fall. During the period of her secondment, Diana Barr is also providing advice on victims' programs to the Department of Justice.

Abuse of innocent children is abhorrent to our society. We are fortunate to have competent and dedicated people working to combat this serious problem in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 46-90(2): NWT Development Corporation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members may recall, a major tool for implementing the economic strategy was the Northwest Territories Development Corporation. I intend to report on the strategy's other recommendations later. However, today I would like to report that the NWT Development Corporation is now a reality.

Although we have actually made our first investment, most of the work has concentrated on getting the corporation up and running. Some prominent and skilled Northerners, native and non-native, representing a good mix of regions and businesses, have accepted appointments to the board of directors. Mr. Speaker, the members of the board of directors include: Mr. Ernie Daniels, president of the Metis Development Corporation; Mr. Pat Lyall, chairman of the board for the Nunasi Development Corporation; Mr. Eddie Dillon, vice-chairman of the Inuvialuit Development Corporation and mayor of Tuktoyaktuk; Mr. Ernie Johnson, principal for Financial Concept Group and a long-term resident of the Northwest Territories; Ms. Irene Roth, a businesswoman from Yellowknife; Ms. Mary King, businesswoman and manager of one of the NWT's largest automobile dealerships; Mr. Terry Ryan, a businessman from the Baffin and manager of the West Baffin Co-operative, with extensive experience in arts and crafts; and Mr. Yvo Airut, a long-time businessman from Rankin Inlet.

I have also appointed the deputy minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Dwight Noseworthy, as interim president and chairman of the board. With the transfer of projects and other assets to the Development Corporation, there will be need for close co-operation. We have also appointed a vice-president, Mr. Roland Bailey. As most Members know, Mr. Speaker, he is a Metis from the Northwest Territories. He has extensive and varied experience in business, specializing in accounting and auditing.

Arts And Crafts Facility, Pangnirtung

As I said, Mr. Speaker, we have already made our first investment. We have invested over \$1.3 million in a new arts and crafts facility in Pangnirtung. This is an innovative joint venture. Together with the local Uggurmiut Corporation and CAEDS, Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy, we expect to create almost 60 direct and indirect jobs. This new centre will have a diverse product line, including the community's renowned tapestries. Mr. Speaker, this is the type of investment I see the corporation making; an investment in opportunity. We provide the tools and facility, local people provide their talent and energy, and in this case, a substantial investment. If the project succeeds, most of the credit belongs to the local residents.

Other investments are being planned; investments in manufacturing, tourism and renewable resources, and I fully expect the corporation's investment fund to be committed by the end of the calendar year.

One which I am really proud of is our planned investment in one of our most successful projects, the Fort McPherson canvas project. In the past the company could never plan for the upgrading or replacement of its equipment and facilities. It was dependent upon our capital planning priorities. Through the Development Corporation this project will now be able to operate like any other business. It can look at its facilities and equipment, and plan for their orderly purchase or development.

With the purchase of new equipment and the development of a new plant we can increase production. We expect the cost of this investment to exceed \$1.3 million. With this investment we can keep pace with market demand which has grown substantially over the past two years. If everything works out we expect sales over the next five years to be around \$1.5 million. More importantly, increased sales mean more jobs, in this case over 22 jobs. We also believe these jobs can be maintained at little cost to government. If things work out the canvas shop will not only break even but also provide a modest return on our investment. Without the Development Corporation we would never be able to even plan for this development.

Joint Ventures With Private Sector

Other proposals have been developed which involve joint ventures with the private sector. Mr. Speaker, when we invest with the private sector we have to respect their privacy. One of these involves a joint venture in tourism with a native development corporation and a private investor. We are also looking at a joint venture development involving the fishery in Cumberland Sound. Until we finalize these and other deals, negotiations must remain private. Rest assured, however, that these involve investments where private investment has not been readily available in the past. I doubt any of these projects would proceed without the involvement of the Development Corporation.

I can add that the corporation is now actively planning and seeking out proposals to add to its portfolio. Included in these for the upcoming fiscal year will be the addition of infrastructure for fish, country foods, and arts and crafts sectors. The impact of these investments will be in every region and most sectors of the NWT economy.

We are also looking at ways of maintaining and protecting our existing investments. We are working on the development of standardized management policies and procedures for all initiatives where we have greater than 50 per cent involvement. This is vital and the key to the anticipated success of any of these initiatives and responds directly to the need for secure management.

Funds are not unlimited, however, and we have to plan our investments with care and forethought. We have to walk a thin line. While we have to take risks to develop our communities, we cannot afford bad investments which limit our future flexibility. Mr. Speaker, I am sure all Members support the Development Corporation and support the initiatives we have undertaken. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 47-90(2): International Travel

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement today respecting my attendance at the international marketplaces in Frankfurt, Germany, and London, England, from November 21 to December 1, 1990. Both of these venues are platforms for Canadian sellers to meet European travel trade representatives

who are presently selling Canadian vacation products or planning to do so in the future. Currently, a number of northern tourism businesses are hosting visitors from Germany and the United Kingdom. In keeping with my department's marketing strategy, we feel it is imperative to provide as much support as is feasible to assist the private sector in further developing these markets.

At this time there are six tourism operators from the Northwest Territories who have committed their time and finances to join my department in this initiative. Officials from my department will be responsible for promoting the Territories as a whole. At the same time, research will be conducted into the arts and crafts market as well as the promotion of country foods. Arrangements have been made with the consulate office in Frankfurt and the Canadian High Commission in London to ensure that our presence in the marketplaces will be well publicized.

My department will be also inviting wholesalers, travel media and selected travel agents to receptions in Frankfurt and London where we will feature not only the tourism product, but arts, crafts and country foods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Ministers' Statement 48-90(2): Nettilling Lake Char Fishery

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that we are making progress in the Eastern Arctic with our efforts to ship fresh char to markets in Montreal and beyond. As I have reported in the past, my department has been experimenting with methods of live-trapping char in order that the fish be kept alive, and therefore fresh, until the last possible moment before shipping. For the past two years we have been experimenting with various forms of traps at Nettilling Lake, which has the single largest commercial char quota in the Baffin Region. Char traps have been used successfully in Newfoundland and Quebec and we have borrowed expertise from these provinces in order to apply trap technology to our difficult fishing environment at Niko Island on Nettilling Lake.

Ben Ell, an Iqaluit-based fisherman, and his family, worked with a trap specialist from Newfoundland this summer and succeeded in deploying three traps in the Kuujuaq River leading into Nettilling Lake. The three traps and several gill nets produced over 10,000 pounds of char in under three weeks. They were shipped to Iqaluit, repacked at Iqaluit Enterprises Limited, a FFMC, Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, approved agent, and flown to Montreal the same day.

While we expected the live-trapped char to command a strong market response, we were pleasantly surprised that the gill-netted char also saw closing prices of \$4.75 per pound wholesale and \$9.75 per pound retail. These prices, combined with this department's freight subsidy of 30 cents per pound, now make the Nettilling Lake summer char fishery viable.

Mr. Speaker, based on several seasons of experimentation at Nettilling Lake, I am now optimistic that the full quota of 50,000 pounds can be viably harvested and marketed next summer, and that Canadian consumers can finally enjoy fresh char from our Eastern Arctic. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 49-90(2): Child Sexual Abuse Initiative Co-ordinating Committee

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the child sexual abuse initiative co-ordinating committee has been meeting for approximately a year. With membership comprised of senior officials from Health, Education, Justice, Social Services, Culture and Communications, the Women's Directorate, federal Justice and the RCMP, this committee is working to develop and monitor implementation of a multidisciplinary strategy to address the issue of child sexual abuse.

The first step in developing the strategy was the completion of a protocol containing guidelines for the investigation and management of child sexual abuse cases. This has been successfully completed and is now in use across the North.

The next stage is the development of treatment strategies for both victims and abusers. This will require the commitment of a number of federal and territorial departments as well as other professionals and community members, but it is essential in ensuring a co-ordinated, effective approach to treatment.

As we are all aware, child sexual abuse is a critical problem which is seriously affecting families and communities through the North. It is an issue which cannot be solved simply by an investment of time and money by the government, but one which requires a recognition of this problem at a community level and the commitment by people throughout the North to work together. Most importantly it requires a co-ordinated effort by government and non-government agencies working together.

In addition to the mandated government departments, non-government agencies such as women's shelters, day-care centres and other groups likely to be involved with child victims, must also participate fully in any initiative. It requires the recognition of the problem at a community level and the commitment by people throughout the North to work together.

This initiative is critical to the well-being of our children and the strengthening of family life. Positive steps have already been taken, and I am confident that with the continued commitment from all concerned groups we can maintain that momentum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask the House for permission to make an emergency statement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed.

Ministers' Statement 50-90(2): Cancellation Of UNICOM Services, Fort Franklin

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to inform the House that Transport Canada has allowed the contract for provision of UNICOM services at Fort Franklin to expire. Today Transport Canada has abrogated its responsibility in Fort Franklin to provide the air navigation, communication and weather services for safe and reliable air services to the community.

Today we have another example of the Government of Canada's inability to understand the Territories' reliance on air

transportation as its life line and principal mode for the movement of people and goods. Today we have an example of Transport Canada ignoring the recommendations of the Canadian Aviation Safety Board that not just UNICOM service, but in fact that a full community air radio station be established at Fort Franklin, and further, that the CARS, Community Airport Radio Station, program be expanded and enhanced throughout the Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, on October 17 I faxed a letter to Mr. Lewis, the Minister of Transport, expressing my deep concern, with the hope and trust that he, as a politician and a senior member of federal cabinet, would seize the issue and override his bureaucrats. My office, in trying to determine whether the Minister had even seen the letter and if he was responding, was informed that I could expect a response to this urgent matter in early November.

