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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1990

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo): Orders of the day for Thursday, November 1, 1990. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 51-90(2): GNWT Discussion Paper On Military Activity In The North

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members will recall that during the Speech from the Throne an announcement was made that during this session our government would be releasing a discussion paper on military activity in the North and the establishment of a circumpolar zone of peace and security. I will be tabling an Executive summary at the appropriate time later this afternoon. At this time, and with your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I would like to briefly outline the nature and extent of consultation which has taken place to date; the main elements of the discussion paper; and the process to be followed over the next few months leading up to finalization of a formal position early next year.

With respect to the initial round of consultations which commenced early this year, most territorial aboriginal organizations have been approached for their input. Special attention was given to the positions of the Dene Nation and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference who have done a great deal of work in this area. Contacts in the North also focussed on associations which represent Dene, Metis and Inuit women as well as the NWT Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Other NWT-based organizations such as Nuclear Free North and the NWT Centre for Conflict Studies, were contacted for their views. A number of southern peace research institutes have also provided valuable technical advice on northern military activity and how its future course will be determined by both national and international events. Departments in our government and the federal government were involved particularly on matters relating to the environment and military support during civil emergencies. Finally, Mr. Speaker, we have initiated consultations with provincial governments to determine how they work with the military on civil emergency matters.

With respect to the main objectives and elements of the discussion paper, Members will note that it reflects the numerous motions and debates in the Legislative Assembly where they expressed profound concern over the impacts which cruise missile testing, low-level training flights and related military activities could have on the lifestyle of northern residents, the protection of our environment and the interests of native Northerners as established through aboriginal claims settlements. Moreover, the discussion paper responds to the significant number of territorial residents, aboriginal groups, non-government organizations and Members of the Legislative Assembly who have expressed their opposition to some aspects of military activity on moral grounds, and encouraged the federal government to work with the superpowers and our

other circumpolar neighbours toward demilitarization of the Arctic in Canada's North and circumpolar regions around the world.

Possible Advantages Of Military Presence

As Commissioner Norris stated in the Throne Speech to the Legislature last October, a territorial position "may help to more formally indicate our desire to work toward an Arctic zone of peace and security." Recognizing that this objective may only be achieved in the long term, the discussion paper also addresses other aspects of the military's current and proposed presence in the Northwest Territories, including the construction and operation of the North Warning System and forward operating locations.

While some opponents may argue that all military activity in the North should be dramatically scaled down or totally eliminated, the Department of National Defence has, and will presumably continue to maintain a northern presence for national sovereignty and security reasons. As you know, Mr. Speaker, defence expenditures have in recent years, produced improved transportation and communications infrastructure, employment, training and business opportunities for Northerners. Therefore, this discussion paper not only represents a response to some military activities such as cruise missile testing which, to say the least, have been controversial and opposed by many Northerners, it also takes into account that the military will have an ongoing presence in the Northwest Territories and that there are many aspects of its presence which our constituents support and indeed encourage. I am referring here to the military's role in the rangers and cadets programs, providing support during civil emergencies and assisting in search and rescue operations.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the discussion paper will be circulated to interested parties in the coming weeks and made available to the general public. Following another round of consultation and consideration by cabinet of this input and response, I will be tabling a formal and final position during our budget session next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ministers' Statement 52-90(2): Dene Custom Law Study

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we are striving for in the justice system in the Northwest Territories is to make it responsive to community values and aboriginal customs. It gives me great pleasure to inform Members that the Department of Justice will be providing funding to the Dene Cultural Institute to pay for a significant portion of the costs of conducting a review of Dene custom law.

This study will focus on the community of Lac la Martre. Community researchers will be trained to work with Dr. Joan Ryan of the Arctic Institute in Calgary to conduct the research. A community advisory committee will oversee the conduct of the study in Lac la Martre. In addition, there will be an advisory committee with representation from my department

and other organizations which are able to lend expertise.

This project is intended to provide a solid base of research information about traditional law and dispute resolution practices in a small Dene community. I will also be looking to it to provide recommendations to my department on ways to improve the justice system. The project is based in one community, but the expectation is that comparisons could be made with other Dene communities to determine what common factors existed. This approach was endorsed by a motion of the Dene Nation at its National Assembly in July of this year. The partnership between government and the aboriginal community, which this project represents, is an important symbol of our commitment to ensuring that public institutions are suited to the needs of our people.

In the next year we will investigate the possibility of assisting similar research in the Eastern Arctic. The federal Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council has recently given a large grant to researchers from Simon Fraser University to do a study in the Baffin Region. My department will be following their work with interest. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 53-90(2): Initiatives In Teacher Education

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, teaching is a priority occupation in the Northwest Territories, and it has to be if Northerners are to have the knowledge and skills necessary to participate fully in the growth and development of the North, so government programs must recognize that teachers are a key element to the education system.

It is clear that if northern schools are to meet the needs of partners and students then teaching staff must clearly understand the interests and priorities of the communities. One initiative to support these goals is the development of teacher training designed specifically to meet northern requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken many times of my interest in this area. I am rising today to note the progress in the training of northern teachers. First, I would like to note that enrolment in teacher education programs has reached record levels. This year more than 67 full-time students are enrolled. In addition, more than 70 students were enrolled in summer schools and as part-time students. Beginning this fall, a two year school-based teacher education project is being piloted in Edzo. Twelve students are working in classrooms, as well as participating in seminars and workshops designed to strengthen their practical and theoretical knowledge of teaching. This project, with financial and consultative support of the Department of Education, is being operated jointly by Arctic College and the Dogrib Divisional Board of Education. The program combines the strengths of community support with the academic experiences of Arctic College to provide a unique teacher education program. This program was recently officially recognized by the Canadian Commission of UNESCO as an activity of the world decade for cultural development.

The Department of Education has also expanded the affirmative action education leave program so that aboriginal classroom assistants can improve their education by taking full-time postsecondary studies in education. An amount of \$400,000 has been allocated for this program in the 1990-91 fiscal year. Each approved recipient will receive an allowance in lieu of salary, of almost \$17,000, paid over the school year. Some recipients are eligible for settlement and accommodation allowances, and all are eligible for grants from the student

financial assistance program.

Mr. Speaker, we must promote the teaching profession. The Department of Education is completing research on teacher turnover which will be reviewed by the NWT steering committee on teaching, this November. Also a public relations campaign to strengthen the image of teachers in the Territories is under way. An understanding of the importance of teaching is developing. Through support for existing programs and the introduction of innovative pilot projects, it will be possible to increase the number of northern trained teachers working in our school systems and to further enhance teaching in the North. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 54-90(2): NWT Power Corporation Automatic Fuel Adjustment Clause

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 15.2(2) of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, later today I will be tabling a document entitled Northwest Territories Power Corporation Automatic Fuel Adjustment Clause. We are all aware that world oil prices have increased sharply in recent months. Consumers in the highway communities have already felt the impact of price increases when buying gasoline. The Northwest Territories Power Corporation's electricity customers have been fortunate to date. Because the corporation purchased most of the year's requirements prior to the Middle East conflict, customers have so far been sheltered from world oil price increases. However, resupply of some communities will be necessary beginning in the new year. Contracts for fuel to resupply other communities will be arranged soon after. Mr. Speaker, these resupply purchases will have to be made at prices higher than the Power Corporation had forecast. It will be necessary for the corporation to recover these higher costs through increased prices.

Because world oil prices are expected to remain volatile in the next months ahead, it is now necessary to add an automatic fuel adjustment clause to the corporation's rate schedules. The clause will enable the corporation to adjust its rates, up or down, as oil prices fluctuate. The fuel adjustment clause will be used only to adjust for oil price changes. This is not a general increase in price and rates will be moved up or down every three months depending on the price of fuel.

The first rate adjustment due to oil price increases is expected to be made April 1, 1991. If the world oil price remains at \$30 a barrel, rates will increase by a little less than one cent per kilowatt hour. The adjustment will be less if energy prices fall and will rise approximately one and a half cents per kilowatt hour if prices increase to the \$40 a barrel range. Subsidy programs will continue to protect most electricity consumers from the full cost of power as consumers will be subsidized to the Yellowknife rate for the first 700 kWh used each month. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 55-90(2): Language Rights In Education

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the recommendations of the special committee on aboriginal languages the Official Languages Act was amended last session to make Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, Gwich'in, Inuktitut and Slavey, official languages of the Northwest Territories. Before concluding its work the special committee considered reviewing the Education Act and

proposing amendments on aboriginal language education rights. Given the short time it had, the committee made two recommendations concerning the Education Act which were approved by the Assembly.

One is that the Minister of Education be mandated to examine the inclusion of aboriginal language education rights when reviewing possible amendments to the Education Act, and to table recommendations for amendments in the Legislative Assembly at the seventh session of the 11th Assembly.

Secondly, that the Legislative Assembly consider, upon receipt of the recommendations of the Minister of Education at the seventh session of the 11th Assembly, whether another special committee should be established to recommend amendments to the Education Act. Because fluency in the language of a culture is essential to retaining that culture, the choice of languages to be used in schools has been an ongoing and fundamental issue for parents, communities, education authorities and educators. Before I could make recommendations for the Assembly to consider, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to consult with the people of the North. Information on the language section of the act was sent to agencies concerned about education and they were asked to comment by mid-September. Comments on language rights in education have also been made during the presentations on the redraft of the Education Act being given by the Department of Education this fall.

I also believed it was necessary to review the recommendations and directions made on language by the special committee on education in 1982, and the recommendations made by the task force on aboriginal languages, as well as the implications of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling a paper presenting the recommendations I am proposing for your consideration. I recommend that:

- 1) Because meaningful change can only be fully realized when people have a clear understanding of what is currently in place, the process of consultation presently in progress between the Department of Education and concerned organizations be continued until all parties have been informed on the current provisions of the Education Act;
- 2) Because language is an integral part of the Education Act, changes to the language provisions be included in the process for the overall redraft of the act and regulations, rather than considering amending the section on language as a separate and prior exercise;
- 3) Because it is necessary to consider the resources required to implement any change in legislation, resource requirements be analysed carefully before any changes in the Education Act are made, including changes to the language provisions;
- 4) Because the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is part of the Canadian Constitution and is therefore applicable to the Territories, the Education Act be amended to include the minority language education rights of persons who have a right, under the charter, to have their children receive school instruction in one of the official languages of Canada;
- 5) Because there is a need to preserve, develop and enhance all of the official languages of the Territories, and because at this time, aboriginal languages in the Territories are at varying stages of development, the Education Act be amended to include the language education rights of persons whose first language is an official aboriginal language, and, such language rights should be similar to the rights extended to persons whose first language is English or French;
- 6) Because it will not be possible to complete the redraft of the Education Act during the 11th Legislative Assembly, a message be forwarded to the 12th Assembly suggesting that a special committee be considered, and that it be mandated to examine all provisions of the Education Act for which further direction is required, including language rights in education.

Mr. Speaker, most of the comments I have received so far on language rights in education have expressed concern about how language rights will be implemented, and how the additional funding needed will be provided. Most people have also asked for more time to consider what the act should say, and the implications for their children and their communities. The recommendations that I am proposing have been made with those comments in mind. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Prior to proceeding, I would just like to introduce some visitors who are students at St. Patrick's High School, grade seven and their teachers are Calvin Heighton and Lisa Connors.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Apology To Mr. Sibbeston

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to apologize for some ill-considered remarks which I made privately about Mr. Sibbeston in this Legislature some two weeks ago. I am also sorry that they have been taken out of context. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Acceptance Of Apology From Mr. Patterson

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Patterson. I accept this apology. Mr. Patterson and I met three times in the past 10 days or so and we had a number of good meetings to discuss the events and ended up with some very positive feelings and some conclusions, and I just hope that this will continue into the future. I wish Mr. Patterson well in the remaining time of his term.

I also want to thank both Mr. Kakfwi and Mrs. Jeannie Marie-Jewell for their candor and I apologize for placing them in the awkward position that they have been in, in the last few days. I also wish them well in their remaining term. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. It is a strange start for today.

---Laughter

Members' statements. The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

Member's Statement On New Legislative Assembly Building

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my support to the new Legislative Assembly building. I would like to support this project. I was also pleased today to join other Members to see the sign placed on the capital site where the new building will eventually be constructed.

I have been a Member for many years and I know the new building will be a benefit to us and will help me serve my constituents better. It is also a building for the future, one that I know I will be pleased to serve in and one I hope our children will be proud of.

As a Member of the Management and Services Board I will work hard for you to ensure that the final design of the building will reflect the various cultures of the Northwest Territories, the different cultures and the nine languages. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to have you visit my constituency to explain the project more to the people and the school children as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Closure Of Fort Franklin Weather Station

MR. ZOE: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I am in full support of the comments made yesterday by the Minister of Transportation regarding the closing of the Arctic weather station by Transport Canada. I too, Mr. Speaker, am frustrated and angered that Transport Canada has ignored the recommendation of the Canadian Aviation Safety Board that a full community airport radio station be established at Fort Franklin and that this program be expanded throughout the Arctic. Instead, they shut down the Fort Franklin station completely and they are planning other closures.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, on CBC radio, the airline industry spoke out strongly against this move. Pilots will now be asked to make judgments on whether or not it is safe to land based on information from local people who are not trained weather observers, or from their own visual observation of runway conditions.

Mr. Speaker, this is an extremely dangerous situation for our northern pilots who are operating much more advanced aircraft than in the past. These pilots need very accurate weather and airstrip information to be able to carry their passengers safely. With this move to close Arctic weather stations, the federal government is playing with the lives of northern citizens, and it is going to have an even more serious effect on the operation of the medivac service in the North, where peoples' lives are already at stake and any unnecessary delay is critical. Pilots will not be able to land at all if they cannot get the information they need.

