



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**8th Session**

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**HANSARD**

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**DAY 5**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1991**

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

## Speaker

The Hon. Richard Nerysoo  
Fort McPherson, N.W.T.  
X0E 0J0  
(403) 873-7629 (Office)  
(403) 873-5788 (Home) (Yellowknife)  
(403) 979-2668 (Home) (Inuvik)  
(Mackenzie Delta)

Allooloo, The Hon. Titus, M.L.A.  
5024 - 57th Street  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 1Y6  
(403) 873-7113 (Office)  
(403) 873-4813 (Home)  
(Armittuq)  
Minister of Culture & Communications  
and Renewable Resources

Arlooktoo, Mr. Joe, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.  
X0A 0N0  
(819) 939-2278 (Office)  
(819) 939-2363 (Home)  
(Baffin South)

Ballantyne, The Hon. Michael, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9  
(403) 873-7658 (Office)  
(403) 920-2963 (Home)  
(Yellowknife North)  
Government House Leader  
Minister of Finance and Justice

Butters, The Hon. Tom, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1069  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
X0E 0T0  
(403) 979-2373 (Office)  
(403) 979-2373 (Home)  
(Inuvik)  
Minister of Municipal & Community  
Affairs, Government Services and  
NWT Housing Corporation

Cournoyeva, The Hon. Nellie, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1184  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
X0E 0T0  
(403) 873-7128 (Office)  
(403) 977-2405 (Tuktoyaktuk)  
(403) 979-2737 (Inuvik)  
(Nunakput)  
Minister of Health, Energy, Mines &  
Petroleum Resources, Public Works and  
NWT Power Corporation

Crow, Mr. Charlie, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.  
X0A 0W0  
(819) 266-8940 (Home)  
(Hudson Bay)

Ernerk, Mr. Peter, M.L.A.  
Box 182  
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.  
X0C 0G0  
(819) 645-2800  
(819) 645-2500  
(Aivilik)

Gargan, Mr. Samuel, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Fort Providence, N.W.T.  
X0E 0L0  
(403) 873-7999 (Office)  
(403) 874-3230 (Hay River)  
(403) 699-3171 (Home)  
(Deh Cho)  
Deputy Speaker and Chairman, Committee  
of the Whole

Kakfwi, The Hon. Stephen, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9  
(403) 873-7139 (Office)  
(403) 873-8215 (Home)  
(Sahtu)  
Deputy Government Leader  
Minister of Education and Personnel

Kilabuk, Mr. Ipeelee, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Pangnirtung, N.W.T.  
X0A 0R0  
(819) 437-8827 (Home)  
(Baffin Central)

Lewis, Mr. Brian, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9  
(403) 873-7999 (Office)  
(403) 873-5549 (Home)  
(Yellowknife Centre)

Marie-Jewell, The Hon. Jeannie, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1051  
Fort Smith, N.W.T.  
X0E 0P0  
(403) 873-7959 (Office)  
(403) 872-2940 (Home)  
(Slave River)  
Minister of Social Services and Safety &  
Public Services

McLaughlin, Mr. Bruce, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9  
(403) 873-7999 (Office)  
(403) 873-6220 (Home)  
(403) 874-2884 (Hay River)

Morin, Mr. Don, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Fort Resolution, N.W.T.  
X0E 0M0  
(403) 394-3471  
(Tu Nede)

Ningark, Mr. John, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Pelly Bay, N.W.T.  
X0E 1K0  
(403) 769-6703  
(Natilikmiot)

Patterson, The Hon. Dennis, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 310  
Iqaluit, N.W.T.  
X0A 0H0  
(403) 873-7112 (Office)  
(819) 979-5993 (Office)  
(403) 873-2802 (Home)  
(Iqaluit)  
Government Leader,  
Chairman of Executive Council,  
Minister of Executive

Pedersen, Mr. Red, M.L.A.  
General Delivery  
Coppermine, N.W.T.  
X0E 0E0  
(403) 982-5788 (Coppermine)  
(Kitikmeot West)

Pollard, Mr. John D., M.L.A.  
Box 1095  
Hay River, N.W.T.  
X0E 0R0  
(403) 874-2345 (Office)  
(403) 874-2600 (Home)  
(Hay River)

Pudluk, Mr. Ludy, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 240  
Resolute Bay, N.W.T.  
X0A 0V0  
(819) 439-8898 (Arctic Bay)  
(819) 252-3719 (Home)  
(High Arctic)  
Deputy Chairman,  
Committee of the Whole

Sibbeston, Mr. Nick, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 560  
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.  
X0E 0N0  
(403) 695-2452 (Fort Simpson)  
(403) 873-6215 (Home)  
(Nahendeh)

Whifford, Mr. Tony, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 2772  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2R1  
(403) 920-8010 (Office)  
(403) 873-5328 (Home)  
(Yellowknife South)

Wray, The Hon. Gordon, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 35  
Baker Lake, N.W.T.  
X0C 0A0  
(403) 873-7962 (Office)  
(819) 793-2700 (Baker Lake)  
(Kivallivik)  
Minister of Transportation and Economic  
Development & Tourism

Zoe, Mr. Henry, M.L.A.  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9  
(403) 873-7999 (Office)  
(403) 873-4136 (Home)  
(Rae - Lac la Martre)  
Deputy Chairman,  
Committee of the Whole

## Officers

Clerk  
Mr. David Hamilton  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Clerk Assistant  
Ms Rhoda Perkison  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Law Clerk  
Mr. Don Cooper, Q.C.  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Editor of Hansard  
Ms Marie J. Coe  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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Mr. Harry Finnis, B.E.M., C.D.  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1991

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo):** Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 19, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

## ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

**Ministers' Statement 4-91(1): Newspaper Article Correction Re Divisional Boards of Education**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Mr. Speaker, there was a front page story in News North yesterday based on the statement I made last week about payment schedules for contribution agreements with divisional boards of education. Unfortunately, the story was not accurate and has created confusion. The News North story said I announced that funding for education boards will no longer be made in advance of their needs. It left the impression that the boards would immediately begin to receive their money on a monthly, rather than a quarterly basis.

Mr. Speaker, my statement noted that the Financial Management Board, and I want to emphasize this, has postponed any such changes for education boards until April 1 of 1992. I further explained that the delay would allow us time to complete an assessment of how a changed payment schedule would affect such boards financially. It would also allow the government time for adequate consultation with the affected parties before any changes are made.

Mr. Speaker, News North has been informed of the inaccuracy of its report and, hopefully, will set the record straight in its next edition. It is probably too much to hope that it is on the front page where the story was, but we can hope that a miracle will happen.

Members of this Legislature can also help to end any confusion by reflecting our government's position, should they be approached by the directors or members of the various boards located throughout the Northwest Territories. Simply stated, quarterly payments will continue to be made to education boards. We are not going to make any changes until April 1 of next year, which will allow time to complete the assessment and to consult with the boards. Thank you.

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

**Ministers' Statement 5-91(1): Expansion Of Staffing Appeals Rights**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, in April of 1990 an agreement was reached with the Union of Northern Workers to re-establish the staffing appeals process. A total of 81 appeals have been heard since April of 1990. Nine of these were withdrawn, 25 were upheld, 41 were denied and six are still at the appeal committee stage. Twenty-four of these appeals were carried over from last year. The re-establishment of the appeals process has not only resulted in

a productive dialogue with the union, but it has allowed all employees to receive an impartial hearing if they feel they have not been treated fairly in the competition process.

Building on this successful initiative, I am pleased to announce that effective February 4th of this year, the approved amendments to the appeal regulations have resulted in the expansion of the staffing appeals process to include non-employees who are members of affirmative action designated groups. This will provide those persons with appeal rights only afforded previously to employees.

An appeal rights brochure has been developed and is now being provided to affected residents as part of the communication process, to ensure residents are aware of their entitlements. The wording in all our newspaper advertising has been changed to include a statement that "Candidates must identify their eligibility in order to receive priority consideration under the affirmative action policy." Unsuccessful candidates who have appeal rights will also be contacted by telephone or letter with specific information on the name of the successful candidate and when, where and how an appeal may be made.

To ensure that chairpersons and management delegates on appeal committees are capable of fulfilling their new responsibilities, regional training courses will be conducted utilizing a standard package of training materials.

It is expected that the expansion of the staffing appeals process will increase the number of appeals. However, I am convinced that we have taken positive steps toward removing systemic barriers to employment in the public service of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**Ministers' Statement 6-91(1): Update On AIDS Program**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to provide the honourable Members with an update on the Northwest Territories AIDS program. HIV infection remains a serious health problem. To date, 11 individuals with HIV have been reported in the Northwest Territories. This includes six non-native and five aboriginal persons, ranging in age from 20 to the mid-40s. HIV has been found in both males and females in the Northwest Territories; some have been sexually active in homosexual relationships and others in heterosexual relationships.

Although treatment for infected persons has improved there is still no cure for the disease, and prevention remains the only answer. As I have previously advised Members of this House, the World Health Organization estimates that for every confirmed case of AIDS there are probably anywhere from 10 to 100 other persons infected.

Many countries and various jurisdictions within Canada, including the Northwest Territories, have been conducting unlinked anonymous surveillance testing as an attempt to estimate how many unreported infections are in the

population. This testing is done by using blood samples collected for other reasons, removing all identifiers and testing for HIV. The information obtained will help to focus prevention and treatment programs and will also help in the development of a strategy for handling HIV in the communities and throughout the Northwest Territories.

Testing in the NWT has commenced and is expected to be completed by late spring of 1991. Early results indicate some unreported HIV infections; however the extent of infection in the NWT cannot be estimated until all testing has been completed.

The department continues to maintain strict confidentiality of patient information regarding all conditions, including HIV infection. To date, as I am sure you would expect, most HIV patients have acted responsibly. One infected person has come forward to talk publicly about the personal tragedy of this illness and the threat it presents to NWT residents.

The department continues to carry out promotional efforts to educate persons about HIV and AIDS. The "Health is a Community Affair" campaign, launched last year, was successfully concluded in June 1990. Sixty-five local canvassers distributed to households outside Yellowknife some 18,000 educational packages which included information about AIDS. Similar information was publicly presented in Yellowknife malls. News of this unconventional campaign is spreading rapidly and several other jurisdictions in North America are developing campaigns based on this precedent.

Mr. Speaker, during the past four years the federal government has contributed approximately \$1.5 million to establish an NWT AIDS education program and these funds terminate in March 1991. The Department of Health will, however, continue the NWT AIDS education program in conjunction with hospital and health boards. Health staff in the regions, supported by headquarters staff, will give information and assistance to clients and the public on how to prevent HIV infections. Care will be provided to other individuals requiring drugs and medical and nursing support.

To date the average cost of care for each client, exclusive of transportation, has been \$18,500 with costs over \$60,000 in one case. As more cases develop, the health system will be placed under greater financial and human strain as the Department of Health attempts to meet the needs of these ill people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members of this Assembly to encourage their constituents to become informed about HIV infection and to take an active stand on preventing the spread of AIDS in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Baffin South.

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On Housing For Lake Harbour

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to thank the government with regard to Cape Dorset. Cape Dorset has been assisted by this government in a very good way so far, and I am very happy about that because Cape Dorset has been given some programs.

But I would also like to mention something that I am very unhappy about. The Housing Corporation has forgotten about the community of Lake Harbour. When I look at the 1991-92 capital money, there is no housing allocated and that is the

only community in the Baffin Region that has not got any housing allocated. There are people that are growing in that community as well as any other community. I am not very happy about this and I would like to have the housing report changed because Lake Harbour people have been requesting additional housing from the Housing Corporation for quite some time. In the 1991-92 budget there is no allocation for new housing for Lake Harbour and I am very unhappy about that. I would like to have some changes made so Lake Harbour can get some more housing. We are not asking for very much housing. It is not very nice to see that there are 12 communities in the Baffin Region and 11 communities will be getting new housing, but the only place that is not going to get new housing is Lake Harbour. Whose fault is this?

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

#### Member's Statement On Protection Of The Environment

**MR. PUDLUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to make a comment in regard to the protection of the environment in the Northwest Territories, especially in regard to the Baffin islands, because there have been camps abandoned by the companies and things such as oil drums left that are empty and some that still have oil in them. This business of protecting our environment is very important and those abandoned barrels and other pollutants with oil up there is spilling all over these islands. Some of them are going into the ocean and some are going into the lakes.

I think there has to be a clean-up done before the Eastern Arctic gets Nunavut, because I do not think it would be very good for us people to have Nunavut and then have to clean up after those companies. Before the final agreement is signed, I feel that those companies that abandoned those sites should go and clean it up. We would not want the environment to be damaged before we have our final agreement. We all know where they are because we have found them before. I feel that whomever left those abandoned sites should be able to go and clean it up. They should not forget about it. The people that live up there are very concerned especially as it is going to damage the environment very quickly once it starts spilling. Perhaps the federal government can assist in cleaning up those environmental hazards and they should be helping us to clean up the environment right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My time is up.

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

#### Member's Statement On Heavy Legislative Schedule For Eighth Session

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Commissioner's Opening Address, reference is made to 44 bills that the government will introduce in this session. There are also three new bills which the government intends to send to the standing committee on legislation and there is a Private Member's Bill on access to information. This will be the last budget session of the 11th Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and this Assembly will want to leave the government finances in good shape and to give the 1991-92 budget, the final one of this Assembly, the attention it deserves. It would also want to honour the government's commitment made in the Commissioner's Address to deal in a forthright and responsible manner with the legislation that it proposes.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the very heavy workload we have before us in this session. It may not be possible to get the work done in the time frame we have allowed ourselves, and I would like Members not to rule out

the possibility of another session before we go to the people in the next election. In fact, Mr. Speaker, at a later date, if appropriate, I will introduce a motion into this Assembly to that effect. Unlike past summers, Mr. Speaker, when we knew that we would meet the government again in the fall, when we leave here in April it may be that we will be saying goodbye to each other and there will no longer be accountability of this government for as much as six months.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I think that we should think very carefully about this very heavy agenda that the government has proposed so that we would deal with it in a fashion that really does justice to the kind of work that has gone into it, and that we do not, in fact, rush to get this stuff done by a very, very arbitrary deadline, and we should be open to the possibility of making sure that this government is accountable to the people sometime before next fall. Thank you.

--Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Lack Of Resources For Aboriginal Organizations**

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During this the 11th Assembly I, and a number of other MLAs, have made an issue of the government's expenditure in the zero-based budgeting. One of the largest expenditures is the operation of the bureaucracy which takes a major portion of the budget. One of my objectives during this Assembly has been to introduce a motion to reduce the number of person years in the bureaucracy. Compared with other provinces and territory, this government spends the largest percentage of its budget on wages and salaries.

The Minister of Finance has had a good record of healthy budgets throughout his term and I commend him for this; however it is my opinion the expenditures are still in the wrong places. During the last four years we have made it an issue to ensure a balanced budget, and have continuously reminded the government of this. During the last budget session I introduced a motion to reduce the number of person years. Unfortunately, this has not happened. In fact, there has been a further growth in the bureaucracy. As a result, the communities have not benefited from these balanced budgets.

One of the main issues in the Throne Speech was political and constitutional development. Although we need to address these issues, I feel that it is much too late to do it properly unless we ensure that the necessary resources are available to the regions, communities and native organizations. It is my opinion that the emphasis on political and constitutional development is a way of evading the real issues. The government has chosen to minimize grants and contributions to regional and tribal councils. For instance, the government has refused to provide salaries for chiefs. The government's lack of commitment to providing resources for aboriginal organizations to develop political positions on constitutional development is another example.

In limiting these resources, Mr. Speaker, the government has restricted those organizations from participating fully in the political and constitutional development of the North. The government has taken the initiative of creating a committee to do a base review of the government. This is a noble gesture...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Sorry, your time has expired. Prior to proceeding, I wish to draw the attention of honourable Members to the president of Tungavik Federation, the board of directors and also a former Member of the Legislative

Assembly, Mark Evaluarjuk.

--Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

#### **Member's Statement On Establishing A Quota On Bowhead Whales**

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps this is not really directed to the people in this House. The aboriginal people are still using their traditions and cultures because we are the people who are the best in the Territories. We really like our traditional country food. There are very few elders left. When they were young they used to eat marine mammals, for example, bowhead whales. Since I have been around they have not been eating bowhead whales and I know that they still miss eating them. We have been informed that there are hardly any bowhead whales and we are not allowed to hunt them any more. I know there are still a lot of elders in the NWT who want to eat bowhead whales.

Perhaps all of the communities that are situated on the coast should be inspected to find out how many communities want to support having a bowhead quota in the NWT. Perhaps we should investigate this and if we find out we should negotiate with the federal government to see if we could get a quota for the bowhead whales. I would like to see the elders get their wish before they pass away and I would urge this government to support the aboriginal people. We have been waiting for this to happen for a long time. Mr. Speaker, I would urge the government to consider doing this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement On Maintenance At Leo Ussak School, Rankin Inlet**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Leo Ussak School in Rankin Inlet was closed. The reason for that is because there were a lot of fumes coming out of the heating ventilation so that is why the school was closed. This is the second time this has happened in Rankin Inlet this year.

Mr. Speaker, our children in our community attend this school. That is a very big concern to me because I support that they get a proper education. It is good to have a good education, it is good for your future. Mr. Speaker, at an appropriate time I will be asking questions to the Minister responsible for DPW regarding the Leo Ussak School in Rankin Inlet and whether the school there is maintained properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement On Alternatives To Transporting Groceries By Air**

**MR. NINGARK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have brought inflation up a few times in the past, especially on groceries. The only time we get supplies is by air and I have been asking if we could get a ship. This has been considered by Economic Development and the Minister of Transportation; he was talking about building a winter road from Repulse Bay to Pelly Bay. The MLA from Aivilik is aware of this because the community of Pelly Bay is my home town. I would support a survey to see if we could get a ship, but as the government we have to find out and we have to look at the budget that we are going to be spending. Which is going to be the cheaper, if we can build a road from Repulse Bay

to Pelly Bay or from Pelly Bay to Spence Bay and which is closer? I would like the government to try and find out which would be cheaper because as an MLA we have to assist the other Members or the Ministers. I do not want to say I will be supporting the building of a winter road at first from Repulse Bay to Pelly Bay, but if there is no other recourse, I will be supporting it. I will be looking at how much money we are going to be spending to build a winter road from Repulse Bay to Pelly Bay. I will be in support of building our winter road, looking at Pelly Bay, Spence Bay and Repulse Bay.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members' statements.

Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

#### ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Return To Question O5-91(1): Transmittal Of Employment Opportunities After Closing Date

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, this is in response to a question asked by Mr. Gargan on February 14, with regard to competition posters. I have investigated the competitions identified and it appears that there has been a breakdown in the circulation of our competition posters since the splitting of the area office in Fort Simpson from the Fort Smith Region. Unfortunately, due to a lack of communication, copies of competition posters are not being sent to Fort Providence by either Fort Smith or Fort Simpson.

Competition posters are, however, not the only means by which employment opportunities are made known to residents of the North. All GNWT employee opportunities are advertised in all northern newspapers. This wide advertising complements the competition posters and allows ample opportunity for those wishing to submit an application for consideration on a competition.

In order to ensure that no resident is denied an opportunity to apply on a competition, immediate steps have been taken to rectify the problem. Competition posters will be faxed to Fort Providence from the Fort Simpson area office on a timely basis.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

#### ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question O46-91(1): GNWT Funding Allocation For Expo '92, Seville, Spain

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In the budget that he presented yesterday, I could not find in his speech any reference to the Northwest Territories participation in Seville, Spain. I would like to ask the Minister, is there anything in our government's budget for 1991-92 pertaining to that particular event?

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

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I took the question as notice, I think the day before yesterday, and I am getting the information and will make the information available to the Member. Thank you.

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

##### Question O47-91(1): TV Satellite Dish For Yellowknife Correctional Centre

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Social Services, under whose department the Yellowknife Correctional Centre falls. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that there is a possibility there is going to be a TV satellite dish installed at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. I would like to ask the Minister if she could confirm whether or not the centre is looking at installing a TV satellite dish at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre.

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

##### Return To Question O47-91(1): TV Satellite Dish For Yellowknife Correctional Centre

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue was brought to my attention some time ago and I can assure the Member that if there was an intention to install a satellite dish at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, they were directed to cease all such intentions. As far as I know, and I have directed the department, not to place a satellite dish on the YCC site. Thank you.

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

##### Question O48-91(1): Fumes Forcing Closure Of Leo Ussak School, Rankin Inlet

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. As I mentioned in my Member's statement, Mr. Speaker, Leo Ussak School was closed yesterday due to fumes coming out of the air conditioning system. This is the second time this year that the school has been closed down, and it is apparently open today. Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Public Works. What is your department doing to solve this problem once and for all?

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

##### Return To Question O48-91(1): Fumes Forcing Closure Of Leo Ussak School, Rankin Inlet

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, when the complaint was first received we sent in a crew to Rankin Inlet, at which time they did change the configuration of the air intake and its proximity to the exhaust. Presently there are people working there today, and yesterday, to investigate the one section of the school. Apparently the measures that were taken earlier corrected much of the situation; however, there are two classrooms and it appears to be related to adjusting the air flow. It would appear that because of the way that the schools are built for energy efficiency we rely on an air circulation system, unlike a number of years ago.

At this moment we have workmen in there to try to correct that situation and monitor it to see if we can get the final part of the school operating in the same manner as the majority area. I do not know whether I can say that once and for all it will be corrected; however, there is a crew in there doing that work and trying to fix the system so that the fresh air circulation would be adequate. Once they have completed their work I can bring a report, but I would like to advise the Member that the people are presently in there trying to do that work. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Oral questions. The honourable



Member for Tu Nede.

**Question O49-91(1): Funding In Budget For Fuel Subsidy Program For Elders**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Minister, I had an opportunity to quickly look through the budget and I fail to see in the budget anything referring to a fuel subsidy program for elders. There is a wood subsidy program for elders in the Western Arctic but there is no fuel subsidy program for elders in the Eastern Arctic or those in the West that burn fuel. Did I miss it in the budget? Members did pass that motion at the last sitting, for that type of program. So did I miss finding it in there?

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

**Return To Question O49-91(1): Funding In Budget For Fuel Subsidy Program For Elders**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently in the process of developing a fuel subsidy program, but in respect to whether it is in my budget or not I would ask the Member to bear with me until I present my budget to this House. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O49-91(1): Funding In Budget For Fuel Subsidy Program For Elders**

**MR. MORIN:** Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Madam Minister, I know in the past in this House that we have passed no less than three motions for Metis health care benefits and we seem to have got some movement on it after the third motion. Do we have to pass two more motions very quickly to get any movement on the fuel subsidy program?

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

**Further Return To Question O49-91(1): Funding In Budget For Fuel Subsidy Program For Elders**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope not. I am generally fairly sensitive to Members' concerns. Thank you.

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

**Question O50-91(1): Relocation Of Dump Site, Hay River**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. This question might not have anything to do with my constituency but it does affect my constituency. It is with regard to the dump site in Hay River. Mr. Speaker, there are several capital projects that are going to be located on the reserve and the dump site is going to be fairly close to those facilities. I would like to know if there are any plans for the Minister to perhaps consider relocating where the dump site is. This is in consultation with the Member for Hay River.

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

**Return To Question O50-91(1): Relocation Of Dump Site, Hay River**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, that concern has not yet

been brought to my attention, either by the Town of Hay River or the chief for the reserve, whom I met with in your presence last week. However, I do intend to visit Hay River with the Member for that constituency on the weekend. On that occasion I will discuss the matter with town officials.

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

**Question O51-91(1): Funding For Cultural Education**

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to keep stating the fact that I am an aboriginal person and I am living my traditional lifestyle, but this is directed to the Minister of Education. When we are discussing the budget estimates, within the estimates, do you have additional funding proposed in there that will be used for cultural education? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O51-91(1): Funding For Cultural Education**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the main estimates are going to be discussed in detail in committee of the whole and I think it would be more proper to discuss the main estimates in that part of the session. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O51-91(1): Funding For Cultural Education**

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that it would be appropriate if we discuss this concern about the cultural education as part of the school curriculum at the committee level. I will be satisfied with that. Will I be able to make some changes to the main estimates through motions? Can we change anything there through motions when we are meeting as a committee of the whole?

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

**Further Return To Question O51-91(1): Funding For Cultural Education**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, as I can recollect, Members are given the option to make recommendations about the way that we have proposed to spend money in the upcoming year. They can change things by specifically deleting sections of our proposed budget. As far as I know, ordinary Members are not given the power to direct the government on how to spend money.

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

**Question O52-91(1): Access To Commercial Fishery, Nettilling Lake**

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Government Leader. The person I want to direct my question to, the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, is not present; so I will be directing this to the Government Leader. It is with regard to Nettilling Lake in the Baffin Region. On Baffin Island this lake is being used for a commercial fishery for Iqaluit. My question is, can those of us who are from Cape Dorset get access to the commercial fishery at Nettilling Lake? The residents of Iqaluit are given

subsidies from Economic Development and Tourism to do a commercial fishery during the summer months. I wonder if Cape Dorset can be given the same access to this program. Thank you.

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister responsible for Economic Development and Tourism is on his way back from representing the Northwest Territories at the Canada Winter Games, in connection with his responsibility for sport.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the Hamlet of Cape Dorset has made representations to the Minister about getting access to this fishery. The Minister is considering their representations and so I will have to take that question as notice. Thank you.

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

**Question O53-91(1): Status Of Winter Road Between Pelly Bay And Repulse Bay**

**MR. NINGARK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of the Minister responsible for Transportation, I would like to ask the Government Leader a question regarding the building of a winter road between Pelly Bay and Repulse Bay. Mr. Government Leader, what is the nature or the status of this becoming a reality? Has the government made any commitment on this? Thank you.

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I will also have to take that question as notice on behalf of the Minister. Thank you.

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

**Question O54-91(1): Number Of NWT Residents Involved In Persian Gulf War**

**MR. PUDLUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. The Persian Gulf War started on January 16th and today is now February 19th. It has been over a month that the Persian Gulf War has been going on. Because of the rumours that we have heard about the war, has there been anybody from the Northwest Territories -- I know the Canadian Forces are involved in the Persian Gulf -- has the Government Leader heard how many residents of the NWT are helping out in the Persian Gulf War? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O54-91(1): Number Of NWT Residents Involved In Persian Gulf War**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the cabinet has been briefed by personnel from the Northern Regional Headquarters of the Department of National Defence and the RCMP on the Persian Gulf War, and any possible effects there might be in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, we did ask the question about whether there were personnel from the Northwest Territories involved in the

Canadian Forces contingent in the Persian Gulf. We were informed that for reasons of privacy the Department of National Defence is reluctant to name people and their place of origin who are part of the forces in the Persian Gulf. However, I have learned from other sources that there is one person from the Northwest Territories serving in the Canadian contingent in the Persian Gulf. Thank you.

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

**Question O55-91(1): Briefing On Long Distance Calls In Canada**

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister for Government Services. Yesterday at noon hour and again today at noon hour, a large part of the business community in Yellowknife has been listening to a briefing on the issue of long distance calls in Canada. I would like to ask the Minister for Government Services whether he was aware of this meeting and whether, in fact, any of his officials were invited to take part in this meeting.

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

**Return To Question O55-91(1): Briefing On Long Distance Calls In Canada**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, I discussed with my deputy minister this morning the honourable Member's statement made yesterday in the House relative to the meeting he had attended with, I believe, UNITEL. I personally was not aware of the meeting and I do not think that my deputy was because he had not attended.

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

**Question O56-91(1): Government Presentation At CRTC Hearing**

**MR. LEWIS:** On the same subject then, Mr. Speaker, just a week ago in the Financial Post, there was an example given of Canadian Airlines which revealed to a federal hearing in January that their annual telephone bills, if they were to have the same bill in the United States, would be quite a bit different. One would be \$37 million for the cost of that thing in Canada and only \$17 million if it were in the United States because we have a very highly regulated telephone industry. My question to the Minister is this: Since the CRTC will be in Yellowknife to hear opinions about the very high cost of telephone calls in Canada, will he in fact be making a presentation to that CRTC hearing?

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

**Return To Question O56-91(1): Government Presentation At CRTC Hearing**

**HON. TOM BUTTERS:** Mr. Speaker, while responding earlier that I was not aware of the meetings today, I am aware of UNITEL's interest in becoming involved in providing long distance service in the Northwest Territories. I have heard not only from the company itself, but from the agent in Yellowknife who has been communicating the company's message over the last five weeks. To appear before the CRTC, I would have to get the approval for the presentation from the Executive. What I would have to tell the Executive, I guess, is that it would appear from the presentation that we have received to date that this company is only interested in long distance tolls. It would not be interested in providing the basic service in the

communities that is currently being provided by NorthwesTel. That is the type of information that I would present to my colleagues and if they agreed, we could probably make a presentation to CRTD.

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

**Question O57-91(1): Manner Of NWT Participation In Expo '92**

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member, Gordon Wray, the other day indicated that we are going to be participating in Expo '92 in a different manner than we did in Vancouver. I thought it was appropriate to ask the Minister of Finance the question on finances, but the Minister who is responsible for the Financial Management Board, if initiative is taken by our government -- it usually goes through that board which he chairs -- I assume that he would have the knowledge because the Minister said there was a bill coming forward to the House. I assumed that it was approved by the FMB. My question to the Government Leader, since I am getting no answers from the other two Ministers, is: In what manner are we participating at Expo '92 at Seville, and at what costs?

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

**Return To Question O57-91(1): Manner Of NWT Participation In Expo '92**

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, this question has come up several times in the House and the Member is aware that the Minister responsible is not here today. More detailed information is going to be brought forward. The standing committee on finance has been briefed and this Assembly will be briefed, Mr. Speaker, but we are still putting the information together. The question was taken as notice for that purpose, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question O57-91(1): Manner Of NWT Participation In Expo '92**

**MR. ZOE:** Mr. Speaker, the response I got back from the Minister does not tell me anything. Is he taking that thing as notice? I would like to know what is going on. Why can they not just say, "We have preliminary figures of this much and we will get into specifics when the bill is before the house"? I would like to get some kind of estimates, and what type of activity are they going to participate in at Seville? That is my question to the Government Leader.

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the Member is a Member of the standing committee on finance and has already received a briefing and knows that there is no intention on the part of the government to not be forthcoming with the information that is requested. However, Mr. Speaker, it is still in preparation. I do not have it in front of me today and therefore I will take the question as notice and get back to the Member as soon as possible with the appropriate information. And the Minister will be in the House at this time tomorrow, God willing. Thank you.

--Laughter

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member has taken the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member

for Aivilik.

**Question O58-91(1): Radio Collars For Caribou Herds**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. It is in regard to caribou, Kaminuriak herd or other caribou herds in the Northwest Territories. Have they been equipped with radio collars? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O58-91(1): Radio Collars For Caribou Herds**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few years ago we attached radio collars on the caribou as part of the caribou studies in an attempt to find out where the migrating caribou go, but today we are doing very few of these radio collars. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O58-91(1): Radio Collars For Caribou Herds**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I read in the newspaper, News North, that the Porcupine caribou were being equipped with radio collars, that one of the biologists stated that if anyone caught a caribou with a radio collar to notify the Department of Renewable Resources. The reason I am asking this question, Mr. Speaker, is because if there was to be somebody from the Keewatin Region that shot a caribou with a radio collar, what should a person do or what would you say to the individuals? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question O58-91(1): Radio Collars For Caribou Herds**

**HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Porcupine caribou herd go to the Northwest Territories sometimes, but they are mainly in the Yukon and Alaska. We are not in this radio collaring program at the present time in the Northwest Territories. Our biologists in the Northwest Territories do not use drugs to put radio collars on the caribou in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**Question O59-91(1): Chiefs' Salaries In South Slave Region**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to the Government Leader. Mr. Government Leader, I wrote you a letter on January 29, 1991, requesting of you to look into seeing if this government could pay chiefs' salaries in the South Slave region because their funding had been cut by the federal government. Have you done so, and if not, why not?

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I referred the matter to the appropriate Minister, Mr. Kakfwii.

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

**Return To Question O59-91(1): Chiefs' Salaries In South Slave Region**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, the question of chiefs' salaries, as Members may be aware, came up recently, more urgently as a result of the federal government cutting off the claims funding to the Dene Nation and Metis Association. For those who are not aware, the Dene Nation has had the chiefs on salary for the last 10 years at least, and they have been on the basis that they are the political decision-making leaders of their people, and, more relevant to the claims funding, that there is no way that the Dene communities and Dene people can take an effective part in the claims negotiations without the chiefs being available throughout the year, so to speak, to expedite that process.

In any case, when the claims got cut off, the Dene Nation began looking for alternative sources of funding, and, from reading the newspapers, they even hit up local businesses and asked for donations. The question came to us in the territorial government asking us if we would provide the funding.

As Members may or may not be aware, this government is under restraint; there is a definite amount of money which we have available to us for the work that we have set to do. The implications of responding to this request are quite complex and multiple in nature. The most glaring one that jumps out at you is trying to find a rationale to say, "Okay, we will do it"; namely, on what basis are we going to do it? There is where work needs to be done. Neither ourselves nor the Dene Nation have done any work in this area to rationalize how we are going to argue that public money should be spent putting the Dene Nation chiefs on salary.

The other thing that jumps right out at you is, what about the implications for the Metis community leaders, how are we going to deal with them? What about the Inuvialuit community leaders, what about the leaders in the Inuit communities? It is not just one group that we are looking at, although the request is only from the Dene Nation so far. The implications are enormous as far as the financial picture is concerned.

What we have done is we have sent a message back to the Dene Nation, and I think the federal government accepts it as well, that we cannot respond positively to that request at this time, but there is a possibility that we see, if the Dene Nation and the chiefs choose to pick a certain direction in their political development of the North, and in the constitutional development of the North, there may be ways through the process of discussing community government and detailing the process we choose for political and constitutional development in the North, where there may be a legitimate and clear role being recognized for the aboriginal leaders of the Dene. In the context of self-government discussions there may be a way in which we could find a rationale for that, but that process, as you know, has not been worked on for a number of years. We have left that avenue open, but more recently I understand the representatives of the Dene Nation and the chiefs who have been mandated to pursue this objective are now saying publicly that it is the federal government clearly that they see as responsible for providing these resources, and so the focus is off us, at least for the time being. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O59-91(1): Chiefs' Salaries In South Slave Region**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. It seems ironic that the Throne Speech this last year was

political and constitutional development, and the chiefs are supposed to be their main political decision-makers at the community, yet this government cannot seem to be able to fund them because they cannot justify spending public money on one individual group; yet they are spending public money to fund the Metis Association leaders or any other group that is in favour of a claim. The Minister said himself that if the chiefs change their decision and take the direction they want them to take, then they will look at funding them. To me it seems that they will only fund aboriginal people if they are in favour...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Could the honourable Member pose the question please?

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Aboriginal people that do not want to give up their aboriginal rights. Mr. Minister, will you revisit the issue and come to look at it sensibly -- do not take personal agenda -- and look at funding the chiefs from the South Slave region? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question O59-91(1): Chiefs' Salaries In South Slave Region**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, the issue that the Member makes a point of, which is that we are providing some funds to the Metis executive, deserves some attention. First of all, there are two members on the Metis Association executive who were employees of the government at the time they were elected. They took leave and they were elected, so as supporters of aboriginal organizations we agreed to second them, let them leave the territorial government for the time they were going to do their service to their people. Their salaries were provided by the organization.

When the claims funding was cut off, we were faced with a question of whether or not we would take these people back on a moment's notice because there is no replacement funding for them from the organization, or would we consider giving them some leeway by providing their salaries from within. There was a written request from the Metis Association that we consider doing this, and after some discussion we decided that in the interest of the Metis organization we thought we were doing the proper thing by saying, "Yes, we will not add grievance to the aggravations of the moment by saying, no, you have to come back to work and forget about your obligations and service to the Metis people." That is what we have done.

There has been no such request from any other organization at this time to do anything like that. If Mr. Morin wants to take a kick at people he should take a kick at the people who are in charge at the other side, to take care of their organizations. I do not think it deserves a shot at this side of the table at all. I do not think that the charge that we only help those people who do the things we want is warranted either, because as far as I can tell in all the time that I have been here, no matter what type of support we give to certain leaders, individuals and organizations in the North, we have never been thanked for it. We have been continuously criticized. There has been no change in our side and we are still trying to do what we can and still be fair, and recognize that this is not something that we have to do but it is out of obligation that we are doing many of the things that we do. It is public money and in the end we have to account for it. In this case we think we are being fair and we are being consistent. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Prior to proceeding I also want to remind Members that in terms of your own general rules for asking questions, that the questions cannot be asked if they

contain inferences, impute motives or cast aspersions upon any person. I think that is a requirement that should be considered and reflected in your own questioning; not to suggest that they will not be, but I think they should be reflected wherever possible. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nede, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O59-91(1): Chiefs' Salaries In South Slave Region**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, in case you are not aware of it -- I was well aware when I entered into politics -- it is a thankless job so it is too late to cry about whether or not you are getting thanked for the things you do, you just do them. You found a way, this government found a way, to justify spending public funds on supporting certain aboriginal leaders. Surely they can find a way to justify supporting the chiefs that are the local political leaders. They make the political decisions, Mr. Minister, you have said that yourself. So I will ask you to revisit the issue and take a longer look at it and see if you can find some way to justify supporting the chiefs.

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

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that I have already tried to answer the question. I will say that that is the nature of politics as well, so do not cry if I refuse to answer your question.

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

**Supplementary To Question O59-91(1): Chiefs' Salaries In South Slave Region**

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You are answerable, whether you like it or not, to ordinary Members on this side of the House, Mr. Minister. So once again, I will ask you if you will revisit the issue. Will you look at whether this government can justify paying the chiefs' salaries? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. That was a final supplementary. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

**Further Return To Question O59-91(1): Chiefs' Salaries In South Slave Region**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, the discussions have been going on with what I call the remnants of the Dene Nation executive. I do not know if the Member is aware, but there are two regions of the Dene Nation that are not exactly in the organization any longer. We have had some discussion, some communication with the president of the Dene Nation. As far as I know, the current discussion now is that he is focussing his attention on getting the federal government to come up with the money that would provide the salaries for chiefs. I think we should leave it at that. I do not think the Member should take it upon himself to start representing the Dene chiefs. The negotiations are going on and there are other people mandated with that job; at least they have a remnant of a mandate left.

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

**Question O60-91(1): Increase In Number Of Post-Secondary Education Students**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Education. In the Budget Speech handed down yesterday, and also in

November, the Minister informed the House that there has been a substantial increase in the number of students that have gone south for education. The question I have dealt with the student financial assistance program. I have received a number of concerns that the student financial assistance program is not working very well in terms that the service is extremely slow in some cases and it is causing embarrassment to students.

I would like to ask the Minister, what steps has his department taken to deal with this increase in the number of students that are sponsored by this government for post-secondary education?

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

**Return To Question O60-91(1): Increase In Number Of Post-Secondary Education Students**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, the enrolments of students has increased quite dramatically in the last few years and we are now looking at about 1000 students a year. We have taken the restraints on new person years quite literally, as the Member may know, so we have looked at some other creative ways of trying to deal with the added workload on the staff within this area of the department.

We have made a lot of use of overtime and casual people to process applications during certain peak periods of the year, and to process the funding for students which is the paperwork that has to be done. We have used telephone enrolments of students rather than just waiting for originals to arrive in the office before we start to process cheques to students. We have made use of electronic deposit of cheques into bank accounts instead of mailing cheques to students. We now have a revised computer system for generating cheque requisitions more expeditiously.

As the Member may be aware, we have had some problems getting this new system on stream as we had to work out some bugs in the programming. The new system is now on stream and it gives us an ability to process cheques more efficiently than in the past. So we are trying to find additional ways in which to expedite the system, but as I said we have had direction from this Legislature, as well, not to increase person years in the past; so we are trying to find ways in which to make a small team be more efficient than they have been in the past. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O60-91(1): Increase In Number Of Post-Secondary Education Students**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Mr. Speaker, it seems hard to understand that there are substantial increases in the amount of work that you can seem to beat out of the employees that are there to try to get more productivity when they are already overworked. I would like to find out, in a very short answer, is that section in the Minister's department to deal with the numbers of people that they have to deal with, understaffed? I think that the Minister has indicated that there has been a substantial increase in the amount of work. Is he still trying to handle this increased amount of work with the same number of people that he had when he had even half the student enrolment? Is he understaffed?

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

**Further Return To Question O60-91(1): Increase In Number Of Post-Secondary Education Students**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** The answer to the question is yes, we are understaffed.

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

**Question O61-91(1): Faxing Of Job Opportunities Throughout The NWT**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Personnel. The Minister, in response to a question concerning job advertisements, did indicate that effective immediately the area office in Fort Simpson will start faxing job opportunities to Fort Providence. The bulletins that I have here in front of me for job advertisements were sent out on the 14th and the closing date is the 14th, this is in Hay River. I would like to ask the Minister whether it is the intention of his department to have all the job advertisements, whether from here in Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith or Fort Simpson, faxed not only to Fort Providence -- and Fort Providence is about the closest community and we are not even getting them on time -- I would like to ask whether or not it is the intention of the department to start faxing job advertisements to all the communities in the Northwest Territories?

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

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I think I have to look at that question because I do not know how long it takes for mail and newspapers to get to all the different little communities that we have, and I need to know the cost of faxing and if there are faxes in all these little communities. I will take the question as notice and get back to him. Thank you.

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

**Question O62-91(1): Amount Of Deficit In Current Budget**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had a chance to examine the Finance Minister's Budget Address in detail earlier this morning, so my question to the Minister of Finance -- and it is a thankless job, Mr. Speaker, but someone has to do it -- throughout this document the Minister refers to the fact that he has essentially a balanced budget, that over a period of four years there has been very little in the way of deficits one way or the other, so my question to him is, since he has admitted that this is a deficit budget, would he tell us how much the deficit is. It is not really clear from this document what the deficit is in this current budget.

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

**Return To Question O62-91(1): Amount Of Deficit In Current Budget**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** I thought it was quite clear, it is eight million dollars.

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

**Supplementary To Question O62-91(1): Amount Of Deficit In Current Budget**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we still seem to have a surplus much lower than it was when we began -- if you recall, Mr. Speaker, it was something like \$64 million I believe four years ago -- my question is, why do we have to have a deficit budget this year when we do, in fact, have a surplus account?

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

**Further Return To Question O62-91(1): Amount Of Deficit In Current Budget**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** I would like to clarify, we came into office with a \$41 million accumulated surplus. In the four years, with the expenditure of four billion dollars we are \$17 million dollars deficit over the four years, which is an average of four million dollars a year, which is easily the best record in the country. I do not apologize for that, I think we have done very well.

The second part of your question, and I am not quite sure if I get it properly, is: What we are doing, how we are paying for the eight million surplus in this fiscal year? We are drawing down from our accumulated surplus. That is what we are doing. We are drawing eight million dollars down from our accumulated surplus. That is why our accumulated surplus then has gone down by that much.

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

**Supplementary To Question O62-91(1): Amount Of Deficit In Current Budget**

**MR. LEWIS:** Will the Minister of Finance confirm that really we started off with over \$40 million in surplus and going into this budget year, discounting this eight million dollars that is now in a deficit, that we did in fact have a \$34 million surplus. Is that right?

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

**Further Return To Question O62-91(1): Amount Of Deficit In Current Budget**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Yes, I think we are projecting it around \$33 million. What we are projecting now is that at the end of the next fiscal year we will have an accumulated surplus of some \$26 million, and that would have taken into account the eight million dollars deficit of that year itself.

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

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend question period by unanimous consent.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? Are you agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question period will be extended. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre,

final supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question O62-91(1): Amount Of Deficit In Current Budget**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year the standing committee on finance said that it would not accept another deficit budget, so I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, what efforts did he make to make sure that going into this last year that we would, in fact, have a balanced budget instead of an eight million dollar deficit budget?

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

**Further Return To Question O62-91(1): Amount Of Deficit In Current Budget**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We actually undertook a number of steps which have been a continuation of the very tight restrictions we put on budget preparation over the past three years. In the preparation of this budget, for the first time ever, we sent out operations and maintenance targets, specific targets with limits on departments. Prior to that, on the operations and maintenance side of budget preparation, the departments would put together what they thought they needed, they would bring it to FMB and then we would fight it out over a period of some weeks and months. What we have also done is -- I have brought it to the attention of the standing committee on finance -- a methodology that was introduced three years ago. Prior to this government taking office, when departments had a budget approved by the FMB they received an automatic inflation allowance, five per cent, five and a half per cent -- starting with our first budget we set up an inflation supplementary account and so rather than a price tag of an average \$40 million or \$45 million a year automatic inflation, we set up the account at \$15 million which is a de facto saving of \$25 million or \$30 million. We then forced departments under quite strict guidelines to come forward and make a submission whereby they could get some credit for inflation. The guidelines were quite rigid.

This year we made them even more rigid. We specifically set out the areas where they actually could apply for the inflation reserve. What we also have done, and I know this has not 100 per cent satisfied Members in the House, and I know Mr. Gargan has made his motion of a reduction in the civil service, but what we have effectively done is changed a trend, a trend that was prevalent through most of the 1980s of an average increase per year of person years of some eight or nine per cent a year. We have managed over the life of this government to lower that increase to somewhere around one per cent a year. As you can imagine, during that period of time, there has been extra pressures put on this government.

Mr. Gargan has made the point that we have more civil servants per capita than other jurisdictions. I have given a paper to the standing committee on finance which I think I will table here in the House, which explains why in this very complex jurisdiction spread over a huge area, where it is difficult to even contemplate having the same ratio of civil servants to the populations you would find in other jurisdictions. I will make that information available to the group here.

What we tried to do over the past four years is by impressing upon departments, and I have to say the Ministers have been quite co-operative, to look at the government as a whole instead of just departmentally driven objectives, I think we have been able to impose significantly more discipline on the process than we had in the past. That has been driven by some very harsh realities. We are getting now from the

federal government some \$25 million or \$30 million a year less than we were getting two years ago.

We are now in recession whereby if the recession continues, our revenue from taxation will decrease. The federal government with us and other jurisdictions, has been off-loading a lot of their costs on us. This is the scenario in which we have been operating. I think we have been quite effective over the past four years in containing costs, not going into debt, not raising taxes and I think the project review that we have outlined in the budget will, we hope, set the stage for the next government; hopefully to give them some tools to continue on the basis that we built on. Thank you.

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

**Question O63-91(1): Funding For New Initiatives And Programs**

**MR. ZOE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague Mr. Lewis has indicated, in regard to the current year budget, the Minister indicated we were having an eight million dollar deficit and we are anticipating our accumulated surplus to be \$26 million. Now new initiatives that are anticipated by our government or initiated by our government which are not funded from within our current budget would have to come out of the accumulated surplus. Am I correct by assuming that any new initiatives which are not budgeted in your budget would have to be funded out of the accumulated surplus and drawn down by that amount? For example, the Seville Expo '92, would that increase our current year deficit and draw down on our \$26 million accumulated surplus?

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

**Return To Question O63-91(1): Funding For New Initiatives And Programs**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think I would like to prejudge the information that I am going to make available to the Member on Seville, so I think we will not consider Seville as perhaps the best example in this particular response. But to answer the Member's question seriously, there are options open to the government. In the past three years, as the Legislative Assembly has passed the budget, they have also passed supp reserves. There is the possibility within the limits set by this Legislative Assembly within the supp reserves of doing some new initiatives, I guess. I do not see the accumulated surplus as being used for that whatsoever. I see the accumulated surplus being a bit of a cushion for us and for the next government against circumstances beyond our control. That could be further federal off-loading program costs on us. There could be the impact of a widening recession, a huge increase in the price of oil, et cetera. The intention of this government is not in the life of this government to use that accumulated surplus to come up with new programs; that is not the intention of it.

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

**Question O64-91(1): Financial Advantage To GNWT Of High Fuel Prices**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Finance. A number of Members have raised the question of high gasoline prices in the Northwest Territories, high fuel prices. The question I have is for the Minister of Finance. Are there any financial advantages

to this government due to the prolonged high prices of gasoline and fuel oil? If the prices in the Northwest Territories stay high, does this government benefit from that?

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

**Return To Question O64-91(1): Financial Advantage To GNWT Of High Fuel Prices**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think what I would like to do is table in this House an explanation as to how fuel prices work in the North, the impact of decisions by our government, taxation, what have you and how that impacts on those fuel prices. As I said in my Budget Address yesterday, the changes that we are making, the administrative changes, is to change administratively the manufacturer's sales tax to the goods and services tax and the intention of this government, that in itself will not give us any revenue or raise prices more than one tenth of a per cent or one twentieth of a per cent. That is, the measures we took yesterday should not impact the actual price of fuel.

If you are asking, "Do our revenues depend to an amount on the price?", the price which is out of our control, yes, that is correct. The revenues are impacted by that. We have set up our taxation pricing system based on 17 per cent. So if the prices come down, then our revenues will come down, but nothing that we do has anything to do with that. That would be because of the world price of oil or it would be because of external forces. There is no action that we take that influences the price unless we did, in fact, raise our taxation levels which we have not done. So we are, as a government, at the mercy of prices that are set outside of the Northwest Territories.

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

**Question O65-91(1): Time Frame For Changes To Government Operations**

**MR. LEWIS:** Mr. Speaker, this question is also for the Minister of Finance. In his Budget Address he mentioned the review of the total government operations; something which had been recommended by the standing committee on finance some years ago, Mr. Speaker. In light of his comments which I listened to very carefully this morning, courtesy of CBC Radio, he indicated that some of these changes that may be recommended by this review which he expects to get completed by this summer would, in fact, be put into effect this summer if the government felt that it would be for the betterment of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Would he confirm that that is what he said?

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

**Return To Question O65-91(1): Time Frame For Changes To Government Operations**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** That is exactly what I said, that is correct.

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

**Supplementary To Question O65-91(1): Time Frame For Changes To Government Operations**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because it is in the Budget Address and represents what this budget is all about,

and since it is possible that when we leave here in April the government could, in fact if it wanted to, make massive changes to the way this government operates next summer, would the Minister want to consult with the Assembly before he does something like that?

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

**Further Return To Question O65-91(1): Time Frame For Changes To Government Operations**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The line of questioning was fairly obvious from the beginning. I want to make it very clear what I said on the radio this morning. I have not got the recommendation so what I am saying is that I want to leave some flexibility that if during the process of the project, even during the next five months, some good ideas come in that make some sense then I would be very, very pleased to consult with the standing committee on finance. There may be some things that everybody can see or obvious things that we should do. That is stage one. I would like the process of the project itself to be something to build credibility into the process. There may be some glaringly obvious things that I can work out with our cabinet and the standing committee on finance. When in mid-summer we actually get around to recommendations, there might be some administratively easy to achieve recommendations that we could put into place. Realistically I do not think it would be possible for this government to undertake comprehensive changes to the civil service in that short period of time.

I want to really clarify what I have in mind for this review and these recommendations. I do not intend it to be a series of recommendations which have high political profile that everybody makes their comments and then it is gone. I would like it to be something that has very good, well thought-out recommendations for the shelf life of 10 years, that the next couple of governments will have it as a reference point. I do not think it will be possible to do those sort of things that Mr. Lewis is talking about. I know it will not be possible to do those sort of things without intense consultation, not just with the Legislative Assembly but with all of the various parties in the Northwest Territories. So the only thing that we would seriously consider implementing were some things which made some administrative sense after consultation with the standing committee on finance, but nothing of huge sweeping proportions because I do not think we have the mandate to do that.

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

**Supplementary To Question O65-91(1): Time Frame For Changes To Government Operations**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact this review, although it deals with the basic funding of government -- it goes far beyond that -- it deals with the whole structure of government and the way in which programs are implemented. If, in fact, the government sees that there are some things that it wants to do which are of a rather significant nature, would the Minister of Finance consider recalling the Legislature so that we could examine some of these major initiatives that may come out of this study?

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

**Further Return To Question O65-91(1): Time Frame For Changes To Government Operations**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** I do not have the power



myself to recall the Legislature but there is a process to do it. I can say that from the government's point of view, not just in this initiative but any other major initiative that a government may want to do during its life, obviously the government would consider that.

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

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, I will hold my question until the Minister of Social Services is back.

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

**Question O66-91(1): New Hospital For Keewatin Region**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health. When will we get a hospital in the Keewatin region? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question O66-91(1): New Hospital For Keewatin Region**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I do not want to appear to be evading the honourable Member's question but I believe that with the Keewatin Health Board and the Department of Health there is ongoing work being done in trying to establish what type of services are going to be provided in the Keewatin. I cannot change that right now because it is the same reply that I gave previously. The Keewatin Health Board has not concluded exactly what it wants to do in the relationship with Churchill, and its relationship with the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. We are working toward that end to see if we can come to a conclusion.

As well, there is the question of the further issue of division. If we do proceed with the division of the Northwest Territories, where are major facilities going to be housed in the part of the Territories that would be known as the eastern territory of Nunavut?

There are many things facing the health board and the Department of Health at this time in putting those plans in a definitive nature. I do not think it is quite clear in the minds of the Keewatin people exactly how they want to go because they are presently looking at their options, and what their priorities are going to be. I certainly apologize not being able to say exactly when a hospital will be built in the Keewatin. That is far beyond my control because I think the decision has to be made in further discussion and further planning with the Keewatin Health Board. Thank you.

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

**Question O67-91(1): Birthing Centre For Keewatin Region**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will we have a birthing centre for the Keewatin? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** That is a new question. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

**Return To Question O67-91(1): Birthing Centre For Keewatin Region**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I think I also have to say that I have to answer that question in the same manner as I answered the question on when would we definitively

have a program scheduled for a hospital in the Keewatin. At this point in time the same discussions are going on with the Keewatin Health Board in exactly what they want to do about midwifery and what type of facility that they want to have in Rankin Inlet. So I think certainly in terms of a birthing centre in Rankin, that is much closer than the hospital in terms of the discussions and how broad a range it is going to take. I think that the Keewatin Health Board is being a bit cautious about how far they move and to what degree they measure the requirement in Rankin Inlet, mainly because of the other communities who feel that perhaps there might be another solution to keeping even more people at the community level and support service in there.

So that question is wrapped up in the issue of midwifery and also how far Rankin Inlet wants to go and what type of addition we would have to put to that centre. So I believe certainly, that issue should be resolved much more quickly. But at this time the discussions and the decision-making is still being carried out with the Keewatin Health Board.

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

**Question O68-91(1): Review Of Custom Adoption**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services. Madam Minister, recently there has been a situation in which a judge has not granted custom adoption to a certain individual in Hay River, due to technicalities. Although the custom adoption took place over a year ago, it was the opinion of the judge that this custom adoption should not take place. I do not understand the reasons behind it but it seems that the judge had taken it upon himself to become an expert in an area that perhaps he does not understand. I would like to ask the Minister if there is a review on aboriginal justice or an advisory committee reviewing that and whether or not custom adoption is still part of that review and what is the situation regarding that.

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

**Return To Question O68-91(1): Review Of Custom Adoption**

**HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to clarify to the Member that the Department of Social Services assists individuals administratively to formulate and process the paperwork through the court system in regard to custom adoption. Any decisions are made by the courts and particularly on that specific case, a clarification would be easier obtained from the Department of Justice. I am aware that there was the family law review issue being looked at and part of that family law review was custom adoption. However, I believe the Minister of Justice would probably be more able to reply to the Member's concerns.

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

**Question O69-91(1): Uncontrolled Billing By Doctors**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. I read recently that much of the health costs, and these are going up all over the world, that the reason for this is because governments are not doing a very good job in trying to control them. The example given is that there are some doctors, and I am sure we do not have any in the NWT, that have so many patients going through their offices and they bill each one of them to the government as a patient for whom charges must be paid for. As a result of that you may have some doctors that have just an average

number of patients an hour where another doctor may have literally dozens and dozens an hour and will charge the government for that total cost. So my question to the Minister is: Could that kind of thing happen in the NWT, uncontrolled billing by doctors to the health scheme?

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

**Return To Question O69-91(1): Uncontrolled Billing By Doctors**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because of the make-up of the NWT and the fact that we are a small jurisdiction, and we are probably able to attract much better than a very large community of interest, I believe that the Department of Health puts some guidelines down on what are acceptable charges and to my knowledge, I am not aware that any doctor is over-booking himself to receive revenues. I believe that the case is generally the opposite where some of the doctors are not able to see as many people as they wish to see. To my knowledge we are not aware -- I think that in the number of years that I have been Minister of Health I have only received one comment from one person who has said that the individual felt that she had to wait much too long at the doctor's office to see the doctor. I think this is more the case than people over-booking and trying to take advantage of the system. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question O69-91(1): Uncontrolled Billing By Doctors**

**MR. LEWIS:** I would like to ask the Minister then, is there a system in place in the NWT to make sure that doctors do not have far too many people coming to see them and could the Minister describe what controls the government has in place to make sure this does not happen?

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

**Further Return To Question O69-91(1): Uncontrolled Billing By Doctors**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, in terms of medical professional people available to the normal, average person in the NWT, in the communities where we have travelling and medical professional people, the health stations see the patient first and they generally decide whether the person should be booked for a doctor's visit when the doctor is visiting. So the protocol is generally at the health station in the smaller communities.

In the cases of places like Yellowknife or Inuvik or Iqaluit, where people can go to a clinic, certainly I am not quite sure what all our guidelines are but I can provide that to the honourable Member. However, I can say that whenever there is a complaint we deal very closely with the Medical Association of the Northwest Territories, who is represented with the professional doctors and we generally have a fairly good working relationship with them if there is concern that has been expressed. However, for the more detailed guidelines on how we make our controls, certainly I can provide that.

In addition to that, we have had some ongoing discussions with the Medical Association and with the various facilities in terms of the number of referrals that go out of the community. We have written some letters trying to bring to the attention of the people who do the referring that we would like them to be

very careful on not referring unnecessarily if a person just wanted to go some place else. So we do have the guidelines on what centre you can go to, which is generally the closest centre. I suppose if you have a choice you can pay the extra to get to somewhere else. There are a number of stopgaps where we can make those checks and balances, and I am prepared to provide those details to the honourable Member.

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

**Supplementary To Question O69-91(1): Uncontrolled Billing By Doctors**

**MR. LEWIS:** Yes, I grew up in a country where we did have a national health scheme, much like what we do have here, and our village doctor, Mr. Speaker -- as soon as you came in, he hardly looked at you and already he was like a clerk, like an allaqti, writing down something, and you are out in about two minutes. My question to the Minister is: Could she undertake to provide for the House some kind of idea of what is a reasonable number of patients for a doctor to see in one hour? Could she give us that standard that has been adopted by the Northwest Territories Medical Association?

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

**Further Return To Question O69-91(1): Uncontrolled Billing By Doctors**

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Speaker, I will try to provide that as close to the parameters as I can. I am sure that I cannot answer every deviation from that course. However, I will do as the Member suggests.

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

**Question O70-91(1): Position Or Legislation Pertaining To Custom Adoption**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my question to the Minister of Justice, but I will direct my question instead to the Government Leader, who will probably take it as notice for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, my question is with regard to the family law review committee which is also reviewing custom adoption. Mr. Speaker, the thing that concerns me is that we are now having judges interpret what, in their opinion, custom adoption is. It disturbs me that people that do not understand those customs are allowed to do that. I would like to ask the Government Leader, with respect to the review that is taking place now concerning custom adoption, whether or not there will be positions or legislation, whatever the case may be, concerning this specific topic.

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, I am afraid the Member is correct. I will have to take that question as notice. Thank you.

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

Item 6, written questions. Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Item 9, replies to Budget Address. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

## ITEM 9: REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS

**Mr. Gargan's Reply**

**MR. GARGAN:** Mr. Speaker, I intended to make a statement this afternoon that I did not have the opportunity to complete, but it does address the budget issue. I will just make my statement brief with regard to the replies to the Budget Address.

Mr. Speaker, during this the 11th Assembly I and a number of other MLAs have made an issue of the government's expenditure in the zero-based budgeting. One of the largest expenditures is the operation of the bureaucracy, which takes a major portion of the budget. One of my objectives during this Assembly has been to introduce a motion to reduce the number of person years in the bureaucracy. Compared with other provinces and territory, this government spends the largest percentage of its budget on wages and salaries.

The Minister of Finance has had a good record of healthy budgets throughout his term and I commend him for this; however, it is my opinion the expenditures are still in the wrong places. During the last four years we have made it an issue to ensure a balanced budget and have continuously reminded the government of this. During the last budget session I introduced a motion to reduce the number of person years. Unfortunately, this has not happened. In fact, there has been a further growth in the bureaucracy. As a result, the communities have not benefited from these balanced budgets.

One of the main issues in the Throne Speech was political and constitutional development. Although we need to address these issues, I feel that it is much too late to do it properly unless we ensure that the necessary resources are available to the regions, communities and native organizations. It is my opinion that the emphasis on political and constitutional development is a way of evading the real issues. The government has chosen to minimize grants and contributions to regional and tribal councils. For instance, the government has refused to provide salaries for chiefs. The government's lack of commitment to providing resources for aboriginal organizations to develop political positions on constitutional development is another example.

In limiting these resources, Mr. Speaker, the government has restricted those organizations from participating fully in the political and constitutional development of the North. The government has taken the initiative of creating a committee to do a base review of the government. This is a noble gesture on the part of the government, but it is far too late to do it now, with the hopes that the 12th Assembly will follow up on its recommendations. A review is long overdue, Mr. Speaker, but this is not the right time. Members in this House made strong arguments for such a review during other budget reviews, but these were not acted on.

We have an opportunity now, during this budget review, to make changes that will benefit the people of the North. I encourage other Members who have ideas to reduce government spending to make their views known.

I certainly will do my part, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that any amendments to reduce expenditures will be acted on by this government before the budget receives final assent. Mr. Speaker, this is my statement on the Budget Address. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Replies to the Budget Address. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**Mr. Lewis's Reply**

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you read a budget document, usually it is dominated by numbers; but a Budget Address such as this makes a beautiful marriage, if you like, between interesting words that mean certain things to people that are expert in financial matters and also the straight figures that we always associate with the life and work of accountants. When I decided that I would make a short reply today, I was mindful of the fact that we have about six days, until next Tuesday, to make a reply; but usually it is not until about a day before that we remember that we have only a short time left in order to make such a reply.

I have always been interested in both words and in figures and numbers, Mr. Speaker, but I am also interested in some of the traditions related to Parliamentary democracies and I was reminded just yesterday by my colleague from Aiviliik that there are so many things that do not make sense if you were not brought up in this culture -- where suddenly a guy has to wear new shoes just because he is going to give a budget address and present a budget. That made me think that there are so many things perhaps that do not make sense. About two years ago I decided I would try to find out exactly why people wear new shoes, and although I have a huge library at home, I was not able to find out why.

So all I can say is that even in the culture of Mr. Ernerk here, I also find things that are difficult to understand. For example, you are going out on the land somewhere and you build a beautiful snow house and then you spend another few hours and you want to go back to where you started, and here is this snow house just partially used and yet the guys have to make a brand new one because that one is old. So maybe this is what we have here. It is always necessary to start anew, start fresh. Like sometimes we say you have a new broom and the new broom starts you off on the right foot.

Mr. Speaker, I also note that when we use the word "budget" -- the word "budget" is a very old world word that comes from the practice of old merchants a long time ago that were engaged in business, carrying a bag with them. That bag that they had to buy supplies was their budget and our current word, the one we use today, comes from that old word for the bag that those guys used simply to carry their money around in their pocket in order to buy supplies.

Mr. Speaker, we received Mr. Ballantyne's fourth budget and it is not something any more that he can carry around his waist in a little bag. It is an enormous amount of money. In fact, it now exceeds a billion dollars. Since this is also my fourth time to reply to the Finance Minister's budget, I wanted today to be a little more generous in my praise than I have been in the past. But it is only when you keep pointing out things that could be better, or by being a bit grudging, that you get changes. If you had started out four years ago praising him to the sky and telling him what a wonderful person he is, nothing would ever happen. You would think he was the greatest thing since sliced bread.

**Minister Of Finance Praised**

So today I would like to commend the Minister of Finance for having taken on this job for a four year period. I have said that it is a difficult job, but it is a job, in my opinion, he has done very well. It is very difficult, and there are not that many people that want to take it on. However, his work has been made a little easier by this Assembly, because we have, in fact, told him what he should do. We have given him direction as to the way he should go. It makes a Minister's job a lot easier once he has a clear vision of the future. I would like to commend him also for his consistency.

I look through the old book that we started with, the 1988-89 budget. In 1988-89 Mr. Ballantyne announced that this budget contains no tax increases. He said in that budget that we must recognize the financial realities that are ahead of us -- tough times. He also said that we have to maintain the level and quality of services for the people of the NWT. He also said that the key to economic development is that we must improve our capital infrastructure, and there is no argument from me on that. It is one of the basics for the development of any economy. He also said in 1988 that this budget supports northern businesses. He also said in 1988 that this is a balanced budget, which is something that we have been after.

Our budget then was close to \$800 million. Today it is close to \$1.1 billion. Just as Mr. Ballantyne said in 1988-89, that he was going to restrain government spending and not to impose taxes on the population, that message is consistent today. It is something that we became aware of in examining the growth of expenditures across the country, that we were bankrupting ourselves. So I commend him for being consistent over a four year period, that we have restrained government spending, made it reasonable, been responsible and at the same time we have not tried to impose on the people of the NWT taxes for new services, because the services we are providing the people of the NWT are the ones that we can reasonably afford.

I have been critical in the past that the 10th Assembly squandered a huge surplus of money and they did it, at least on the public record, because they were going to expand the economy. There were never any indicators in place to show in what place the economy was going to be expanded or how many jobs were being created, nothing at all. It was just money spent. I must commend the Minister for not going that route, for looking at the dollar very carefully and being consistent.

Just to show you how consistent, Mr. Speaker, in the 1991-92 budget there are no tax increases, either personal or corporate; there is no territorial sales tax; once again the budget recognizes the rough road ahead, even though the federal contribution still remains at about 74 per cent, just the same as it did in 1988.

He has also indicated the level of service of government programs to the public will still remain at a reasonable level. He also mentions that there is an increase in the budget of the Department of Transport from \$8.6 million to \$31 million. Again, this is consistent because we have said in the past that one of the keys to economic development is an improvement of our infrastructure. So once again this is consistent from the first day in which the Minister of Finance introduced his budget.

This budget also supports northern businesses, just as the 1988 budget did. Funding is included for a development corporation, a business credit corporation, but there is also tax relief for small businesses which were taxed on the first \$200,000 of taxable income at the incredibly low rate of only five per cent.

#### **Budget Deficit Made To Look Better**

Mr. Speaker, although the standing committee on finance said it would not accept another deficit budget in 1991-92, the Minister has indicated that really over a four year period he has only incurred a deficit of some \$17 million. It is very interesting when you read the document that in order to make this look even better than what it really would normally look if you were to write it properly, he has indicated that this is \$17 million of \$4000 million -- not four billion dollars, but \$4000 million. He also hid the fact that this was a deficit

budget, apart from the people who were in the know, like this, talking about drawing down on this, drawing down on that. That is not part of the vocabulary of everyday people. But there is no mention of a deficit in this particular budget document. However, I accept his comment that over a period of time we have been able to achieve a reasonably acceptable balance between the amount of money that we take in and the amount of money that goes out.

I appreciate Mr. Ballantyne's kind remarks, also, about the staff that has helped him to put this stuff together. He has admitted that he is not a brilliant finance whiz, but it makes it a lot easier to survive in this very, very difficult job if you have very competent staff around you. I know that he has depended very heavily -- even though he has not a bad ability -- he has had some very good people to do a good job on this budget and he did mention the three key people, one of whom we have got to know quite well, Mr. Voytilla. Whenever I hear his name spoken I always think we are talking about the Pope because he has a name that sounds very similar to that. I think that Pope John Paul also has a name that sounds like Voytilla. I always think that when we have someone like that who is putting together all this financial stuff, that he must be a good guy, because he obviously has, probably, some kind of connections, the same kind of inspiration that guides our current Pope.

I believe the next Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, will have a more difficult job even than Mr. Ballantyne. The revenue from the federal government will reduce; our economy will not produce sufficient revenues for us to replace the moneys that we lose under the formula funding agreement. And I believe, although we can hope otherwise, I believe that the demands for services from the people of the NWT are going to increase at an ever more alarming rate.

So I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Finance for four years of dedicated service. He has done, in my opinion, a competent job and probably has done a better job than anybody else in the House could have done under these circumstances. I would like to thank him.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Replies to the Budget Address.

Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

**MR. ERNERK:** Mr. Speaker, I originally had my hand up for Item 10, petitions.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I did call Item 11. If the honourable Member wishes to return to Item 10 -- if he could seek the appropriate unanimous consent to return. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

**MR. ERNERK:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to Item 10.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member for Aivilik is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 10. Are there any nays? Proceed.

#### **ITEM 10: PETITIONS**

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members. I would like to table these petitions, Mr. Speaker: Petition 3-91(1), from Naujat, Repulse Bay, with 80 signatures calling on the Minister of Economic Development to direct his department to prioritize the immediate allocation of funds to assist the aggressive marketing of arts and crafts; and Petition 4-91(1), to revise budget priorities for the 1991-92 budget from

the small tools and equipment program, the carving shed program, and the soapstone supply and quarrying programs into a marketing program with the objective of increasing sales during the recession; and to direct staff to immediately enter into discussions and planning with the community-owned marketing agency, Canadian Arctic Producers, to plan and deliver the program in a timely and cost-effective manner. Mr. Speaker, these petitions are from Repulse Bay, as I said, with 80 signatures. The other petition is from Katudjevik Co-op in Coral Harbour, with 97 signatures.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

#### ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

##### CR 3-91(1), Report Of The Standing Committee On Legislation

**MR. ERNERK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your standing committee on legislation has the honour of presenting Committee Report 3-91(1), a report on its pre-session review of bills proposed for introduction at the eighth session of the 11th Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee on legislation, under the authority given to it by this House, has now reviewed several bills proposed for introduction during the eighth session of the 11th Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee on legislation met in Yellowknife on January 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17, 1991. We reviewed draft bills upon their referrals from the chairperson, legislation and housing planning committee. We also reviewed a draft Private Member's Bill intended for introduction during the eighth session. This report summarizes decisions made by the standing committee on legislation with respect to the general disposition of the draft bills. Commentaries on the principle and content of each bill will be provided by the committee chairperson during the committee of the whole consideration. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the standing committee may place written reports before the House to deal with certain bills that carry special policy implications or present more complex legal issues.

During its January 1991 meeting the standing committee on legislation reviewed the following draft bills and agreed to recommend them for consideration in the House. These include: The Department of Justice Act; The Adoption of French Version of Statutes and Statutory Instruments Act; An Act to Amend the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act; An Act to Amend the Liquor Act; An Act to Amend the Regional and Tribal Councils Act; An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act. The standing committee also reviewed the draft bill, Locksmiths, Security Guards and Other Security Occupations Act, and agreed to recommend it to the House providing a specific revision is made to a single clause of the bill.

##### Bills Referred To Legislative Assembly

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee on legislation reviewed the following bills and agreed to recommend them to the House subject to a separate review by the standing committee on finance. They are: An Act to Repeal the Bulk Sales Act; An Act to Amend the Insurance Act; An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act. In addition, the standing committee on legislation reviewed Tabled Document 66-90(2), which outlines draft amendments to the Environmental Protection Act. While the standing committee is aware that the revisions of this bill are being made, the

additional pre-session review enabled the Minister to receive our preliminary comments on the development of the environmental protection legislation. It is understood that the government plans to introduce the revised bill later in the eighth session and the standing committee looks forward to receiving it for review prior to its introduction to the House.

The standing committee initiated its review of a draft Private Member's Bill received under the sponsorship of Mr. Sam Gargan, MLA. This was the Access to Information Act. Presentations dealing with this draft bill were provided by the sponsor Member and the government as well as several public organizations and individuals during an open meeting on January 17, 1991. The sponsor agreed to consider several suggestions for possible incorporation within the draft bill. The committee understands that the revised bill will be submitted again for further consideration at a later date.

The following draft bills were received from the government's legislation and house planning committee and have been referred directly to the standing committee on finance for review. These are: Expo '92 Revolving Funds Act; Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1991; An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act; An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act.

In addition to reviewing draft bills received in time for the January meeting, Mr. Speaker, the standing committee also considered general procedures for dealing with proposed legislation over the course of the current and subsequent sessions of the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee noted that a heavy legislative calendar has been planned by the government for the eighth session but that the majority of the proposed bills were not received six weeks in advance of the first day of the session. The standing committee was concerned that insufficient time will be available for research and review of the outstanding bills, several of which are to have broad and significant implications for the Northwest Territories. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, the standing committee voted not to review any proposed legislation received after January 2, 1991. However, the standing committee will be prepared to engage in further discussion with the government to identify procedures for dealing with the legislative calendar and anticipate additional consultations in this regard during the early weeks of the eighth session. The standing committee would not like to see the government legislation that is considered essential to the people of the NWT unduly delayed as a result of logistical difficulties in the public service.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee also noted that while there are many advantages to the manner in which our Assembly deals with the legislative process, we have encountered persistent difficulty in receiving draft bills in sufficient time to ensure an adequate committee review. During the eighth session the standing committee will research alternative strategies for dealing with bills and hopes later on in the session to propose some possible changes in the legislative process for consideration by this House and recommendation to the 12th Assembly.

##### Motion To Receive Report Of Standing Committee On Legislation, Carried

I move, seconded by the Member for Baffin South, that this report be received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Item 12, tabling of documents. Honourable Member for Aivilik.

**ITEM 12: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 11-91(1), a letter from the chairman of the Chesterfield Inlet Education Council, Anthyme Kadjuk. This is in regard to the divisional board funding that is being proposed. They are not in agreement with that. I would like to table Tabled Document 12-91(1). I worked on this myself, regarding the price of food in Repulse Bay as of January 1991. I prepared this report.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Tabling of documents. Honourable Member for Baffin Central.

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 13-91(1), a letter from the president of the Baffin Council for Disabled Persons, regarding the institution of a respite care policy. They would like to see a facility for the handicapped so they can take a rest from their responsibilities.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Tabling of documents. Honourable Member for Baffin South.

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 14-91(1), a letter from the principal of the school in Lake Harbour regarding the increase of the rents in staff housing.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Tabling of documents. I would like to table Tabled Document 15-91(1). In accordance with section 22(1) of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table a report to the chairman of the Management and Services Board on the examination of the accounts and financial transactions of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Fund (Northwest Territories), for the year ended March 31, 1990, prepared by the Auditor General of Canada.

Tabling of documents.

Item 13, notices of motion. Item 14, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**

**Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 14: Loan Authorization Act, 1991-92**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 21, 1991, I will move that Bill 14, Loan Authorization Act, 1991-92, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 15, motions.

Item 16, first reading of bills. Item 17, second reading of bills. Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**ITEM 17: SECOND READING OF BILLS**

**Second Reading Of Bill 8: Bulk Sales Act**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 8, An Act to Repeal the Bulk Sales Act, be read for the second time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour?

Opposed, if any? The motion is carried. Bill 8 has had second reading.

---Carried

Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**Second Reading Of Bill 9: Financial Administration Act**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River, that Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill is to increase the authority of the Workers' Compensation Board to write off assets of the board and debts and obligations owed to the board.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried. Bill 9 has had second reading.

---Carried

Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**Second Reading Of Bill 11: Revolving Funds Act, No. 1**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 1, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill is to increase the authorized limit of the petroleum products revolving fund from \$40 million to \$55 million.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried. Bill 11 has had second reading.

---Carried

Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

**Second Reading Of Bill 12: Write-Off Of Assets And Debts Act, 1991**

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 12, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1991, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to authorize the write-off of debts and assets under section 24 of the Financial Administration Act.

**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 12 has had second reading. Bills 8, 9, 11 and 12 are ordered into committee of the whole for today.

Item 18, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 7, CR 2-91(1), Bills 8, 9, 11 and 12, with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

**ITEM 18: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** The committee will come to order. Before proceeding today in committee of the whole, I would like to advise the committee that the Chair made an error yesterday in not asking for general comments on Bill 7, which is the budget, before going into detail. I would like to propose that the Chair will now call for general comments on Bill 7, the budget, and once we have concluded with general comments we will return to the Department of the Executive and to the NWT Science Institute and Mr. Whitford's motion. Thank you. For the benefit of Members that did not take a break, we will take a 15 minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

**Bill 7, Appropriation Act, 1991-92**

The committee will now come back to order. We are dealing with the Department of the Executive. We will start off with general comments on the department. Following that we will deal with the Science Institute, and then Mr. Whitford's motion. We are on general comments now on the Department of the Executive.

Thank you for correcting me, Mr. Pudluk. We are dealing with general comments on Bill 7, the whole budget, and then we will be going into the Department of the Executive and continue on the Science Institute and Mr. Whitford's motion. It is general comments on Bill 7 itself. Mr. Lewis.

**MR. LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way in which we deal with the budget has been established over a period of years, I suppose, in which the Minister of Finance gives his Budget Address and after that we get distribution of the budget document itself, the act itself, and then we go straight into general comments about the budget. When we have been discussing this whole business of procedures, Mr. Chairman, it brings to light the fact that perhaps in addition to looking at the way in which the government operates, the base review that Mr. Ballantyne has referred to, we may want to look also at the way in which we deal with government business in the House itself because there are some things which make it a little cumbersome.

**Time Needed For Responding To Budget Address**

For example, I listened with great interest to the Budget Address yesterday. And when Mr. Ballantyne asked, "Are you ready to go into the Executive?" it seems to me that I really needed some more time to chew over a few things as to really what was being achieved in this budget, having a look at where we have come from over a period of time, and any comments that I would have wanted to make yesterday probably would not be as valuable as they would be after spending some time just reading over a few things and comparing things that were in this budget with the previous ones, looking over other SCOF recommendations to see to what degree SCOF recommendations had any impact on the budget. So in a sense we did break with procedural tradition yesterday by not having an opportunity to make general comments about the budget.

I find it very difficult, having just listened to Mr. Ballantyne speak, to make an immediate response to what he had to say. I would want it to be a little bit more considered, so you know right off, as soon as the Budget Address has been made, that you are not going to immediately get up and make a response to it; you want to reflect a little bit, do a bit of thinking about it; and it may be the same thing with the budget document itself. If you want to examine the degree to which this budget reflects the realities that we keep on talking

about, you need to have a bit of time to think about it. For future sessions, Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that that procedure whereby we go straight from the Budget Address to the document, to general comments about the document, just on the same day, really does not do justice to the way in which we should be approaching the budget exercise.

**General Comments On Description Of Budgetary Process**

Yesterday we missed out on the opportunity of making general comments about the budget document itself and we agreed, through you, Mr. Chairman, that perhaps that was one step, that we should go back to to see if, in fact, there were other comments that would help to clarify people's thinking, because it would be my hope, anyway, that other people also would want to respond to this whole business of the budgetary process, how it is put together, how it reflects the priorities of the government, and so on. What we had yesterday was really not only an introduction to the budget itself but, in a way, an overall description of the budgetary process over the last three years. I know some Members have been very interested in looking at such things as -- well okay, every year we get a budget, and before the budget is presented, the standing committee on finance meets in the month of December and makes all kinds of comments, and in a sense they make general comments on the budget themselves when they go through the details of that budget -- they make all kinds of comments -- and then when we get to see it in February after the Minister has tabled it in the House, we like to look at the budget to see to what degree the standing committee on finance has had any impact on what we get in front of us. Members obviously would like to have a chance to look at those other documents, to look at SCOF documents and other information that is provided to us, so that we can track the way the government has behaved in the handling of its budget over the last three years.

Those are some general comments that I have to make about procedure, Mr. Chairman. The way we do things right now, you have to wonder about the degree to which Members are going to take advantage of making general comments when we, in fact, have had a committee that has looked at all that budget information for three or four weeks in December, and there has been full discussion of it; and one wonders when you get it into the House what more general commentary you are going to get on the budget once it has been tabled in the House.

I know that from the government's point of view, it would much prefer simply getting on to the business of looking at each department and moving through them as quickly as they can because for the government this is the most important piece of legislation that we have to deal with. We sometimes forget that, Mr. Chairman, that this is the budget session, and judging from the amount of stuff that we are being asked to deal with in this session, the budget almost seems to be lost in another great agenda of legislation, so that this does not have the kind of focus that we should be giving it. Maybe for that reason alone, simply because we have something like 50 pieces of legislation that we may have to deal with in this session, it would be worthwhile, looking at this as the unique piece of legislation that the February session has always been set aside to handle.

On the other hand, I would not want to simply say that because we have always done it this way and we always like to have general comments about the budget, that we would really prolong it just for the sake of prolonging it. It seems that if you have something to say and it is something pertinent that you are worried about, especially about process -- I have some very, very grave reservations about the way we handle legislation and about the way in which the budget is done in consensus kind of government.

### Advantage Of Standing Committee On Finance

So any comments I would have to make, I would be quite happy to get into all the details, but this seems to be the only chance we have in order to raise our concerns about process, about the way in which, at the current time, in a consensus form of government, you have a privileged group of seven people who get the budget in December and they then are very much aware of what the government is planning to do and have the power in that committee to make strong recommendations to the government for the benefit of all the NWT. And there may be some feelings among ordinary Members that that is a very privileged committee. Because of that very important role and function that they perform, they really can push the government more than everybody else can. I do not see that that is necessarily correct, but that does happen. What I am saying is that there is that possibility always that Members feel that way; that this committee is a powerful committee and in a consensus form of government has an unusual kind of position to influence government in a way that other Members do not, about the most crucial thing that we do, which is to get the appropriations for providing services to the people of the NWT.

I feel the same way about legislation, but it is not on that issue that we are talking today, Mr. Chairman. But because there are grave concerns about process in this House and the way we get business done, perhaps this is the time, instead of just making general comments about different programs, which we can do when we get to it, perhaps this is the time we can talk about budgets and how budgets are put together and how they reflect realities. Is it a fair budget? In our kind of government, how can you make sure it is fair? That you can handle Mr. Arlooktoo's problems, for example, who says, "Look, I had understood that the program would be this way and I find out now it is not that way." Or maybe another Member who has strong feelings about the way the budget should be done.

At one time MLAs were very heavily involved in budget preparation. Everybody seems to have been involved. Even regional councils at one time were involved. I am not suggesting that we have to go back to that, Mr. Chairman, but perhaps what we have done is to formalize things to such a degree now that the government obviously is the government in power and all we can do is react to it and we lost that idea of consensus whereby other Members really feel that this is a budget that makes sense, that meets the priorities, and so on.

So just in keeping with my own promise, Mr. Chairman, to stick to the point that what we want to talk about is this budget and not to prolong it, to talk about all kinds of things which we can deal with when we get to each department, perhaps we want to talk about that today. Because several Members have already mentioned it. It is not a new issue, but it has never been discussed in this House, it is always outside this House. So maybe if Members want to take advantage of that opportunity to do it today, they can do so. Thank you.

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

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not sure whether I was going to speak or not but I guess I should take advantage of it. I would like to say that like Mr. Lewis, I have some very grave reservations about the procedure that we are using in our Legislature now. He is right that the standing committee on finance looked at the budget documents for three weeks and we went through these books, capital and O and M. It resulted in verbatim transcripts of the meetings which are these, more than 900 pages, and there were some very well-spoken words amongst that. Perhaps some not so well-spoken. Some brilliant ideas and some less brilliant

ideas. But it was a lot of hard work, at a tremendous cost, not only for MLAs to sit there, Ministers to appear with large numbers of staff day after day after day, when they could have been doing other things, and as Mr. Lewis says, it might lead to the perception that the committee, through that, would have tremendous power to change and affect the budget and how the money will be spent.

I do not know if we differ there because he did not go into his opinion on it, but what frustrates me, Mr. Chairman, is that in fact that we do not have anything, after all that and after these 900 pages of verbatim transcripts. In the capital book, for instance, of all the departments that were presented to us, only two have made changes. The other 13 departments have come in precisely the way they came in to the SCOF review. There has been zero change. The one change that was made in MACA is a change -- I do not know how it was accomplished -- it was a project worth \$1.5 million that was listed in the SCOF review book as being \$1.5 million to be expended this year with no previous years' expenditure and now suddenly it shows up at \$750,000 this year and \$750,000 previous. I do not know how suddenly we could have spent it previously.

The only department that made any change at all of any significance was the Department of Health, in response to suggestions on an alternate form of providing housing for nurses, where free-standing housing units were contemplated, were there changes made. I want to thank the Minister of Health for having listened to the committee on that.

So that is in the small part of our budget, the \$170 million or so part. In the \$900 million part, the O and M, the changes were even less, Mr. Chairman. There are four departments that show any change at all and the rest are totally unchanged. Two of the four -- it would appear it is a \$250,000 increase in the Legislative Assembly and a \$250,000 decrease in Culture and Communications and it would seem to be just a cross transfer of a program, probably the official languages commissioner. The other two changes were, one, the Department of Public Works, who have reduced their budget by \$121,000 out of \$116 million, which is something in the neighbourhood of one-tenth of one per cent. And, two, in the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs there is about a half per cent increase of \$251,000. But there is a total change, in \$900 million, of \$130,000 increase, as a result of these 900 pages of transcripts.

### Member Not Happy With Process

Now I know this is a budget review and I know we should be sitting here giving our best feeling to try to influence it, but I cannot help but feel we can do that until hell freezes over and we are not going to get any changes. These two books are going to be approved as is and it does not matter what the heck we are going to say about it. I cannot help but feel what I really want to do is break all the rules and recommend that we approve Bill 7 right now without any further discussion and then table the verbatim reports of the SCOF review. But I am not supposed to do things like that, Mr. Chairman, but that is what I feel like doing. It does not have any impact what we do. There may be those of us in the House here who can do this thing twice. I am not one of those. I cannot sit here and open up this book again where it lists everything and say the same words to the same Minister as I did in December. If I do, I expect to get the same results that I have just told you about, Mr. Chairman. That is like hitting yourself on the head with a hammer; it is nice when you stop.

I really do not know what else to say about the budget. I am a very unhappy camper about this. I am very unhappy about the process we have now. I do not think it is working and I think if we are going to do a favour to the next Assembly then



perhaps we should, as a Legislative Assembly, recommend some changes.

### System Needs Reviewing

The Minister of Finance has announced that he is taking a program review. Maybe we should look at a procedural review. I think the process has changed over the years since I came into the House, and it is not necessarily a good idea to do things the same way in 1991 as we did in 1981. Things change and times change.

Perhaps we should not have the SCOF review in the fall and spend the three weeks in trying to change the budget which, as I say, we are not doing. The proper method, the better method, might be, Mr. Chairman, to take the budget straight into the House, table the budget, give some time to consider the thing and then do essentially what we did in the SCOF review but do it in the House, in public. There were an awful lot of good suggestions, good comments and there were some very strong words spoken. Mr. Chairman, that is why we have this committee and why we do not make the verbatims public because we always say to ourselves, Ministers and MLAs, that if we had it in public then we would not speak as freely as we do when we are in committee. There is something wrong with a system that says that, because we should be able to and we should be courageous enough to speak as freely in this House, in public, as we do in committee. I do not think we should do it twice because there is no point in doing that. We are not achieving anything with it and, Mr. Chairman, this is not really a criticism of the Minister of Finance and I hope he does not take it as that because the system is not his; the system is ours as a Legislative Assembly, and I do not think it is working right now.

Whereas these comments that I have made, Mr. Chairman, may not say very much to the budget itself but more to the procedure of how we arrive at the budget, I really do want to express my frustration with this process. I have not made up my mind how I am going to handle the next five weeks, or whatever, or if I am going to take part in this or not because I have already taken part in it. I have taken part in 900 pages and I did not achieve a darn thing.

I suppose, Mr. Chairman, a recommendation for Members to consider and mull over, perhaps, is that maybe we should consider making some recommendations to the next Assembly in procedural changes so that future Members of the next Assembly will get a feeling of more meaningful participation than I have right now, and also that we might be able to bring our proceedings more out in the public forum where a consensus government should be working and not behind closed doors. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. General comments. Mr. Ballantyne.

**HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE:** Thank you. I think this debate is good. It is healthy. Mr. Pedersen said, when I came into the cabinet back five or six years ago, that this was the process. It is still the process and we are trying to deal as best we can with a process that has been set up by the Legislative Assembly. I think we are obviously going through growing pains as an Assembly. The issues are much more complex; the constraints on us as far as funding are much more difficult; the Northwest Territories is a more complex place than it was six years ago. We are having the same problem with legislation. The process there is something on which we totally agree with the chairman of the legislation committee, that we have to take a look at it. The legislation has got more complex as we try, rightly or wrongly, to get more in sync with other jurisdictions. The demand for legislation increases; the requirement for translation has added

a very considerable burden on our capacity to get bills to Mr. Ernerk's committee. I think there is some valid criticism that a gap is starting to develop or perhaps there is not enough time for public consultation. I think it is definitely time to take some stock as to how we are doing things and whether or not the way we have done things for the last 10 years are as appropriate today as they were a few years ago. I think it would be a healthy exercise for people to think about it and maybe to talk about some ways which we can change the process.

### Budget Process More Complex

What we have tried to do, and the Members on the finance committee know that we have obviously attempted over the years to deal with the concerns of the committee and of the Assembly. I was chairman of the committee, as Mr. Pedersen knows, and I remember that I have said, "Well, what is the point of going through all of this twice?", but what has happened, and I think Mr. Pedersen will agree, is that there has been an attempt, not always successful because I do not think it is possible to satisfy everybody in this House all of the time, but we have tried very hard to be cognizant of motions of the House. We have tried hard to be cognizant of recommendations of both committees, legislation and finance, to try to respond to the recommendation of the committee on the economy. A lot of those recommendations and questions asked in the House are, in fact, reflected in the budget document. Mr. Pedersen is right, because of the time constraints and other factors it is very difficult to change, from the time of the SCOF review, to totally change the whole budget, we think -- and I would be interested at the appropriate time to hear people's views -- without changing the integrity of the budget. Even though the budget does not, cannot, obviously, meet the expectations of individual MLAs or all of the people of the Northwest Territories, there is just not enough money for that to happen. Besides the considerations of MLAs, there are some real defined needs that at certain times will mean that more resources will go in one area than into another. There are changing priorities of the Legislative Assembly. This Assembly has made economic development a strong priority and we have, in fact, put more money into economic development over the term of this Assembly.

Though I am the first to agree that it is not perfect, we have tried very hard to listen to the wishes and the concerns of MLAs and I think we have been successful to a good extent. We talk about those areas where we have not been successful but we have made thousands of decisions and many of those decisions have been met with the approval, collectively or individually, of Members of this Assembly. I would not say things are all bad, and I think that the system we have probably has served us well but I would agree with both Mr. Lewis and Mr. Pedersen that maybe the time is now to do some spadework for the next Assembly and to discuss some of our procedures and to discuss ways that in 1991 we want to operate as an Assembly. There are many ways to approach it. We could table all bills in the Assembly and not deal with them until the next Assembly and the committee could meet in between. We could do as Mr. Pedersen said, we could table the bill in the House, go through it in the House, find some way to recess. There are a lot of permutations and combinations. I do think they are worth serious consideration.

So I can say for the government, we are quite open to having a discussion and a dialogue here in the House, in committees, wherever, to see if there are ways in which we can improve the way we do business. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** General comments. Mr. Pollard.

### Government Response To SCOF Members Good

**MR. POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would take issue with Mr. Pedersen over the response that the government makes to the standing committee on finance. I would prove that issue, Mr. Chairman, if you refer to the recommendations over the three and four years that the committee has been in action and the recommendations made to the Government of the NWT, namely the Executive Council, you will see that each of those recommendations has been looked at, and in the main part the government has responded positively.

So I think that sometimes we are just a little bit too impatient. This is a large budget and many times things discussed in the standing committee on finance do not relate exactly to a dollar figure. We may be suggesting new ways that the government can do things. I think there is an understanding, at least on my part, that it takes the government some time to respond. But I would have to say, Mr. Chairman, that the standing committee on finance, I think, has been successful in influencing the government and I would refer you to the responses from the government on the recommendations that the standing committee on finance made in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Mr. Chairman, now that we have achieved that we are fighting each other on the committee, we may as well do it in public. Mr. Pollard is absolutely right, but he is talking about apples and I am talking about oranges. The committee does have an opportunity to influence the government in expenditure patterns for the future. Of course they do. So does the Assembly here and so do the motions we have passed.

I am talking about the futility and the frustration of looking at a particular budget for three weeks and doing 900 pages of testimony and then getting the same budget back again. That is the exercise that I think we could streamline. I do not think that we should do away with the standing committee on finance. I do not think we should do away with the Legislature, through committees or in the House, influencing the Executive in the expenditure patterns for next year, in the priorities where the expenditures should be, whatever it is. But I do think that the exercise of reviewing this budget, the expenditure for this upcoming year, the way we have done it, is an exercise in futility. Because as a result of reviewing that budget, this one that we got yesterday has not changed in the interim.

So I see it as talking two different things. One is influence and long-term planning and one is having any impact over the budget presented to us in December. We had no influence in that and that is proven quite clearly by the books we were presented with yesterday.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** General comments. Mr. Kilabuk.

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if I am going to make everything clear, but I would like to comment on what I have observed and have learned. When we are talking about the main estimates, sometimes we make mistakes but the people who propose the budget have never admitted to making mistakes, even though they have misallocated funds. I think the reason for doing that when we are doing the main estimates is that a lot of times money might be allocated for something and it is different from other years.

For example, this year one of the government's priorities was to fund the quarrying of carving materials, and there was

some experimenting with regard to carving material from other locations. Also, in the areas of co-ops, for example, they are not buying from the carvers and I think we made a mistake in giving extra money to Economic Development for this work.

### Government's Mind Difficult To Change

The government has to give more careful consideration to Members' concerns and I think that we are experienced enough that we pretty well know what is happening and what the priorities of our constituents are. Whenever government decides on something, it is very hard to change their mind. I think that I do the same thing because my children are my responsibilities and to discipline them sometimes I can be pretty rigid. I understand that the government has the right to do so and they do exercise this kind of control. Even though they may be wrong, they are not willing to change their mind.

For these reasons we have to be very careful where we are spending the money, because it is harder and harder to get money in the world, because things are costing so much more; we have to be careful about our spending habits.

Also, whenever we want something, we always tend to identify more and more needs, and the communities are always requesting more funding to do more programs. So our people tend to tell us that there is a lot of money being given to the territorial government. Yes, that is true. I also know this is a fact because I am part of the Legislative Assembly.

I know it is not easy to operate a government of this size, but I can also say that a lot of good things have happened. I will repeat what I stated earlier, the standing committee on finance does the review of the main estimates. We get assistance from the Minister, and sometimes the committee Members encounter problems with the various Ministers. So I have been thinking that maybe the committee should be reviewing, without the presence of Ministers. I think things would be better this way. I mentioned this earlier but I just wanted to say it again. It might be considered at some time when we are considering changes to the procedures that we follow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to operations and maintenance we have a certain amount of expenditure that is required for salaries; for agencies, boards and commissions; for the operations of corrections, and those are expenditures that are required as compared to capital expenditures. Capital expenditures comprise approximately 10 to 12 per cent of the main budget. In fact, the capital expenditure for this year has gone down, compared with the total O and M. The O and M has gone up from \$879 million to over \$900 million.

The effect of that is that most of the reduction in capital would be to the communities as opposed to the regions or Yellowknife central office. My main argument is that yes, we do make recommendations to the departments during the budget session. Then the government responds on the 2.5 person year reduction and another further 2.5 per cent for this year -- the government has said they have not reduced the PYs for those two years, but the purpose of the motion was to control expenditure incurred and productivity.

The Government Leader made a comment that he does co-ordinate his efforts between the regional directors. I could not see it possibly being done without the government's letting go some of its responsibilities, but he has been able to do that without any reduction in its responsibilities.

### Commitment And Dedication Of Bureaucracy

I would like to think that in the Northwest Territories, where we do have a big bureaucracy on the per capita base, that there are people out there in the bureaucracy that are committed and dedicated to ensuring that the smooth operation of this government does occur, and that they would also be able to make sacrifices in order for the smooth operation to take place; but I do not see that. I do not see this happening, and certainly the communities also do not see that happening.

The question is always, how dedicated are you with regard to your commitment to the North, the commitment to live up North and maybe sort of like a missionary in a Third World country to ensure that the North develops to its full potential? If the chips were down, then we would see a situation where a lot of people in the bureaucracy would resign. Perhaps if we decide not to have an increase in the O and M, then the government has no other option. In other provinces the government is forced to do that and not to increase salaries and that sort of thing. I suppose that is when the true colours of things start coming out. This is when dedication is going to be obvious. I say that, Mr. Chairman, basically because -- I do not know what the vacancy rate this year is with regard to the PYs but I know that last year there were a lot of vacancies -- but they still have not reduced. We were not affecting anybody that was employed; we were only affecting the departments that required those person years. But if we asked that they not be filled, then it might cause a burden in the bureaucracy, but I do not see how much it would affect the functions of the bureaucracy.

One of the main focuses of this government should be that they start regionalizing a lot of their responsibilities. We are also talking about a situation where the Eastern Arctic is looking at a Nunavut territory and a Nunavut government. The time is now to start moving a lot of those services that operate out of Yellowknife to the Eastern Arctic, and that move will have to happen pretty soon or else you could be talking about a situation where you could be creating Nunavut but there is no government there to govern Nunavut. I do not know how serious this government is with regard to that. Again, this is where you have the people that are committed to a movement, that are sincere about the people up here, permanent residents up here, that would start coming out. People that are living in Yellowknife, are they willing to move to Iqaluit, for example, or would they consider another job rather than moving? Those things are going to be addressed pretty soon and that is when people that live up here are going to have to live with those decisions. If you are not serious about the aspirations of the people up here, then certainly those people will start resigning or looking for jobs in other places. Those decisions have to be made now because we are already going into the fourth year of this agreement between Nunavut and the territorial government.

Mr. Chairman, although we do see an increase in the operations and maintenance of this government, I do not know whether or not this government has made any kind of effort whatsoever to tell the unions, the teachers' union or the public service union...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Gargan, your time is up. Proceed, Mr. Gargan.

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you. I just wanted to ask, Mr. Chairman, what, if any, efforts have been made by this government to tell those unions, "Look, we are short on the dollars and we are going to be in a deficit." And how serious are those workers out there with regard to limiting their increase and their benefits? Are they willing to sacrifice some of those benefits in order for them to keep a job? Or would they prefer moving elsewhere to maintain a job?

Those are questions that have never been asked, but I would ask it now because now is the time to start looking at who up here is serious about their work and dedication to the North. I really would like to see that, because the people in the community would certainly like to see what is happening in those areas in which a person who is in the civil service is willing to make those sacrifices. Because as far as I am concerned, it is still my view and the view of the communities that the bureaucracy is feeding itself, that it is serving its own purpose rather than serving the purpose of the people they serve. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

### Lack Of Control By Ordinary Members

**MR. ARLOOKTOO:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought about this back in 1979 when I was running for MLA. I thought I would be more in control of things affecting my constituency. I thought I would be more responsible at the time I ran for election but I am beginning to find out more and more these days that I am not in control at all.

Concerning devolution of powers to regions, we become aware of these occurrences only when we are sitting here in the Legislative Assembly. Particularly for those of us who are ordinary Members, I know for a fact that today we do not affect any of the procedures that are already in place as far as the government's direction is concerned. I can play a role in my membership in a committee, but my powers are limited.

I have not had much input into the main estimates but I have been told by some of the Ministers, "You are ordinary Members. You do not have any rights." But we are the Members and we can make changes. I have been told this and I know that for a fact. I think it would be better if the Members in the new Assembly have more control. For instance, we will have two territories; what are the priorities? They should be able to have more responsibility in those areas once they are elected.

For example, in the Baffin Region the programs that are run in communities are still very old-fashioned. They are not up-to-date with today's times. They are still using the same old procedures and forms and that is the way they are operating right now. All of their procedures are done by contacting Yellowknife, rather than the MLAs or decision-makers in their areas.

I think it would be much better if the elected Members have more responsibilities and be more accountable. They have offices. There are fax machines, there are telephones, and there are interpreters. This is the case right now, whether the person is unilingual or not. There are all these possibilities to have access to information.

These have been major concerns to me, because I know for those of us who are ordinary Members, we have no say in the budget or the use of funds. We have absolutely no control in these matters. In fact, the Members have less power than the Members of the standing committee on finance. If you are not on that committee, you have very limited powers. That is a fact, because I have seen it today and I have known this for some time.

So I think we have to make some changes and we have to work together more closely, jointly, when it comes to the budget. We do have representation of our constituents and we have that right, but I have no control on the programs that are already included in the budget. Thank you.

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

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have reviewed the budget and I listened to the Minister talk about it yesterday. Some of it is good news. I think there is room for improvements in other areas, and some of the things that we need are omitted completely.

This is my fourth year as a Member of the Legislative Assembly and it is foreseeable that we will be holding elections sometime this year in the NWT, but since we have not decided on the exact date to hold elections, I do not want to make an election speech prior to even finding out the actual date of elections. However, in these past three years the government and the ordinary Members sometimes behave in a manner too similar to the way that southern governments work, especially similar to a party system. This is the way I see these eight Ministers. Sometimes we are allowed questions, whether we make any difference. If we do not settle this matter prior to the upcoming elections they will have the same problems when they get elected as ordinary Members. This is what I think, in observing the Ministers right now.

I also notice that the present government which we elected does not seem to be too dedicated to the people that elected them. There is not enough accountability, and they are not keeping their constituents informed enough of what it is they do. This is slightly different compared to the time that I was in an Inuit organization such as the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. Their president would be told which procedures would be best to follow. Comparing that to this situation, it is not the same at all when we want to ask the Ministers for specific items. I have seen, over these past three years, that when they give you items for your communities, they know that the attitude will be that this is a very good government if we give them items that they want.

#### **Culture Based On Inuit Language**

Some of the work that we tried to do is to try to improve the lives in our communities. For example, we are concerned about the language of the Inuit. This is the very basis of their culture and you do not want to lose that throughout your lifetime. I am always talking about the Inuit in our communities because I am not embarrassed by them. They have always been independent people, since a very long time ago. I have pushed the government many times to encourage the provisions of jobs, not just statistics but in reality for them to have jobs, and for them to have responsible jobs using their abilities, which are very outstanding. They know their communities and they know their land. They know their own culture and they know the North and the dangers involved in it. Being an Inuk myself, we want to get ahead.

Our traditional culture is based on our language being Inuit. The Minister of Finance indicated earlier that they try to work on the things that we all need; this is true in some parts. In looking at the budget, there are quite a few things that we discussed. These are: suicide prevention; child welfare; family day-care; and legal aid endeavours. All these items are being included in the communities by way of the government because there is no other path for them to go through.

I also remember when I was talking about aboriginal people. Three years have passed, almost, since I made a motion during a sitting of this House about encouraging aboriginal people to get into the justice system. There is a university in Saskatchewan, and they could have made some kind of joint agreement and it would be implemented by way of Arctic College, but this is still not a reality today.

Also, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to see an institute for RCMP training here within our Territories. I also passed a motion, and what happened to it? What is the meaning of it and

where is that institute that I had hoped to see for, in particular, aboriginal people? This is still not a reality. It makes me think, especially after these past three years, that even when we try to make the government accountable through the questions that we ask -- the questions that I have asked concerning my constituency come not just from myself but from my people because this is what their needs are. Even though I raised these questions, the government, whenever it is not accountable, sometimes is not very good. In thinking for preparations for Nunavut, which will be a reality in the future, we are working hard at seeing this become a reality and we are doing it mostly for our people...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** (Translation) I am sorry, Mr. Ernerk, your 10 minutes are up. You may seek unanimous consent to continue. Agreed? Continue, Mr. Ernerk.

**MR. ERNERK:** (Translation) Thank you very much, as always, Mr. Chairman. In preparing for Nunavut, in our community, many of the Inuit would like to be more in control of the government. They would like to be more in control of programs that we run presently. We know more about this than the white man because it is our land. When the Inuit go down south we do not go down and teach them how to do things. We do not instruct them how to drive, or tell them this is the way your roads should be. We know our own cultures and our lands, and this is the biggest meaning behind working toward Nunavut, and it is something I will continue to support for our future.

There should be more training, and it is getting more difficult to find job opportunities, especially for the younger people. For example, in Repulse Bay -- since I know that community -- today Repulse Bay has a population of 434. The young people there aged 16 and under number over 250 right now. Their population of young people far outnumbers the elders and the adults, and that is not the only case. The population in Coral Harbour increases by 12 per cent each year. The population there is about 600 right now. Our young people, Mr. Chairman, are the people I am concerned about, and we have to start looking for better ways to train these people for jobs, to have good jobs, and we have to place more emphasis on finding jobs for these people.

I know this government is not against me, you work with me, and I would like to participate more when we are dealing with issues that arise or affect my constituency, be it in a very small way, Mr. Chairman. Let me play a part, even a little bit more. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Are there any further general comments? If not, that concludes general comments. Is the committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. We are going to go back to page 2.22, information item, Science Institute. Mr. Whitford, do you want to repeat your motion? Mr. Whitford.

#### **Executive Department**

#### **Science Institute Of The NWT**

#### **Motion That NWT Science Institute Research And Develop Tools For The Preparation Of Hides**

**MR. WHITFORD:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I will endeavour to locate it. It is recommendation number 53 from the report on the review of the 1991-92 main estimates from the standing committee on finance, and the motion is: I move that the

committee recommends that the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories research and develop tools for the preparation of hides to facilitate the larger scale production of fur products.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be voting in favour of this motion. During the standing committee on finance's review of the budget, and prior to that, I raised this issue with the Government Leader who is responsible for the Science Institute. It has come to my attention that people in the communities are having a hard time to meet the demand for traditional tanned hides, moose hides, caribou hides, for handicrafts. If there were tools developed that would not take away from the traditional way of tanning hides, basically hand-held power tools, by the Science Institute, to help people in the communities to tan those hides, it would make it a lot easier and it would make more hides available for handicrafts, for the sewing for the ladies. It would also make better use of our renewable resources such as caribou and moose, and whatever other hides it could be used for. That way it would help to establish possible cottage industries in the small communities. I am not talking about developing tools for a big tannery or anything. This is just tools that individuals could purchase and use in their homes or outside tanning hides. Thank you.

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Just very briefly, Mr. Chairman, the Science Institute exists to serve the Members of this Assembly and welcomes, I believe, suggestions on ways in which they can use science to help people in their ordinary lives. The motion is welcome. We will not be voting on it, but I can say with certainty that the Science Institute will pursue it and welcomes the suggestion. Thank you.

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

**MR. KILABUK:** (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be supporting the motion fully. It makes me very excited to have a motion such as this produced in the House. We have wanted that in the Eastern Arctic for quite some time. We have started this business of tanning in the aboriginal cultural way, but I know that we should have something on paper so that we could start up this business of tanning in the communities. I will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Before I call the question, I do not have a quorum. Mr. Clerk, could you ring the bell? Ms. Cournoyea.

**HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA:** Mr. Chairman, I certainly can support the motion but I will sit here and take the advice. However, I often find that when we get motions like this, there is always a preconceived idea that everyone has their role in life, and we are trying to expand on our respective roles. I would like to make a further suggestion that these tools can be used by men, too, who can also do tanning instead of just the ladies all the time.

---Applause

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

**MR. MORIN:** I wonder if we should make an amendment so it can be used by both sexes.

### **Motion That NWT Science Institute Research And Develop Tools For The Preparation Of Hides, Carried**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** We are on the standing committee on finance report, page eight, recommendation 53, moved by Mr. Whitford. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Page 2.22, information item, Science Institute. Does the House agree that the Government Leader go to the witness table with his staff?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Mr. Minister, for the record, could you introduce your witnesses please?

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Louise Vertes, deputy minister of the Executive Council, and Cindy Fair, director of finance and administration, Executive Council. Thank you.

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

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Government Leader aware of the new initiatives that the federal government is implementing with regard to the polar research institute? It is a new body that is being considered by the federal government. This would involve a lot of polar countries, and how much participation would they have with our own Science Institute?

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to tell the Member and this committee that the federal government has consulted this government quite extensively on the proposed polar commission. We were involved when the report of Dr. Simons was being prepared for Mr. McKnight, who was then Minister of Indian Affairs. We had input into it. We had input into the bill which was prepared and made representation to the standing committee that considered the bill. We are pleased that the bill provides for an office for the polar commission in the North.

We were also pleased that Dr. Simons' report recommended that that office be located in Yellowknife, and we have generally welcomed the creation of this commission because it will help to ensure that all the various federal agencies and bodies that do research in the North are accountable to Parliament and that there is a body of citizens -- and we expect that there will be good northern representation on that commission -- who will advise the federal government, through Parliament, on the appropriate priorities for northern research.

So I am quite familiar with it and generally think it is a good step forward. Thank you.

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

**MR. GARGAN:** With regard to the location of the office. I am wondering if the location is final, or is the government looking for suggestions where best to locate this office? If it is to do research in polar countries, I would think it would be within the Arctic Circle and I would think it would go in one of the High Arctic communities. That is my impression, if it is for the purpose of research in those areas.

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

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Chairman, the bill, which is now in the Senate, on the polar commission, will provide that the new commission determine where offices should be. So it would be up to that commission. I was referring to Dr. Simons' report to the Minister when I said there was a recommendation that the office be in Yellowknife. He also recommended another office be in Quebec City and that the principal office be in Ottawa. The bill has changed that slightly and has left all those decisions up to the commission, including where the main office would be.

Mr. Chairman, we only would recommend that there be a connection with the Science Institute of the NWT in any office to be established in the NWT. But it would be a matter for the commission itself to determine in conjunction with the Minister responsible, who is the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** Thank you. Information item, page 2.22, Science Institute. Mr. Pollard.

**MR. POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Government Leader could tell us if the Executive Council, through him, is going to make a recommendation to the commission on where they should locate in the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Chairman, we did urge upon Dr. Simons that the commission should have a presence in the Northwest Territories and not in Ottawa, so we were very pleased that the bill recognized that. The Member asked, will we make a representation to the commission, when it is appointed, on this matter? I think probably we will. I think it is something of great concern to us, especially because our Science Institute is very active and is a major commitment of this Legislature. So, yes, I expect we will; and I think the Member is suggesting we should. Thank you.

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

**MR. POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I may ask the Minister or the Government Leader what his preference is for a location for this commission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the bill was changed at the committee stage, and it actually allows for the headquarters of the commission to be in the North. That is a decision that the commission will determine. I am quite delighted with that because Dr. Simons' report said the headquarters should be in Ottawa and I think it is appropriate that a body looking at polar science activity should be in the North.

I must tell the Member, quite honestly, that we had envisaged that what was recommended as kind of a sub-office of the commission would actually be housed physically within the offices of the Science Institute itself, which are presently located in Yellowknife. That was the gist of the discussions that were held with Dr. Simons.

Now it is wide open, and we could recommend that the headquarters be in the North. It is something that I would take direction from cabinet on before we went further. I do think that wherever it is, there should be a connection with the Science Institute and, of course, the science institute is located in other communities in the Northwest Territories at the

moment. So I am open to advice from Members on that, Mr. Chairman. The only requirement that I would suggest is that there should be a good working relationship of that office with the Science Institute. Thank you.

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

**MR. POLLARD:** I wonder if the Government Leader could tell us what his personal preference is at this time, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Chairman, I think it would make sense to have the office connected with the Science Institute, which is presently in Yellowknife. I also think that if a staff person is to be appointed for the polar commission in the North, that that staff person should not be isolated somewhere alone, but should be physically housed within the Science Institute. The Science Institute represents everything that we have got going in the North in the way of monitoring scientific research and science and technology. So if the Member is pressing me, I would say that would be my suggestion about the most practical approach to take, to house it with the Science Institute's office in Yellowknife.

I am aware there are communities who have suggested that the Science Institute could move outside of Yellowknife, but wherever the Science Institute office is, I think this polar commission office should be there so that they can work together, and right now it is Yellowknife. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Just to remind Members that during questions you cannot ask a personal opinion. Mr. Pollard.

**MR. POLLARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make the comment that I once referred to Yellowknife as the "black hole of the Northwest Territories", and I think this proves out what I was saying back three or four years ago, that once something comes here the other little pieces have to go here, as the Government Leader has said. The Science Institute is here, so this next thing has to come here, and I think that is a great concern for communities outside Yellowknife.

I thought that some years ago the Government Leader and I had discussed this issue and that he had said, "In future, I agree, we will not try to strip Yellowknife of things that are here, because they are here and the infrastructure is here, and so forth." But I did recall the Government Leader saying something about deflecting things that would be coming henceforth. I would just like to point out to Members of the committee that once something starts and comes here, it may be one or two people, but there is always that reason to add and tack on, and so forth, and I see that in this instance, Mr. Chairman, and I will say no more on the subject. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. Science Institute, information item. Page 2.23, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, those are information items. Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I have permission to go back to page 2.19?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Morin is requesting that we go back to page 2.19. Are we agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Morin, go ahead.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not here yesterday so I missed this item. Under the Executive grants program, my understanding is that \$200,000 of that \$324,000 budget is grants to the NWT Metis Association. I would like to move a motion to defer that item, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Morin, what is your motion?

#### Motion To Defer Executive Grants Program

**MR. MORIN:** I move that we defer, on page 2.19 of the 1991-92 main estimates, approval of the item grants, Executive Council Secretariat, the item for \$324,000 for the Executive grants program which contains grants to the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories, until all other departments have been considered. It is translated for everyone.

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

**MR. POLLARD:** Mr. Chairman, in looking at the transcript from yesterday it would appear that Mr. Zoe, who was the chairman then, deferred page 2.19, sir.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Zoe has requested that this item be deferred. Mr. Morin's motion is just making it official that we will not return to this until other departments have been dealt with. So it just makes it official. Your motion is in order, Mr. Morin.

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to Members for not knowing that the page was deferred but I was not present yesterday. The reason that I am moving this motion at this time is because it is uncertain to me how that \$200,000 to the Metis Association is given to them. It may be that they give the \$200,000 to them in April but then you have locals, Metis people, who cannot tap into that money because they are not affiliated with the NWT Metis Association at this time. I would like to know how those people are going to get a piece of that pie because it is money for Metis people, for the locals who are not affiliated with the NWT Metis Association. Until that is clarified, I would like this deferred and it should be clarified, I think, by the time we get through the rest of the departments.

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

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** I should just explain, Mr. Chairman, to assist the committee, that this is a grants program for grants to various organizations. In the past the government has regularly contributed to the Metis association but it is always on a yearly basis and it is really a discretionary fund, so it is not an automatic thing. As I think I mentioned in question period, grants were provided this year on a quarterly basis to the NWT Metis Association. Four payments of \$50,000 upon receipt of proof from the association that the previous grant payment was distributed to the locals. That is how we did it. We understand that the money was divided equally amongst the 12 locals so nothing will have changed this late in the fiscal year by actions that have taken place at community levels, I believe. Thank you.

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

**MR. MORIN:** Thank you, Mr. Patterson, for clarifying that. That is the reason why I have a concern, because if you are not affiliated with the NWT Metis Association then you are not considered a local so what may happen is that the \$200,000 will just all go to the northern region because they would be the only locals that would be affiliated. Maybe we can get clarification from them. That is basically what I am asking for, and we can defer this item until after the other departments

have been considered. I would just like to say that it should not affect the funding; there should still be \$200,000 available to the Metis people. Who administers it, I do not know, but that money should not change.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you, Mr. Morin. To the motion. Mr. Pedersen.

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Reading the motion carefully, the last line, "Until all other departments have been considered", I will not vote against the motion on that basis, but I certainly would vote against the motion if it is reintroduced after all other departments because it is discretionary funding; there is nothing in this budget that says that the Metis Association, or any part thereof, will receive \$200,000. It is not an allocation cast in stone and there are many other bodies that get funding from this, including the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, which I would like to see continue to get their support. On the basis that this merely defers action on this until other departments in the budget books have been considered, I will refrain from voting against it at this stage.

#### Motion To Defer Executive Grants Program, Carried

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

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

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

---Carried

We are back on the Science Institute, page 2.23, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Are there any questions? Are there any further comments on the Department of the Executive? We are finished for the time being. Mr. Patterson.

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we could look at the capital, and I also have a bit more information about a question that was asked of me yesterday about the GST and regional councils.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Mr. Minister, would you like to provide that information at this time?

#### Regional Councils And The GST

**HON. DENNIS PATTERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate returning to that question asked yesterday about regional councils' exemption from paying the goods and services tax, GST. I would like to clarify the status under which the councils can apply for a GST rebate. A regional council can make a request to Revenue Canada in order to qualify for the 57 per cent rebate for the goods and services tax under the so-called municipalities section. Revenue Canada has examined the expenditures of such bodies and determined that no additional expenditures would be incurred as a result of the implementation of GST. The regional councils would have been paying federal sales tax in the past. The removal of the federal sales tax plus the 57 per cent rebate of GST paid should therefore offset the impact of the goods and services tax.

Mr. Chairman, an information package, including contacts at Revenue Canada and how to apply for the rebate, has been prepared and will shortly be sent to the regional councils. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you for that information. Does the committee agree that we defer the Department of

Executive O and M budget?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Executive Council Secretariat

#### Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Capital. Page 2.9, detail of capital, Executive Council Secretariat, buildings and works, headquarters, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Total buildings and works, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Total Capital, Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Total activity, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Program summary, capital expenditure, total capital expenditure, \$100,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Does the committee agree that the capital expenditure of the Executive is now concluded?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses. Mr. Pedersen.

**MR. PEDERSEN:** Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan):** There is a motion on the floor to report progress, which is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

#### ITEM 19: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would like to call the House back to order. Item 19, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

**MR. GARGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 7 and CR 2-91(1) and wishes to report progress, with two motions being adopted.

**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 20, third reading of bills. Item 21, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Nunavut caucus immediately after adjournment this evening. Meetings for tomorrow morning, ajaqtit at 9:00 a.m. and at 10:00 a.m., caucus.

#### ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 20th.

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. Replies to Budget Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 7; Committee Report 2-91(1); Bills 8, 9, 11, and 12.
19. Report of Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
21. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 20th, 1991.

---ADJOURNMENT



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