Mr. Speaker, I am so frustrated and angry at the risk to which Northerners become exposed for their very life line that I have today drafted a letter to our Minister of Justice to see if legal action can be taken against Transport Canada in order to cause them to fulfil their mandate.

Mr. Speaker, we have no transportation alternative. We cannot walk, we cannot drive, we must fly; fly to avail ourselves of critical emergency medical services and the very sustenance of life. Mr. Speaker, are we wrong as northern Canadians in asking for and in fact demanding that we be accorded some of the right to freedom to move? Seven people died at Fort Franklin in 1983. Surely, more Northerners do not need to give up their lives before Transport Canada can be persuaded to fulfil its responsibilities to this territory and to its people. Thank you.

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Government Leader's Treatment Of Mr. Sibbeston

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the last few days of this Assembly I have listened with grave concern regarding the question of Mr. Patterson's appointment of Mr. Sibbeston and the question regarding his motivations. I do not believe that Mr. Patterson's response was a responsible acknowledgement of the facts. I am, therefore, putting the Government Leader on notice that there will be additional questions today regarding this matter, to him and his colleagues in this House.

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

Member's Statement On Treatment Of Students In Residential Schools

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a documentary on residential schools was aired on the CBC program, "The Journal". It was not the first of its kind. From the late 1800s up to around 1960, residential schools were compulsory for native people in Canada. The federal government's purpose, at that time, was assimilation and termination of aboriginal cultures. People who went to residential schools were not allowed to wear their own traditional clothing, speak their own aboriginal language, practise their own religious beliefs and ceremonies, sing their own traditional songs, or practise, in any way, shape, or form, their traditional way of life. Naturally, people who defied those strict rules were made to pay dearly.

"The Journal" report featured three very prominent native leaders: the Grand Chief of Manitoba; the vice-president of the Assembly of First Nations; and our own Western Arctic MP, Ethel Blondin. These three confirmed the harsh physical abuse that many native students suffered through that system. Mr. Speaker, they went further to state that many of those former students have now become abusers themselves.

Many of the residential schools were run by the church. The teachers were often members of the clergy: nuns or priests. They taught high moral standards but this led to major confusion about morality for many students. The students heard all the words about loving your neighbour as yourself but they also lived with the everyday reality of the frequent physical and mental abuse these church people handed out to them. Mr. Speaker, this part of the history of the Northwest Territories and of Canada has never been recorded or documented. Despite the painful facts and difficult memories, it must be preserved so that the new generation of young people can develop an understanding of what their parents went through.

Mr. Speaker, it has become quite obvious in the Northwest Territories, through media headlines, that time and time again we see aboriginal people being charged with physical and sexual abuse of others. It is my opinion that many of these people are aboriginal people who were abused at residential schools...

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, time period has expired. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, may I have unanimous consent to finish my statement?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Deh Cho is seeking unanimous consent to proceed. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, in my opinion many of these people are aboriginal people who were abused at residential schools. We must recognize that they are still suffering from the pain of what happened to them there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Community Teacher Education Program, Rae-Edzo

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 22nd, I had the pleasure of visiting the new community teacher education pilot project in Rae-Edzo with the honourable Member for Sahtu, Stephen Kakfwi. The purpose of the program is to train local native and northern teachers. Mr. Speaker, I must say that I was quite impressed with what I saw. It seems quite different from other programs I have observed in the past. This is taking a hands-on approach. Students teach regular classes as part of the program, learning on the job, you might say, since their assignments are given in the context of their daily work in the classroom.

There are three main components to the program: 1) the development of helping skills for teachers so they can provide support to children in the classroom; 2) teachers in turn learning how to involve parents from the community as primary resources in their children's education; and 3) the strong cultural aspect of the program, which is already drawing international interest. Mr. Speaker, the students and teachers of the CTEP program in Rae-Edzo are working really hard. They seem very happy and enthusiastic about the

program because it is truly at the community level. They feel really at home. Mr. Speaker, this is a very new program. It is only two months old and I do not believe it has been thoroughly reviewed yet by the department. As a pilot project, it is still being developed and revised, but from what I saw, this project looks very positive. I would like to commend the Minister on the development of the CTEP program in Rae-Edzo and encourage him to keep working in the right direction. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Government Leader's Reply