The radio report mentioned four communities in the Western Arctic that will be affected: Trout Lake, Snowdrift, Lac la Martre and Rae Lakes. Two of those are in my constituency. Mr. Speaker, I do not want to stand by silently while an uncaring government in Ottawa risks the lives of my constituents and other Northerners across the Territories. I want our government to pursue this issue to its fullest extent with the federal government, who are showing negligence in the extreme with this decision.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Time has expired for the Member's statement.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, can I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre is seeking unanimous consent to continue with his Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

MR. ZOE: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I offer my full support to the Hon. Gordon Wray, and I urge him to take the strongest measures possible to address this matter by whatever means are available, even through the courts if that is what it takes. Mahsi cho.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Legislating Minimum Wage

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make some comments today about the matter of establishing a minimum wage, which is before the Assembly right now. Members are aware that the Minister responsible, the Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, has placed before us legislation which addresses this situation, and Members are also aware that the labour standards review committee has made a recommendation that the minimum wage be raised from five dollars an hour to \$6.75 an hour.

I would like to suggest that, because we have a situation in the House where we have a disagreement at this time as to whether we should continue to establish the wage in legislation or whether we should amend the legislation so that it is handled by regulation, we should not shirk our responsibility to raise the minimum wage as soon as possible. I would like to suggest to the honourable Minister and her colleagues that they consider amending the legislation immediately in this House to change the minimum wage from five dollars to a reasonable figure for the time being, effective December 1st, so that something will be done immediately. In the meantime the Minister and her officials, and the standing committee on legislation and other Members, can deal with the matter of what we should do in the long term to deal with the minimum wage in the future.

I would also like to suggest to the Minister and her colleagues that they also consider re-establishing the two tier system which establishes the minimum wage for those under 16...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. McLAUGHLIN: ...and another one for those 16 and over. Mr. Speaker, many young people are taken into the business sector as employees while they are still at school. In a lot of cases when they first start working they are not as useful to an employer as they would be if they were a little older. The age of 16 is also when children can quit school; they can get married without their parents' permission; they can get a driver's licence; so they take on an adult responsibility in the world. That should be reflected in the minimum wage. I would like to suggest that they also consider re-establishing the two tier system on December 1st. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On One Man One Vote Formula In NWT

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People who are pushing for one man one vote formula in the NWT have forgotten a basic reality. They have forgotten that the question of land ownership is not clear; they have forgotten that both Canadian and international laws require non-native Canadians to reach a settlement on aboriginal rights and land ownership; they have forgotten that until these outstanding questions are dealt with, that they are all like visitors in our homeland. What if a visitor were to come into your home and stay longer than expected and then begin to make demands on you regarding your lifestyle, your income, your family rules and values, and begin to lay down new laws about how decisions will be made and who will make the decisions in

your household? Furthermore, when you object to this obvious intrusion, they claim that they should have the same rights as you do because their numbers are equal to yours and there is one more on the way. That is, in fact, Mr. Speaker, how I as an aboriginal person feel about this court case that is coming up on the number of seats in this House. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Miss Canada's Support For Trapping

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, a young lady in Edmonton by the name of Leslie McLaren said recently that she is in support of trapping, and this has landed her in a bit of hot water. Apparently her great grandmother was Cree. I want to take this opportunity to let her know that I like the stand that she has taken and send her my appreciation for her courage. I hope that her remarks and comments bring no personal harm to her. Mr. Speaker, apparently she is also the new Miss Canada and has made the comments in regard to some of the gifts that were bestowed upon her recently. I wanted to make these comments in the House. Thank you.

--Applause

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

Member's Statement On Survivors Of Residential School Abuse

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement yesterday, I referred to three prominent native leaders who are saying that the history of what happened to native people in the residential school system should be recorded. Yesterday, two different Ministers spoke in this House about initiatives in the Departments of Justice and Social Services to deal with the issue of child sexual abuse. The proposals I heard sounded good and they are needed.

However, Mr. Speaker, I do not think these departments have gone far enough in addressing all of the underlying causes of physical and sexual abuse. We still have people out there who have terrible memories of their experiences in residential schools. These experiences have never been made public, because for most of the native people who were victims, the experiences were too shameful or too painful to talk about. This holding back of feelings has gone on to the point that people will turn to just about any form of escape available, this could be alcohol, drugs, abusing others, or both.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this government's initiatives in addressing the issue of child abuse. I appreciate that a co-ordinating committee has been formed and that experts in the field of child abuse education are being hired. But we are still missing the boat in one important area. We are not giving these victims the kind of support that will help them to start talking about what happened. It is well known by professionals in this field that breaking the silence is the first step in the healing process.

The people who are working to address the issue of child abuse need to recognize that some of the perpetrators of violence in the North are people who were victimized and abused in the residential school system. We need some kind of program for these people. They need a safe and confidential way to come forward and talk about what happened, so they can find ways to stop the cycle of abuse, and begin the healing process. Once that happens we will be

able to record this important part of the history of northern native people so our children will understand what their parents went through, and most importantly, so it never happens to anyone again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On New Legislative Assembly Building

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My comments today will complement my colleague's remarks on the new Legislative Assembly building. Mr. Speaker, this morning I and my other colleagues had the pleasant occasion of participating in history in the making, the unveiling of the sign on the site of the future Legislative Assembly building. This event, Mr. Speaker, marks the beginning of the new Assembly building's construction and officially announces to the public the start of the committee's campaign to raise the funds for the building. The beauty is that upon completion, the Assembly building will be owned by the people of the Northwest Territories.

The location of the sign, Mr. Speaker, is an excellent choice as it will tell all travellers and visitors and residents alike, in nine official languages, of the significance of this undertaking and what it stands for. I compliment you, Mr. Speaker, and the Members of the committee that are responsible for the overseeing of the project and the Members of this Assembly for the support for this project. I am confident that the building will complement all of our expectations and become more than just a building but a place for Northerners to govern their heritage.

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

Member's Statement On Support Of Legislative Assembly Building

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to comment on our morning. I was pleased today, along with a number of other Members of this House and the board of directors of the building society, to be at the ceremony that placed the sign on the capital site where the new Legislative Assembly building will be built.

Mr. Speaker, when I had the honour to serve in the position that you now hold I was very proud to play my part in the initial development of this most unique project. I am also very pleased to be part of this project for future generations of this territory of ours who may one day sit as Members of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to see the sign in so many of our official languages, even one that closely resembles our own dialects, and I want to congratulate you, sir, and the other Members of the Management and Services Board, for this initiative.

I would, therefore, like to add my support to the innovative approach that has been taken to the planning for the new Legislative Assembly building. All Members of the Assembly have been interviewed not only to get our views on our operational needs in the new building to enable us to carry out our responsibilities as MLAs as effectively as possible, but also to see how the building can be designed in such a way as to reflect the many cultures and the geography that we represent. The views and ideas of every Member of this House were considered in planning for the new facility and I am confident that the completed Legislative Assembly building will be one that each of us will be proud of and will truly live

up to the project motto which is, "Our place of assembly, our common future". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. Members' statements. Just prior to proceeding with the next item, I wish to recognize in our gallery the chief and band councillors of the Rae Band, Chief Eddie Erasmus and the band councillors.

--Applause

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O86-90(2): Installation Of Ramp At Spence Bay Airport

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Ningark with regard to access ramps for the handicapped at the Spence Bay air terminal building. The Department of Transportation is unable to give a definite answer to the Member from Natilikmiot's question as to when access ramps for the handicapped will be installed at the Spence Bay air terminal building. As the Member knows, the department is in the midst of transferring the Arctic B and C airports from the federal department, Transport Canada, to the territorial Department of Transportation. In completing the transfer negotiations the territorial department has not yet had a chance to work out the details of how it intends to provide access for the handicapped at community airports.

I can assure the Member that the Department of Transportation recognizes the need for handicapped persons' access at these airports and as soon as the transfer from the federal government has taken place, probably before the end of this year, the department will turn its attention to the issue of access for the handicapped and begin to work out the program details as to how and in what order it intends to install them.

I will have my staff examine the Spence Bay situation and if we can do a relatively simple improvement, we will. If the problem is more involved and costly, it may take some time to do the necessary work and find the required funds.

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

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a reply to a question asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on October 22, with regard to Lake Harbour dock plans. The Department of Transportation is aware of the requirement for a marine facility improvement in Lake Harbour and will schedule pre-engineering work in the community during the next few years. However, no construction will be scheduled for this community until more urgent priorities have been dealt with. The department's priority for 1991-92 will be to provide breakwaters in those communities where the lack of adequate protection has resulted in the loss of vessels during the past several years.

In developing the NWT transportation strategy, the department identified over 45 new marine projects with an estimated combined cost of \$12.8 million. Approximately half of the marine facility improvements are targeted for the Baffin

Region. At the present rate of funding, it would take over 17 years to complete all of the marine facility improvements identified for the Northwest Territories. The department is advancing initiatives to obtain new sources of federal funding to speed up the program delivery schedule.

We are currently negotiating with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to increase federal participation in marine projects aimed specifically at marine facilities for the developing commercial fishery in the Northwest Territories. We are also seeking a similar arrangement with the Canadian coast guard aimed at improving sealift facilities across the NWT. Federal participation in our community wharves program will hopefully result in the completion of several extra marine projects each year.

Under our community wharves program, the department will continue to consult with communities to ensure that the planned projects respond accurately to the local needs, and that facilities are designed and built to make use of local labour and materials to the greatest extent possible.

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

I have one more, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a reply to a question asked by Mr. Ernerk on October 22, with regard to a dock at Coral Harbour. The Department of Transportation consulted with the Coral Harbour Hamlet Council while researching transportation issues across the NWT in 1989. At this time the community advanced a proposal to see the establishment of a new harbour and docking facility at Snafu Beach, east of the community. Coral Harbour currently possesses a naturally protected harbour and dock which exceeds the quality of marine facilities in numerous other communities in the Baffin and Kitikmeot Regions.

Pre-engineering investigations indicated that the cost of providing a breakwater for this new initiative would exceed \$1.5 million. The department consulted with the hamlet council and we have advised them that a new facility would not be constructed until such time as the other communities in the NWT have marine facilities comparable to the existing marine facility in Coral Harbour. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O136-90(2): Tabling Option Paper On Legalization Of Midwifery

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Ernerk on October 19th, regarding midwifery. During the last six months, the Department of Health has conducted extensive research and consultation concerning how best to address the desire expressed by many Northwest Territories residents for birthing to occur closer to home.

Midwifery, as it relates both to traditional midwifery and to nursing, is an important consideration in this discussion. The conclusion reached from these discussions is that a pilot study using nurse midwives should be undertaken at the regional level to demonstrate the feasibility and safety of birthing outside hospital conditions. When this study is evaluated we will be able to determine if there is any need for legislation.

For many years, residents, MLAs, and the Keewatin Health Board have advocated the development of birthing services closer to home. In a letter to the chairman of the Keewatin Health Board dated July 16, 1990, I agreed to the possibility of a pilot birthing project in Rankin Inlet. At that time I made the provision that this would depend on community support,

the availability of necessary expertise, the need to address safety concerns, and, of course, the availability of capital and O and M funding. Department officials have already begun discussing these considerations with that health board.

We are all well aware that there are many medical, legal and social factors to consider when birthing is planned outside of a hospital and these factors will have to be fully defined and addressed before we proceed further. In all of this, community and family support is crucial.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health will continue to work closely with the Keewatin Health Board. If the necessary funding can be acquired, a pilot birthing project may be possible within the next year.

Return To Question O226-90(2): Quality Of Water, Fort Providence

Mr. Speaker, I have another return. It is with regard to a question asked by Mr. Gargan on October 29th, regarding water quality in Fort Providence. I have been informed by the Mackenzie Regional Health Service of the circumstances surrounding the water supply sample results in question. The mayor of Fort Providence made a request for the health centre staff to test the water from the Mackenzie River upstream from the municipal supply intake pipe. The staff responded to this request by taking a water sample on October 9, 1990. Reasons for the request were not detailed; therefore, the staff carried out the usual tests for bacteria. The numbers found were very low and no follow-up was thought to be necessary.

The environmental health officer in Hay River informs me that she later found out from the mayor that he had requested the sample to see if the Alberta pulp mills had affected the river water. A different method of sampling would be required to answer that question. A water quality study of the Slave River system which feeds into the Mackenzie River is being conducted jointly by the Governments of Canada, Alberta and the Northwest Territories. The final outcome of this study is expected to identify any materials which might eventually reach the Mackenzie River. The preliminary results do not show that toxic materials are affecting these rivers. However, we continue to await the results of the initial study.

Further Return To Question O227-90(2): Cancer Deaths In Snowdrift

Mr. Speaker, I have another reply to a question asked by Mr. Morin on October 29th, regarding cancer deaths in Snowdrift. Concern has been expressed about the Cosmos 954 incident on January 24, 1978. Following this incident, studies were done by Health and Welfare Canada who also undertook major clean-up operations. Subsequent investigations have revealed no increased levels of radiation as a result of the incident.

Between 1980 and 1987, 15 deaths occurred in Snowdrift, of which two were due to cancer. This was a smaller percentage than for the whole of the Northwest Territories. Since 1987 no cancer deaths have been reported among Snowdrift residents.

Forty-eight deaths occurred in Fort Resolution between 1980 and 1987, with 10 of these being from cancer. The percentage of cancer deaths in Fort Resolution is the same as for the entire Northwest Territories. Since 1988 one further cancer death has been reported among Fort Resolution residents. Mr. Speaker, we have no evidence that these cancer deaths are related to the Cosmos incident. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O235-90(2): Severity Of Oil Spill In Northern Quebec

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on October 30th, concerning an oil spill in northern Quebec. Mr. Speaker, in early October, 210 barrels of aviation fuel belonging to the Geological Survey of Canada were delivered to a beach near Ivujivik in northern Quebec. Seven of these barrels were damaged and their contents leaked into the ocean. Since then, all the barrels have been removed from the beach to a local tank farm. The Quebec Department of Environment is investigating the incident to determine if further remediation measures are necessary. This is a small spill and most of the spilled fuel will have evaporated by now. Any impacts would be localized to the area around Ivujivik. Thank you.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O260-90(2): Replacing Indian Affairs With Constitutional Secretariat

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members will recall that on Monday, October 29, the Government Leader made a strong statement about the continued cruise missile testing and, lo and behold, on Tuesday the federal government cancelled the cruise missile test that was scheduled. So I would like to ask the Government Leader, now that the cruise missile test issue has been put to rest, if he would turn his attention and, obviously, the powers that he has with his connections in Ottawa, to the matter of addressing the role of the northern affairs side of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Would he begin to meet with officials down there to establish a process whereby the Indian affairs side of the federal government can be done away with and replaced with some form of a constitutional secretariat that might report to the Prime Minister or the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O260-90(2): Replacing Indian Affairs With Constitutional Secretariat

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to take credit for the delay of the cruise missile test. I wish I could do that. Mr. Speaker, on the matter of the role of the federal Crown in the Northwest Territories, I would like to assure the honourable Member that I met, along with appropriate Members of cabinet, with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development last July at which time we pressed our strong concerns that in the context of the devolution which has taken place and which we hope will take place in authorities relating to land and resources, which are pretty well the remaining province-like responsibilities that the Northwest Territories does not have -- in that context, Mr. Speaker, we feel that the federal government must address and revise its continuing role in the Northwest Territories.

I can report that Mr. Siddon was receptive to our strong concerns that this matter must be dealt with and I will be pursuing the matter, along with other cabinet colleagues, with Mr. Siddon and with the Prime Minister in the hope that this long-standing issue can be addressed and that the Northwest Territories can be brought up to date and that the federal government will realize and take steps to diminish the federal presence in the North so that we become more like a province

in the sense of responsibility for matters within our appropriate jurisdiction. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

Question O261-90(2): GNWT Takeover Of Nanisivik Airstrip

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Transportation regarding the Nanisivik airstrip. This airstrip was to have been taken over by the Government of the Northwest Territories, and I wonder when this is going to be in effect. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O261-90(2): GNWT Takeover Of Nanisivik Airstrip

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The airport at Nanisivik was one of the airports that was supposed to have been transferred over to our government as of October 1, along with 40 others. However, we ran into problems in the negotiations and the takeover is now scheduled for December 1, but I should indicate that we are now having problems once again. Every time we seem to reach an agreement, Transport Canada seems to find another problem that we have to negotiate. While it is tentatively scheduled for December 1, there have been some stumbling blocks recently in the negotiations, so the December 1 date is tentative. Thank you.

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

Question O262-90(2): Economic Development Officer For Clyde River And Broughton Island

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I have been bringing this up for the past year regarding my constituency, especially the two communities in my riding, Broughton Island and Clyde River. There seems to be very little attention in those areas regarding Fisheries and Oceans responsibilities. The renewable resources officer or DFO officer is supposed to be visiting those two communities once a month, but the officer from Pond Inlet comes in about once a year.

The Minister indicated to us earlier that he would be recruiting a renewable resources officer for the communities that do not have one already. Since this is a very important issue -- Clyde River is trying to establish a co-op -- and since they do not have an economic development officer, I wonder if the Minister can indicate to us if he is going to be hiring an economic development officer for Clyde River; and also that same person would be responsible for Broughton Island. Do you have any indication if you are now ready to hire an economic development officer for these two communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question as notice.

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

Question O263-90(2): Arctic College Program For Kitikmeot Region

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Education. The regions all have schools and they have campuses of Arctic College. In the Kitikmeot Region we do not have a campus, and there are no community recreation officers and there is no training available for them in the Kitikmeot Region. Do you plan to establish this program for the Kitikmeot Region some time in the near future?

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

Return To Question O263-90(2): Arctic College Program For Kitikmeot Region

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, if there is a request for a specific program to be provided in a region or a community, then the matter will be brought to the attention of the board of Arctic College to see if they can, first of all, assess the need and, secondly, to see if they can meet the need if it is there. Thank you.

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

Question O264-90(2): Policy Related To Repurchasing Of Government Housing

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the Government Leader and it deals with the policy of staff housing. A few years ago the territorial government undertook to get rid of some of its houses and they attached some excellent conditions to it. I am wondering what the policy of the government is at this date related to the repurchasing of these same houses that they once sold to employees.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the government will be making a fairly major statement on the provision of staff housing in the North tomorrow. I will take the question as notice until then. Thank you.

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

MR. WHITFORD: The question I had, Mr. Speaker, concerned the policy of buying houses. If that is going to be included in the Minister's statement, yes that is fine, but the question still remains, does the government have a policy of buying houses at this stage of the game?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member, the Minister took the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River.

Question O265-90(2): Renegotiating Oil Contracts Due To Increase In Oil Prices

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some days ago I had some trouble communicating to the Minister of Government Services my concern about oil contracts. I think now we understand each other, sir, and I would ask him, are there any long-term oil contracts that the government has where the oil company in question has approached the government with a view to raising that contract because of the increase in oil prices? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O265-90(2): Renegotiating Oil Contracts Due To Increase In Oil Prices

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did use the opportunity to obtain the information required by the honourable Member. The GNWT has one fixed price contract for fuel. Shell Oil provides heating fuel in Yellowknife and Dettah for government buildings, including Housing Corporation units. The contract with Shell also covers the provision of gasoline for grader shelters and maintenance camps along the Mackenzie highway. This contract runs from June 1, 1990, to May 31, 1991.

Shell has approached the government to renegotiate the fixed price of this contract, but we have refused. The other bidder for this contract made a floating bid price and we chose Shell's fixed bid price as being the better value. In fact, Shell's fixed price was four cents a litre higher than the floating price at the time, so we feel that we made a good decision on the arrangement.

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

Question O266-90(2): Status Of New School For Rae Lakes

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, the Dogrib Divisional Board of Education has corresponded with the Minister with regard to the new school for Rae Lakes. I would like to ask the Minister if he could inform me as to the status of that request.

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

Return To Question O266-90(2): Status Of New School For Rae Lakes

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: (Translation) In Rae Lakes the school is very old. They want a new school. We are looking at the situation and the funding, and right now the only thing we can do is to add on to it. If we build a new school it will cost the same as adding on an addition. Right now we are looking into building a new school there, but the people in the community have to come up with a site. Right now it is situated right in the middle of town and the airport is really close to the school. They are looking at the new location being the same place as the school is now. But they have not said anything about the site. Right now we will think about it and agree to a new school next year. We probably could get all the materials needed through the winter road.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O266-90(2): Status Of New School For Rae Lakes

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister's comments were a little long and I would like to ask him if he could put them in writing to me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Sahtu.

Further Return To Question O266-90(2): Status Of New School For Rae Lakes

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I was preparing to

write a letter to the Member when the question was asked. So I can do both. Thank you.

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

Question O267-90(2): Consultation With Ordinary MLAs On Capital Budget

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Government Leader, Mr. Speaker. We have been told that there is a practice, if not a policy, of Ministers consulting with ordinary MLAs on the putting together of the capital budget for each coming year. I would like to ask the Government Leader if that is still the practice of this government to have its Ministers consult with ordinary MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Return To Question O267-90(2): Consultation With Ordinary MLAs On Capital Budget

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is the intention of the government to do that. There have been, obviously, problems in the past with consultation. The problems have been partly as a result of government, partly as a result of meeting with some MLAs. Presently the government is trying to put together a more orderly method that everybody can agree to so everybody knows exactly what part they play in the process. We hope to have something to the standing committee on finance in time for the December meetings. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Hay River, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O267-90(2): Consultation With Ordinary MLAs On Capital Budget

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister of Finance indicating to us that he will consult with all of the ordinary Members before the budget is put together on November 16th?

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

Further Return To Question O267-90(2): Consultation With Ordinary MLAs On Capital Budget

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The government consults with all Members 24 hours a day.

---Laughter

I could not resist that. But to answer you seriously. The medium that we have used, the most direct medium, is the input of the standing committee on finance. We also have to take into serious consideration comments made in the House during Members' statements and replies to the Opening Address and motions, but as the chairman of the standing committee on finance knows, I think anyhow, that the most productive consultation is with the standing committee on finance and I am sure that the views of that standing committee are representative of the views of the Legislative Assembly.

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

Question O268-90(2): Withdrawing Requests For Proposals On Contracts

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before the Member mentions it, I will tell him I did give notice of this question. There is a danger in it. The question I am going to ask is dealing with government contracts, but I will direct it to the Minister responsible for Economic Development because it affects his department, and I understand he has the answer.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, this is my question. With increasing frequency this government is putting out requests for proposals and at the last minute they are withdrawing this proposal request and going and doing the work in-house. They are leaving the small business people in the lurch, those who have put a lot of time and money into preparing proposals only to be told -- not even to be told -- that they are not getting a contract. Is this the policy of this government, to get small businesses to think up the ideas and the government do the work in-house?

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

Return To Question O268-90(2): Withdrawing Requests For Proposals On Contracts

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was not going to mention, by the way, that you told me.

---Laughter

The Member is quite correct. Essentially the situation he describes did happen. I should mention for the record that there are only two occasions in which it has happened within my department in three years and these are the two he is talking about. No, it is not policy. No, it is not standard. Did it happen? Yes, it did. There were good reasons for it.

In one of the matters in question, it was a call for a renewable resource facilitator for the North Slave region, primarily the Rae, Rae Lakes, Lac la Martre area. What had happened, Gordon Beaulieu, the region's resource officer, was accepted into a two year university program in September, so we advertised a call for proposals for a facilitator to implement our strategies, our recommendations for the Dogrib communities in Mr. Beaulieu's absence, just for those two years. We had thought we would go to a proposal call as being the best way to achieve that. However, just before the proposal's due date an individual from that region with the linguistic ability and with the necessary academic abilities, was identified as an ideal candidate for a direct appointment to a term position for the two years, to carry out this work. We are in the process of doing the paperwork now for furtherance to the Minister of Personnel, but because this individual was made known to us only after the proposals, we did cancel the proposal call and we did inform them with apologies because apologies were due. They went to some time and expense to prepare those and it was unfortunate that it was just a circumstance.

In the other one, it was a proposal for an EDA-based contract and the terms of reference were developed and provided to consulting companies and a contract, in fact was awarded in this case. However, when we reviewed the project we decided that it was not only necessary to have a study done on the data base for past studies, we also had to maintain a current data base on the status of funds outstanding and on applications under the current EDA negotiation. When we looked at the cost, it in fact, was a lot cheaper to have

somebody on staff do that, or to do it in-house. So we cancelled that contract. Again, it was a judgmental call that was made. I approved of the decisions, so it was my decision. It is a departmental decision that I approved of. Again, apologies were made to the contractor because, once again a contract was awarded and some work was done and people were put out, essentially.

It is not something that we do on a regular basis. I would say these are the only two occasions in three years. I do apologize to the companies if they feel aggrieved. It is something I try to minimize and I am not exactly in favour -- this is a whole case of private sector versus government doing it by itself. In these two cases, I made the judgment call that it was better done within the department. So, I made a decision. Some people are unhappy, but that is life, I guess. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O268-90(2): Withdrawing Requests For Proposals On Contracts

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, how are we ever going to know that it can be done more efficiently, more effectively, more cheaply, if done in-house rather than by the private sector? How are we going to know this?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Further Return To Question O268-90(2): Withdrawing Requests For Proposals On Contracts

HON. GORDON WRAY: As far as I am concerned, in my departments, the Member will have to trust my judgment. It is a judgment call that I make. I am fairly well-experienced in terms of making those kinds of decisions. I have been a Minister for nine years. I have dealt extensively with privatization. In fact, I was the one who initiated the first-ever study on actual costs of government doing work because I always felt there was a lot of criticism of privatization, that it took more money, when in fact if you looked at the real cost, costs of government doing work and the costs of privatization were not that much different. However, in many of these cases it is a judgment call and you just have to trust my judgment. If the Member does not like my call, then he can let me know about it, which he is doing.

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

Question O269-90(2): Status On Tank Farm For Snare Lake

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Government Services. The Minister is aware that a number of meetings occurred between the community of Snare Lake and his department in regard to a tank farm for the community. I would like to ask the Minister to give me the status on the tank farm for Snare Lake.

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

Return To Question O269-90(2): Status On Tank Farm For Snare Lake

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, there are obviously two options to provide fuel to that community which is growing. At the current time I believe most of the heating is done by wood but there is an expectation that the fuel consumption will

grow. Two options would be either by barrel or tank farm. The department is looking at the tank farm option and they are recommending that it be in the five year plan for 1992-93.

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

Question O270-90(2): Arts And Crafts Centre, Pangnirtung

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To follow up on the issue of private enterprise and public enterprise, Mr. Wray announced that there would be a \$1.3 million investment by the Development Corporation in an arts and crafts centre in Pangnirtung. My question to him, will this arts and crafts centre be wholly owned by the corporation?

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

Return To Question O270-90(2): Arts And Crafts Centre, Pangnirtung

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No. I do not have the exact percentages, but no, it will not be wholly owned by the Development Corporation. It is owned and operated by Uggurmiut and managed under contract with the NWT Development Corporation. Uggurmiut is a local group of the artists themselves. They formed their own corporation and they obtained, not only money from us, but money from the native economic development program.

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

Supplementary To Question O270-90(2): Arts And Crafts Centre, Pangnirtung

MR. LEWIS: Would the Minister then confirm that any profits that are made by the corporation will not be to the corporation itself, but will accrue to the local group who has this management contract with the corporation?

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

Further Return To Question O270-90(2): Arts And Crafts Centre, Pangnirtung

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. As far as I am aware, yes. I do not know all the exact details in the structure of the company, but in response to the Member's question, as far as I am aware, yes.

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

Question O271-90(2): Training In Arts And Crafts In Communities

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, my good friend. In the smaller communities, there is a high rate of unemployment. You have to have good education and some tools in order to be able to work or in order to be able to get employment. Can the Minister get something started to train the younger people or get some funds aside to acquire a teacher and to teach the younger people how to do art work and craft work for those young people that are unemployed? Can he look into this?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O271-90(2): Training In Arts And Crafts In Communities

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most certainly, Mr. Speaker. In fact we are already doing it. We are working very closely with the Department of Education on two fronts. One is arts and crafts courses within the Arctic College system and the other is looking at putting arts and crafts curriculum into some community schools, obviously not all the communities, but into some community schools. My belief is, if you look around the Arctic, that most of our artists or carvers are getting older, but there are very few young people coming into the industry. If we are going to have younger people coming into the industry, then we should start the process in school and not wait until they are out of school. So working in co-operation with the Department of Education, we are certainly moving in that front. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O271-90(2): Training In Arts And Crafts In Communities

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the honourable Minister of Economic Development will make sure that Natilikmiot be one of those constituencies. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Further Return To Question O271-90(2): Training In Arts And Crafts In Communities

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not worked out all the details, obviously, but I can assure the Member that his comments are noted and -- I have a good memory. Thank you.

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

Question O272-90(2): Meeting With The Prime Minister Re Constitutional Matters

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a new question to the Government Leader on the same topic I addressed earlier. I am doing that, Mr. Speaker, because you have been pretty tough lately on preambles to supplementary questions and rightly so.

Basically the recent past history up here on the constitutional development of the NWT, I think has primarily been achieved when politicians who were in charge of the department in Ottawa listened to the politicians in the Northwest Territories. The Hon. Jake Epp and the action he took in the Yukon on the development of cabinet government there and the actions that the Hon. John Munro and the Hon. Bill McKnight have taken up here, I think demonstrate that when the politicians in the North basically get to the politicians who have the department, something happens.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Get to the question.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: That was my preamble. So what I would like to ask the Government Leader is, will he take this to the highest level down south now and speak directly to the Prime Minister about this initiative; take it to the Prime Minister's officials and directly to the Prime Minister himself? I think it has been a long time since anyone has had directions from the Prime Minister on this matter. In fact I think the directions that Prime Minister Pearson gave to Commissioner Hodgson was the last time the Prime Minister's Office was involved in these matters.

MR. SPEAKER: I was a bit lenient on that one.

---Laughter

I just remind Members about the preambles again, even if it is an original question. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O272-90(2): Meeting With The Prime Minister Re Constitutional Matters

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Pine Point made a great preamble to his question. I agree with everything he said. The answer to his question, Mr. Speaker, yes I will pursue this important matter with the Prime Minister. Following the Meech Lake debacle in June, I began laying the ground work for a meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss our constitutional future and other pressing issues. Following the close of this session I will be pursuing that meeting with vigour, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O273-90(2): Automatic Fuel Adjustment

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the automatic fuel adjustment clause that the Minister of Energy talked about, will there be an automatic increase in the price of energy that is produced by hydro power? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O273-90(2): Automatic Fuel Adjustment

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the calculation of doing the fuel adjustment, we will be calculating the fuel cost and it will be calculated in all communities across the board, whether a community is supplied by hydro or by fuel.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Baffin Central.

Question O274-90(2): Funding For Building Access Roads To Low Tide Areas

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I asked this same question last year about communities that are situated where there are low tides and high tides. I wonder if you have any funding available now to make a road on the low tide area so the hamlet equipment can have better access to the shore. Have you made any plans in providing any funding to the hamlets to have an access to the low tide area in the wintertime?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Inuvik.

Return To Question O274-90(2): Funding For Building Access Roads To Low Tide Areas

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, my response is as I provided last year, there is no funding for that type of service. We expect that vehicles getting on to the ice would make their own way as is currently the practice. There could be quite a lot of money expended if that type of project were provided on a yearly basis.

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

Supplementary To Question O274-90(2): Funding For Building Access Roads To Low Tide Areas

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. What if the hamlet council requested a certain amount of money to assist them to provide a road to that area? Would the Minister be able to provide the hamlet council with that?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Inuvik.

Further Return To Question O274-90(2): Funding For Building Access Roads To Low Tide Areas

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I think the department would be interested in hearing a proposal from the community, but I would not want to presume on what decision would be made as a result of receiving such a proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W11-90(2): NWT Development Corporation Investment In Pangnirtung

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Minister for Economic Development and Tourism did not seem to be absolutely sure about the \$1.3 million investment, I would like to ask him this written question. Would the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism provide a detailed statement of the \$1.3 million investment in Pangnirtung by the economic Development Corporation, including the nature of local participation and local benefits?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, a return to Question W7-90(2), asked by Mr. Morin to the Minister of Personnel, concerning affirmative action policy and recruitment advertising.

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

Hon. Stephen Kakfwi's return to Question W7-90(2), asked by Mr. Morin on October 24, 1990, on the subject of a letter from the editor of the Mackenzie Times regarding the affirmative action policy and recruitment advertising: A letter has been written to the editor to provide him with the information he requested. Affirmative action applies only to the issue of hiring preference for residents who are being considered for government employment or for training opportunities in the public service. It was not intended that this policy would apply to business opportunities. However, this will confirm that the affirmative action policy does, indeed, provide preference in the hiring process for native people including Metis residents.

With regard to expenditures on recruitment advertising, the Department of Personnel reviewed its practices in this area last year to develop advertising procedures designed to provide a reasonably equal share of advertising revenues to all northern newspapers. The new procedures have resulted in significantly increased revenues for northern newspapers and, in particular, the Mackenzie Times.

In 1989-90, the Department of Personnel spent a total of \$28,336 for advertising in the Mackenzie Times. Based on our expenditures so far this year and a forecast of expenditures,

we will spend between \$40,000 to \$50,000 this year. This is a significant investment in a small newspaper and, considering the circulation, it will not likely be increased in the short term.

This government will continue to support northern newspapers through recruitment advertising, but revenues to each paper will vary depending on circulation and readership. The introduction of these new advertising procedures has increased revenues for small newspapers. The government's expenditure in this area is generating more interest amongst Northerners in employment in the public service.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 48-90(2), from the office of the Auditor General of Canada, Report to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories on the Examination of the Accounts and Financial Transactions of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Year Ended March 31, 1990.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 49-90(2), Northwest Territories Government Discussion Paper on Military Activity in the North and Establishment of a Circumpolar Zone of Peace and Security, and Executive Summary in Inuktitut.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Honourable Member for Nunakput.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to section 15.2(2) of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, I wish to table Tabled Document 50-90(2), a document entitled "Northwest Territories Power Corporation Automatic Fuel Adjustment Clause Formula", in English and Inuktitut.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 51-90(2), 1989-90 Annual Report of the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories, in English and in Inuktitut.

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

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 52-90(2), an article from Policy Options, Volume II, No. 8, October 1990 entitled "Private Bills and Public Needs" outlining how Private Members' Bills can be part of ordinary Members' participation in the decision-making of government in Canada.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 53-90(2), a proposed Security

Occupations Act, in English and Inuktitut.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 54-90(2), entitled "Language Rights in Education in the Northwest Territories", in English, Dogrib, French, Inuktitut and Slavey. Merci.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 55-90(2), List of Funds Transferred Exceeding \$250,000 for the Period February 8, 1990, to October 16, 1990, Pursuant to Section 32, Subsection (3), of the Financial Administration Act, in English and in Inuktitut.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 56-90(2), a response to Petition 1-90(2), tabled by Mr. Gargan, responded to by the Minister of Social Services, concerning the use of chewing tobacco in correctional centres.

I also wish to table Tabled Document 57-90(2), a response to Petition 2-90(2), tabled by Mr. Kilabuk, responded to by the Minister of Social Services, concerning a proposal for a shelter for Pangnirtung.

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

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 20-90(2): Legal Action Against ALPAC Mill

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 5, 1990, I will move the following motion, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho: Now therefore be it resolved, that the Government of the Northwest Territories immediately initiate legal action to obtain an injunction against the Governments of Alberta and Canada and ALPAC, should the proposed ALPAC mill be approved without any further opportunities for public hearings in the Northwest Territories under the federal environmental assessment and review process; and be it further resolved that the Government of the Northwest Territories Minister of Justice convey this motion to the Premier of Alberta as soon as possible; and further be it resolved that the negotiations between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Alberta over a transboundary water agreement should continue with the full involvement of aboriginal peoples. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Notice Of Motion 21-90(2): Additional Sitting Days And Hours

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, November 5, 1990, I shall move that the Speaker be authorized to set such additional sitting days and hours as he deems appropriate to conclude the business of the seventh session of the 11th Assembly.

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 19: Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 5, 1990, I shall move that Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 14-90(2). This is the first time the motion has been called so it will remain on the order paper. Motion 15-90(2). The honourable Member for High Arctic.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 15-90(2): Request For Post Office Facility In Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS the community of Resolute Bay has a problem with the post office being so far away from the community;

AND WHEREAS they have tried a number of times to have the post office moved to the community from the base;

AND WHEREAS the elders and people without transportation cannot go and pick up their mail because of its present location, especially in the summer;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that this Legislative Assembly requests the Executive Council to make representation to Canada Post to have them provide a post office in the community of Resolute Bay.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion, the honourable Member for High Arctic.

Proposed Move Of Resolute Bay Post Office Not Satisfactory

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned this on October 24 in a Member's statement. I have been working on this for a long time. The first time I mentioned about this situation was on May 15, 1984. I had a written question at that time, in 1984, which was to the Government Leader, and I never got a reply. Since that time I have kept mentioning it a number of times: on February 18, 1985; on June 12, 1985; and again on October 27, 1988.

I also made a motion at one time to have Canada Post officials appear in this House. When they were here I told them about our situation in Resolute Bay. Their reply was that they were looking into it. Finally, last summer, they told us the good news that they would move the post office from the air base. Negotiations were to go on between the settlement council and postal services and I was happy about this, when they announced that.

This fall, 1990, they told me that they were moving into the

Northern Stores, which is located at the airport and this is a little farther away than the present location. I indicated the problem that we have, that not many people have vehicles or three-wheeled Hondas in the summer. The winter is not too bad because almost everyone has a skidoo.

I think they also have a policy that if anyone gets registered mail that person, himself, has to go in and sign for it; no one else can sign it for him. My parents are getting old and they cannot go back and forth. If anyone has emergency mail, a lot of times they do not get it for a number of days because of the lack of transportation. The MOT and a number of businesses are located up there and those companies have all kinds of vehicles. Also the population is a lot smaller at the air base and they will not have any problem at all in getting their mail if the post office is located in the settlement.

I, myself, had a vehicle there and sometimes I carry five to 10 keys for the people of the community in order to get their mail. What would happen if my vehicle breaks down? How are they going to get their mail? Maybe it does not have to be moved down to the village. Maybe they should have a new, separate post office down in the community because the population down in the village is 175 and the average population at the base is 75. So the base has a lot smaller population. Also, the present post office is in a trailer, which can be moved. Just put wheels on it and move it. When the Northern Stores takes over they should take the boxes and leave the building behind.

Mr. Speaker, that is my situation right now. We have a problem and we have had it for a long time. I tried to get the post office down in the village for a long time and now they are turning around and putting it in the Northern Stores, at the base. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agreed to support Mr. Pudluk's motion because he is my good friend and I understand the situation that he is in. It also hurts me to see him get up time and time again expressing that problem with regard to the old post office being seven miles away from the mainstream of the community.

Mr. Speaker, in my own community we do have fair weather and people are within walking distance from the post office, but in Resolute Bay it is extremely cold in the winter and I do not think it is fair that we have to put the permanent residents from that area in a situation in which, even though they have skidoos and all-terrain vehicles, it is still hard for the people there to be travelling seven miles to go to a post office. I do not think that is fair. Mr. Pudluk asked me to second the motion and I think he has a legitimate concern for the people in his community and I would like the other Members to support it on that basis. Mahsi cho.

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

Canada Post Should Serve Needs Of People

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too will support the motion of my friend from High Arctic on the basis that Canada Post should be there to serve the needs of the people and not the needs of the corporation. I understand the situation all too well. I used to be in a small town once upon a time and know the value of the postal service to communicate, to receive mail, to receive items through the mail, and to send communications through the mail. If the situation is such that the establishment is not available to the

people, conveniently located, and convenient in times, then it becomes rather difficult for the average individual to make use of and enjoy that postal service.

In the city of Yellowknife we know all too well how important the postal service is and the requests of the people have been met by Canada Post, by installing remote outlets in the areas where the population lives. It has received some criticism but it meets the needs of the people. I do not see why this should not be done in some of these other communities as well. In particular, the community that we are discussing now, Resolute Bay, where there are two areas. One is at the airport and the other is the village and they are a considerable distance apart, and it is not convenient for people to travel to get their mail. I would urge the Assembly to support that request. It seems, in some cases, not that important but when you place yourself in the situation the people of Resolute find themselves in, and the village finds themselves in, it is an important item and one that we should respond to favourably. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my support to the motion.

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

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly, it is a long walk to that village from the base. I walked it once and it never seems to get any closer and I never walked back, I can tell you that. I support this motion, Mr. Speaker, because once more it seems to me that we have a corporation which has its own goals which is to privatize and rather than having the agency serving the needs of the people, we are doing things just to suit the needs of the corporation. I think that this Assembly brings issues like this that matter to people. We are much closer, I think, to the needs of communities than most other people in this business in Canada, as representatives of communities. It is for that reason that this kind of motion comes up more in our kind of Assembly than anywhere else and for that reason I would be very happy to support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Final argument, the honourable Member for High Arctic.

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

Motion 15-90(2), Carried

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

---Carried

---Applause

I will now recess until the call of the Chair.

---SHORT RECESS

Order. Item 14, motions. Motion 16-90(2). The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

Motion 16-90(2): Fair-Weather Road To Jean Marie River

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS the people of Jean Marie River want a road to their community;

AND WHEREAS the people have asked both the federal and territorial governments for a road for the past 20 years;

AND WHEREAS a start has been made during the 1980s to get a fair-weather road to the community by clearing the right of way, the construction of small bridges and provision of culverts;

AND WHEREAS there is renewed interest in a road to the community by residents as a means of promoting economic development, specifically the promotion of tourism, business opportunities and a means of providing cheaper transportation of foods, goods and supplies to the community;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that the Minister of Transportation give serious consideration to allocating funds in the 1991-92 budget for the finishing of the fair-weather road to Jean Marie River.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I have enlisted the support of Mr. Gargan who is a very effective MLA and he seems to be a specialist at getting Ministers to work co-operatively with him. He seems to have the ability to get Mr. Wray, as an example, to make sure that any work in his area will benefit his constituents, so I wanted to enlist his support and maybe he can put the touch on or say the right words so that the Minister will respond very positively to this.

Road To Jean Marie River Is Long-Standing Issue

Mr. Speaker, this issue of a road to Jean Marie River is one that has been with me since I was first elected in 1970. It was an issue that I had raised with the government then a number of times and through the course of years, a little of it has been done to the point where it is almost a passable good weather road, but not quite. So this motion here, urges the government to see it not as a highway which brings to mind millions of dollars, but just a little fair-weather road which is more practical and much cheaper than a highway.

I will just give a little bit of background. The road that we are talking about is 17 miles from the big Mackenzie highway to the community. In 1971 they had started cutting a right of way with a cat and the right of way was completed and used as a winter road for quite a number of years. In 1972 all the clearing was burned, the brush was burned and it further cleared the highway. Through the years, since 1970, every winter the road would be opened. In 1984 there was some more attention. I guess I must have been active in 1982 or 1983, because in 1984 there was some more clearing done but there was an area, about five or six kilometres of bush, that was left undone. The winter road went around it, but for the right of way to be cleared, this still has to be done.

I was talking to Mr. Ernest Hardisty about this, from Jean Marie River. He knows all of the history because he was a chief through much of this and he says that all of the area is marked already with ribbons and a lot of work has been done. A survey has been done. Things like soil tests, and so forth have been done. So there has been quite a bit of work done on the road. In 1985 there was a wooden bridge made, a 17 foot span across the little Jackfish Creek that runs there and in 1986 there was a steel bridge on another creek close to the highway.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Jean Marie River look to me and

to the government to come through with a positive response to this motion. They are badly in need of work. The community is preparing a proposal which they will bring to the Minister in the next few weeks which will outline the work that is to be done, how they propose to do the work and the money involved. I do not think it is going to be a big sum of money. The work will be for clearing the last remaining five or six kilometres of the road. It was mentioned to me that perhaps there was even some money somewhere in the Minister's department. I have been advised that there is a community access road program and not all of the money is used up or may not be used up because some of the projects elsewhere in the North have not been used up. If the Minister has some funds in his department in one of the programs that could be used on this, even in the next few weeks and months before the real cold winter comes, it would be very much appreciated. Failing that then, if the Minister could put some money in his budget for that, it would be very much appreciated. I urge Members to support this noble motion. Mahsi cho.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I second the motion mainly because when Mr. Sibbeston approached me, he was very humble.

--Laughter

Mr. Speaker, even his motion is very humble. He is not asking for a highway. He is asking for an all-weather road. As far back as I can remember, around 1975, the regional council had taken on the whole new role that would require regional issues and that is when the need for the road to Jean Marie River was expressed. Every year since, when the chief used to come to me, whether it was Jimmy Sangris, who is now gone, or his son, Angus, who was the chief at one time, or Ernest who has been the chief on and off for many years now, but the issue of the road to Jean Marie River has always come up during regional meetings. There is a need for it. The motion did come out of those regional council meetings requesting help from the department -- it is Municipal and Community Affairs now, but it used to be the responsibility of the department of Local Government. That used to be the area in which you had to deal with requests, and I believe Mr. Sibbeston was the Minister of Local Government at that time. This fair-weather road asked for by the people of Nahendeh is a reasonable one.

I believe that all of the initiatives that are happening in my constituency are happening because it is the direction that the government wants to go, and not necessarily because of my effort, but maybe the one that screams the loudest gets the most, and maybe because I did give full support to the Minister's initiative in redoing a lot of the highways and restructuring a lot of the highways. When those directives are taken, very little attention is given to access roads or secondary roads and for that reason I am supporting the Member for Nahendeh on this. I request that the Members give their support also. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will support this motion of the honourable Member for Nahendeh. I know the feeling of trying to get a small length of road built in your riding. It is a hard job to do. There always seems to be a lack of funds to do it. I am familiar with this road, as I have driven over it in the winter and it does not seem like it would take that much work to do it. I am pretty sure that if the Minister of Transportation negotiated with Jean Marie River

they may even give them some of their sand and gravel to use on that road -- free of charge, I am pretty sure.

--Laughter

That is how communities contribute to the capital projects. The government seems to want communities to contribute so these people may do that. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that I wish the Member the best of luck in getting his road built and I look forward to driving on it. Mahsi cho.

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

Other Communities Desire Roads

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I notice, with interest, that the mover of the motion refers to this one as a noble motion and a humble motion, just a small little piece of road and they have only been asking for it for 20 years. I wish to point out that in other places in the North, with populations about 15 times larger than the 67 that live in Jean Marie River, we have been waiting for 40 years for a road and we, too, have been asking for it.

MR. ZOE: For 17 kilometres?

MR. PEDERSEN: The distance does not really matter because it does not make it any less warranted to have roads. Just on principle, Mr. Speaker, I will not support any motion that calls for further road construction in the western part of the Territories until we get at least one mile somewhere in Nunavut.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Jean Marie River is one of the nine communities that I have never had an occasion to visit yet. I have flown over it, I have been about a mile away from it, and I do hope that I will get there some day. Mr. Speaker, I will support this motion if desire for a road is requested by that community. If the community wants this road, then probably it is time that they get it. I say this, Mr. Speaker, because during the 1970s Members of this House know all too well that there were big plans for building roads down the Mackenzie valley when there was talk of a pipeline, and there was a road going into some smaller communities and they said, "We do not want that road. We do not want to be disrupted. We like the way we are living and this road will change that."

Roads Can Bring Problems To Communities

Now, if this community, in this period of time, has changed its mind, I caution them. Small communities that are predominantly native do not want roads sometimes because it will interfere with the cultural and social ways of life. Mr. Speaker, a road will bring into a remote community, urban problems. People will not be content with living there any more because they can get out easily enough to other communities and they may see things there that they want in their community, or if they cannot get it they will be prepared to move.

I say these things only to reflect what I have heard in the past, and why I have supported or not supported, I suppose, certain developments in certain areas because the people did not want it. They were afraid that this intricate social fabric, the quaintness of their areas, the semi-isolation that they enjoyed would be disrupted forever and I caution them, perhaps, that this may happen to Jean Marie River along the banks of the

mighty Mackenzie, only 17 miles away from a road that takes commerce to larger communities down the highway.

I will support the motion because I trust that their Member is speaking for that community and maybe it is time that this community enter into the network of highways that we envision in areas that can be developed and can be built, such as the Mackenzie valley where building conditions are not all that difficult. So I will end with those comments on my understanding of what has happened in the past and what I see for the future. Thank you.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should not be talking too much about roads or highways because I come from a place where we have no roads or highways. The motion sounds very, very good when you read it and it talks about providing cheaper transportation of food, goods and supplies to the community. The wording of the motion is very, very good.

I know that in the Western Arctic there are a lot of roads and highways. In the East we have no roads or highways at all. We do not even have winter roads to our communities and out of our communities. Some people from the East have been saying that they would like to get a road of some kind. I will not support the motion until we get some kind of roads in our Nunavut region; I will not be supporting the motion until the Eastern Arctic gets some kind of roads. We cannot even get access roads to our low tide areas in our community, the shores of our community. I have been requesting an airstrip that is only about one mile long, but they have refused me on that. This is only a 17 kilometre road, and there are not very many people in that community. For that reason, I will not be supporting the motion at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been to Jean Marie River during the wintertime when there was the opening of the nursing station there several years ago. It is a beautiful little community and the people there -- I believe the band manager at that time was Gerry Antoine -- brought this issue up at that time in conversation. They had the winter road in place at that time, and when they had the winter road in place they had better access to groceries at a cheaper cost, and fuel could be hauled in during the winter at a cheaper cost. There are, I think, long-term advantages, not only to the individuals in the community, but to all the levels of government that service these communities when they can get road transportation into a community.

I also understand the frustration of Members in the East that they do not have the road corridor system that we do, and they sometimes have airstrips which have been neglected, which they entirely depend on. I have always been supportive of any efforts that can be made for them in the area of airport construction.

Lateral Roads From Existing Highway Corridor Make Sense

I think when you already have a highway corridor system in place, and all you are asking for is laterals to go off that corridor system, I think it makes sense to take advantage of the fact that you have a corridor and then you should run laterals off it to serve nearby communities. I do not want Members to think that I am not in favour of doing something in the East. I think we have to do something dramatic in the Eastern Arctic. I think a road from Yellowknife up to Coppermine which will cause development and employment

in that area is something to be looked at. A road from Churchill to Rankin Inlet through Arviat -- keep going north to Repulse Bay. All the way over to Baker Lake? Okay, I guess. Those are main corridor projects that I think we have to do.

We have to make some dramatic moves in that area, but at the same time, coming back more to the specific motion, I think when we do have a main corridor running by small communities it is important to take advantage of that asset you have already in place and run the necessary laterals off it, so the cost of living in those communities can come down for everybody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Final argument, the honourable Member for Nahendeh.

Definition Of Fair Weather Road

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, just very briefly, I can tell Members that this road is supported by the community of Jean Marie River. The community has had experience with civilization, as it were, with people coming in. Every winter they have been fortunate to have a winter road. In considering their future, they do feel that a road would be beneficial to the community. In the wintertime there is no problem, they can drive in there. But it is a problem in the summer. What is asked for here is a fair weather road. A fair weather road means a road that is passable during good weather when the sun is shining and the weather is good. When it would be really wet and stormy and slushy snow, the road would not be passable. That is what the people want. Just a simple little road, not a big highway like the Mackenzie highway which everybody understands is very costly.

I was at a meeting of the Deh Cho Tribal Council this fall where the chief, Stanley Sangris, made a motion and was supported by everybody at the council, and I know that almost every year there is usually a motion made on this subject by the regional council in the area.

Mr. Speaker, our government spends money in the summer chartering planes into the community. I would guess that there would be at least two or three charters every week that our government sends in with maintenance people, teachers, health people and so forth. There is money at the moment spent on charters, and when a road is built there would not be the need for those expenditures on air charters. The money needed to get there would be a lot less, so in the long run it may cost our government a little bit less, without question, for transportation into the community in the summer. I cannot really say much more about it. I just urge everybody to be generous and support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 16-90(2), Carried

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

---Carried

MR. SIBBESTON: Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Motion 13-90(2), Noncompliance of Clause 3 of Northern Accord Agreement. Motion 17-90(2). Motion 18-90(2). This is the first call for Motions 13-90(2), 17-90(2) and 18-90(2) and they will all remain on the order paper. Motion 19-90(2). The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

Motion 19-90(2): One-Time Increase Of Eight Per Cent In The Present Social Assistance Rates

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Department of Social Services sets the social assistance rates every few years by conducting a food basket survey;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Social Services has developed 10 scales which reflect the costs of living in the different communities across the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the last rate change was made in April 1987 but was based on the 1985 food basket survey;

AND WHEREAS the most recent food basket survey was conducted in October of 1987 and has not yet been acted upon by the Government of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS any rate increase is at least two years behind the cost of living;

AND WHEREAS there are problems with the present survey techniques;

AND WHEREAS rates could be seriously affected by the impact of the GST and the increase in fuel prices;

AND WHEREAS this has been a concern of mine on behalf of my constituents since my election to this Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin Central, that this Legislative Assembly recommends to the Executive Council that they immediately approve a one time increase of eight per cent in the present social assistance rates;

AND FURTHER, recommends that there be an immediate 100 per cent increase in the clothing allowance;

AND FURTHER, recommends that a food basket survey be carried out in October of 1991;

AND FURTHER, recommends that new calculations of rates be carried out based on the October 1991 food basket survey;

AND FURTHER, recommends that the Minister of Social Services consider implementing by April 1992 the indexing of social assistance rates to the cost of living and subsequently adjusted at least twice a year;

AND FURTHER, requests that the Minister of Social Services report to the Legislative Assembly at the eighth session with the department's plan to implement these recommendations.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

MR. PEDERSEN: Point of order.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very important motion coming up and I want to point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that we do not have a quorum.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, would you ring the bells please? To the motion. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague indicated when he did not recognize a quorum, he mentioned that this is an important motion, and I believe it is. This is important to the people of the Northwest Territories and important to this Legislative Assembly. It is important to our constituents because they need to know that regardless of the unexpected, regardless of the difficulties that might befall them over the course of their lives, there is a safety net for them in our society. Mr. Speaker, this motion is important even for our government. One of the most vital things a government must do is to provide that safety net. That is the way it demonstrates compassion. That is the way it builds confidence. That is the way it demonstrates its commitment to safeguarding the interests of people in our communities who are among the less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that when it comes to social assistance rates in the NWT our safety net is full of holes. Social assistance rates have not been revised since April 1987. Today's needy are receiving assistance according to a food basket survey completed in 1985. That was five years ago. Mr. Speaker, what we are talking about here are the rates that are used to establish how many dollars of social assistance an average family can receive for food and clothing when they find themselves in a situation where independent earning is impossible. The people who are in need of this kind of support must face expenses that are based on today's economy, not the economic conditions of five years ago. Social assistance rates must be based on the cost requirements of contemporary living, but right now they do not. Social assistance rates have fallen behind the cost of living. Since the rates were last set, in April 1987, the cost of living has risen about 6.7 per cent and it is going to get worse.

Earlier this week the Minister of Economic Development told us that the Northwest Territories will not be hit as hard by the current economic downturn as some other parts of this country, but even so, Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that there will still be financial hardships for several of our constituencies across the North. We know, for instance, that over the next year the cost of living in the NWT communities will continue to rise. The present gap between the existing rates and the cost of living will widen. Anticipated increases in gasoline prices will definitely have a further impact on the cost of living. Right now it is difficult to determine how great this increase will be, but we can be assured that it will create an impact on the people of our communities, especially the needy.

Effects Of The GST On Social Services Recipients

We also know that there will be some fall-out in the likely event that the goods and services tax is passed and is implemented at the start of the next calendar year. We cannot be certain right now what the full impact of this new federal tax will be. Food prices are exempt from the GST, so the direct influence of the new tax may be slight, but as we have

all heard many times, there will be higher indirect costs due to increased shipping prices.

People in the NWT will have challenges to face in trying to cope with the changing economic environment of today's Canada; these will be more than challenges to the neediest members of our northern communities. They will represent serious barriers to breaking out of the poverty cycle and threats to the success of our youth. Today's economic conditions are creating worries about basic subsistence and comfort among the native families in our communities.

History Of Adjustments To Social Assistance Rates

Mr. Speaker, Members of this Assembly will know that this is not the first time we have paid attention to the lagging social assistance rates. Back in February of 1988, I began asking the Minister about her plan to correct inadequacies in her social assistance rates. We were advised that an internal review committee had been studying the matter and had submitted a report which was under review in the Department of Justice. This had apparently taken place in July of 1988. We were further advised that the revisions to the social assistance rates could be expected in June of 1989. June came and went and nothing happened. On October 30, 1989, a year and two days ago, I again asked the Minister why, and I was told that it was "a little more difficult" to do anything about this. We were all told that the adjustments in food scales would require about \$3.6 million dollars and that a submission would be going forward to cabinet for final consideration as soon as the Department of Justice was finished reviewing the issue. We were told that the food scale adjustments would proceed sometime in November of 1989. Mr. Speaker, once again November came and went. Nothing happened.

During our last session, on February 12, 1990, I again raised this matter with the Minister of Social Services. So did my other colleagues, like my colleague from Baffin Central, Baffin South and Tu Nede. We were told that regulations to review the scales had been returned to her department for further review. She also told the House that these would not be going to the cabinet right away and that we could now expect to wait until the latter part of the fiscal year of 1991 before changes could be made.

On February 20, 1990, I commented again on this issue and pointed out that there had still been no change in the social assistance rates. The matter was raised five more times during the past winter session. Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Morin and Mr. Kilabuk and I all tried to find out when the plans for providing social assistance food scales would be taken off a piece of paper and turned into action. We were told once again, Mr. Speaker, that the recommendations were in but they could not be tabled. We learned that the cost figure for making adjustments was in the neighbourhood of \$2.7 million to three million dollars. We were told that the analysis of this figure was based on bureau of statistics data available to all, but the analysis itself was available only to cabinet.

In turn we told the Ministers that we were getting tired of waiting, but we still had to wait and we would still be waiting, except now we decided to take some action on this important issue ourselves.

Recommendations In The Motion

Mr. Speaker, the motion before you today in this House will: 1) recommend approval of a one time increase of eight per cent in the present social assistance rates, except for clothing which has to be increased by 100 per cent; 2) recommend that a nutritious food basket survey be carried out in October of 1991 and that the results of this should be used as the

basis for calculating new social assistance rates; 3) challenge the department to implement an innovative approach to solving this problem, by indexing social assistance rates to the cost of living and requiring twice yearly adjustments.

To assist the government in implementing these new changes we are formally asking for a report on their progress on the next occasion we meet. We want an implementation plan tabled during the eighth session. Mr. Speaker, Members are aware that the Department of Social Services sets the social assistance rates based on the result of a food basket survey. It is carried out like this. The statistics bureau looks at federal Department of Agriculture statistics from across the country and identifies certain foods that should be priced. These make up an imaginary food basket. The social worker or other government staff in each community then go out and price each food item. The results are sent to the statistics bureau and it calculates the cost of feeding an average size family in the different communities. The Department of Social Services then sets the social assistance rates, based on what these average cost figures are.

It is pretty simple really, at least in theory, Mr. Speaker. But in practice we have been told that it gets more difficult and I suppose that these difficulties are at the root of the long overdue delay. As one might expect, food costs are different in different communities. To try and even out benefits on a community by community basis, the Department of Social Services has developed 10 scales which reflect the cost of living in the different communities. It slots various communities into these scales, depending upon the costs of living in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, the social assistance rates are not keeping pace with the cost of living, and the present rate could be seriously affected by changes occurring in the next 12 months. The present rates do not reflect changes in the cost of clothing but only food. As a result, the clothing allowance has not changed in the past 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, food scale rates are supposed to be adjusted after the food basket survey is completed. This has not been happening. The last food scale adjustment was announced October 21, 1986, when Mr. McLaughlin was the Minister. These changes were implemented in April, 1987. This was more than two years after the previous survey in 1985, but at least the necessary changes were made.

The most recent food basket survey was conducted in October 1987. The information developed in this survey has not yet been acted upon. And by now it is very likely outdated. We now need a new food basket survey. It should be done in October 1991, as proposed in this motion. It seems as though government is always at least two years behind the cost of living. The solution, of course, Mr. Speaker, is to tie rate increases to the cost of living through indexing.

Each time we have needed to raise social assistance rates, ordinary Members have had to bring it up over and over again in this House. During the Ninth Assembly, in 1981, Mr. Kilabuk was asking about it when he was serving in this House. In 1983, during the 10th Assembly, questions about adjusting the social assistance rates were being raised. At that time it was my good friend, the Hon. Gordon Wray, who was trying to follow-up on when the rates would be increased. In 1985, during the 10th Assembly, it was raised again by Mr. Erkloo, who was after the Minister of Social Services at that time about it.

Mr. Speaker, this is a never ending problem for this House. It was a problem for the Ninth and 10th Assemblies and it remains a problem for our current government in the 11th Assembly. The problem will be solved if we index the rates.

This will take the rate increases out of the hands of the Minister and allow rate changes to take place automatically.

Mr. Speaker, my motion also proposes that an eight per cent increase be immediately approved with the food scales. This will allow us to anticipate some of the impacts of the economic downturn, the imposition of the GST, and the uncertainty in fuel prices. It will also allow us to play catch-up, over the next year to 16 months, and will buy some time until the next food survey and the indexing of social assistance benefits can be put into place.

Mr. Speaker, this one-time increase is a conservative strategy. It takes into consideration a 6.7 per cent increase to account for the gap between the current rates and the cost of living and a 1.3 per cent increase to handle the anticipated impact of the economic changes I mentioned. This would shield us from these economic factors over the next 16 months, until the indexing program can be established.

Mr. Speaker, it is shocking that the rates for clothing allowance have not changed for over 10 years. This motion would increase these rates by 100 per cent. Even then, this is just a stop-gap measure.

Mr. Speaker, there will be, undoubtedly, expenses to the Government of the Northwest Territories in implementing changes of this sort. But I would like to remind Members that when we voted, in all of the supps and all the budgets, that cost of living adjustments during various appropriations of funds were approved. Where did these moneys go, all the adjustments that they have been making? That may not be relevant right now, but it may be something to keep in one's mind.

Right now, to summarize, Mr. Speaker, we are suggesting some changes immediately. We want an eight per cent increase in the food allowance and a 100 per cent increase in the clothing allowance. We believe that these changes will cost the government about \$1.8 million over the next 12 months. We also want the whole system for social assistance rates overhauled, and the concept of indexing scales to the cost of living incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister remarked a few days ago that some of the delay has been caused by other departmental priorities such as suicide prevention and child sexual abuse. I want to emphasize that we are proud of the work that has been done by this Assembly and by our Minister in these crucial service areas. We realize that we are at the cutting edge of developments and making more progress each month. But, Mr. Speaker, we must also realize that governing in the Northwest Territories is also a matter of juggling priorities -- or maybe juggling cannonballs is more like it. But any way you look at it, Mr. Speaker, the adjustment of our territorial social assistance rates is one priority that the juggler has missed. This issue has been overlooked, delayed and perhaps stalled far too long.

Mr. Speaker, as a final comment I would like to note that there have been a lot of comments recently in the public domain about our consensus form of government. Specials on the radio have been suggesting that ordinary Members cannot, or might be afraid to, work together on a concerted basis to accomplish important goals for our people.

This issue is one, Mr. Speaker, where I believe all Members have been working individually. As I look around the House today, sir, I see...

MR. SPEAKER: Time has expired for your remarks. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, can I seek unanimous consent to conclude?

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any nays?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Nay.

MR. ZOE: Our government is evading this issue. Shame!

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: No it is not.

MR. ZOE: Sure it is.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please! Is there a seconder to the motion? The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The mover of the motion did a really good job of making it clear. He said a lot of the things that are in my heart, but I will make a few comments about the reasons that I seconded the motion, so that we can understand the same thing. I think we have to remember that since 1985 there were quite a few widows in the Northwest Territories who are also supporting their children. Since 1985 food prices have increased annually. Also, they have to pay bills for power and for fuel. Perhaps we should be focussing on the cost of fuel, with the cost fluctuating because of the Middle East situation. If we do not plan ahead now I think that the cost of heating your home is going to increase substantially. The people who currently are struggling are going to have an even harder time.

For these reasons we appreciate our fellow aboriginal people. We are able to have country foods that we do not have to pay for, and these widows with these children are given free country foods, and we appreciate that. We should thank the hunters who are able to share their catch with these people who are having a hard time. This is very good.

Social Assistance Rates Inadequate In Face Of Rising Food Prices

The people who are currently the recipients of social assistance are saying that they are receiving much too small an assistance, and it seems to be smaller than before because the cost of food has gone up substantially, especially in my area. For example, if you buy a banana it is going to cost you over one dollar. Here in Yellowknife four or five bananas would not cost you two dollars. For those of us who live in more expensive areas, the cost of food is rising very quickly. With the GST coming into play I think that we are going to see yet another increase to the cost of food if we do not plan ahead.

I am aware that it is going to be very difficult to find the funding and I know this very well because I have been sitting as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for a long time. I know how hard it is to find additional funds, but sometimes the government is able to provide extra funds when they feel there is a real need for them. For this reason, the motion that is on the floor, that I seconded, I want all the Members to support it. I have brought this up from time to time regarding social assistance, and I think that we have to look at the situation of these people and plan for the future at the same time.

I know that the Minister of Social Services has other priorities, such as day-care, spousal assault shelters and other major problems that need to be addressed, but what we are talking about right now has to be given equal importance and we must seriously work hard to find the additional funds needed. I just want you to be aware that many of my constituents have brought this up with me. Even though I am not asking for social assistance, what my people are saying and what I know

to be a reality, is that we need to increase the social assistance. So I am asking for the Members' support in voting for this motion so that this can come into effect across the Territories as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Natilikmiot, to the motion.

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion put before us is the legitimate one. In times of uncontrollable food prices and with gasoline prices going up I think there has not been a program to offset the cost between the cost of living and the welfare rates. I think the mover of the motion has made all the justification when he spoke to the motion. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

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

Social Assistance Rates Priority Issue To Ordinary Members

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the early days of this session the ordinary Members identified this as probably the priority issue to be resolved, mainly because they had noted that there had been so few adjustments to these rates for so long. We did undertake to get some work done on behalf of ordinary Members, and Mr. Zoe has covered the ground very, very carefully and has made the case, I believe, in such a way that it can convince people that we have to do something.

I as much as anybody else in this Assembly am aware of the incredible cost of government services to the people of the Northwest Territories. Perhaps, although it looks on the surface that we will be looking for \$1.8 million to introduce these very, very modest changes, really, it seems to me that perhaps what we have to do is to look at our whole program to find out whether, in the social programs -- and I include the health and social services -- to see if, in fact, we are using our money properly, to see if we cannot provide rates so that those people that really need this kind of support will get it. We are not suggesting that you automatically try to find another couple of million dollars. We are suggesting that you look at this social assistance program as a priority, because we are in a recession and we see incredibly difficult times ahead, and as we all know it is the poor people that always suffer when things get bad.

The average man, the rich man, he can survive; but the person on social assistance at this very, very low level finds himself getting further and further in the hole. I think Mr. Zoe has described the situation very graphically, and I believe that ordinary Members, when we come to deal with the social service budget in the winter session, will be pressing the Minister very hard to see if there is some way in which we can provide a better level of support for those people who most need it. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

Social Assistance Recipients Would Rather Work

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will support this motion. I think what we have to realize is who we are dealing with. We are dealing with the public. It may not be the right forum standing in Yellowknife to mention this, but in my constituency we are talking about a motion that affects more than 50 per cent of my constituents.

I said that it was an important motion. The mover of the motion repeated that. Mr. Speaker, I wish that it was not an important motion. I wish that our society had managed to provide opportunities for employment, but we have not. We have failed in that, in most of our communities, and thus we have forced far too many of our people to accept a living which is based on social assistance payments.

This is not the choice of the people in my constituency and all the other smaller communities. It is not, by any means. There is no choice. You must feed your family. You must feed your children. The vast majority of the people that I am talking about would rather not receive social assistance. They would much rather work for a living and earn a decent living. It is a concept in some groups in our country -- I am not saying it is in the NWT -- that people who live on social assistance do so because they are lazy and do not want to work. That is not the case in the North. We do not have any choice, and therefore it becomes an entirely different issue than it does anywhere else. What we must realize, and I want to repeat that again, is that the people we are talking about -- we are talking about, as I said, at least 50 per cent of my constituents -- are the public. We are public servants. Let us serve them. We have managed to index many things including, in this House, our own wages -- which makes sense since we do not have to keep coming back; we have wages that are legislated -- but we have realized that they should be indexed. We index many other things. We virtually index our public servants' wage packages. Certainly through negotiations over the years there has always been a generous increase and it has more than kept pace with inflation, but the public that these public servants are supposed to serve have had no increase. We do not look after them.

The cost of this package that is being proposed in this motion, according to the figures we have heard from the mover, vary from a high of \$3.6 million to a low of \$1.8 million. It does sound like a fair bit of money, but I would like to point out that it is approximately, at the lowest level of \$1.8 million, something like two-tenths of one per cent of the budget that we play with, which is one billion dollars. At the high level, it is a cost that is equivalent to the cost of 36 public servant PYs, or at the low level of 18 PYs. I think it is quite manageable.

The decision to raise this or not to raise this is strictly a political decision. The arguments we have heard in the past -- we have not heard any today -- from the Executive Council, through the Minister responsible, are not political arguments. They are bureaucratic arguments and they are economic arguments. That is not what we put you over there for.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. PEDERSEN: We put you over there to be eight politicians running the government.

---Applause

...not to become eight senior bureaucrats.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Do not worry. I recognize that I am not a bureaucrat.

MR. PEDERSEN: You listen to them too much, Jeannie. I did too. They are a powerful group.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot accept that something that affects such a large percentage of the population of the public whom most of us on this side of the House serve, and many of the Executive Council too -- we cannot go on accepting advice within our bureaucracy that says, "We cannot afford it." We have to afford it. As I say, if the solution is to lay off between

18 and 36 people, then do that. But let us start serving the public and not serving the servants of the public. I strongly urge everyone to support this one, get on with it and consider this a political decision on a political priority.

---Applause

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

Increased Social Assistance Needed By The Unemployed

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will also be supporting this motion. I have been told by the people in my constituency that the social assistance rate should be increased. It does not look very good for people that are wealthy, or that are in a better position to provide for themselves, but we all know that there are a lot of people that are unemployed. In my constituency right now the carvings are not being bought at all, and for that reason there are a lot more people that should be receiving social assistance. It is very good that this should be increased.

Mr. Kilabuk spoke about the people that need it more such as people that are widowed, and we all know that we have to get some kind of assistance when we need help the most. There are a lot more people that are not able to provide for themselves any more in Canada, but we all know, because of the high cost of living, these have to be indexed to keep up with the high prices. I really believe in the motion and I will be supporting the motion. That is why I am speaking in support of it.

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

Other Priorities Social Services Has Had

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and honourable Members. Actually, in deliberating this motion, I personally do not have any difficulty with it. I, too, have been trying to increase the rates but it seems like the process of government sometimes takes a long time.

I must indicate, though, that when it came to trying to look at priorities, it appeared that the direction from this House was to look at addressing day-care, which I believe the department has done in excess of \$4.5 million over the past two years. I had to look at addressing family violence, which the department has, and we addressed it in excess of another four million dollars in the past two years. We looked at addressing child sexual abuse, where we have looked at just about one million dollars in the past two years; along with addressing suicide with practically one million there again.

One of the biggest priorities that I took, because I found it was a real problem in the North, was the problem of alcohol and drug abuse. With that, I recognized that this was a problem of political priorities to be sure to address. In the past couple of years we have placed \$9.7 million to deal with alcohol and drug abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that many times when we look at our social assistance recipients, I personally felt that many of them -- not many of them but there was a problem with abuse of alcohol and drugs. I felt that in order to try to get these people to acquire positions that were available, recognizing that many of the communities do not have many positions, but the ones that do have positions available, that our people had to be sober and able to go out and work. With this I did set my political priorities.

Believe me, Mr. Speaker, I can honestly say that no

department tells me what to do. I make it very clear to my departments that I am the Minister and I give them direction.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I guess the other thing that I do want to point out is first of all, recognizing the increase of fuel, the increase of power, the increase of housing, we at the department, initially when we do give social assistance we give them the amount they need for fuel; we give them the amount they need for power; we give them the amount they need for rent in public housing. After that we look at the rate for food that they are allowed. The rate for food that they are allowed is certainly not taken off what we pay for their power, what we take off for their rent. I want to make it perfectly clear that the rate that we do give for food -- which I agree is not a good rate -- is a rate that is set with itself and it is meant only for food. It is not a rate that is taken or jeopardized by the increasing rate of fuel for any other expenses that we have to absorb.

Mr. Speaker, I did want to indicate, and I have indicated in the House earlier in this session, that this is an issue that I am trying to deal with. When we had to turn around and look at our priorities, the department, every different department, had their priorities. We had the Transportation department with their strategy; we had Economic Development with their strategy; in order to create jobs so we can get our people off welfare. We have also had other departments that had priorities. In the past two years we have put in over \$20 million in trying to deal with social assistance and increase the amount to alcohol and drugs, increasing our amount in suicide, child sexual abuse, family violence, child day-care; \$20 million over and above the budget that was initially used by the department.

So I believe that in looking at the food basket, when it came to increasing the food rates, it was difficult for me to convince, at the time of another rate increase, which I thought at the time was \$3.3 million. But if I wanted to change the rates which some communities have asked me to change to a different level -- a level IV to a level VI, or level VII to a level IX -- in order to change the level that we were going to disperse our food rates on, and in order to look at the increase of our food rates, we were going to look at an increased amount of \$4.4 million. At the time of restraint I did not get any sympathy. I just had to say, "Juggle your political priorities", which I felt I did, and, "We do not have any money."

I will tell the honourable Members that I will make every effort to try to look and convince my colleagues. I am sure that with the motion that is on the floor today it will strengthen my position and I will certainly make every effort to increase the food allowances in the coming year. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, final argument.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps by pulling together on this very important matter, our ordinary Members can demonstrate that we are working together. Mr. Speaker, I was not alone in researching and preparing this particular motion that is being debated. I am very pleased to be the one who is able to move these recommendations because I strongly believe they will make a constructive difference; a

difference for our government and a difference for our people. I would urge all Members to join with me in voting in favour of this motion this afternoon. A recorded vote, please.

Motion 19-90(2), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. A recorded vote has been called, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Crow, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Gargan.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. All those opposed? All those abstaining, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Butters, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The count for the vote is -- order, please. The count for the vote is 10 in the affirmative, no opposition and four abstentions. The motion is carried.

--Carried

--Applause

Motions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion dealing with authorizing the Speaker to set hours.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the motion that he gave notice of today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Motion 21-90(2): Additional Sitting Days And Hours, Carried

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that the Speaker be authorized to set such additional sitting days and hours as he deems appropriate to conclude the business of the seventh session of the 11th Assembly.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, to the motion.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker. I am ready for the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the seconder of the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I have no comments, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Final argument.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Motions. Item 15, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 18: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1990-91

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1990-91, be read for the first time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Bill 18 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

Second Reading Of Bill 15: Legislative Assembly Building Loan Authorization Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 15, Legislative Assembly Building Loan Authorization Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to authorize the Commissioner to make loans not exceeding \$12 million to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Building Society to finance the construction of a Legislative Assembly building for the Territories.

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 15 has had second reading. Second reading of bills. Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed to second reading of Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1990-91.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 18. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Second Reading Of Bill 18: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1990-91

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1990-91, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to make supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year

ending March 31, 1991.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 18 has had second reading. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bills 8, 16, 15 and 18, with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will come to order. We have four bills, Bills 8, 16, 15 and 18. What is the government's wish? Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, with the concurrence of the committee the government would like to proceed to Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1990-91.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

Bill 18: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1990-91

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1990-91 contains additional appropriation requests totalling \$41,029,000 for operations and maintenance and \$25,215,900 for capital. Offsetting the cost of this additional appropriation authority are: federal funding for the highway transfer; a carry over of capital funding from 1989-90 for those previous year projects we do not finish before the end of March; the federal cost sharing on additional health program expenses; the federal cost sharing and the extension of the Economic Development Agreement; a number of other more minor revenue offsets; and a projected increase in the formula grant based on current statistics.

These funding sources total approximately \$40 million. When this additional revenue is deducted from the supplementary appropriation total, the resulting net cost drops below \$26 million. In the main estimates we established supplementary appropriation reserves of \$23 million. Based on this supplementary request, these reserves will be exceeded by about three million dollars. Our forecast year-end position is impacted by this extra three million dollars supplementary requirement. However, due to the improved 1989-90 year-end result, I am still forecasting a higher accumulated surplus at the end of 1990-91 than I forecast in my February budget speech.

Mr. Chairman, I must point out that the supplementary appropriation for 1990-91 consumes all of the supplementary reserves. As a result, the government must carefully manage its expenditures, and additional supplementary requirements this year must be kept to the absolute minimum. I would like to be able to commit to you that further supplementary appropriations will not be requested. However, with world oil prices rapidly climbing due to the Persian Gulf situation, it

may be necessary to adjust the requirements later in the year.

As I have mentioned, the supplementary appropriation requests exceed the reserves by approximately three million dollars. This is attributable to one main item; Health services. A supplementary request for Health is \$14,722,000.

I think the standing committee on finance received a very thorough briefing by the Minister of Health and her officials that explained some of the structural difficulties that we are facing in the area of health costs, that identified problem areas and identified some possible ways that we can deal with increasing health costs. With that, Mr. Chairman, we are ready to get into the supp. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. The chairman of the standing committee on finance, Mr. Pollard.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on finance has reviewed this supp. It is large and we anticipated it would be. The Minister advised us earlier this year that we would only have certain banking days for the government and that there would be a large supp. We are concerned, sir, that the supp reserves have been used up.

The deficit, to date, has gone up by four million dollars and that is offset by the fact that Mr. Ballantyne's accumulated surplus has gone up by nine million dollars. If there are more supplementary requirements, Mr. Ballantyne has no reserves left to cover those, and I would anticipate that if that happened he would have to go into his accumulated surplus and I think that would be folly, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, it is a long and complicated document. It is probably best dealt with by going line by line, but I would like to point out that -- I do not know whether it is Mrs. Jeannie Marie-Jewell or Mr. Kakwi -- but one of those people, in their capacity as the Personnel Minister, managed to save \$944,000, almost a million dollars, Mr. Chairman, by coming up with a new dental plan for the employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and they are to be congratulated on that. I see that Mr. Kakwi is the only one in the House so obviously it must have happened under his regime. But whomever, the Department of Personnel certainly should be complimented for a savings of some \$944,000 and we will get to that in the supp, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on finance recommends the bill to the House for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. What is the committee's wish? Go line by line? Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK: Mr. Chairman, I was not here. Which bill is it? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): It is Bill 18. We are on page one. Legislative Assembly. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, if the committee will concur, I would like to bring Mr. Voytilla in to the witness table. I will sit with him and questions can be directed at me or individual questions to the Ministers, if that would be acceptable to the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Is that acceptable.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay, Mr. Ballantyne, you can bring in Mr. Voytilla. For the record, would you introduce your witness?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Certainly, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Mr. Lew Voytilla, who is the secretary to the Financial Management Board.

Legislative Assembly, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Page one, Legislative Assembly, operations and maintenance, not previously authorized, \$273,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total department, \$273,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Executive

Ministers' Offices, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Page 2, Executive, Ministers' offices, not previously authorized, \$72,000. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the area of maternity leave "to provide funding for the extraordinary number of individuals on maternity leave, \$29,000" Mr. Chairman. It seems that the Executive is able to do this for themselves, you will see it further on in the supp, Mr. Chairman. Yet health boards, whom this government funds, are not allowed to charge back maternity leave to the departments, whether it is Health or whether it is Education, particularly in Education, I think, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, where you have a large group of people, if you lose one or two, it does not make that much difference, but when you are a small organization and you lose one key person, and you do not have any money to replace that person, I think it becomes very difficult to do your job. I would point out the unequal situation between the Executive, that can just come forward with a supp, and the divisional boards of education out there, who are told that they cannot get money for maternity leave. I will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. If I can answer this, base funding for maternity leave is not something that is included in the normal sense with every department or with every board of the government. However, departments can come forward for supps because of non-controllable increases, so any department or board, if they had a high percentage of people on maternity leave, could, in fact, come forward to be considered for supplementary appropriations. This is an extraordinary case, quite a high percentage of our employees are off on maternity leave, and there was no way for us to be able to fund that high percentage of employees internally. But the same redress is open to departments or to boards. If they can make the point that, because it is much higher than normal and they are not able to absorb it, then the board obviously would consider it in the same light.

Ministers' Offices, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Ministers' offices, not previously authorized, \$72,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Executive Council Secretariat, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Executive Council Secretariat, not previously authorized, \$157,000. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Executive Council Secretariat, the \$157,000 is broken up into five categories. I would like to question the second one itemized "to provide funding for the unplanned Governor General's visit, \$25,000". Are we anticipating that the Governor General will come up North again? The government is requesting \$25,000. Is that the case, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, the costs for the Governor General's visit were quite modest, thanks to the assistance we received from the Department of National Defence with travel and because we had developed a fairly modest program. Mr. Chairman, to answer the Member's question, the Governor General did express an interest to us while he was up here in visiting the eastern part of the NWT. Because he was going to Whitehorse, and because he only had approximately two days up here, it was not possible for him to visit or travel through the eastern part of the Territories, so he confined his visit to the Mackenzie valley, Yellowknife, Inuvik and the Delta, and then went on to Whitehorse.

To answer the Member's question, I believe that he does intend to return to visit the Eastern Arctic at some point in time, but I do not anticipate that that would happen this year. Thank you.

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

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, the Government Leader answered on behalf of the Minister of Finance, so our government is requesting \$25,000 in this supp in anticipation of the Governor General visiting the Territories this year. Am I correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, that is not correct, but I think the point the Member is making is, "Why did we not do a special warrant and why did we come forward for a supp?" I think it is valid point. What we told the Government Leader when he came forward with the request is that we would like to try to fund it internally first. We were not able to, so we are coming forward with a supp. I agree that it is a borderline one. We note the concern and there are less and less of the borderline ones, you will notice, as the years go by. I think it is a valid point and it is something that I think we are getting better at in making that distinction, but as the honourable Member knows, no matter how we do it -- when we do a special warrant we should have done a supp, and vice versa. I think generally good judgment is shown.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to belabour this particular item, but what I have to say is that our government put certain rules in the Financial Administration Act so that when the House is not sitting you guys authorize the expenditure and then bring it forward to us in a supp under

special warrants. You made those rules, but you are not adhering to the rules.

What I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that we were not sitting when the Governor General came to the Territories. I do not have a problem with this \$25,000. It is just the principle of it, that you should have followed the rules that are in place. What does it take? It does not take that much to get a special warrant for \$25,000 from the Executive. I just wanted to make that point, Mr. Chairman, so that when my other colleagues on the public accounts committee read the transcripts maybe they will question special warrants.

Executive Council Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Executive Council Secretariat, not previously authorized, \$157,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, not previously authorized, \$183,000. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the previous item, the \$45,000 for the land claims implementation co-ordinator, plus this \$183,000 under aboriginal rights and constitutional development, I wonder how this can possibly be justified as a supp. From what I can make out, this is a completely new program that was just sort of hatched some time during the summer, and now we have to pay for it in the fall.

It seems to me that whenever you are going to take big initiatives, as this one seems to be, then I would have thought that you would have planned it and explained it to the House, and not have just simply gone ahead with it in the summertime, spend the money and then ask us to rubber-stamp it. I just wonder whether this is the kind of thing that supps should be used for. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I will let Mr. Kakfwi talk about the specifics of this type of expenditure, but yes, this is exactly what supps should be used for. There is a very good rationale as to the timing and as to the process and as to the reason why we decided to move in this direction. Mr. Kakfwi will get into that. What we are doing is coming in front of the House now asking for appropriation authority to continue, and we have to make the point that this is worthwhile, so this is exactly what a supp is for. Because certain events had not jelled at the time we prepared the budget -- they jelled over the course of the spring and the summer with land claims, with progress on devolution and implementation -- it became very apparent to us that we had to have a very co-ordinated approach to deal with this. I think I will leave it to my colleague, Mr. Kakfwi, to explain the thinking and the process that was involved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Kakfwi.

Development Of Community Awareness Re Self-Government

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, in the area of self-government initiatives, if the Members will remember, a lot of

this responsibility had been placed in the realm of the Constitutional Alliance as a place where this type of discussion would take place. As Members will recall, this sort of terminated as a process last October. Since then, there has been some discussion about who will fund which type of process between ourselves and the feds. The feds have always said that they would fund the self-government initiatives at the community level; and we had agreed to fund the Constitutional Alliance process. Since the alliance fell apart we did not have any direct hand in the self-government initiatives as far as the communities were concerned. In discussion with Members of the cabinet in the spring, it was felt that it was very important for us as a government to do what we can to develop some scenarios for communities to see what, in real terms, we could talk about as far as self-government was concerned.

Instead of leaving it for the speech-makers and the people with the rhetoric, we thought we should find a place where we could engage in some real discussions with some real communities about some real initiatives in the area of community self-government.

The problem previously was that the Dene Nation and the Metis Association were the people that had the mandate to represent the communities, and so we could not speak to even the regions unless we spoke first to the Dene Nation and Metis Association. However, some years ago the territorial government signed agreements with two communities in the valley, Fort Good Hope back in the early 1980s and Fort Resolution, about helping them develop along the lines of their own forms of self-government. As a cabinet we decided to pick up on this initiative since it seemed that the whole claims process itself was starting to falter and come apart at the seams in the early part of the summer.

We felt it was important to make communities aware that some real things could be done and some initiatives could be taken, even if it was in mid-year. That was the basic thinking behind this initiative and why it took place this late in the year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development. Mr. Lewis.

New Initiatives Should Be Discussed In Assembly

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Ballantyne and Mr. Kakfwi always speak with conviction that what they are doing is not out of the ordinary, that there is a problem here and we have to get on with it. Although it is probably one of the major issues of our time, how we deal with the constitutional development -- and the Minister has so often said how frustrated he is because things have to get moving -- it seems to me that instead of bringing a book in which has all kinds of provisions like this to pay for decisions that have already been made on self-government, on land claims implementation, that that is something that you get direction on from this House, from the Assembly.

This seems to me to be very much a case of the government just deciding "This is what we want to do, whether you agree with us it does not matter, we are going to go this way, we have made up our minds."

Perhaps what Mr. Kakfwi is saying is that this House has not given him direction, so since you are not interested in it and you do not seem to think it is as important an issue as I do, then we are going to do it anyway. It seems to me that begs the question. If it is one of the big issues of the day, then the government should be bringing it into this House and saying "Look, you have to deal with this issue, this is what we want to do and this is the direction we want to go in." It seems to

me that by putting it in a supp like this, you have already made up your mind, as a major policy issue, of the direction you want to go for these major issues that confront us in constitutional development, now that the Constitutional Alliance is dead and the two forums are gone.

Despite Mr. Ballantyne's wonderful way of saying "Well, this is always the way we do business, this is not unusual, this is what supps are all about."; I happen to know that it is not what supps are all about, Mr. Chairman. Supps are really to look after those unforeseen things which you cannot predict very well, and which you really have to provide funding for. This is a completely new initiative, a major one, and it does not bode well for the future of government if major things like this are suddenly done in the summer when this House is not sitting, and then it comes in as a supp in the fall for us to deal with. I am not happy with dealing with this kind of problem in this fashion, even though I agree that the issue that is being dealt with here is one that we should be dealing with. It should be dealt with in this chamber, not in the Executive Council.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, I just want to add that the agreements that this government signed with the two communities that we are dealing with, have been in place for a long time. I think the agreements with Fort Good Hope and Fort Resolution were signed in the early 1980s, as well as the recognition that we have to meet the self-government needs of the communities in the Beaufort/Delta communities. They had signed their agreement in the mid-1980s with the understanding that, as a government, we would do what we can to meet their self-government initiatives and it just seemed timely to move on those old commitments now. I will not argue with the Member on the other points that he raised but I think it is important to recognize that we did not create these initiatives, we are just activating old initiatives based on ones that have been in place for a long time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. A total of \$183,000. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I agree with what Mr. Lewis is saying about the moneys that are being spent with regard to self-government. It seems like the direction that we are taking is a position of defence. Most of the Ministers will do that, most Members will do that, and most communities will do that. Because you really do not have a forum to discuss the types of government that should be established here. It is always the position of the government that we have this, this is what we have. What the Minister is referring to are two charter communities, Fort Good Hope and Fort Resolution. Even in those charter communities there are other prime bodies -- I know when John T'Seleie was a Member for the Sahtu area they used to have controversies over education issues, and some other groups. The difficulties are still there.

A new initiative that is taken by the federal government now, with regard to the Meech Lake Accord, is to get an independent body to look at which direction the country should be taking. The politicians are not going to be part of that body but they have invited different groups, including aboriginal organizations. I think this government should take those kinds of initiatives too. It is fine to hire people from the Yukon and other parts of the country to tell us what direction this government should be taking with regard to self-government, but I think it is time that we looked at going to the communities and telling them what their positions are with regard to those issues.

It has to be resolved now. There is an agreement now between TFN and this government with regard to Nunavut --

a five-year phase which if there is not any process in place or any position by this government then there will be the option of the creation of Nunavut. That concerns me, because if that happens and the West does not have a position then it will put the Western Arctic at a disadvantage since there is not an agreement for the same type of recognition as for Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to bring that concern up because I believe that in the Western Arctic we might be in the position of further disadvantage if we continue to have this government, and the direction that they are taking with regard to what they feel their vision of community government or self-government is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. A total of \$182,000. Mr. Lewis.

Motion That \$45,000 And \$175,000 Not Be Approved

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we do not approve the amount of \$45,000 for a land claims implementation co-ordinator or for the \$175,000 for community self-government initiatives.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Could we have a copy of that motion? Before I rule on the motion I would like to take 15 minutes so it can be translated.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come back to order. Mr. Lewis.

Motion That \$45,000 And \$175,000 Not Be Approved, Withdrawn

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that my motion has two parts to it so I would like to withdraw it and split the motion into two parts.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Proceed, Mr. Lewis.

Motion To Delete \$45,000 For Hiring Of Land Claims Co-ordinator

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I move that the amount of \$45,000, under the item Executive Council Secretariat, to provide funding for the hiring of a land claims implementation co-ordinator, be deleted from the detail of the 1990-91 supplementary estimates, No. 1.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, when we went through each of these items in the standing committee on finance, items that Members had some difficulty with were noted and this was one of the items that was noted that we said we would have questions about in the House. Having listened to the various arguments as to why this kind of funding should be provided through a supp, it seems to me that what happened is that the government had taken an initiative which set it off in a certain direction, I suppose, perhaps, in frustration because there had been so little co-ordination following the collapse of the various alliances for constitutional development.

For that reason, since it is a major initiative, I really believe that the position of the government should be coming forward in this Assembly and not to the standing committee on finance. Mr. Kakfwi made a presentation to us which was a major presentation on the way this government is going to organize itself to deal with this problem. It seems to me that this kind of information should come forward to this House, not to just one of his committees. It is for that reason that I

am suggesting that this be deleted because once it is in, it then becomes a program of government that will just build from then. I felt that having listened to other Members comment on this that I would bring it forward; not necessarily to reflect all of the views of the standing committee on finance but at least to raise it because it was one of the issues that caused the committee concern, that this kind of item should come forward in a supp.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. To the motion. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the motion to delete \$45,000, as indicated in the books, is being moved, I think, for misinformed reasons. What this money is being requested for and why it resulted, is because a recent audit report which was done on the Inuvialuit final agreement implementation program has identified that there is a need for a dedicated financial co-ordinator for final claims agreements, because as we enter into funding agreements on claims implementation with the federal government, it is important to make sure that these are properly administered. Otherwise, we find ourselves in situations where funds that are available from the federal government for the implementation of claims are withheld because we are not properly administering these agreements.

The position of the financial co-ordinator is required, we believe, on a term basis up until March 31, 1993, over the next three years, to negotiate the agreements and to set up the systems to administer the agreements of the TFN, and the Dene/Metis as well. This is not a major new initiative. It is finding that there are hiccups in the Inuvialuit final agreement identified by the audit report and so we are simply organizing to better administer what we are committed to doing anyway. Also, to get ourselves ready and to help the TFN and the Dene/Metis and ourselves to better administer their final agreements when they come into place. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Through you then, Mr. Chairman, could I find out when this audit recommendation was made, that the government hire a co-ordinator. What was the date of that recommendation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, I do not have the specific date when this came in, but it was done just in the last couple of months.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, as Members will remember, during the winter session a motion was passed to make a reduction in the civil service, and I believe the motion was for \$1.5 million or something to that effect. If the government had followed up on that motion, perhaps there would not be the necessity to find actual dollars for a co-ordinator. I would have thought, Mr. Chairman, that we would have saved money and person years to hire a co-ordinator rather than using an appropriation. I support Mr. Lewis. Even though this section of the supp is deleted, the government will still be able to find moneys from person years that are frozen, or have not been used.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Delete \$45,000 For Hiring Of Land Claims Co-ordinator, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Page 4, Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, not previously authorized, \$183,000. Mr. Lewis.

Motion To Delete \$175,000 For Self-Government Co-ordinator Position

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since ordinary Members are supposed to be a watchdog on government, I would like to move this motion: I move that the amount of \$175,000 under aboriginal rights and constitutional development, to provide funding for ARCD to fund the 1990-91 partial year costs associated with the establishment of a self-government co-ordinator position, additional travel costs associated with the community self-government initiatives and contract funding relative to the issue of division, be deleted from the detail of the 1990-91 supplementary estimates No. 1.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: It is the same type of issue that I raised previously, Mr. Chairman -- without having brought that issue to the Assembly. It seems such an important one that it was, in my opinion anyway, and perhaps some other Members of the committee, not an appropriate thing to bring forward as a supplementary estimate. It is for that reason that I have introduced the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. To the motion. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the explanation that I have received from the Minister involved a lot of figures. For example, I recall that part of the \$175,000 was a figure of \$25,000 which the Minister was saying that, because of article IV of the TFN agreement, we had no choice but to put into ARCD. If we have an agreement that we have to adhere to I cannot see not putting money toward it, because we already made an agreement that we are going to do something in this area. Because that forms part of the \$175,000, I will not be able to support this motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it possible to have the Minister explain how this money is going to be spent? Is this to address the self-government issue at the community level as well in the Western Arctic, such as Fort Resolution and Fort Good Hope? It would make it easier to vote if you understand how the money is being spent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the \$175,000 is to cover the cost for us hiring a self-government co-ordinator and there is about \$93,000 set aside for that. We also have additional travel costs associated with the community self-government initiatives which we estimate to be about \$57,000. Then there is a contract that we estimate to be about \$25,000 which is required to meet our obligations under the TFN final agreement to meet the commitments that we made this spring to the TFN to set up a process for the possible creation of Nunavut. That is the \$25,000.

All of the claimant groups, the Inuvialuit, the Dene/Metis and the TFN require our help in negotiating frameworks for possible approaches to developing community self-government and this is what that self-government co-ordinator position is intended to do.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Kakfwi just mentioned that all of the claimant groups need this government's help to implement a form of self-government. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not this help was requested?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are on record as supporting the settlement of claims, and have been for years. We are also on record as supporting the right of self-government of aboriginal people. We have demonstrated these positions through a number of commitments over the years. As I have said earlier, there are specific commitments that we have made. One, we have committed to the TFN final agreement to come up with ways to support and develop a process to work toward the creation of Nunavut. In the talks that we have had with the Dene/Metis, they have always requested our support to work toward coming to self-government. The Inuvialuit specifically have put this request to us a number of times and this is our response to it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

Consultation With Legislative Assembly Required

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see in this initiative of the government something that I am very familiar with. When all things fail, when all attempts to solve a problem fail in rational ways by setting up the western forum, the eastern forum, and the Constitutional Alliance, you just simply hire yourself some very expensive help to tell you how to solve your problem. This to me represents an attempt to ram through a program without any consultation with this Assembly, which you think is going to solve the problem and get the government in the driver's seat to push it the way you want to push it. I have no objection to that but you take your direction from this Assembly. It is not just eight people in one room deciding how you are going to direct the NWT. That comes from the Assembly. It seems to me that these initiatives here are something that you just decided to put together in order to achieve a purpose when perhaps there should be further consultation with your colleagues in this chamber. That is the only point I am trying to make; that it seems to me here that you have made some major decisions which are not just simple policy decisions. They are a matter of the future direction of the NWT.

None of us have any problems with the issues that you are raising here. But we really do not know which way you are going. All we know is that you put money in here to start something and really the rest of us do not have much idea about what that plan is. It is for that reason that I am questioning that you bring forward money like this in a supp, which should be brought forward in a much more clear and concise fashion so that the rest of us could look at it. As you say, it has been plaguing us for 10 years and we cannot just push it through in the summer months and have the Assembly rubber-stamp it in the fall. That is all I am trying to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Delete \$175,000 For Self-Government Co-ordinator Position, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

The hour being 6:30 p.m. I will now rise and report progress.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 8, 16, 15 and 18 and wishes to report progress.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 21, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings for Friday, November 2nd: ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Friday, November 2nd.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion
13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bills 8, 15, 16 and 18
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 Friday, November 2nd, 1990, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT