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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 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 (Mr. Richard Nerysoo): Orders of the day for Friday, March 1, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 15-91(1): 20th Anniversary Of Native Communications Society Publishing

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring a very notable anniversary in the history of northern communications to the attention of the House and the people of the Northwest Territories. The Native Communications Society of the Western Arctic is today issuing the 20th anniversary issue of its news publication, now called Press Independent.

On April 23, 1971, the first edition of the Brotherhood Report rolled off the presses. Commencing as a monthly publication the newspaper changed its name for the second edition to the Native Press, the name it retained for 19 years. It quickly changed to a bi-monthly publication. In 1990, following significant organizational change, the Native Press changed to a weekly publication with a new name, Press Independent.

Throughout its publishing history, Mr. Speaker, the Native Communications Society has provided an extremely valuable communications medium to the communities of the Western Arctic. Covering all of the important aboriginal events over the years, including major issues such as the Berger Inquiry and land claims, the Brotherhood Report, Native Press, and Press Independent have been consistent in reporting from the perspective of aboriginal people. However, reporting from an aboriginal perspective did not stop with aboriginal issues. The Press has never limited its reporting to aboriginal or solely northern issues but has provided competent coverage of national and international issues of the day, issues that are of interest and importance to people who want to be informed, and informed from an aboriginal perspective. The importance of a people's perspective cannot be overstated in the development and continuing strength of cultural identity.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that only a year ago the Native Communications Society was facing a financial crisis which threatened the future of its newspaper and radio service. It is a credit to the Native Communications Society that it stuck with both operations with a determination that has seen a new beginning and a commitment to the future for both. I am delighted that this House was supportive of the contributions that my department and Economic Development and Tourism were able to provide to the Native Communications Society in realizing its goals.

I applaud the Native Communications Society and all of the people who have worked so hard over the years to keep it publishing for a job well done. On behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I wish the Native Communications Society well in its development initiatives and a strong future.

For those Members and the public who might not have noticed as they came in this morning, Mr. Speaker, a display of past editions of the three publications has been mounted in the foyer for you to view.

Again, congratulations to the Press Independent for a job well done in a highly competitive world. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 16-91(1): CRTC Hearings, Yellowknife

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 4, 1991, at 9:30 a.m., there will be a hearing held in the Yellowknife Inn regarding an application to the CRTC, Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, from UNITEL. The application to the CRTC is for an order requiring Bell Canada, British Columbia Telephone Company, the Island Telephone Company Limited, Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company Limited, the New Brunswick Telephone Company Limited and Newfoundland Telephone Company Limited, the respondents, to connect UNITEL's telecommunications network to their public switched telephone networks for the purpose of providing long distance telephone service.

The application does not reflect plans to serve the prairie region of Canada as the CRTC does not have jurisdiction over Alberta Government Telephones, Saskatchewan Telecommunications and the Manitoba telephone system, nor does it have jurisdiction over the independent telephone companies in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec. Should the Railway Act be amended to give the CRTC jurisdiction over the three principal prairie region telephone companies, UNITEL will apply for interconnection with them as well.

Should Unitel receive approval of its application, they will commence negotiations with the independent telephone companies for interconnection. There is a long-standing agreement between NorthwesTel and UNITEL, which has been approved by the CRTC, that precludes UNITEL from offering its services within NorthwesTel's operating territory. Nonetheless, UNITEL has stated its intention to negotiate an interconnection agreement with NorthwesTel should this application be approved.

As any reduction to NorthwesTel's revenues may impact on its ability to provide service to areas of the Northwest Territories which are far from revenue generating, the Government of the Northwest Territories will be making a presentation to the CRTC. Our presentation will ask the CRTC to hold further hearings in the North before approving such an agreement between NorthwesTel and UNITEL.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. Just prior to proceeding with Item 3, Members' statements, I wish to draw the attention of honourable Members to the presence of the president of the Metis Association, Gary Bohnet, in our public gallery.

---Applause

Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Welsh Bannock In Members' Lounge

MR. LEWIS: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be talking in Inuktitut today. Last night, Mr. Speaker, I made some Welsh bannock. They are very delicious, but they are very small. Where I am from it is very small. Mr. Speaker, I have this bannock in the Members' lounge. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Point Of Order

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a point of order, according to Rule 13(10) of this Legislature, it states: "Smoking is not permitted during any proceedings of the Assembly, nor may food or beverages other than water be brought into or consumed in the Chamber." Unless the Member for Yellowknife Centre would be willing to inform me that Welsh palaugaag is indeed not considered to be food, I would request that the offending material be removed from this Chamber.

---Laughter

AN HON. MEMBER: Eat it, Brian!

MR. SPEAKER: Your point of order is correct, the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O121-91(1): GNWT Rental Of Office Space

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Whitford on February 22, regarding the Government of the Northwest Territories rental of office space. Mr. Speaker, on December 18, 1990, the Department of Public Works, with the approval of cabinet, awarded a lease to Bellanca Developments Ltd. for 24,500 square feet of office space in the Northwest Tower building in Yellowknife. This building is owned by Bellanca Developments, an approved northern contractor, in which the Rae-Edzo Dene Band Development Corporation has a five per cent interest.

The relocation of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to this space will address their present shortfall in accommodation. In addition, it will free up space in the Yellowknife Centre building to reduce congestion and to allow consolidation of the Departments of Finance, Public Works, and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. The acquisition of additional space for MACA and consolidation of the other departments is in accordance with the department's approved office plan.

Prior to awarding the lease, the department had reviewed all space that was available for leasing in Yellowknife. This included Centre Square Developments, Regency Group, Workers' Compensation Board, City of Yellowknife, Go Ga Cho

Investments, Lahm Ridge Investments, Bellanca Developments and Quantum Investments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O192-91(1): Clean-Up Of Beach Area, Repulse Bay

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I directed a question to the Minister of Government Services with regard to some assistance to clean up the beach in Repulse Bay. His answer was that should a request be received from Repulse Bay asking for some money -- he said, "Should that be received, I would imagine that some money can be identified for that purpose." Mr. Speaker, I now have a request from the hamlet of Repulse Bay in which the hamlet of Repulse Bay is asking for some assistance to clean up the beach. I wonder if the Minister of Government Services could indicate to me, and to the people of Repulse Bay, that in fact he would be prepared to provide some assistance to the people of Repulse Bay to clean up the beach area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O192-91(1): Clean-Up Of Beach Area, Repulse Bay

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that the Member addressed the question to me under my responsibility as Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. It was under that responsibility that the deputy mayor and I discussed the matter. I welcome receipt of the application. I will look at it and determine how we can address the community's requirements.

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

Supplementary To Question O192-91(1): Clean-Up Of Beach Area, Repulse Bay

MR. ERNERK: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of MACA. Would the Minister be prepared to work with the hamlet of Repulse Bay to arrange the possibility of meetings as well as the financial aspect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question O192-91(1): Clean-Up Of Beach Area, Repulse Bay

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I may add, on responding to the question, that when I travelled to Repulse Bay some year and a half ago, I think it was, I was impressed at the community's attitude with regard to clean-up not only within the community, but the land areas as well. I think anything that we can do as a government should be done to assist communities to address that issue. I would be working, too, with my colleague, the Minister of Renewable Resources, who likewise is very interested in this initiative.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I would like to recess the House for five minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Question O193-91(1): Francophone School Board

MR. LEWIS: (Translation) Will the Minister move to make the necessary amendments to the Education Act in the next year to ensure that Section 23 of the Charter of Rights is respected immediately? Will the Minister set up a Francophone school board?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Sahtu.

Return To Question O193-91(1): Francophone School Board

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: (Translation) I am going to respond in my language. What he was questioning me about, the French people from the Northwest Territories, these French people are working for themselves. There are quite a few French people living in the city here and they want their children to be taught in the French language and we are pleased to help them. What they have been asking is anybody that speaks French and lives in the Northwest Territories -- they want to have their own school board so they can have their children taught in the French language. We have not decided yet, but we are looking into it. Up until now, we have not decided what to do about it. We have not come up with a decision yet. We will give them an answer later, but for now we have not decided what to do. That was the question Mr. Lewis was asking.

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

Supplementary To Question O193-91(1): Francophone School Board

MR. LEWIS: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is Mr. Kakfwi going to contact Mr. Weiner to find out if he is agreeable to support the programs in French at Alain St. Cyr School?

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

Further Return To Question O193-91(1): Francophone School Board

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes, we are considering how we can support such a request at this time. Thank you.

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

Question O194-91(1): Termination Of Land Use Planning Program

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think my question is going to be directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, is his department aware of the announcement that was made by the Hon. Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, with regard to the termination of the northern land use planning program that he announced yesterday?

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

Return To Question O194-91(1): Termination Of Land Use Planning Program

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O194-91(1): Termination Of Land Use Planning Program

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister of Renewable Resources. As the Minister knows, this particular program is very important to the residents of the Northwest Territories, and I would like to ask the Minister, what are we doing to support this particular program? I want to know what the department is going to do because the Minister indicated that it is going to be terminated. What is the department going to do?

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

Further Return To Question O194-91(1): Termination Of Land Use Planning Program

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, this government has been supporting the land use planning process throughout the Northwest Territories. The land use planning process started back in 1981 for the territories-wide commission and then we started a regional planning process. So far we have been able to complete one land use plan in the Northwest Territories. That was the Lancaster Sound regional plan. We started the Denendeh land use planning commission and also the Nunavut planning commission in the Keewatin at the same time. Unfortunately, the Denendeh commission was unable to complete its work; so far they have only gone as far as making maps for Denendeh. They thought the priority area was the Sahtu region. In the Keewatin Region the plan is near completion. In both places, I believe, the money will be there until this September. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O194-91(1): Termination Of Land Use Planning Program

MR. ZOE: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member did not answer my question. He gave the history of that particular program. I did not request that. I asked him what his department is going to do in response to the announcement made by the federal Minister. What is the department going to do?

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

Further Return To Question O194-91(1): Termination Of Land Use Planning Program

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have in the past written to the Minister pointing out the importance of the land use planning process within the Northwest Territories. The department will support these plans until the federal -- we cannot operate without federal funding -- until the federal funding is not being contributed to the process. I will be contacting the Minister responsible in the federal government to state our concern again. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O194-91(1): Termination Of Land Use Planning Program

MR. ZOE: Final supplementary. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister how soon he will be communicating our

concern. This is quite a high priority. This is one particular program that has been very important to the residents of the Northwest Territories. I would like to know when he is going to communicate our concerns to the federal Minister.

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

Further Return To Question O194-91(1): Termination Of Land Use Planning Program

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as possible.

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

Question O195-91(1): Availability Of Legal Aid Lawyers In Communities

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Minister, as you know, most departments in the government service communities and they try and make a habit of going in at least once a month. It has been brought to my attention that the legal aid system does not seem to be working in my communities. People are not getting the service they are expecting and are not satisfied with the service that they are getting. When lawyers go into the communities, they are there just for the court day. They do interviews in the main hall of the community hall, for example in Fort Resolution, with a lot of other people around. There is no privacy.

My question is, Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the lawyers could at least try and service the community at least one day a month other than a court day. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O195-91(1): Availability Of Legal Aid Lawyers In Communities

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Member's bringing this matter to my attention, and the problem we are facing now in the Northwest Territories is that legal aid costs are really spiralling upward at an alarming rate. The number of crimes being committed in communities, the number of people charged, the number of people appearing in court, the number of people that are electing trial, have gone up quite dramatically. The other side of the equation, as you are probably aware, the federal government a year ago capped the cost-sharing of the legal aid program. They have not actually signed the agreement for this year yet. I am in the process of negotiating with them. What we are doing right now is undertaking a review of the whole legal aid system to see where it can be improved, and I know that of criticism that the Member has put forward I have heard from other communities.

I think we have come a long way in the last few years to improve the provision of legal aid. What I will do for the Member's specific concerns is, I will contact the chairperson of the Legal Services Board and see if we can get somebody into your communities and analyse exactly what the problems are and then I would be in a much better position to answer the Member as to how we can best deal with those problems. I will convey those concerns to the chairman of the Legal Services Board immediately. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O195-91(1): Availability Of Legal Aid Lawyers In Communities

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary, Mr. Minister. The time, and when, you do decide to send that person into the communities -- can you please let me know so I can let people know and they will be able to receive him? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O195-91(1): Availability Of Legal Aid Lawyers In Communities

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O196-91(1): Start-Up Date For Broughton Island Tannery

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister that I wanted to direct my question to is not present, the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Perhaps I can direct my question to the Government Leader.

As we are all aware, in the Baffin Region we have been discussing the tanning project at Broughton Island for a long time; we have been aware of that for a long time. But the project has still not got off the ground as of today because they are continuing to have problems. Is Economic Development going to assist in any way? What have they done to start the tannery operating so that it can go ahead in 1991? We have to consider the needs of the Baffin Region. When is this tannery going to get off the ground and finally be operating? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O196-91(1): Start-Up Date For Broughton Island Tannery

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I should wish to explain carefully to the honourable Member that the Broughton Island tannery, to date, has been a project managed by Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, as a result of moneys given to them from the Malouf Commission on Seals and Sealing. So I would like to explain very carefully to the Member, Mr. Speaker, that if there have been problems with the development of this tannery project -- and there have been problems -- it has not been the direct responsibility of our government.

Mr. Speaker, to answer the Member's question, being aware of the problems to date and the confusion in the community about what is happening, Mr. Wray's department did recently provide some funds to get a project manager to examine the plan, help to complete construction of the building, make a plan for training, and develop a business plan so that there can be continued funds. That stage of the work is expected to be completed by the end of March, so there will be a plan in place for the coming fiscal year. Our government has been involved in it only lately and only, as it were, after the fact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question O196-91(1): Start-Up Date For Broughton Island Tannery

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems that the only people who can be blamed for the delay is the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, even though we have Economic Development and Tourism. We do have a corporation that was established in the Baffin Region. Why has the corporation, so far, refused to get involved? How is this corporation going to be assisting the residents when they keep refusing to help with what the people want? Can the Government Leader check into the corporation's position in this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Further Return To Question O196-91(1): Start-Up Date For Broughton Island Tannery

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, this is a complicated project with major environmental implications which our government is also aware of and concerned about. Mr. Speaker, to answer the Member's specific question, I am informed by the department that they have had difficulty getting information from people who have been employed by ITC about what is planned. They have been very secretive about the tanning process they are proposing to use, which has yet to be proven to be technically or financially feasible in the Northwest Territories, and this reluctance to provide details about the tanning process has also held up the environmental review process. Mr. Speaker, our government has had problems assisting in this plan because we have not received co-operation from the people employed by ITC. That is my understanding of the cause of that confusion at the community level, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O196-91(1): Start-Up Date For Broughton Island Tannery

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make a supplementary. I realize that there has been some confusion in the understanding between the community and the people working on the project. I think part of the concern is regarding where they are going to be dumping the waste material. Once they have a good dumping ground, will this project be able to get off the ground, perhaps in 1992? I was informed that their new land fill site will be finished about that time. Will this project be able to go ahead then?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the environmental aspects of this project should be referred to the Minister of Renewable Resources.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Is the honourable Member taking the question as notice?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, if I could refer the question to the Minister of Renewable Resources, he is prepared to respond now.

MR. SPEAKER: The difficulty I am having, if I could explain to the honourable Members, is that it is very unusual parliamentary practice to refer a question that has been directed to a particular Minister, to another Minister, or to defer the answer. That is unusual. It is not to suggest, though, that the honourable Member cannot ask a new question dealing with a particular item such as, in this particular case, with regard to the environmental question, to be directed to the

appropriate Minister. That is a new question. It is not a supplementary. It is a new question. I just wanted to clarify that for honourable Members in this House. That was the difficulty I was having in terms of the deferment of the answer.

Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

Question O197-91(1): Tanning Project In Broughton Island

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will now direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. We have had concerns about the environment regarding the tanning project in Broughton Island. Once the new land fill site is finished, will the problem be rectified and will the tanning project finally be able to get off the ground? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O197-91(1): Tanning Project In Broughton Island

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the people who are wanting to operate the tanning program -- the building will be completed this year. Also, the chemicals that will be used in the tanning process still have to be revealed, so we can know exactly what they contain. This will be required by the NWT Water Board. The people who want to do the tanning project have refused to reveal exactly what chemicals will be discharged into the waters, but they still have to indicate what they will be using, what the chemicals are, before the project can go ahead. So far they have not had any discussions with the Water Board as to what chemicals are going to be used in the tanning process. To date they have not informed anybody as to what chemicals they are going to be using. Thank you.

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

Question O198-91(1): Post-Secondary Education Funding For Indians

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, yesterday there was an announcement by the Department of Indian Affairs with regard to an increase in their budget for post-secondary education for Indian people. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not, of the \$50 million that is going to be used for the post-secondary education of Indian people, this Minister is going to be making a request for -- is there an allocation specifically from that \$50 million that is going to be requested by this government for the purpose of post-secondary education for Indian people?

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

Return To Question O198-91(1): Post-Secondary Education Funding For Indians

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, presently all treaty people in the Northwest Territories who wish to receive assistance for post-secondary education can apply directly to the Department of Indian Affairs for assistance, or they can go under the assistance that the Government of the Northwest Territories provides. That is a unique option they have. This has always been available to treaty students.

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

Supplementary To Question O198-91(1): Post-Secondary Education Funding For Indians

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Am I correct in assuming that the Minister is saying that of the \$50 million for Indian post-secondary education, the Indian people could apply to it, but of the \$50 million, nothing goes to the territorial government then?

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

Further Return To Question O198-91(1): Post-Secondary Education Funding For Indians

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I think what he is talking about is a program by the federal government that provides \$50 million for treaty people all across Canada who wish to go to post-secondary education. That is available to individual students in the Northwest Territories who have treaty status. We do not request part of that funding and then provide it through the territorial government. It is federal funds and they have different rates and ways of providing assistance to treaty people. It is an added option for treaty people who wish to use that particular program as opposed to ours. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O198-91(1): Post-Secondary Education Funding For Indians

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, the response from the Minister is that status or treaty people do have the option of tapping into two programs if they choose to go to post-secondary education. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not Indian people are allowed to tap into both programs or not.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Sahtu.

Further Return To Question O198-91(1): Post-Secondary Education Funding For Indians

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, they have the option to take assistance from one or the other, but not a little bit from both. It is one or the other. Thank you.

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

Question O199-91(1): Retention Of Housing Corporation's Surplus Funds

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, last December the Minister made the standing committee on finance aware that he was at that time, \$2.4 million in a surplus state and that by the end of this fiscal year he would have \$3.3 million surplus. The standing committee on finance recommended that he not turn that back to the government; that he retain those funds, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister tell us if he was successful in retaining those funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Inuvik.

Return To Question O199-91(1): Retention Of Housing Corporation's Surplus Funds

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, at the time I appeared before the standing committee on finance the surplus was already before the FMB for consideration, because that is the

practice and the process. The standing committee made a motion, I believe, that the government consider those funds being retained by the Housing Corporation, something over two million dollars. One and three quarters million dollars was retained and that appears in the supplementary estimates. As a result of a misunderstanding of the FMB direction, \$300,000 was not included in the supplementary estimates and has been reabsorbed by the Consolidated Revenue Fund. However, I have been discussing with the Minister of Finance, the requirement to use that money for housing and we are looking at ways to do that.

The problem with this specific case was that I had misread the direction of the Financial Management Board. I thought that the money, \$300,000, would be retained for use by the corporation until presentation to the planning and priorities committee, of a proposal for the expenditure. That was not done.

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

Supplementary To Question O199-91(1): Retention Of Housing Corporation's Surplus Funds

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister mentioned \$1.75 million in the supps and an extra \$300,000 which is a little over two million dollars, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister is aware of what happened to the other \$1.3 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I will take that second question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O200-91(1): Relocation Of HAP Housing To Different Communities

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. I have a question concerning housing that is located at headquarters. Do you have any HAP housing units that have not been allocated to communities? Are there any available HAP housing that can be relocated to different communities? That is my question. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O200-91(1): Relocation Of HAP Housing To Different Communities

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, at the present time there is a possibility that a new method of financing that has been developed by CMHC might have an impact on our government's housing program. I have indicated this concern to the standing committee on finance in Cambridge Bay, and that is the reason that the Housing Corporation's budget has been placed at the end of this budget debate. By that time it will be clarified just how much money we will be able to spend this current year. So I will have an answer for the Member's question when our budget comes before the House.

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

Supplementary To Question O200-91(1): Relocation Of HAP Housing To Different Communities

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a brief supplementary concerning housing that is not yet allocated. I might be missing the information. I realize we have not reviewed the capital costs on page 3.24. I am just trying to indicate where they are.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the question could be rephrased?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Inuvik, the response was not on record.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I was not answering the Member's question, sir, I was answering Mr. Lewis's question. I do not understand the Member's question. I asked whether he could repeat it.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Baffin South, would you repeat your question please?

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is this, there is an indication that there is some assistance for HAP housing. Apparently these HAP houses have not been allocated so I am interested in finding out whether I might be able to get some for my community of Lake Harbour -- under the capital estimates on page 3.24. That is my question. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O200-91(1): Relocation Of HAP Housing To Different Communities

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member, and I understand the question. I will tell the Member what I told the standing committee in Cambridge Bay. The HAP houses have all been allocated. There is a possibility when the funding stream is clarified for this year, from the federal government, that we may have to make some reductions in house construction but they would be in the area of public housing.

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

Question O201-91(1): Location Of 18 Housing Units Under Headquarters

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister for Housing and further to Mr. Arlooktoo's question. Could the Minister inform me that on page 3.24 of the capital budget, the NWT Housing Corporation, under home-ownership assistance, where it says 18 units for headquarters, where are those 18 units going? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I believe that was the same 18 units that appeared before the standing committee on finance. When I appeared before the standing committee on finance in Cambridge Bay I indicated that those units are among those that could be lost as a result of the new financing. In fact, they are not all HAPs, they are various expenditures. Ten of them, I think, we were looking at Iqaluit for special housing. With the change in the funding plan it

looks like that will have to be reduced.

The standing committee on finance is well aware of that possibility. In Cambridge Bay I presented two plans: I presented plan one, which was the one that I had discussed in November; and I presented the second plan, which was the result of further discussions we had with CMHC.

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me for one moment. I am having a difficult time with this matter; both questions that have been previously asked, because the matter is before committee, because the totality of the budget is before the committee and it is being considered in committee. I also want to make the honourable Members aware that when a matter is being referred to the standing committee, that matter has not been reported to the House, and until that matter is reported to the House it is not a matter that should be discussed or considered as part of the communication or the answer.

That is the issue that is being made very difficult at the moment. Just so that honourable Members are aware of that. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O202-91(1): Grizzly Bear Tags, Repulse Bay

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, the people of Repulse Bay are very happy that they will be able to hunt grizzly bears without breaking the regulations. However, Mr. Speaker, the tags have not arrived yet to Repulse Bay. I wonder if the Minister could tell me why? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O202-91(1): Grizzly Bear Tags, Repulse Bay

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because of regulation changes by way of the Department of Justice, this is now under their responsibility whereby people will be allowed to hunt grizzlies. We are hoping to enforce this as of July 1, 1991. Thank you.

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

Question O203-91(1): Reference In Federal Budget To NWT And Yukon

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to refer my question to the Minister of Finance and it is with regard to the budget increase from the Department of Indian Affairs. In there it does refer to an early budget of Yukon and Northwest Territories of \$87 million. I would like to ask the Minister what exactly that \$87 million is for.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I heard just part of the question in the back, I am sorry I was not out here. I do not have the response now. I will be meeting with Mr. Wilson, as I said, and I will make a full report to the House on Wednesday on my return, as to all the implications of the federal budget on the Northwest Territories. I will take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O204-91(1): Players In Political And Constitutional Development Process

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In looking at the unedited transcript of Hansard from yesterday, February 28, 1991, Mr. Speaker, I note that in response to a question I asked Mr. Kakfwi about constitutional development he had said that he did not see the Government of the Northwest Territories taking a leadership role. The native organizations had started this in 1975, the government had really not done a very good job of it, and now they were thinking of another process, some other way of doing things. Could the Minister explain to us what he means by that?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Sahtu.

Return To Question O204-91(1): Players In Political And Constitutional Development Process

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the major players in the process for political and constitutional change in the North, as I have said earlier, are the aboriginal organizations. It is with their agreement that in 1980 or 1981 the Constitutional Alliance process was set up. Following that, the make-up of an eastern body called the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, to take care of the matters related directly to the eastern part of the territory, and in the West we had the Western Constitutional Forum. That was the process that we used at that time. The Legislative Assembly was a partner in that arrangement, but it was not the boss or the leader, they did not even chair the sessions. These were the working arrangements where the native organizations had equal status regardless of their size. That process, as Members are aware, came to a virtual halt in October last year.

We are having discussions right now in the West with representatives of the Dene Nation and the Metis Association and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation with a view to perhaps, if we can agree on sort of an agenda, having a meeting in the next week or so to talk about how we may resume, if we even agree on resuming, a process for constitutional discussions.

It may be that the process that was used in the past may not be sufficient or even desirable at this time. I expect there may be some suggestions for change. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O204-91(1): Players In Political And Constitutional Development Process

MR. LEWIS: In light of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that everything that has been tried for the last dozen years seems to have failed to resolve our constitutional problems, and I include not only the Northwest Territories but also the Government of Canada in its attempt to get agreement with all the provinces, the Minister did not really answer the question as to what new thing we are going to do. He has just described really what we used to do, and he has not come up with any vision or any idea. For example, is he thinking about appointing a judge and letting the judge decide exactly what kind of constitutional arrangements will take place? It is not clear to me what he has in mind.

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

Further Return To Question O204-91(1): Players In Political And Constitutional Development Process

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I do not agree that

everything that we have tried has failed. They may have stopped working at certain times but I know that the political and constitutional initiatives that have been undertaken over the last 10 years or so have resulted in some notable achievements. We accept almost unanimously now across the Territories that Nunavut will happen. That was not the case 10 years ago. I would say that is a significant achievement.

There is, very likely in the near future, going to be new initiatives undertaken and suggested by the aboriginal leaders, particularly in the West, on how to work on new constitutions for a western territory. The process in the past has resulted in, I think, an historical document of the Iqaluit agreement. It is one that resulted after many years of work and it was endorsed by almost everyone in the Northwest Territories. It is still embraced by virtually all groups, the principles and processes that it outlines. The Dene Nation has so far produced two documents that have outlined some thoughts on how they think governments could develop here in the western territory. There has been a document, long before this process was set up, that spelled out the vision of the Inuvialuit as well for their own region.

What we find is that because the process is built on consensus that it is incredibly difficult to get things done on a timely basis. There is no one that dictates to anyone else and so it is virtually trying to go ahead on a committee basis. This has some severe limitations on its efficiency but, in fact, there is no other choice. The lessons we have learned from other parts of the world and the country is that we cannot tamper with each others rights in the absence of one another. Everybody has to be involved, it does not matter what your numbers are, and your political strength and status.

That is important to say, because I think the Member is implying that because we are a Legislative Assembly and a government that we should take the lead in laying out, before we meet with the aboriginal groups, what it is we proposed to do. I think it is contrary to the principles that we are trying to advocate which is constitutional development. Political development in the North is one that is going to have to be done on a consensus basis, on a basis where we are all seen as equal; the Legislative Assembly, the Dene Nation, the Metis Association, the Inuvialuit. The same would apply in the East. So I cannot, without offending aboriginal and northern leaders, use this forum to advocate what I think we should do. We have yet to sit down and that is when the initiatives would be discussed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Time period for oral question period has expired. Item 6, written questions. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W5-91(1): Cost And Amount Of Square Feet Leased By GNWT In Yellowknife

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question to the Minister of Public Works. Could the Minister tell me how many square feet of office space are leased by our government in Yellowknife as of March 1, 1991, and also as of March 1, 1988; on those two dates? Also, the total cost of these leases as of March 1, 1991 and March 1, 1988. Thank you.

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

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Question W3-91(1), asked by Mr. Whitford on

February 22, 1991, to the Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, concerning cost of DPW's rent of space in the Northwest Tower and length of contract.

Return To Question W3-91(1): Cost Of DPW's Rent Of Space In The Northwest Tower And Length Of Contract

Hon. Nellie Cournoyea's return to Question W3-91(1), asked by Mr. Whitford on February 22, 1991, regarding cost of DPW's rent of space in Northwest Tower and length of contract: On December 18, 1990, the Department of Public Works, with the approval of cabinet, awarded a lease to Bellanca Developments Ltd. for 24,500 square feet of office space in the Northwest Tower building in Yellowknife. This building is owned by Bellanca Developments, an approved northern contractor, in which the Rae-Edzo Dene Band Development Corporation has a five per cent interest. The relocation of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to this space will address their present shortfall in accommodation. In addition, it will free up space in the Yellowknife Centre building to reduce congestion and to allow consolidation of the Departments of Finance; Public Works; and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. The acquisition of additional space for MACA and consolidation of the other departments is in accordance with the department's approved office plan.

Prior to awarding the lease, the department had reviewed all space that was available for leasing in Yellowknife. This included Centre Square Developments, Regency Group, Workers' Compensation Board, City of Yellowknife, Go Ga Cho Investments, Lahm Ridge Investments, Bellanca Developments and Quantum Investments. The Bellanca property was the only one that had the required total space and had it all in one block so that MACA could be consolidated.

The lease was awarded for a 10 year term, at a base rent of \$16.92 per square foot per annum. Operating and maintenance costs are estimated at an additional eight dollars per square foot per annum, for a total rent of \$24.92 per square foot per annum. This rent is not only below current market rents for new space in Yellowknife, but is also below rents on some much older, leased properties. A further benefit is that Bellanca Developments agreed to an early termination of the lease on some other office space no longer required by the GNWT. This combination of rents and other benefits was the most cost-effective means to acquire the needed space. This is particularly important in the current period of restraint.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions. Petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABELING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 28-91(1), a document that was written by the Fort Providence Dene Band Council with regard to a request for an economic development officer. Thank you.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 29-91(1), a letter dated February 13, 1991, to Mr. Jack MacKinnon, head of the environmental health, Department of Health, Yellowknife, it concerns the tailings pond in Rankin Inlet. It is from Paul

Kaludjak, the mayor of Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 30-91(1), a letter to the Hon. Tom Butters and it is with regard to supporting the establishment of a highway system connecting the communities of Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet and Baker Lake to Churchill, Manitoba. It is from the mayor of Rankin Inlet, Paul Kaludjak. I support these two documents, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 4-91(1): Reduce Consumption Of Alcohol In NWT

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on March 4, I shall move the following motion: The Government of the Northwest Territories mount a campaign to reduce the amount of alcohol consumed in the NWT and to eliminate drugs using the same techniques which were successful in many anti-smoking campaigns.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 3-91(1). The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to return to motions.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Deh Cho, we are on motions.

---Laughter

So we can return to motions.

Motion 3-91(1): Increasing Allowances To Disabled People

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my motion reads:

WHEREAS support services to disabled people in the Northwest Territories is predominantly provided by the Department of Social Services under the social assistance program;

AND WHEREAS the social assistance program allowance covers four categories -- disabled, unemployed and able, low income people with dependant children and employed but not enough income;

AND WHEREAS under the existing disabled categories a qualified applicant receives an additional benefit of \$125 per month under the enhancement program;

AND WHEREAS the additional benefit is paid above and beyond the regular benefit to assist those disabled people that have additional hardships that a disabled person goes through in the normal day-to-day life;

AND WHEREAS disabled people in the Northwest

Territories should be afforded every assistance to be able to enjoy the quality of life we all share in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS costs have accelerated and the level of benefits provided to disabled people have not kept up with the rising costs;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that this Legislative Assembly recommends and urgently requests that the Executive Council consider increasing the allowances paid to disabled people in the Northwest Territories.

Thank you.

---Applause

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the last eight years, since I have been a Member, one concern that I have always had, especially in the smaller communities, is concerning disabled people who are disabled either from birth defects or through polio. These people cannot get employment and are now at the age in which they cannot do too much for employment and also they are not eligible for senior allowance, whether it be old age or otherwise.

The other thing, Mr. Speaker, is that during the last few years I have been working with some disabled people in Fort Providence without success with regard to federal programs that are used for disabled people. In order to get into the programs at the federal level, you have to have been employed and made contribution to, I believe the Canada Pension Plan, and that is the only way in which there are people who could get disabled benefits.

Unfortunately, most of the people I am referring to are people that by birth are disabled and have never worked in their life, and also people who have worked and became disabled even before the Canada Pension Plan came into effect are also affected by this.

As far as federal programs go, we do not have people who could actually benefit from the federal programs that are now in place. The only other avenue in which a person may be able to tap into a federal program is through the Family Allowance Act. In there, there is a provision which a disabled person might be able to get some assistance, but it is under the Family Allowance Act. I do not know how it works, but I am still working on one particular case which perhaps the gentleman might be able to access some assistance through the federal program. Unfortunately the person is going to be 65, so maybe my work for the last two and a half years would not be of any consequence. In fact the gentleman is going to be 65 this April. I am still working on it. Perhaps it could be retroactive.

Under the territorial program itself and under other federal jurisdictions there are certain categories in which disabled persons are defined and the amount of assistance that they get, and in every province they have a program for disabled people and it varies from province to province. The clothing costs varies, the food cost varies. For the Northwest Territories, I believe the \$125 is top of the line for disabled people. I think the territorial government has been doing good for the disabled people in the North.

Social Assistance Programs Not Consistent

Mr. Speaker, the difficulties that most of the people have in the communities is that right now disabled people do not have as much access to the kind of programs that perhaps the larger centres have, and that also includes things like taxis and home care type of programs. In Fort Providence, for example, most of the stores are pretty central and the senior citizens' home is sort of out-of-the-way, type of thing. It is much closer to the churches, to the nursing stations, to the graveyard, for those homes. In Fort Providence they do not have a taxi service. We do have a problem. Most of the seniors that now live in Fort Providence do not enjoy the amount of things other communities could afford.

A number of years ago I did request the Department of Social Services to consider providing a vehicle for the senior citizens' home in Fort Providence, but because of the programs that are available from the department, it does not allow for that to happen. That is another reason.

Mr. Speaker, the last increase was in 1974, I believe. This portion, the \$125 that is identified, has never been increased since and for this reason, I would like to have it increased. I do believe that we have a restraining problem with the director of the territorial budget, but as we are going to go into a deficit, I would prefer seeing it go to people who most need it. I do not mind seeing a deficit if it is to help people that are in those needs.

Further, Mr. Speaker, presently the social assistance program varies, in the regions, on the clients, the circumstances, but also the cheques are issued in different ways. Some people get cheques with cash; some people get half and half; others just a voucher that goes into the stores, so the client does not get anything, no cash, nothing, in some cases. I would like to also ask the Minister, perhaps to look at seeing this portion given to disabled people in the form of direct payments. In other words, where there is a cheque to them for \$125 or perhaps it will go up to \$150, I would like to see that particular amount given to them directly so that they can use it as they see fit; maybe to use taxis or for hiring people to bring them to and from stores and that type of thing. Also, even going as far as getting gas for skidoos so that people could get them to and from the stores or if they have their own skidoos and they have the gas, that money would be able to help them out a bit. I would like to ask that the Members support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The seconder of the motion, the honourable Member for Baffin South.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am seconding the motion, as long as it is going to be an issue. There are an awful lot of disabled people everywhere in the world, whether in smaller or larger communities, whether mentally or physically handicapped. The money they are getting is not enough. The disabled people that are incapable of doing anything for themselves need a lot of help, even when they get their cheques they do not see half of their money. In some communities there are no programs for disabled people such as wheelchairs, especially for the senior people. There is a lack of equipment available in certain communities to help the disabled people. I am in favour of this motion all the way. I know that they are being helped by the Department of Social Services and they are better taken care of where there are good social service workers. In the communities that do not have any social service workers it is more difficult.

I would like to stress, for my constituency, the seniors have told me numerous times how they could be helped more because they are disabled and they are so frail they cannot

do anything much. When they are older they tend to get frail and they do not have any vehicles or transportation to go out. We are going to have to look at this more carefully. I am in favour of this motion very much, I seconded it, and I would want support from all the Members. Thank you.

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

Involvement With Disabled Persons

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to support this motion. My wife and I have been involved with issues relating to disabled people for 15 years now. My wife has worked at the Abe Miller Centre for that length of time and I also, for a few years anyway, have been involved with the Council for Disabled Persons. I believe that our societies are judged by the way we treat people who are not able to look after themselves as well as some other people may be able to. We are judged by the way we treat people that are not able, as well, to defend themselves.

In supporting this motion, Mr. Speaker, I am not suggesting that it is going to be a huge budget item or that it is being irresponsible to ask the government to spend lots and lots of money. We are talking about a fairly small number of people, it is not a huge number of people. These are the people that live in a very tough environment, have many, many obstacles to overcome -- even for an able bodied person living in this environment it is sometimes tough to survive. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I would like Members to think of this as a way in which we can demonstrate that we have people in this Assembly who really understand that principle; that governments are judged by the way in which we treat those small numbers of people who are minorities and who have big obstacles to overcome. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

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

Possibility Of Pension Plan For The Disabled

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the motion on the floor, I do want to indicate to the Members that in the Territories we have approximately 450 individuals that are handicapped. Currently there are approximately 250 that are under the age of 60 years old, and approximately 210 that are over the age of 60. Currently the department assists these individuals by giving them an allowance of \$125 per month providing they meet the needs test under the Canadian assistance program. As the responsible Minister, I have had some difficulty with that. I feel that a disabled individual should not even have to go to Social Services and if we as a government could look at some type of pension it would alleviate their trip to Social Services and would also allow individuals to maintain their dignity.

---Applause

I have recently requested the department to determine what the cost factor would be to this government to look at some type of pension plan for these individuals, taking away the amount that we have spent of \$125 and recognizing that does not meet the amount that it would cost for an individual to live in today's society, and see what it would cost our department. I will advise the Members though that in 1989-90 we expended, as a department, to assist disabled people somewhere to the tune of \$1.7 million; not only giving them their \$125 pension a month but we have met different basic needs of providing them with wheelchairs or other types of needs that they require as disabled individuals. I do want to

let the Members of the House know that if all else fails in trying to formulate a disabled pension plan for seniors and for disabled people in the North, we will certainly look at ways to increase the \$125 current allowance that we have for disabled individuals. I just want to make the Members aware that we have been working on it, but it is taking some time to formulate and find an equitable way to deal with all disabled individuals in the Territories. Thank you.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do want to indicate my support for this motion fully. When the Minister of Social Services and I were in Chesterfield Inlet on January 30th the issue of handicapped persons was brought to the attention of the Minister by some members of the hamlet council of Chesterfield Inlet. I think, Mr. Speaker, we should do everything we can to improve the living conditions for the disabled persons in the Northwest Territories. In Chesterfield Inlet, they were telling us, for instance that there were lack of facilities with regard to the public places, the facilities we do have -- the doors for example were too small and there should be some improvements in this area.

The motion states that there should be an increase, additional benefits from \$125 per month. Mr. Speaker, I do want to support this motion fully and I think I will just stop there for now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for High Arctic.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make a short comment about this motion. The motion that is currently on the floor, I support it fully because I have disabled people in my constituency. A lot of these people were born normal and were not disabled until they were adults, either through hunting activities or other kinds of work, because we do have accidents and people who are no longer able to work because they have become disabled. So the motion that is on the floor right now, I will be supporting.

We have quite a number of people in the Northwest Territories, according to the Minister of Social Services and they number about 450 and these are special people who need special help. Mr. Speaker, I am in full support of this motion because I look at the disabled and it touches my heart whenever I see them. They do everything they can according to their abilities, however limited. Some have difficulty with the use of their legs, some with their arms and no matter where their bodies are disabled, we have quite a few of these and these include people in my constituency. Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting this motion. Thank you.

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

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our homeland which is the North, we have very short days during the wintertime and we have extreme temperatures. Also, we do not have proper roads or walkways in the North. The community halls or other recreational facilities are not accessible to the disabled so the disabled people have very limited access to everything in the North, especially in the smaller communities. In the West and East, this is outside of Yellowknife even though Yellowknife is also limited, the motion that my good friend here from Deh Cho has moved and also my good friend, Joe Arlooktoo who seconded the motion, I do not think we have seen a motion similar to this one and I think it is high time that we see this motion passed. I will be supporting this motion myself. I hope that all of you will be.

I think all of our constituencies have disabled people in them. They are members of the community such as ourselves with intelligence and they have the same feelings as we do, so I will be supporting this motion. The disabled are expecting help and assistance from us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hudson Bay.

Personal Experience With Disability Assistance

MR. CROW: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the motion that is on the floor, I am very happy to see that and I will be supporting it. Because the people from Sanikiluaq, if they had not helped me out with what I have done so far, I would be receiving this \$125 assistance from Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you a long story about my own disability because I am blind. When I stopped going to school in 1963, the federal government gave me a pension which was \$75 per month and from 1963 to the 1970s, I used to receive a cheque from Ottawa for that amount. In the 1970s I think this was transferred to the territorial government and when that happened, the cheque that I used to get from Ottawa which was \$75 a month, was stopped. This was put under the responsibility of Social Services and I had to go to Social Services every month to receive my assistance. This was increased to \$90. I am not sure exactly when that was done. Starting in 1973, I started working and I was able to earn my own income. The people of Sanikiluaq assisted me so that I could get a job, so the assistance I used to get for the amount of \$90 was stopped. When I became unemployed, probably around 1978, 1979, I started having to go to Social Services to get services again to collect the \$90 per month.

Perhaps around the early 1980s I replaced Moses Appaqaq as MLA for that riding. I told them the \$90 that was given to the disabled people was inadequate because of the cost of living, the \$90 was grossly inadequate and I conveyed this to the MLA. Everything was becoming more and more expensive for the bare necessities, so I told our MLA and I think that was when it was increased to \$125 per month. This money was increased, but having heard this motion that is now talked about, I think there has been quite a few years when this amount had never changed so I support this motion, Mr. Speaker and I am very proud it is being proposed. However, I think I am going to have to go back to the same item at some point and I am going to have to start being a recipient of this assistance again; perhaps sooner than I think. I think there are people who are disabled who are having more difficulties than I do.

I do not know if this is adequate but since this responsibility was transferred from the federal government to the territorial government I have not liked being under Social Services. When this was issued by the federal government we used to be able to get it as soon as we got a letter and we were able to get cash for it. But since the territorial government took over this responsibility of disbursing these funds the problem I have had is that the \$125 - whenever I have to get it I have to go and see a social worker myself. I felt like I was going on my hands and knees to get this \$125 that I was getting for being disabled. I had to go and ask for it, begging for it, and I have had to do that.

In some years I never went to pick this up, even though I was entitled to it. Perhaps this can be improved and handled in some other way so that the people who receive this assistance will have an easier time to get their entitlement. If they do not want to go and see the social worker perhaps they should be issued the money anyway without the necessity of having to go and see a social worker so that they get their cheques monthly. Some people may want to see their social worker

once a month in order to get this money but some people feel differently.

The reason I wanted to speak on this is that I think there should be some more consideration given to the disabled people who should not have to go and see a social worker in order to receive assistance. I think that the disabled themselves should be asked what would be better for them so that they have some sort of choice. I want all of the MLAs here to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Final argument, the Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. I would like to thank the Members for supporting this motion. I would also like to thank the Minister for the considerations that the government is having with regard to a pension plan for disabled people. I think this would be a first of its kind in Canada if it ever happens.

Just for interest to Members, as far as the consumer price index goes, since 1984 the cost of living has increased by 186 per cent. Also, if you want to compare prices between Edmonton, the cost of living in Fort Smith has gone up by 20 per cent in 1990; in Spence Bay it has increased by 200 per cent. So there has been a substantial increase and this part of the pension has never been increased.

If the government does increase it they should look at that part of the program in which people would not have to go to the department to beg for that \$125, but actually make it an automatic thing that goes directly to the disabled person on a monthly basis. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have a recorded vote on this. Thank you.

Motion 3-91(1): Increasing Allowances To Disabled People, Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Recorded vote has been called. All those in favour, please rise.

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

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Kakfwi, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The vote for the record, 13 in the affirmative, no opposition, four abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Item 15, first reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 7; Committee Report 2-91(1); Bills 8, 9 and 10; with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

Bill 7, Appropriation Act, 1991-92

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We are dealing with Bill 7, Appropriation Act, 1991-92. Yesterday we deferred the Department of Education. The reason for the deferral was because the Inuktitut version was not the same as the English version. That has been corrected and I would like to ask what the Members' wish is with regard to this department that we deferred; the Department of Education. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: I would like to move that we have a recess, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Lewis, you are out of order. There is no such thing as a request to recess by Members. We deferred the Department of Education so do you wish to deal with it again so that it would be concluded? Or does the committee wish to go to the Department of Personnel? Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, the government, the committee agreed, would like to get back to Education and finish it off and then move on to the next department instead of leaving all these civil servants in limbo as we defer each department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne, are you requesting that we return to the Department of Education?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: That is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that we return to the Department of Education. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. We will take a 15 minute break.

--SHORT RECESS

Department Of Education

The committee will come back to order. Before we recessed we had agreed to go back to the Department of Education. There were some typographical errors in the Inuktitut version which have been corrected and all the Members now have copies of that in their capital estimates. We are on page 18.13 in the capital estimates, schools, Baffin Region.

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

Schools, Baffin, total region, \$8,665,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total buildings and works, \$20,811,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Schools, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Total activity, \$28,436,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Department Of Education, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will now go back to the program summary on page 18.9. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask the Minister, with your permission, as to the occupancy rate of the Kivalliq Hall in Rankin Inlet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Before the Minister responds, I see you have your witnesses with you. I do not know who gave you the go-ahead to do it, but could you introduce your witnesses, Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I have with me today Mr. Handley, the deputy minister of Education, and the director of finance, Mr. Paul Devitt.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: The number of high school students in that residence right now is about 47. This does not include the Arctic College students that are also in the building.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mr. Ernerk, on the program summary.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my information from talking to the education staff in the region that the hostel itself is able to accommodate 105. Mr. Chairman, the other question is this. I noticed that dollars are being set aside for, I believe, a 10-bed student hostel in Pond Inlet. Since there is quite a vacancy rate in Rankin Inlet, I wonder if the government, the department, the Minister, would consider sending high school students to the Kivalliq Hall in Rankin Inlet instead of building new capital programs in the East. The reason I am saying this, Mr. Chairman, is because I recall that up until several years ago the students from the Keewatin Region used to go to the Ukkivik Residence, so I ask that question to the Minister, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the residence in Rankin Inlet was built solely for the purpose of serving that region. It has never been requested by the Baffin to have access and use of that facility, and I do not know of any Members from Baffin that would support such a request; nor has the Baffin divisional board or Arctic College people from that region asked for access to this residence. I do not see how I can even entertain such a request at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Program summary, capital expenditures. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was more or less looking at the figures and somehow trying to provide an idea to the Minister, and somehow trying to save money actually, and that is why I put the idea to the Minister in the first place. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Just to remind the Member that we are dealing with details of capital. What Mr.

Ernerk is addressing are general comments. There is nothing in the Keewatin as far as student residences go. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, you did allow Mr. Ernerk to put the questions and I was going to continue, but if you want us to stick to the book then I will not continue and I will get in some other time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Program summary, capital expenditures, total capital expenditures, \$31,251,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): This concludes the Department of Education, capital, main estimates and Arctic College. Does the committee agree that the Department of Education is now concluded. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses. What is the government's wish, Mr. Ballantyne?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: If we could, Mr. Chairman, we will proceed to the Department of Personnel with the committee's concurrence.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that we go to the Department of Personnel. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mr. Minister, are you ready for your opening statement? Please proceed.

Department Of Personnel

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to introduce the 1991-92 main estimates for the Department of Personnel. I have now had the responsibility for this portfolio for a full year now. While many issues require attention, a very high priority has been placed on affirmative action, particularly in encouraging native people to assume positions within the public service.

The government, I believe, must be seen to be a stable and supportive work environment for our people if we are to increase the percentage of aboriginal people in the public service from the current level of 33.3 per cent of total employees. Since 1985, when the native employment policy was implemented, there has been a slow but steady growth in the numbers of native employees. When the policy was implemented, 1136 native people were employed representing 29.8 per cent of the total employee population of 3812.

Today, five years later, there are 1785 aboriginal employees in a government of 5278 employees. This represents an increase of 54 per cent over the numbers in place at the beginning of the program. I have determined, however, that our focus in affirmative action must not only be on increasing the numbers of native and northern people in the public service, but also to be much more supportive of them in their

career development once they are employed.

The implementation of the affirmative action policy in 1990 added three new designated groups to those which are eligible for priority consideration in hiring and career development initiatives. This recognized the fact that resident women are under-represented at the management level and in non-traditional occupations within the NWT public service. Similarly, the numbers of disabled residents and long-term Northerners employed with the government are not representative of the make-up of the general population. In order to rectify this problem and to work toward representativeness, it is essential that affirmative action measures be applied to these groups to increase their proportion of the public service and to provide career development opportunities not previously available.

A year ago 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, of which nine were withdrawn, 25 have been upheld and 41 have been denied. Six of the appeals are at the committee stage. Twenty-four of these appeals were carried over from 1989. I am happy to report that I have not had to intervene in the proceedings at any time as all appeal boards have been able to reach consensus. Building on this success, the amendments to the Public Service Act approved last fall has resulted in the expansion of the staffing appeals process to non-employees who are members of affirmative action designated groups. This will provide residents with appeal rights available previously only to employees. This should provide greater access to government jobs for native people, long-term Northerners, women, and disabled residents.

The management team for the department is almost totally new. The department has been reorganized both structurally and in terms of the budget. The new organization includes the equal employment division and combines the former divisions of policy and human resource planning into one new division of policy, planning and evaluation. The classification and staffing division has been divided into two separate divisions. The headquarters regional operations division has been abolished and its components amalgamated into the directorate, staffing and labour relations division.

Pay Equity Study

Over the next year we will focus on solidifying the expanded staffing appeals process, continuing work on the pay equity study in co-operation with the Union of Northern Workers, and replacing the existing job classification system with one which should resolve many of the problems we have experienced in maintaining fair and equitable rates of pay across the organization. The pay equity study resulted from a human rights complaint lodged by the Union of Northern Workers in 1989. As a result, we agreed to jointly study the existing classification system and to implement changes which will result in equitable rates of pay for occupations dominated by female employees compared to those dominated by males. The firm of Norman J. Willis and Associates has been contracted to work on the project. It will be complete in July of 1991 at a total cost of \$721,000, of which \$145,000 and one half person year are budgeted for 1991-92. In addition, and to avoid relapsing into a situation where pay rates are once again inequitable, the existing job evaluation system will be replaced with one which is conducive to pay equity. A total of \$150,000 is budgeted for this in 1991-92.

A new employee assistance program will be developed to assist employees with problems of drug and alcohol dependency and emotional, mental and family problems. A government wide affirmative action plan will be developed to formalize the initiatives already underway in most government

departments and a major effort will be made to establish formal policy in those areas where more definitive rules are needed. The Personnel manual, containing all departmental policies, will represent the framework of regulations binding both the Minister and the department to fair and equitable human resource practices in areas such as hiring, firing, reward systems and discipline.

A major trust in the next year will be to tighten controls on expenditures in the employee benefits activity. Consistent rules are required in the medical travel and removals area at both the regional and headquarters level to ensure that employees are provided with similar benefits in all locations. The implementation of clear and well understood rules should result in the more effective use of program funds over the next year.

I have amended the budget structure for the department to improve budget control and reporting and to provide the level of detail required by the standing committee on finance. The 1990-91 budget included a variety of resources under the regional operations activity in spite of the fact that expenditures for the same items were being incurred in other activities at headquarters. To avoid this confusion, the budget has been divided into program areas such as equal employment, classification, staffing and labour relations, and the fund are all budgeted consistently in the regions and headquarters. This should allow for more effective reporting of results. Finally, benefits paid by the Department of Personnel for government employees have been budgeted in a separate activity to promote accountability.

The department's budget has increased marginally in 1991-92 by 1.4 per cent. We have gone from \$29,437,000 to \$29,852,000. The number of person years has decreased from 115 to 113.5. The most significant changes to the budget include the reduction of \$289,000 from the classification activity reflecting the withdrawal of some of the one-time funding for components of the pay equity study. An additional \$150,000 has been added to the classification budget to implement the revised classification system. In pursuit of the housing strategy announced at the last session of the Assembly, it will be necessary to conduct appraisals on all staff housing units so that they may be offered for sale to eligible employees. No capital funds for staff accommodation have been budgeted for the department in 1991-92.

Mr. Chairman, 1991-92 will be a rebuilding year for the Department of Personnel. In addition to establishing more effective management controls, a team building effort is essential to get the department operating as a cohesive organization. These initiatives, combined with a commitment to establishing credibility and trust with the public are essential to developing the image of a stable and professional public service for the Northwest Territories. These are my opening remarks. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any general comments on the Department of Personnel? Who is the chairman of the finance committee? Mr. Whitford.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence I will present the report of the standing committee on finance, dealing with the Department of Personnel. There is a preamble and then there are a couple of recommendations which I will read after each of the preambles.

Department Of Personnel, Human Resource Management

People produce results. In the government, as in industry, the greatest resource is the human resource. Government will

only be as good as the people conducting it. As a result, the committee believes it is very important for the Government of the Northwest Territories to adopt a "management culture" which is goal-oriented and that emphasizes a people-oriented management style and client-oriented public service. It therefore comes as a concern that the department has reorganized its affairs, apparently de-emphasizing the human resource planning function, on a government-wide basis, from previous main estimates and has no stated objective in this area for the upcoming year.

Further, planning by itself is not enough. A proper human resource management system includes environmental considerations, planning, monitoring, performance evaluation, feedback that is both monetary and non-monetary, and changes to meet changing circumstances. In addition, the performance of people is directly linked to the performance of programs, and hence a proper human resource management system is complementary to the management for results system previously discussed. Therefore, as in recommendation 45: "The committee recommends that the government, through the Department of Personnel, establish as an objective the development of a government-wide human resource management system complementary to the management for results system and that it be implemented as soon as possible."

Recommendation 46 in our report, again with Personnel: The committee recommends that the Financial Management Board reconsider its title and terms of reference to increase the profile of human resource management and information technology management and suggests the name 'management board' as being most suitable."

The department currently delivers a number of services that are susceptible to user fees which would in term help to control costs. Therefore, "The committee recommends that the Department of Personnel implement a system of user fees for the provision of staffing and personnel services to other departments."

On the subject of decentralization, the merits of delivering personnel services on a centralized versus decentralized basis is debatable. The committee is aware of current criticisms of the timely delivery of personnel services to departments. The government has three agencies that it can compare its performance to: the NWT Housing Corporation, the NWT Power Corporation, and the Workers' Compensation Board, all of which perform their own personnel services. Recommendation 48: "The committee recommends that the government conduct a cost benefit study, with input from user departments and agencies on the advantages and disadvantages of decentralizing personnel services to departments."

Finally, Mr. Chairman, these recommendations will be moved to the House in the form of a motion at an appropriate time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Whitford. General comments. Department of Personnel, 1991-92 main estimates. Are there any general comments? Does the committee agree we go to details, then? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I move that you report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): There is a motion to report progress. It is not debatable. All those in favour? We do not have a quorum. Would you please ring the bell? The Chair recognizes the quorum.

There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

--Defeated

Department of Personnel, general comments. General comments, Department of Personnel. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During this 11th session of the Assembly, Mr. Chairman, the whole issue of the way the Department of Personnel operates has resulted in quite a bit of debate as it relates to, not only who we hire, how it is done, how we get the very best results out of the public service, but also as it relates to, as opposed to recognizing, the fact that in government when we are talking about programs, really we are talking about people. It is almost as if we are talking about the same thing. The person is the program; and you have to be absolutely sure that any policies that you develop relating to human resource management -- you are looking at the very key part of what government is all about.

Confidence In Public Service Necessary

The face of government and the services of government, the programs of government, all relate, in fact, to who is delivering the service. There has been tremendous progress, in my opinion, in the last six or seven years in giving people confidence that this public is being served by a public service in which the public can see itself reflected. In simpler terms, what I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that people can only feel really confident that they are getting the very best kind of service available if they have some confidence in the public service. There has been tremendous progress, in my opinion, in recruiting people who are more and more sympathetic, if you like, and understanding of the public that is being served.

One of the things that still bothers many people is that although that is the appearance of the public service, we really do not have a system in place to make sure that we continually try to improve, that we have things in place to make sure that we evaluate them as we go along. There are too many things, it seems to me, that we do just simply because they are a matter of habit. We did it last year and the year before, and so on, so therefore it keeps on going. If we have been doing it for a long time, it must be okay. I am really concerned that we do not have a system which you can say is a human resource management system, and when we look at the issue of accountability of government, it seems to me if you do not have a proper evaluation system of your programs, and so on, then you do not get progress. You do not see improvement unless you push and push and push to make things better.

It is for that reason, Mr. Chairman that when the standing committee on finance examined the Department of Personnel, they saw this as being a key element, so you can say, it is some kind of system which is results based. But you really have to have an overall system, not just for management for results, but a system where people can see their place in it, could see their future, could see the things they were doing right, the things they were doing wrong. So you always have in front of you the idea that you are going to get better and the public is going to be served better.

However, there has been some progress in making sure that people can recognize the face of government -- this is my government, that is my face, I can see my face in the mirror of that government. I think that is a tremendous improvement.

I think the same thing happened probably in the federal government many years ago when they decided that if this country were to stay together -- and I am talking about Canada now, not just the Northwest Territories -- there had to be some way in which people in Quebec could look at the federal government and say, "I can see my face in that

government and I feel happy that this is the kind of government for me."

Affirmative Action Program

I do have some concerns though, Mr. Chairman, and they relate to how we, in fact, implement the affirmative action program. It is very, very difficult for the person who just simply looks at the government as a career opportunity. In light of the fact that we have changed the affirmative action program now so that it is a comprehensive one -- it is not simply a straight native employment program; it is a full-fledged affirmative action program -- people in my area, anyway, ask me such questions as, "Do you still keep a system whereby you look at the minimal essential requirement for that job? In other words, to do that job that is all you need, and they can hire me to do it or they can hire the smartest guy in the world to do it, Albert Einstein, or people like that, the big brains of the world." But if we have that system whereby just the basic needs are going to be met, for that job there, all you need are the basic requirements. For the person in the street, he or she wonders how priorities are applied under the affirmative action program. What comes first? For example, if you are a disabled person and if you are native, and so on, how is the mix going to work? What comes first? What comes second? Do you have a plan whereby, if you are disabled and you are a native person, and you are a woman, that puts you in category one because you are one of all the three things under the affirmative action program? Of if you are a woman and you are a native, that is number two? Or if you are a guy that has lived here half his life and is disabled, that is number three? People ask all these questions. How does the system work?

If we all meet this requirement for doing this job -- because you are not looking now at the very best for the job; you are looking at what is required for that job. You may have 10 people, all of whom can do that job, because you are not looking for the best. You are just looking for someone who can meet the basic requirements of that job. You are not looking for somebody who is overqualified. You are just looking for the basic need to meet the requirements for that job. There is a kind of problem in not knowing how the system works because many of the jobs now, the first crack at those jobs is going under this program. That is a query, that is a concern people have.

For the first two and a half or three years of this Assembly, I was pushing very, very hard for a public service commission that would really mirror what happens right across the country, whereby in order to meet the goals of the government, set down by the government, you had an impartial body that would just do what it was told and not have it in the hands of public servants who would sometimes perhaps not do exactly what they are told. That is the reason why they exist in other places. If you want to have a policy enforced, you would have this body that would say, "That is what the government wants; whether it is popular or not, that is what they are going to get, and we will do it." However, the government, for various reasons, decided that was something they did not want to do. They did not see that its policies would, in fact, be enforced by giving it to a body like this. They felt it would probably be much more effective if it were in the control of the public service because in our government, unlike every other government in the country, the public service does exactly what it is told, right to the letter, and nobody is allowed to interpret it this way or that way because it is so clear, absolutely clear, what they have to do and therefore we have no problems in our system.

I have taken that on trust, that our public service is so good and so perfect that we can say, "You are going to do it and it will be fine." Although I battled for a couple of years to

have it done a bit differently, there were some changes made and the changes I found to be a distinct improvement because what it meant was that the government, especially the Minister of Personnel, was no longer the judge, the jury and the hangman as it related to our public service. It meant that there was some way in which, for example, somebody who was not in the public service could apply for a job and if he or she did not get it, they could appeal that decision. I think that is a move forward. I also see an improvement inasmuch as now there is an appeals process where at a certain level it becomes binding, and the Minister will not jump in and overrule things if he or she did not like it. I see those changes as having been made and I must compliment the previous Minister for recognizing that this was a required thing and I appreciate the efforts of the current Minister in pushing these changes through. I think both of them deserve credit for making those changes, which result, at least in the eyes of the public, in a change to things which seem fair. It seems a fairer system now, whereby we do not have the political process getting involved in everything. There are some things perhaps which we should stay away from and just allow the judgment of ordinary apolitical people to make that decision. I think that is a distinct improvement.

User Fees To Control Government Expenditure

As far as the overall function of personnel in government -- and I do not intend to use up the clock, Mr. Chairman; I am going to be as brief as I can -- as it relates to the role of the Department of Personnel in the kind of services that it provides to the rest of government. It seems to be that when you have an unlimited access to a resource without any rules, any controls, it is very, very simple for people to ask you to do more. You do not have to pay for it; you can do it; and that is one of the dangers of a central agency. If you have a central agency that provides a function for all of government, and you provide the service free, people will really use it beyond its limit, very often. The suggestion of user fees is an idea. Maybe you should look at all the operations that you do and wonder, in fact, whether by putting a user cost on it you could control that as an expenditure of government.

I know that happened some years ago when we had an interdepartmental committee in government on computer applications. Everybody wanted to have computer work done. Everybody had a great idea for a computer plan. They had a program they wanted to work on; so you went to the appropriate government department at that time and they did it. But it is amazing how that really changed once you had a user fee in the component, because in that way departments ask, "Do I really need this?" because you knew you had to pay for it. It may be that in this department, too, there are some particular functions that could be changed back to departments, even the basic function of recruitment, and so forth. Maybe there are ways in which we can say, "We pay for that and we will find ways in which we can reduce the costs by introducing a user pay system."

This is another issue that we are probably going to get to later when we come to deal with the whole issue of who should be doing personnel functions. There have been some arguments advanced that perhaps you would be better served if you put the function of recruitment, and so on, into the hands of departments who invariably -- and everybody knows exactly the way it works: The Department of Personnel has the overall responsibility and they act as the honest broker, if you like, for the rest of government, but it is very, very rare that a department does not get the individual that they want to get. It is very rare that the Department of Personnel could really make a big fuss about somebody being recruited under the recruitment plan, unless it was what the department itself wanted. It seems to me that although they perform that function for government as the overall responsible agency,

departments still really are in control of the agenda. In any board, and so on, the department gets the individual that they really want even though, as I said, the Department of Personnel is in charge of the whole system. Maybe we could look at that also as a way in which we could get departments to look at this as an issue and see if maybe there could be some improvements if we were to do it differently.

Those are the only comments I have to make and they reflect, somewhat, not only the remarks in the standing committee on finance report but also some observations about the way we still operate as a government and perhaps do not do as much as we should do about recognizing that the people who work in your government are really inseparable from the programs, the services, because the public sees those people and they represent government to people. They do not just see a piece of paper. They see a person and the dedication of that person; and the improvement of that person should, in fact, be the major goal of this department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Lewis. General comments, Department of Personnel. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Mr. Lewis stated, there have been some good improvements in Personnel. Personally, I would like to emphasize the change in the appeal process which now allows applicants at the entry level who qualify under the affirmative action policy to appeal. That was not so in the past and that is a very good move. If we can now get our Personnel practices at the regional and community levels into line with this new directive and the hiring policies to function properly, we may be able to achieve a fair personnel service in that regard.

Total Cost Of Staffing Difficult To Get

Mr. Chairman, I find it a little hard to comment on the Department of Personnel because I really do not know what I am commenting upon. During the finance committee review of the budget, we requested from the Minister, and from other Ministers too, the total number of people who are employed, not the ones we show as our employees, but the total number of people who are employed as a result of our passing this budget. We have not received an answer to that. I still do not know how many that is. We also requested the total cost out of this budget that was spent on the total number of people who receive employment as a result of this budget. Only if we have those figures do I think that we know what the cost of staffing, what the cost of running this government, is.

We requested similar total costs specifically as they relate to staff housing. It is easy to find the capital of it. It is easy to find the direct O and M of staff housing, but there are very substantial indirect O and M costs such as the wage and salary costs of the DPW staff we hire to maintain staff housing, or whether it is contract maintenance where we hire our own, the cost of staff housing to those who maintain the staff housing, the cost of their hiring, the cost of their removal, all the benefits they receive. There are very substantial costs here. We have also not received the total cost of staff housing for operating the staff housing that our government owns or, for that matter, the total cost of staff housing. It again makes it very difficult to judge what the department is doing.

Mr. Chairman, this Assembly did pass a motion which I moved for our government to get out of staff housing altogether. The government responded with a paper during the last session which was quite different in direction from what my motion wanted them to do. There were some rent changes in it, and I want to emphasize that paper was the government's paper, it was not the Legislative Assembly's paper, and that was

made quite clear in debate. I therefore find it disturbing, when I get these minutes from a Kitikmeot Board of Education executive committee meeting where your regional manager of personnel was asked to come and explain this new policy that the Government Leader announced at the last session. The gentleman's last name is Williams and the paragraph states, "Williams stated that this decision was made by the Legislative Assembly." I hope he has taken it upon himself to say that and is not being directed by our government to say that, because the decision to change rental structures, to charge for over-accommodation, whatever it was, was not a decision by this Legislative Assembly. It was a decision by the government. It was not approved by the Assembly, and I want to make that clear.

Frustration With Lack Of Results

Mr. Chairman, I have another concern, and it is one that has been around for a long time. I have a lot of frustration, and other Members do, I know from our debates, and Hansard will show that quite clearly, that when we pass motions requesting the government to do certain things or directing the government, whatever the terminology of the motion may be, that very rarely do we get the results we ask for. We had a motion on fuel subsidy for elders to extend it to all; the budget will not allow it. We had a motion to increase social assistance rates both for food by a percentage and by, I think, doubling the clothing allowance, and we are told the budget will not allow it. When we go through our budget books, we see on the bottom of every page it says increases are due to negotiated salary and benefit increases. The negotiations that you undertake with the Public Service Alliance are undertaken on an Executive decision. Before you go into the negotiations, presumably you sit down and the Executive Council decides what is your window of negotiation from this percentage to that percentage. Again it is done within the Executive Council. It is never done with the approval of this Assembly. The approval you receive from us is when we pass the budget, when it is already in there, and I find it very frustrating that when it comes to paying the servants of the public, we have no difficulty in finding money for increases every year. When it comes to looking after the public, we can never find any money to increase what they get. There is something wrong with that system.

This is not, Mr. Chairman, anything new. In fact, it is not at all new. I would read you a line from a speech that was made in this House. It says, "Living in the settlements of my constituency is therefore almost frightening to realize that all these well meaning public servants have almost zero impact on the daily or even weekly life of the average citizen living in my constituency." Also comments about the fact that normally when you think of government in Canada, you think of Parliament, but in the NWT you think of the nearest civil servant in the small communities. These comments were made on February 2, 1971. It really has not changed. The same thing is still kicking around. In 1984 there were some comments made that we should strive to be a government where the public service clearly understands who the public is and practises the true meaning of the word, "service".

There was reference also to the lack of impact that this huge structure of people have. Mr. Chairman, I know that the leasing of office accommodation is DPW's responsibility but nevertheless, the staff who use that leased office accommodation are handled by Mr. Kakwi's Department of Personnel, so I think he could comment on it.

Today under the heading of written questions I asked the Minister of Public Services to give me some figures on costs three years ago and costs to date; square footage three years ago and square footage to date. I did that, Mr. Chairman, because we see again this that it is always justified that these

increases are because of the government's office accommodation policy, or whatever. But, again, I do not believe that this is an approved thing from this House. It is something that we get stuck to every time we see the budget, and I find that it is a very frustrating thing that the square footage has grown tremendously. I see the buildings going up in Yellowknife over these years and I know they are not empty; and the Minister of Finance, at the same time, and the Minister of Personnel, told me, "We have held the line on PYs. We do not have any more PYs, particularly not in headquarters." If we have not got any more PYs, why do we need more space for these extra PYs that we do not have? I find that hard to understand. Mr. Chairman, I think I used up almost 15 minutes on this. I said I did not have much to comment on and I do not.

AN HON. MEMBER: Ex-Minister of Personnel.

MR. PEDERSEN: I know. I hear from down at the end of the table, "Ex-Minister of Personnel". It is the same ex-Minister of Personnel who, when he was going out, recommended to the other Members of this House that this government should get out of Personnel; you will recall that. I think that if we did, as Mr. Lewis recommended, if we broke it up so it would not be such a centralized organization, it would probably function better. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. General comments, Department of Personnel. Are there any further general comments? Does the committee agree that we go to the details? Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in his witnesses? Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

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

---Carried

I will rise now and report progress. Thank you.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to Item 2, Ministers' statements, for an emergency statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 2. Are there any nays? Proceed.

REVERT TO ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Ministers' Statement 17-91(1): Expiry Of RCMP Contract**

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members are aware that over the year, year and a half, we have been negotiating with the federal government as to a new RCM Police contract. At a recent meeting of Ministers responsible for policing, we developed a joint approach to the present impasse. The federal government, as you are probably aware, has taken a very hard line in the negotiations. After our meeting our officials have been communicating by phone and by fax and have come up with a joint communique. I have just received today a final copy of that communique and that communique will be released across the country today. I wanted to make the wording in that communique available to Members of this House before you hear it over the medium. Mr. Speaker, I will read to you the communique that comes from every Minister responsible for policing, with the exception of Quebec and Ontario, who have their own police forces.

Ministers responsible for policing in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Northwest Territories and the Yukon expressed concern over the present impasse with the federal government over RCMP contract policing.

At a recent meeting with the federal Solicitor General and the provinces/territories, Mr. Cadieux failed to demonstrate any flexibility on the major issues of cost-sharing and further indicated his interest to terminate RCMP contract policing to the provinces and territories at the expiry of the existing 10 year contract on March 31st, 1991.

At a meeting the following week in Toronto, provincial/territorial Ministers expressed astonishment, alarm and dismay that Mr. Cadieux, the federal Solicitor General responsible for the RCMP, would adopt such a callous and inflexible attitude.

The unilateral position taken by Mr. Cadieux on behalf of the federal government would result in a non-negotiated cost increase to the provinces and their municipalities of up to 25 per cent per year.

The provincial and territorial Ministers met at Toronto on February 12th, 1991, and agreed that this was a gross example of federal high-handedness in dealing with Canadians.

The Ministers also agreed that this appeared to be yet another example of the federal government's willingness to sacrifice a great Canadian institution, like the RCMP, to short-sighted and high-handed views of management.

The Ministers were unanimous in their commitment to assist the RCMP in finding operational efficiencies to save money and firm in their desire to pay fair cost increases based on local market conditions. I want to emphasize for we, the Ministers of the policing jurisdictions, want to get back to the table. There are a number of other issues that have to be dealt with and we think it is the federal government who has withdrawn from the table; it is not the other policing jurisdictions. So we are more than happy to get back at the table. Also, we do not think that March 31 is a deadline which should be paramount to these discussions. I think the discussions, if they are to be productive should, and will, go beyond March 31. So any kind of an arbitrary deadline imposed upon us by the federal government is totally unacceptable to the other jurisdictions across the country.

The Ministers were unanimous in their commitment in the

rejection of the federal government's attempt to impose huge and unjustified cost increases on Canadian taxpayers and municipalities policed by the RCMP. The Ministers indicated that they have strongly requested the federal government and Mr. Cadieux to reconsider their proposed termination of the RCMP services in the provinces and territories and vow to fight in every way possible, to preserve this proud Canadian police force as a truly national presence. The Ministers resolved to remind the federal government and Mr. Cadieux that those jurisdictions policed by the RCMP, the West, the North and the Maritimes, remain an important part of Canada and that the red serge of the RCMP is a vital and visible element of the ties that bind us together as Canadians. Thank you.

—Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, Item 20, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions tomorrow, March 2, at 1:00 p.m.. Meetings for Monday, March 4, ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning; at 10:00 a.m. the standing committee on legislation.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Monday, March 4th.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion
13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 7; Committee Report 2-91(1); Bills 8, 9, and 10
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands

adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Monday, March 4th, 1991.

--ADJOURNMENT

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