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, on Monday, as Members know, I made a reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address in which I talked about my resignation and my receiving new information about Mr. Patterson deliberately giving me minor departments. The essence of what I said was, "Hey, I have been wronged and I want an apology." Yesterday, Mr. Patterson in his reply made reference to the issue. He denies that he had a plot in mind and secondly, that my charge is based on one careless remark made during the heat of the debate. Mr. Speaker, I feel I have given Mr. Patterson ample time and opportunity to apologize to me. As one reads his reply yesterday, it amounts to a regret and not a real apology. In fact, nowhere in his reply does Mr. Patterson say to me he is sorry. In today's paper I see the headline, "Patterson won't apologize". So, Mr. Speaker, today I reveal the basis of my allegations and will ask three Ministers questions.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 16, at approximately 8:30 p.m., this fall, while I was home getting ready to play hockey, I received a call from Mr. Steve Kakfwi, Minister of Education. He told me he had something to tell me, that he was very upset with what he had heard. Mr. Kakfwi stated to me that Mr. Patterson told him in the Assembly, after I had asked a question of him, these words, "That is why I deliberately demoted him. I knew if I gave him minor departments he would quit, because he is a proud man." And he was referring to me and the words were to that effect; I know because I scribbled them down at the time. I was shocked and I went to play hockey. I did not do that well. My mind was troubled. I returned home and went to sleep. The next day I met with Mr. Kakfwi to confirm the discussion we had and I will be asking, as I said, three Ministers today, to confirm the information that I have.

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

Member's Statement On Housing Construction In Greenland

MR. ERNERK: Merci bien, Monsieur le president. (Translation) I am going to talk to you about the Housing Corporation. (Translation ends) ...to visit Greenland to look into their housing experience. I felt he could have learned something. I have been to Kalaallit Nunaat, Greenland, several times since 1972. Part of the objective during these visits, Mr. Speaker, was to look at their housing designs and construction. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, I have always been impressed with their knowledge and experience in constructing buildings. Keeping in mind, of course, they are probably 200 years ahead of us here in the Northwest Territories in housing construction. Their buildings have cement foundations and have cement basements built right on the rock. The majority of our houses here are built on gravel. Rock is part of natural earth and does not move. Gravel is adapted to the tundra earth and moves each season with the influence of warm and

cold temperatures. Mr. Speaker, I also know, as Mr. Butters knows, that it is costly to continually repair houses here at home. I think, Mr. Speaker, Kalaallit Nunaat has the right idea.

(Translation) I ask the Hon. Tom Butters to think about visiting Kalaallit. He could learn more and pass on his learning and findings to his government here and put them to work. Mr. Speaker, I certainly do not state my recommendations lightly because I know only too well how important the housing matter is in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Community Education Through Arctic College

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the matter of Arctic College and the adults that go to Arctic College, one of my constituents in Gjoa Haven talked to me regarding Arctic College. We appreciate the fact that they send Arctic College students to Inuvik, Fort Smith and to Iqaluit. However, there were three students that talked to me that had just dropped out of school, and they did not finish the training that they were going to Arctic College for.

The concern they had was that when they have families in the communities it is hard to stay away from them and they get very homesick. That is why they dropped out of school without finishing their training or education. I think we have to question the fact that when you send students out of town to go to school -- I think we should have local education set up through Arctic College so that people will be more at home and continue their studies in their own communities without having to worry about the family that they have left behind in their homes. Most of us know about staying away from home because we are used to staying away from home during meetings and so forth. With regard to the adult students that have to go out of town, they have the hardest time trying to concentrate on their studies when they worry about the families that they have left back home. That is the concern that was raised in my constituency. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Resolute Bay Co-operative

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have something good to say. There is a new co-op being set up in Resolute Bay. They used to have an old building at Resolute Bay and this was deteriorating. They had moved this to the community of Resolute Bay from the base. Now they are opening a new co-op in Resolute Bay and I would like to commend the people that managed this, Andrew Goussaert and Bill Lyall, in particular. They pushed this forward to open a co-op in Resolute Bay, and I appreciate their efforts in this area. The building was shipped up this summer and they are going to open it some time this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Role Of Department Of Indian And Northern Affairs

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have a statement about the role of Indian and Northern Affairs now and in the future. I have some questions. Should the Yukon and Northwest Territories be treated like colonies of Canada forever? Should native people in Canada be economically

dependent upon government forever? Should civil servants from Indian Affairs treat native people and Northerners like they are wards of the government forever? The answer to these questions, Mr. Speaker, has to be no.

Mr. Speaker, I have criticized DIAND before and maligned its civil servants for spending 90 per cent of its budget trying to figure out how to give the other 10 per cent to northerners and native people in the least effective manner possible. I was perhaps overzealous when I made these statements because there are truly dedicated and sympathetic federal civil servants, and the 10 per cent figure is probably more accurately 15 per cent or maybe as much as 20 per cent.

It has been a long time since the late 1950s and early 1960s when John Diefenbaker launched the "roads to resources" program and established the Carrothers Commission which recommended the movement of government to the Northwest Territories and the establishment of political institutions in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, DIAND civil servants cannot be expected to initiate any kind of federal government policy to do away with its mandate in the North. Rather, they are still imposing the white paper from the late 1960s which was basically designed to assimilate native people into the North American culture, and they still continue to operate the North as a fiefdom.

It is time that the federal politicians who are responsible took an initiative in this area. The Indian Affairs side of Northern Affairs should be done away with. There should be the creation of a constitutional development secretariat reporting to the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible, and we should take on the employees who are North of 60 as our own civil servants and the ones in Ottawa can be entirely done away with to save the taxpayers a lot of money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Halloween

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to say something and then changed my mind, but I have been listening to all kinds of very, very interesting statements today. Some of them shook me a little bit, so I thought, what could I do to lighten it a little bit? Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind Members that those people that they see on the streets that look very sick are, in fact, celebrating Halloween. There are many coloured people on the streets, all shades of green and blue.

When I was a young boy growing up in Wales, because it was a place where the aboriginal people of those islands had in fact lived for many years, I was told this story. Halloween is the time when we begin winter, November 1st, on the old calendar. On that day all the dead people come to life, and I was going to make some joke about that, but I thought maybe I should not. Since I know many people do not have nice things to say about public servants, I thought I just would not mention that. Anyway, this is the day, Mr. Speaker, when in those days before Christ was born, many, many hundreds of years before Christ was born, there were bonfires made, all kinds of refuse and garbage was burned, all the things from the past were burnt up and allowed to disappear because for many, many months there would be darkness and people would make all kinds of deals around these bonfires -- who would be married, what business deals would be made, what arrangements would be made, all kinds of plans because November 1 would be the first day of the winter. It was called in our dialect, "samhain". All I wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, was that all these customs that have gone all over the world

from those early origins, do not make sense to us. I know aboriginal people in Canada say, "Well all these customs you bring do not make sense." They never made sense to me either because these are things that happened thousands and thousands of years ago. But we inherit them and we pass them on. In Mr. Wray's country, where they do not have pumpkins, they use turnips to make these funny little things and of course after it, because they were Scotsmen, they ate them of course; they would not throw them in the garbage.

---Laughter

Those are just a few little things I thought, Mr. Speaker, on reflection perhaps, there are all kinds of silly things today that make no sense...

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member. Order please. Time has expired. Members' statements. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a reply to a question asked by Mr. Morin on October 22, 1990, with regard to closure of Fort Reliance weather station. Rumours of the closure of the Fort Reliance weather station have circulated for several years. In following up on the Member's question of October 22, 1990, it has been confirmed that Transport Canada has cancelled its budget for the continued operation of the Fort Reliance weather service and Environment Canada will reassign its meteorological personnel to other weather stations in its service as of December 15, 1990. For air navigation purposes, the non-directional beacon at Fort Reliance will remain in service, monitored remotely from Yellowknife.

Transport Canada did not inform the department of its decision. I understand that Transport Canada did consult with the Air Transport Association of Canada, ATAC; the Northern Air Transport Association, NATA, and the Canadian Airline Pilots Associations, CALPA. It is my understanding that none of these associations had any serious objections to the closure decision.

The Member for Tu Nede will know from my answers to similar questions raised by other Members of this Assembly on the status of the federal CARS and UNICOM programs, that I have very little control over where and how Transport Canada decides to cut back its services.

I find Transport Canada's continuing erosion of its air support services in the Northwest Territories very frustrating. I am as concerned about the loss of the Fort Reliance weather station as I am about service reduction in communities where there are people who absolutely depend on reliable air support services. Thank you.

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

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I have two returns. The first asked by Mr. Ernerk on October 24, regarding the Rankin Inlet volleyball team request for funding. On that date, Mr. Ernerk asked if a volleyball team from Rankin Inlet could be eligible for funding assistance from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, to travel to a senior high

school tournament being held in Yellowknife in November.

The tournament in question is being sponsored by the Sir John Franklin Territorial High School as an inter-school event. As such, the team is eligible to apply to the NWT School Athletics Association which is funded by the Department of Education for travel funding. In addition, if tournament organizers ensure all participating teams are affiliated, further travel assistance may be available through the NWT Volleyball Association.

As you are aware, it is government policy that funding for sport events of this nature be channelled through the Sport North Federation which, in turn, distributes it to their various members. Direct funding by government of events of this type would result in an unmanageable number of requests and no effective way to utilize the tremendous volunteer network already established by Sport North. Sport and recreation staff in the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs in Rankin Inlet are working with the team to access these funding sources.

Return To Question O30-90(2): Profits From Bingos To Cover Deficit

I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Ningark on October 11th. I think it was reiterated by his colleague from Kitikmeot West, a couple of days later, relative to bingos being used to cover deficits of housing associations. The NWT Housing Corporation does not expect housing associations to cover their deficits position by holding bingos. However, the corporation does expect and acts to ensure that fiscal responsibility and accountability are carried out by the housing authorities and associations, in accordance with their management agreements. The corporation provides training programs and opportunities for staff and interacts with authorities and associations to attain these objectives.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O253-90(2): Results Of Ottawa Meeting On Beluga Whale Issue

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this concerns the meeting in Ottawa regarding beluga whales. We have learned that Mr. Jack Anawak, the federal Member of Parliament for Nunatsiag, on his own initiative, requested a meeting on issues regarding beluga whales with the Hon. Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Mr. Anawak requested that representatives from the communities of Lake Harbour, Pangnirtung and Iqaluit, accompany him to the meeting. Representatives are presently in Ottawa to accompany Mr. Anawak to the meeting on Thursday; that is tomorrow.

Mr. Anawak's office has been contacted to obtain further information on this meeting. This information will be passed to the MLAs for those affected communities, immediately after it is received. Thank you.

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

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: This is in response to a question asked by Mr. Ningark on October 25, regarding school busing in Gjoa Haven. The Department of Education has thoroughly researched the school busing needs for all NWT communities.

As expected, almost all communities have indicated a desire for some level of busing service, especially for younger children. The department has developed a draft policy and it has been approved in principle. There was no new funding, however, for busing in 1990-91 and we could not meet any new requests for the service. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O223-90(2): Tourism Pilot Project, Clyde River

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Kilabuk on October 29, 1990, with regard to tourism pilot project, Clyde River. I would first like to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism has not undertaken any pilot study concerning a tourist information office in Clyde River. However, senior officials did investigate the opportunities for tourism development at Isabella Bay, or Igalirtuuq, during 1989. They suggested the development of whale viewing facilities in this area. Capital funds were identified and implementation activities were to commence during 1990. This may be the project that Mr. Kilabuk is referring to.

However, in January of 1990, we received a document entitled, "Igalirtuuq: A Conservation Proposal for Bowhead Whales at Isabella Bay", from the community of Clyde River and supported by the World Wildlife Fund. This community report states that, "...it is important that a conservation plan for Isabella Bay be implemented before tourism develops to ensure that the whales and their habitats are not disturbed." We responded to this community request and we have put our tourism plans on hold.

The report also states that the Fisheries and Oceans department should provide the necessary leadership to ensure that recommendations are followed and that a conservation plan is developed. One of the recommendations is the organization of a steering committee with various members, including my department.

I support the formation of this committee and the subsequent development of conservation plans for Isabella Bay as requested by the community of Clyde River. Once these community priorities are complete, and with community approval, my department will continue to support tourism development activities at Isabella Bay. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have three returns. A return to a question asked by Mr. Morin, on October 25th, regarding the increase in the number of physician visits to Snowdrift. Mr. Speaker, the number of visits made by physicians to Snowdrift has been markedly increased. The Mackenzie Regional Health Service has arranged for the Family Medical Clinic to increase its number of visits per year from 12 to 18. Mr. Speaker, this appears to be working satisfactorily.

Return To Question O120-90(2): Doctors Visiting Communities

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Gargan on October 18th, regarding physician services to Fort Providence. I am pleased to inform the honourable Member

for Deh Cho that his concern for physician services in Fort Providence has been addressed.

In response to the Member's concerns Mr. Tom Menzies, executive director of the Mackenzie Regional Health Service, has been in direct communication with Chief Bonnetrouge of the Fort Providence Dene Band. As a result, physician visits to Fort Providence have been doubled and will now occur weekly. Dr. Covert will continue to visit every two weeks. Alternate weeks will be handled by other physicians from Hay River, which will provide residents with their requested option of a second opinion. Mr. Speaker, this arrangement appears to be working satisfactorily.

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

I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Ningark on October 18th, regarding the community health representative for Pelly Bay. Mr. Speaker, the community health representative is proving to be a valuable member of the health team in many communities, and I am pleased that this is recognized by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot. He will be pleased to learn that the position of a community health representative in Pelly Bay will be filled on a full-time basis. Thank you.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Mr. Kakfwi, whether he can confirm the phone call that he made to me on the evening of October 16th, and whether he can confirm the discussions that we held and the words that I stated in my earlier statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I am considering, firstly, if the honourable Member for Nahendeh could clarify whether or not it is the honourable Member's capacity as the Minister of Education. The other item is I am not clear on the content or the item of concern he is raising, in terms of a telephone discussion of any kind. It is necessary to ensure the conclusion of the question. So if the honourable Member could consider those issues in making or presenting his question again. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I must apologize, I do not really understand what you simply said. I would appreciate you rephrasing it.

MR. SPEAKER: Firstly, with regard to the general rules that apply to questions, questions must fall within the administrative responsibility of the government or of the specific Minister to whom it is addressed. The question is whether or not you are addressing the question to the honourable Member for Sahtu, in his capacity as Minister of Education.

The other aspect is, in concluding your question you indicated remarks that you made in a statement. That total content must also be part of the question that is put forward so that I can indicate and consider the question in its totality, because I am having some difficulty in terms of the Rules. So if you might consider that in your questioning. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

Question O256-90(2): Confirmation Of Minister's Phone Call

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, then I will ask the Minister,

in his capacity as Deputy Government Leader, whether he can confirm a phone call he made with me on October 16th, at approximately 8:30 at night and whether the statement that I made, the statements that I allege that he made to me that evening, whether he can confirm those?

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, what I can say at this time is that I am not willing to be cross-examined by a Member from the other side of the floor, on a matter that I thought was going to be resolved by agreement between the Member himself, and the Government Leader and myself. It appears that all of the agreements and the little deals that were made, the agreement that both of these gentlemen were going to resolve their differences between themselves, is not going to be done in a very clean way. I do not want to be dragged into this by being questioned at this time. I would be prepared later in the day to make a statement about the matter myself. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O256-90(2): Confirmation Of Minister's Phone Call

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I just feel it is very important to the integrity of Ministers and the integrity of this Assembly to reveal information that particularly goes to the credibility of a Member. In this case there is some information concerning the credibility...

MR. SPEAKER: Order! I would ask you to put forward your supplementary. I was calling order so that you should put your supplementary as soon as possible. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, what I was dealing with was Mr. Kakfwi saying that he does not want to be dragged into this issue that is between Mr. Patterson and I, and not wanting to reveal information. I was just making the point that it is essential to this Assembly, where Ministers have information which they have revealed to the Assembly, where it affects the credibility of another Minister or another MLA. I am just wanting confirmation from Mr. Kakfwi whether he stated those words to me that night. Those words are, "That is why I deliberately demoted him", referring to Mr. Patterson's statement, and, "I know if I gave him minor departments he would quit because he is a proud man", or words to that effect.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, my response is still the same. I am not going to be used in this political fiasco that we are starting to see unravel here, between two Members of this House. When I make a statement it is going to be a statement that I make in totality. I am not going to be answering specific questions at this time because I am not going to be, as I said, cross-examined in this House at this time. So I am not answering the question.

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

Question O257-90(2): Confirmation Of Minister's Comments

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, it is another question. Could I ask the Minister of Social Services whether, on the night of

October 16th, she received a call from Mr. Kakfwi indicating his concern and also indicating the words that Mr. Patterson had told him that day -- if she is able to confirm that and whether she is able to reveal that in the House today?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Slave River.

Return To Question O257-90(2): Confirmation Of Minister's Comments

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the question is in relation to my portfolio, but in respect of the question of receiving a phone call from Mr. Kakfwi, I did receive a phone call. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Just to remind the honourable Members, when you are posing questions it should be identified, the question should be posed in terms of the responsibilities that Ministers hold. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

Supplementary To Question O257-90(2): Confirmation Of Minister's Comments

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the Minister has confirmed that she did receive a phone call from Mr. Kakfwi. Now I would like to ask the Minister whether she is prepared to reveal the contents of the statements that were made by Mr. Kakfwi to her.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the Member, but can I ask him just to repeat the question? I am not too sure if he asked if I was "prepared to", or "will I".

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the question was, the Minister having confirmed receiving such a phone call with Mr. Kakfwi, will she now reveal the contents of that conversation to this Assembly?

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

Further Return To Question O257-90(2): Confirmation Of Minister's Comments

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, usually my phone calls are kept confidential but in this case it was revealed that the phone call was made to me by different cabinet Ministers. Because of the remarks that were made and in whatever context these remarks that were made, that I was advised about, because of the fact that I felt they would be hearsay remarks if I repeated them, or rumoured remarks, I did not feel that it was proper for me to repeat these remarks until I was confronted to confirm them. In this case I know Mr. Sibbeston, the next day confirmed these remarks being made to me, which I did indicate to them, that, "Yes, I did hear them."

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

Supplementary To Question O257-90(2): Confirmation Of Minister's Comments

MR. SIBBESTON: A further supplementary. Would the Minister be so kind then as to indicate what was said by Mr. Kakfwi? What was revealed to her?

MR. SPEAKER: I am in an awkward situation here. You have got to bear with me as I go through this questioning. The Rules are clear on a requirement by Members to ask questions with regard to those items within the administrative responsibility of Ministers. However, the questions have been answered and therefore, as a result of that, it gives the honourable Member a certain right, I guess, to continue the questioning. But I am in a bit of a dilemma every time a question arises and I have to think about how the question is posed. So if you will bear with me in this process here. The honourable Member for Slave River.

A point of privilege, the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel that the privilege of Members of this House, including my own, is being infringed upon by this line of questioning. I think all of us have an opportunity at sometime to be referred to as the other side of the House, of the floor, and I do not think -- I had five phone calls last night myself. I can reveal that to the House and I do not wish to be questioned on any of them. I think when questions are related to phone calls which are made in confidence and which are outside the administrative responsibility of the specific Minister, that then it does infringe on the privilege of Members of this Assembly who may be asked to serve in similar positions in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: Firstly, on the question that the honourable Member has raised with regard to a point of privilege. He does not have a point of privilege in that a point of privilege only arises from items or business that is conducted within the House and issues that are raised in the House. It might have been a point of order.

Oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, supplementary.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I certainly do not want to hog the floor but I seem to be on an interesting line of questioning and I would just like to pursue it to its conclusion if possible. The Minister of Social Services has said that she did receive a call, has confirmed that now. I would just like her to state the contents of that conversation she had.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Point Of Order

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to respectfully request of you a ruling on this issue. This House operates by precedent and I wish to know that if by precedent, cabinet Ministers answering questions about telephone calls, means that in future all cabinet Ministers will be required to answer questions on the contents of telephone calls made by them. I respectfully ask that that ruling be made before this line of questioning continues.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order. I will take a five minute recess and let everybody cool off for a second.

--SHORT RECESS

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: I call the House back to order. I apologize to the House for taking some time to provide my ruling on the point of order raised by the honourable Member for Kivallivik. I felt it necessary to review the matter carefully to ensure that my ruling was consistent with past practices of this Assembly and other jurisdictions. It is imperative that the Chair ensures that Members' rights and privileges are not infringed upon and

that the rights of Members asking questions and Ministers answering, are posed and answered in the proper manner.

Question period is an integral part of the workings of this Assembly and affords to ordinary Members the right to ask oral questions which should be concisely and clearly put, and should refer only to a matter which may reasonably be assumed to be within the present knowledge of the Minister to whom it is directed.

If the Chair was to strictly follow this rule then a Member could conceivably ask a Minister any question that he felt was in the Minister's present knowledge. The Chair applies a number of other practices and guidelines to the type and nature of questions that may be asked of a Minister. One of the basic principles is that a question must fall within the administrative responsibility of the government or of the specific Minister to whom it is addressed. The other guidelines that are suggested, that the Speaker may wish to consider in ruling the admissibility of an oral question, would be that they may not seek an opinion, either legal or personal, seek information about matters which are by nature secret, such as proceedings of cabinet. However, it is in order to ask if a matter has been discussed in cabinet. If I was to strictly enforce all the guidelines suggested in the authorities, such as Beauchesne and Erskine May, there would probably be very few questions permitted in this House.

Now to the point of order raised by the honourable Member for Kivallivik where he requested the Chair to rule whether cabinet Ministers would be required to answer questions on the content of telephone calls made by them. I have reviewed the unedited Hansard and it is my opinion that Mr. Sibbeston's questions are in order. As we have not ascertained what the content of the telephone conversations were, the Chair has had no opportunity to rule that the questions did not relate to the administrative responsibility of either the Minister of Education or the Minister of Social Services.

The Rules permit, when a Minister is asked a question, he or she may forthwith answer the question, state that he or she takes the question as notice or decline to answer the question. From reviewing the unedited Hansard, the Ministers chose to respond as they saw fit.

We have had a number of oral questions in this Assembly questioning a Minister concerning communications between a Member and a Minister, between a Minister of this government and a Minister of the federal government, and a number of other similar types of communications. Communications, of course, can be written or verbal, and I have considered this in my ruling.

Therefore, I rule that questions, if properly phrased concerning communications, can be put and Ministers have options available to them when answering.

We will continue with oral questions, but I can assure you that I will be diligent in ensuring that any further questions put on this matter are in order and do relate to the responsibility of the Minister to whom they are being asked. Thank you very much.

MR. ERNERK: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, the honourable Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on a point of order. On Monday, February 15, 1988, on page 86 of the Hansard...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. What Rule are you claiming a point of order under? If you could indicate that. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O258-90(2): Confirmation Of Previous Statement

MR. ERNERK: On Monday, February 15, 1988, the Government Leader indicated to an honourable Member, when answering Question O44-88(1), and I quote, "Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the honourable Member, who might recall from his days as deputy minister in this government, that Ministers of this government are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and all the Ministers worked this weekend, Mr. Speaker. Thank you." Could the Minister reconfirm that all the Ministers are on call, on duty, 24 hours a day?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, without knowing the context of that exchange it is difficult for me to respond. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, if Members are asleep they are not on duty. Thank you.

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

Question O259-90(2): Conversation Re Member's Resignation From Cabinet

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue my questioning of the Minister of Social Services. She has disclosed to us, thus far, that she, in fact, did have a conversation with Mr. Kakwi on the night of October 16th. I would like to ask her now if she would reveal the content of that conversation, particularly with regard to my resignation.

Question O259-90(2), Ruled Out Of Order

MR. SPEAKER: I must indicate that I have to rule the question out of order. The responsibility of the honourable Member's resignation is not within the responsibility of the honourable Member for Slave River. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife North, that we adjourn this House until tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow; a meeting of the standing committee on rules, procedures and privileges at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, November 1st.

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
 18. Report of Committee of the Whole
 19. Third Reading of Bills
 20. Assent to Bills
 21. Orders of the Day
- MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, November 1st, 1990, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT