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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1991

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	289
Ministers' Statements	
- 18-91(1) Status of GNWT at Federal-Provincial Conferences of Finance Ministers and Provincial Treasurers	289
- 19-91(1) Teacher Education Steering Committee	289
Members' Statements	
- Mr. Ernerk on Residential Schools of the 1950s and 1960s	290
- Mr. Ningark on the Importance of Education	290
- Mr. Sibbeston on Trip with Government Leader to Nahendeh	291
- Hon. Nellie Cournoyea on Achievements of Merle Carpenter	292
- Mr. Morin on Chipewyan Language Program	292
Returns to Oral Questions	292
Oral Questions	293
Tabling of Documents	298
First Reading of Bills	
- Bill 17 - Expo '92 Revolving Fund Act	298
- Bill 19 - Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1990-91	299
- Bill 20 - Petroleum Products Tax Act	299
- Bill 21 - Tobacco Tax Act	298

TABLE OF CONTENTS, MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1991 (CONTINUED)

	<u>PAGE</u>
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 7 - Appropriation Act, 1991-92	299
- Department of Personnel	299
- Department of Executive	307
- Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat	307
Report of Committee of the Whole	312
Orders of the Day	312

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1991

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Crow, Mr. Ernerk, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Lewis, Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, 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 Monday, March 4, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 18-91(1): Status Of GNWT At Federal-Provincial Conferences Of Finance Ministers And Provincial Treasurers

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, in January of 1981, former Northwest Territories Commissioner, John Parker, took what was considered to be, at that time, a bold step by formally establishing a Finance Minister's portfolio in the government's Executive Committee. Some veterans in this House may recall the federal government's negative reaction, which was primarily based upon the assumption that only the federal government, through the Commissioner, could effectively manage our government's finances.

Nevertheless, our first Finance Minister, the Hon. Tom Butters, and his successor, the Hon. Michael Ballantyne, gradually assumed responsibility for a wide range of finance related functions, including setting and enforcing fiscal targets, directing and overseeing the development of budgets, managing the government's finances, negotiating formula financing agreements with the Government of Canada, and generally maintaining control over the spending of Ministers and departments by chairing the Financial Management Board. In short, Mr. Speaker, I am sure you and other Members will agree that, over the last decade, our Finance Ministers have demonstrated responsibility, dedication and determination in a portfolio where, even at the best of times, the Minister's most frequent reaction can be summed up in the word "no".

However, while we have witnessed significant progress in the evolution of this fundamental portfolio within our cabinet system of government, territorial Finance Ministers and their officials have, until very recently, only been recognized as observers in the federal delegation at federal-provincial conferences of finance ministers and provincial treasurers. Nevertheless, in spite of the constraints imposed by their observer status, I know that both Mr. Butters and Mr. Ballantyne vigorously used every formal and informal opportunity available to convey to their colleagues the economic and fiscal circumstances in the North, the intricacies of federal-territorial financial relations, the impact of federal taxation initiatives on our government, residents and business, or our position on any number of other subjects on the finance ministers' agenda during the past decade.

In closing, I am most pleased to report that through the efforts of Finance Minister Wilson, circumstances have recently changed for the better and at their most recent meetings, our Finance Minister and his officials have been active participants at the table. Moreover, Mr. Ballantyne is now present at private sessions of finance ministers and provincial treasurers.

Mr. Speaker, while our government has yet to achieve full-fledged membership, these changes in status represent progress in one of the few remaining areas where our Ministers and their officials are not recognized as an equal participant with their federal and provincial counterparts.

This enhanced status is even more significant in view of recent announcements by Finance Minister Wilson respecting a major review and overhaul of Canada's fiscal relationship with provincial governments. Given that our formula financing agreement with Ottawa is increasingly taking on the characteristics of existing federal-provincial arrangements, it is imperative that our Finance Minister and his officials have the necessary status and recognition to advance our interests during the coming months and years. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 19-91(1): Teacher Education Steering Committee

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, teachers are an important factor in delivering quality, culture-based education to our children. In order for teachers to function effectively in the classroom and meet the education goals of their community, they must have a thorough understanding of the people and the area in which they live. It has been long recognized that this need can be met by training more Northerners to become teachers.

To help address the issues surrounding teaching and to develop strategies to train more northern teachers, the steering committee on teacher education was established in the fall of 1989. Members of the committee represent the Inuit Specialist Council, the Western Arctic Aboriginal Educators Association, the NWT School Trustees Association, the NWT Teachers' Association, Arctic College and the Department of Education. The committee felt that further study was needed in the areas of teacher turnover, follow-up of graduates from the NWT teacher education programs, the recruitment and orientation of teachers, and the attitudes and plans of teachers in the schools. Department of Education staff have carried out a number of research projects to address these areas.

During the steering committee's last meeting, held in early February, the members reviewed all the research and made a number of recommendations. The chief recommendation was that the Department of Education set a goal to increase the number of aboriginal teachers in the NWT to 50 per cent of the total teaching force by the year 2000.

The committee recognizes that a number of other issues will have to be addressed to meet this goal. The members are currently drafting specific recommendations regarding: 1) a public awareness campaign to enhance the profile of the teaching profession; 2) human resources planning; 3) innovations in the development of training programs for teachers; 4) orientation and support services for teachers; 5) further research needed to reach this goal.

Right now, 12 per cent of teachers in the NWT are native.

Increasing this to 50 per cent in nine years will require a great deal of hard work and commitment on the part of the Department of Education, Arctic College and every educational jurisdiction in the North. It will also require the best efforts of community leaders, whose support will encourage local people to choose teaching as a career and will help them as they continue through their training program. Increasing the number of northern-trained teachers will go a long way toward ensuring a culture-based education system which acknowledges each child's cultural heritage and builds upon their personal experience. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements.

Prior to proceeding with the next item, I just want to draw the attention of honourable Members to the visitors in our gallery, the grade eight students from William McDonald Junior High School and their teacher, Mitchell Landry.

--Applause

I also want to draw the attention of honourable Members to a visitor, Miss Lisa Freedman, who is a committee clerk from the Provincial Parliament of Ontario, who is in our Speaker's gallery. Miss Freedman is on a work attachment to our Legislature.

--Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Residential Schools Of The 1950s And 1960s

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the time has come for the Canadian government to tell the Inuit and other aboriginal people, the peoples of this country, the blunt truth about why we were sent to residential schools during the early 1950s to the late 1960s in the NWT. I am, however, reluctant to make any statements which may be misinterpreted as unappreciative of my modern education which I received at the Chesterfield Inlet Federal Day School, Churchill Vocational Centre in Manitoba, as well as Sir John Franklin Territorial High School. On the contrary, I do not wish to appear impetuous; I do not wish to appear as an alarmist in my evaluation of the past events of our recent history. But too much remains untold by the Government of Canada, and even by the Government of the Northwest Territories. I truly feel that Inuit who were assimilated have a right to know the blunt truth.

I am not fearful of making public my negative and positive experiences at Chesterfield Inlet. As you may know, I was taken away from home at the age of 11 years, in 1958. I know of others who were taken away at ages much younger than myself. To me, Mr. Speaker, those were the precious years. What I am talking about here, Mr. Speaker, is a failure of a policy of the government, the result of which is the terrible damage to the preservation of our language, culture, values and the alienation of generations of Inuit peoples of the North.

In the rush to bring the aboriginal people of the North into the mainstream society of Canada, the government engaged in the policy which totally ignored the unique and distinctive characteristics of Inuit people. Mr. Speaker, we were forbidden to speak our own language, were taught from the

southern books by southern teachers, and were forced to absorb material which was in large part irrelevant and distant from our everyday lives. I know of cases where Inuit parents...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable Member, your time period for your Member's statement has expired.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue my Member's statement, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Aivilik is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Members. Mr. Speaker, I know of cases where Inuit parents were threatened with the possibility of social security payments being withheld if they did not comply with sending their children away from home to these schools. Young children were taken away from their families and familiar surroundings to a place which was totally foreign to them for many, many precious and impressionable years, and when these students returned home to their communities they were ill prepared to participate in the traditional way of living and were placed in a situation where they had to learn how to communicate with their parents and elders all over again.

Mr. Speaker, as one prominent scholar stated, and I quote, "For the most part, the day school was a purely Canadian agency, an envelope of Kabloona society, a culture in which the child is sealed off from the traditional Eskimo milieu. If the child were put on board a rocket each morning, then whisked within minutes to some school in the South, then whisked back to Baker Lake again in the afternoon, the contact between his school milieu and that of his home would be much greater than it is at present."

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would urge this government not to stall any further to have the Canadian government state their position on the residential school era so that many of us, former students and parents, can begin to understand and deal with the emotional trauma which follows this era. We need to know what the real story is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On The Importance Of Education

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about the importance of education. Education begins at home, on the land, in the classroom, in the institution and in the workplace. Most of all, education should place emphasis on the given environment. For example, cultural and surrounding environments go hand in hand. Culture and native language are as important as the learning of other languages such as English and French. Mr. Speaker, providing good educational facilities and good salaries and benefits packages are just as important for the teachers. One of the concerns of many within the Territories is a new housing policy affecting government employees that will be in place effective April 1, 1991. Especially in the small communities, this seems to discriminate against single teachers in which there are no single teachers' housing units.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, continuation of higher education is a fundamental base for preparing students for job markets, thus giving a choice of whether to stay at home and continue education at the local level or to go out to the large centres for advanced education.

For example, it is my understanding that the Yellowknife

Education District No. 1 will be taking over Sir John Franklin High School. This brings many concerns to individuals about whether or not the existing programs will be offered to out-of-town students, as was the case before.

Mr. Speaker, my position remains that higher education should continue at the community level and, by the same token, the choice should be given to those students from the small communities to take up special programs here in Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, could I have unanimous consent to extend the time because I know mine is going to take about four and a half to five minutes?

MR. SPEAKER: With regard to order, in terms of the statement, it is normal that you raise the matter when you have concluded and used up your time period. You can do so at that particular time. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

Member's Statement On Trip With Government Leader To Nahendeh

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I just want to tell everybody here that I had an amazing weekend. I must say that the Government Leader, Mr. Patterson, and I went to my constituency and we did some marvellous things. I will tell you all about it and make some suggestions as to what other MLAs should do, too.

On Friday after the session, Mr. Patterson and I flew to Fort Simpson. That night there was a long-service awards supper and Mr. Patterson and I attended. The following persons got long service awards for their many years of work, 20 years: Diane Edwards; teachers, Joan and Jim Weaver; Tom Wilson, also a teacher. Those for 15 years were: John Kovacs and Ken Davidge. The person for 10 years was, Andy Norwegian.

The next day, Saturday, we flew to Jean Marie River. There we met with Stanley Sanguet, the chief of the community. Mr. Patterson announced then and there that the government will fund the construction of a fair-weather road to Jean Marie River. This is something that has been in the works for a long time but finally the government has announced that it will be done; 27 kilometres of road from the highway. So the people were happy.

Next we flew to Trout Lake and we did not plan a large meeting there, we thought we would just drop in for coffee and have a meeting with a few of the local people. It has been some years since Mr. Patterson had been there and he could not help but notice that the community had made great strides. There were many new houses, there was a new TV dish, there was power in the community, there was a new garage, there was a new airstrip, and the situation looked pretty good. There was even a mall, "West Trout Lake Mall", that just happened last year. We got down to our coffee and our meeting and the people raised the fact that their small water wagon was causing a lot of problems because they were having to make many trips to the lake, and also the pump on it was always freezing up. The people posed a solution and it was an ordinary water truck; the people wanted...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I would draw the attention to the honourable Member that your time period has expired.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, may I have unanimous consent to extend for a few more minutes, please?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to extend his Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

MR. SIBBESTON: Thank you. As I said, the people posed a solution; they wanted an ordinary water truck. We looked at the capital plans for the community and we noted that next year there was money for a larger water wagon and the year after that there was money for a single-bay garage for a fire truck that was supposed to come someday. In discussions it was concluded that it was more practical to buy a proper water truck and the community could do without a new fire truck garage. The existing two-bay garage, which actually Mr. Morin had built a number of years ago, was big enough to accommodate all of the vehicles that the community would have.

Just before this I had actually baited the Government Leader, telling him how the Commissioner had come to Trout Lake many years ago and how, as a result of meetings, he was so convinced that the community needed houses, that he flew in housing materials and did all sorts of wonderful things for the community. So the Government Leader did rise to the occasion and stated that yes indeed, he saw the practicalness of the community having a proper water truck and said, "Tom is reasonable", and that next winter the community would get a water truck on the winter road. That is what he said. I almost said, "Why do we not fly it in this summer", but I knew I would be pressing my luck.

New Community Airstrip

The next matter that happened is that Chief Edward Jumbo spoke about the community airstrip. A new airstrip had been built two years ago. It was a large 3000 foot long, beautifully gravelled airstrip. The only problem was that it was not in sync with the prevailing winds. And in the summer the charter companies and some tourists wanting to come to Trout Lake, often had difficulty landing because there were strong cross winds. So I interceded and said the airstrip had cost a lot of money and I certainly did not see the government being able to put in an additional million or so dollars into another airstrip, so for a while things looked pretty grim.

At this point the pilot of the charter plane that took us there, Tim Garrish, came into the meeting and said all they really needed was 1000 to 1500 foot long strip and it did not have to be an expensive, fancy designed one. One of the local guys, Tommy Kotchea said he knew exactly where there was a nice area to build an airstrip. And another guy said he could mark it out with flags so we know where it should be built.

Another local person said there was a company in town at the time who had a bunch of equipment and there was a gravel haul taking place in the community. There was a lot of equipment and people in town that could do the work.

So the Government Leader again rose to the occasion and he said, "We will call it an emergency airstrip and we will do it." He said, "Nellie is reasonable", he said he would talk to her and take advantage of all this equipment there. It would take half a day of equipment and an extra day of gravel haul, a nice little emergency airstrip could be built.

From Trout Lake we went to Fort Liard. Again we had a good meeting with the people there, we had a good supper and we ended the day with a bonfire and sliding until midnight.

So my point, Mr. Speaker, is amazing things can happen if you invite the Government Leader to your constituency for the weekend. Amazing things can indeed happen if you stop in for a coffee, if you take the right approach. Instead of a

highway, talk of a fair-weather road; instead of airports, you talk of an emergency airstrip.

I want to thank Mr. Patterson for his time in making the government come alive and I want to say that there indeed can be magic, even in government. It was simply amazing and I recommend that other Members invite the Government Leader for a trip to their constituency. Mahsi.

MR. MORIN: How about next weekend, Dennis?

MR. SPEAKER: While I might take up the recommendation of the honourable Member to invite the Government Leader, the honourable Member for Iqaluit to my constituency, I just remind the honourable Member that the rules regarding Members' statements should be confined, under Rule 23(3)(b), to one matter. I was not quite sure whether it was his weekend or the invitation to Mr. Patterson, or an amendment to the budget, one or the other. That happened without really any discussion here, but that is neither here nor there I guess. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Member's Statement On Achievements Of Merle Carpenter

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, last year the Minister of Justice acknowledged one of my constituents, a young man who was born in Sachs Harbour. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the achievements of Merle Carpenter of Sachs Harbour in a further achievement. Merle joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in October 1985. After five months of training at the RCMP academy in Regina, he returned to Sachs Harbour to serve as a special constable, and in November 1986 he was transferred to Aklavik where he served for 14 months. Mr. Speaker, in January of 1988 he was accepted into the RCMP training academy once again and he graduated as a full constable and was posted to Yellowknife.

More recently Mr. Carpenter reached another significant milestone in his career. He will be leaving his Yellowknife post to serve a three year assignment with the prestigious Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride. Mr. Speaker, family, friends and the people of Sachs Harbour are justly proud of Merle Carpenter's achievement and his impact as a role model for young people, particularly in the Inuvialuit area, will be considerable. It is also significant to note that Merle's accomplishments build on a proud family tradition begun by his father, Frank Carpenter, who served over 20 years as a special constable with the RCMP. Mr. Carpenter is also one of the favourite photos of the community. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Chipewyan Language Program

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak today about the Chipewyan interpreters. I would like to thank these people for the good work they have done for this Assembly and myself in the past three years. Mr. Speaker, I am thoroughly disgusted with this government and how they treat the Chipewyan part of the language program. The elders in my community look forward to Mondays because CKNM carries the Chipewyan language into the communities. That is one day a week, Mr. Speaker, and by the way Monday is supposed to be Chipewyan language day in this Assembly. There are supposed to be Chipewyan interpreters in that booth, but they are not there today. That is just one more nail in the coffin as far as I am concerned for the Chipewyan language.

Mr. Speaker, this government is also trying to move our Chipewyan regional manager out of the Chipewyan region into the Slavey region. They also have the two Chipewyan interpreters in the Dogrib region. Why is the Chipewyan language program being treated differently than the rest? Dogrib people would expect Dogrib interpreters in their region, and Inuit people would expect Inuit interpreters in their region. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the Minister of Culture and Communications wake up, smell the coffee and do something right and just for a change, and move the Chipewyan interpreters into the Chipewyan region and leave our regional manager in the Chipewyan region. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O155-91(1): Transfer Of Control Of Sir John Franklin High School

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you. This is a response to a question asked by Mr. Lewis on February 26, 1991, with regard to control of Sir John Franklin High School. The board of secondary education for Sir John Franklin High School was created as a separate administrative structure because a significant number of students attending that school are from outside of Yellowknife. At present, 210 students out of a total enrolment of 664, almost 33 per cent, fall into this category.

However, enrolment figures for St. Pat's High School show only eight students, or two per cent, come from outside of Yellowknife. This number is obviously not significant enough to warrant a separate administration.

I have said, on occasion, that as boards outside of Yellowknife obtained their own regional schools or extend grades at the community level, the need for a separate administration for Sir John Franklin High School will gradually decline. As and when student enrolments from outside the city decrease the Education District No. 1 will be encouraged to assume more responsibility for the high school until, ultimately, they have full operational control. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O92-91(1): Interpreters In Edmonton

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a reply to an oral question asked by Mr. Ningark on February 21, 1991. Mr. Speaker, I am responding to the question raised regarding interpreter service in Edmonton for Mr. Guy Kakkianian.

Following Mr. Kakkianian's admission to hospital an interpreter was provided. As the honourable Member noted in his question, the interpreter spoke in a different dialect which made communication difficult.

When staff at the Edmonton patient referral service were unable to locate an interpreter with the appropriate dialect, they made arrangements for Mr. Kakkianian's daughter, Alina, to travel to Edmonton to provide this important service. She arrived during the following weekend and is now in Edmonton to ensure that the interpretation is available. Thank you.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS**Question O205-91(1): Move Of Regional Manager For Chipewyan Language To Hay River**

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. Mr. Minister, it is my understanding that you are attempting to move the regional manager for the Chipewyan language from Fort Smith into the Hay River region. I wrote you a letter about 10 days ago on this issue, so could you please give me an update on it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Amittuq, the Minister of Culture and Communications.

Return To Question O205-91(1): Move Of Regional Manager For Chipewyan Language To Hay River

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to tell the Member that under Renewable Resources we have no positions that we are attempting to move. Under Culture and Communications we have had a language manager position that manages Chipewyan interpreters, Snowdrift; South Slavey interpreters, Hay River; South Slavey interpreters, Fort Simpson; Dogrib interpreters, Fort Rae. The position was managing all of the languages out of Fort Smith some time ago and we have attempted to fill that vacant position since April 1990.

We put out a competition twice and the people who had applied and were successful have changed their minds since being offered the position. They did not accept the position which would be in Fort Smith. In an attempt to fill this position we have developed some options. One of the options was to relocate the position, but we have not finalized the move. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O205-91(1): Move Of Regional Manager For Chipewyan Language To Hay River

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary Mr. Minister. Do you have someone groomed, someone especially picked that will only live in Hay River? If so, who is it?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Just prior to proceeding, just to remind the honourable Members about the usual supplementary practice is one question, and the original question is one question. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Further Return To Question O205-91(1): Move Of Regional Manager For Chipewyan Language To Hay River

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, first of all, the person that was successful on one of the competitions was living in Yellowknife and at this moment we have no successful candidate that would fill the position. Thank you.

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

Question O206-91(1): Confirmation Of Promises To Nahendeh Area

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listened with great interest to Mr. Sibbeston's extended Member's statement this morning. I would like to ask the Government Leader, would he confirm in fact that he made those promises that Mr.

Sibbeston said he had made, bearing in mind that this is the budget session and we have not passed this budget yet?

MR. SPEAKER: I am having some difficulty in the question that has been asked. Order please. I am having some difficulty in the question that has been asked, mainly from procedural information that has been provided to Members of the Assembly that, and I will read the matter. "Questions cannot be asked if they:"; under 4) h) are "reading from telegrams, letters or extracts from newspapers or transcripts of television program as an opening to an oral question.... It is not good parliamentary practice to communicate written allegations to the House and then ask Ministers.... It is the Member's duty to ascertain the truth of any statement before he brings it to the attention of the House;"

It is very difficult, but I will allow the matter if the honourable Member from Iqaluit wishes to proceed with it. It is a difficult matter, this particular juncture. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O206-91(1): Confirmation Of Promises To Nahendeh Area

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to make it clear to Members of this Assembly that when I announced the plans to complete construction of the fair-weather road to Jean Marie River, I did take pains to point out that the first phase of that construction would require approval of the Legislative Assembly, that the moneys were contained in the estimates of the Department of Transportation's budget which was not concluded by this House, but that I was confident on such a project that the Members of the Legislative Assembly would approach it with good will and generosity. I was very clear, Mr. Speaker, to point out that it was conditional upon approval of this year's main estimates.

Mr. Speaker, I would want to assure the Member that I was not presuming anything about what the Legislative Assembly was going to do or not do. I did presume that Members of this Assembly would be reasonable and fair to such a small community that has waited so long for this road.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the other commitments that were pointed out, were described in such positive terms by my colleague, the Member for Nahendeh, that for a few minutes, parts of his description, Mr. Speaker, I wondered if that was the same trip I was on. I think I did tell the community leaders in Trout Lake that I thought what they were proposing was very reasonable and I did see for myself the inactive condition and in operative condition of the water wagon. I took the word of the members of the community that they had to purchase two replacement pumps because they had frozen. I did say, in my opinion, it seemed that we had to look at alternative designs, that a small truck would seem to be reasonable and I would recommend this to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I also saw for myself and heard the problems with the prevailing south wind with landing in the east-west strip in the community. I also on that occasion undertook to work as quickly as possible to correct the situation.

Mr. Speaker, while the Member has put a positive turn on my comments, I do not hesitate to say I saw those needs and sympathized with the community and promised to work to do something about it, but in both cases, I indicated it would require commitments from other Ministers and other departments. I have already started working on those problems, Mr. Speaker. I do hope we will be able to come up with practical and cost effective solutions to those needs in the near future. Thank you.

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

Question O207-91(1): Moving Chipewyan Interpreters Out Of Yellowknife

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Culture and Communications. Since I have his attention on the Chipewyan issue, in that letter that I wrote to you approximately 10 days ago, I requested you look into the feasibility and see if you can move the Chipewyan interpreters from Yellowknife into a Chipewyan region.

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

Return To Question O207-91(1): Moving Chipewyan Interpreters Out Of Yellowknife

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to point out to this House that we now have a Chipewyan interpreter, my ADM, assistant deputy minister, who is interpreting and the language bureau Dene director who is translating for us.

--Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have received a letter from the honourable Member regarding the positions that we have in Yellowknife, as well as the position that we are advertising in Fort Smith for a manager of the language bureau in that particular region. I am reviewing the letter currently and will be replying to the honourable Member as soon as I can. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O207-91(1): Moving Chipewyan Interpreters Out Of Yellowknife

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary, Mr. Minister. It is from past experience of dealing with you in this House that I always try to get some time frame from you, because I have had problems with you answering questions, but you are answering them better now; but I would like to have a time frame of how long it will take before you get back with an answer on that. Thank you.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I have asked my department to put a financial implication on the positions if they were to be moved to other regions. I imagine that would take some time. If I can, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the question as notice. Thank you.

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

Question O208-91(1): Formulation Of Government Policy

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader and it is about the way in which policy is formulated by the government. I would like to ask the Minister, once the Executive Council has agreed on a policy, are Ministers then free to go about changing it?

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

Return To Question O208-91(1): Formulation Of Government Policy

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: The short answer is no, Mr. Speaker, although there are provisions usually in every policy that, under special circumstances, the policy can be overridden with the approval of the cabinet. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O208-91(1): Formulation Of Government Policy

MR. LEWIS: Since this is consensus government, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government Leader, what role does this Legislative Assembly play in the formulation of policy, because it represents a service to the public?

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

Further Return To Question O208-91(1): Formulation Of Government Policy

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the honourable Member would ask such a question. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that every day that this Assembly sits, with questions asked in question period, with motions posed in committee of the whole and formally, and with communications that occur with committees of this Legislature, our government receives, and I believe acts upon, advice from Members about policies and programs of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, the Legislature has an important role in shaping policy. We are servants of the Legislature who value the advice that we are given through these many fora in making our policies and programs more responsive to the needs of the people of the Northwest Territories that we all serve. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O208-91(1): Formulation Of Government Policy

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the same issue of policy, I would like to ask the Government Leader, once the Executive Council has approved a policy, are individual Executive Council Members allowed then to publicly state opposition to whatever policy they have already agreed to?

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

Further Return To Question O208-91(1): Formulation Of Government Policy

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I have a feeling this is a trick question, Mr. Speaker, but I will fall into the trap and I will say, no, that once policies are approved, cabinet solidarity will require that those policies be respected and adhered to by employees of the government and by cabinet colleagues. Thank you.

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

Question O209-91(1): Interpreting Services For Patients In Winnipeg

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health. I have noticed

that patients who are going out to Winnipeg, possibly from Repulse Bay, sometimes bring with them their own interpreter. The reason is because the interpreters that are provided occasionally do not understand the dialect of Repulse Bay residents and that, Mr. Speaker, causes great hardship. My question to the Minister is, what kinds of arrangements are being planned by the Minister to alleviate this problem and to accommodate interpreters for the patients at the Winnipeg health centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O209-91(1): Interpreting Services For Patients In Winnipeg

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, with regard to interpreters, yes it is general policy that when patients request and require interpreting that they can ask for a particular or specific member of their family to travel with them so that they can feel comfortable with the individual being with them, and also to provide the proper interpretation according to their language dialect. The honourable Member has brought up a number of questions which I am preparing a response to. I am still working with the Keewatin Health Board to see what their overall plans are to provide more consistent interpreting services regarding the specific dialects the Member speaks of, so I will be able to reply to that at a later time.

However, the general policy is that if there is not anyone available then someone is offered the opportunity to travel with their family, or with a person that they trust as being a friend and interpreter while they are receiving medical treatment in Winnipeg. Thank you.

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

Question O210-91(1): Commencement Of Construction Of Gjoa Haven Hockey Arena

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Minister, when will the construction of the proposed Gjoa Haven hockey arena commence? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice. I do not have the information with me.

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

Question O211-91(1): Request For Government Leader To Visit Lake Harbour

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to direct to the Government Leader. We also received a bit of a lesson from Nick Sibbeston, for which I am grateful. My question to the Government Leader is of concern to the residents of Lake Harbour. Will he be able to visit Lake Harbour at his first opportunity? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O211-91(1): Request For Government Leader To Visit Lake Harour

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: (Translation) Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. Certainly I would be willing to visit Lake Harbour and perhaps I will do it this spring by snowmobile as I will be around that area at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Question O212-91(1): Request For Government Leader To Visit Fort Resolution On July 1st, 1991

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Government Leader. Mr. Government Leader, on July 1st, Fort Resolution usually has a good time and a celebration and I would like to now make a request that you come to Fort Resolution for the July 1st weekend. I would also like to say that I would guarantee you that I will not enter you into any mud wrestling contests.

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

Return To Question O212-91(1): Request For Government Leader To Visit Fort Resolution On July 1st, 1991

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am still cleaning mud out of my ears from my last visit to Fort Resolution on Canada Day. I was invited and innocently accepted an invitation from the MLA for Tu Nede to participate in community games. I did not realize when I accepted that invitation that I would be featured in a mud wrestling tournament with a giant Metis strongman who was waiting for me at that time, Mr. Speaker. So I will have to think long and hard about going near that community again on Canada Day, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question O213-91(1): Replacement For Vacant Wildlife Officer Position

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the honourable Minister of Renewable Resources. We do not have wildlife officers in my community. I wonder if you might be able to find a replacement for that position soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O213-91(1): Replacement For Vacant Wildlife Officer Position

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as a replacement for the wildlife officer goes, we are presently recruiting for this position and I will give you an update as things develop. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O214-91(1): Social Services' Policy Re Destruction Of Information

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for Social Services. I was reading the headlines in the paper here about certain documents from an investigation that were shredded, tapes erased and stuff like that. I would like to ask the Minister if her department has a policy regarding the destruction of information generated when internal reports or inquiries are conducted. Does the department have a policy that deals with

these documents?

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

Return To Question O214-91(1): Social Services' Policy Re Destruction Of Information

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the documents being shredded, I want to indicate to the Member and to this House that under the Corrections Act, I requested that an investigation be held at YCC as a result of the New Year's Eve disturbance. The report was presented to me sometime in February. With respect to the specific personal notes that the individuals kept, there is no particular policy, as the Member is requesting, as to what or how these notes should be kept. It was the individuals' choice, for lack of better words, to destroy the personal notes that they kept. I have received, I believe on February 25th, the final report with respect to YCC.

On how they conduct their report, they are given the terms of reference to adhere to and within the terms of reference there are no specifics as to how to deal with personal notes. The Member did ask if there was a policy and there is no policy. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O214-91(1): Social Services' Policy Re Destruction Of Information

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a similar question and you may rule me out of order. Can the Minister indicate to me whether or not the notes, records and other internal stuff that may have been collected by Mr. Gilmour and Mr. Youngman while conducting this investigation have been shredded, and are there instructions to that affect?

MR. SPEAKER: That matter and the questioning concern me in that the honourable Member is seeking to question a Minister to confirm whether or not the newspaper article and the matter of shredding evidence are to be confirmed by the honourable Member and that is not usual parliamentary practice. I am not going to suggest that the honourable Member should not answer the question if she chooses to. The honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: I would like to call a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order. The honourable Member for Slave River.

Point Of Order

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, regarding oral questions, under article 4)h) it does state: "readings from telegrams, letters or extracts from newspapers or transcripts of television program as an opening to an oral question is an abuse of the rules of the House." It does further state: "It is not good parliamentary practice to communicate written allegations to the House and then to ask Ministers either to confirm or deny them. It is the Member's duty to ascertain the truth of any statement before he brings it to the attention of the House."

My point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that earlier the Member asked if there was a policy in respect to documents being shredded. I indicated to him that there was no policy and now he is basically taking a newspaper allegation and asking if these documents were shredded or where are these

documents. I seem to be in somewhat of a dilemma in respect to this questioning as to whether the rules are adhered to. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I will take the matter as a point of order, consider the remarks and the question that has been posed and will make an appropriate ruling. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

Question O215-91(1): Financial Stability Of Day-Care Centres Across NWT

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the same Minister for Social Services concerning day-care centres. There are numerous day-care centres located across the Northwest Territories in the communities. I wonder if they are being operated properly and are they able to maintain the day-care centres without a loss? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O215-91(1): Financial Stability Of Day-Care Centres Across NWT

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that there are quite a few day-care centres that are in financial difficulties mainly because when we initially fund day-care centres, we give them an operating and maintenance start-up grant which allows them to function financially effectively. However, our program is in term, and it has been indicated that the ongoing funding for operation and maintenance of the day-care does not seem adequate; that is, the funding provided by the government. Therefore day-care centres are in a dilemma as to whether they should increase the rates or request additional funding. I am currently reviewing that child care, day-care policy and within that policy we hope to address the ongoing financial commitment of this government to day-care centres. I hope that I can address the area of financial assistance to day-care centres across the Territories as we continue with our day-care program. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O215-91(1): Financial Stability Of Day-Care Centres Across NWT

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then it seems, I understand, that once the budget is approved, there will be some financial relief for the present day-care centres. I think the Minister is aware that some of the day-care centres are not operating at all, including one in my community. It was very expensive to actually build these day-care centres under the care of the hamlet councils. I wonder if she has received any further applications to obtain funding to maintain the day-care centre once funding is received. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to remind the honourable Members again that their preambles to supplementary questions should be short. The honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, we have received quite a number of applications from day-care centres. I will have to check in respect to the specific one in the Member's constituency and advise him accordingly. Therefore, I will take that under notice. Thank you.

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

honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

Question O216-91(1): Education District No. 1 Taking Over Sir John Franklin High School

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. It is a direct question. Mr. Minister, is the Yellowknife School District No. 1, is the district taking over Sir John Franklin High School? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O216-91(1): Education District No. 1 Taking Over Sir John Franklin High School

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I have stated on a couple of occasions now that when the regions that send students to Yellowknife get their own high schools operational, when they have increased their grade levels to grades 10, 11 and 12, as the number of students that come into Yellowknife diminish from the surrounding communities, we will be approaching the day when Yellowknife can expect to have exclusive jurisdiction over its own high school, much like what has happened in other parts of the North. That is what the intention is.

If the question is whether Yellowknife will ever get to have jurisdiction over its own high school, the answer is yes. If they are asking, is it going to happen very shortly? I would say, probably not; not until the Kitikmeot, the Keewatin, the Dogrib region, the Deh Cho region get their own high schools, their grade levels up so that the number of students who come in from these regions to get their schooling in Yellowknife diminishes significantly. Thank you.

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

Question O217-91(1): Chlorine In Drinking Water, Resolute Bay

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the question to the Minister of Health. In the beginning of February in Resolute Bay, the water was polluted and it was not very tasty. They had added some chlorine into the drinking water. This pipe water that we receive in Resolute Bay. Do they really have to put chlorine in our drinking water system, especially when it is piped water? Is there a danger in having chlorine in the drinking water if they happen to put too much into the drinking water? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Just to remind the honourable Members again that you should be posing one question. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice.

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

Question O218-91(1): Installation Of Sewage Pipe For Rankin Inlet

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is to the Minister of MACA. The Minister knows the question I am about to ask him. When he was in Rankin Inlet, perhaps about three or four weeks ago when we were at a meeting, he was asked a question in regard to this point. The Minister knows, Mr. Speaker, that a point in Rankin Inlet has

been designated to build houses and in regard to the sewage waste pipe, the people in Rankin Inlet would like to know, can the Minister state today whether he can assist in installing the sewage pipe from Rankin Inlet to the proposed site at the point?

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

Return To Question O218-91(1): Installation Of Sewage Pipe For Rankin Inlet

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, I cannot give the honourable Member a firm commitment at this time. The matter, I think, is still under discussion or study.

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

Question O219-91(1): Operations Manager For NWT Pavilion, Seville

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today's News North, Mr. Speaker, has an advertisement for an operations manager for the NWT pavilion at Expo in Seville, Spain, in 1992. This ad calls for an operations manager with extensive food and beverage experience. There is also a requirement that they be able to speak Spanish as well as English.

I would like to ask the Government Leader, in the absence of the Minister for Economic Development and Tourism, does this mean that since we are only asking for a food and drink manager that that is all we will be doing in Seville? Will we just simply be providing that service if it is approved by this Assembly?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O219-91(1): Operations Manager For NWT Pavilion, Seville

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I believe the same newspaper also contains a description of the proposed activities at the pavilion. There would be a food and beverage facility, but there would also be a facility for providing information about the Northwest Territories in an effort to promote tourism and the like, as well as arts and crafts, Mr. Speaker, on the lower floor of the facility. So there would be more than food and beverage, Mr. Speaker, at the proposed NWT participation in Seville. This is subject, of course, to the approval of the Assembly. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O219-91(1): Operations Manager For NWT Pavilion, Seville

MR. LEWIS: Seville is a very beautiful city, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure that many people would like to go there. My question concerns the advertisement for a proposal to operate a commercial outlet. The only reference, Mr. Speaker, is to food and beverage. What I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, since we are looking for someone who is very highly specialized, is this advertisement also appearing in newspapers in southern Canada, as well as in the Northwest Territories?

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question as notice. Thank you.

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

Question O220-91(1): Inuktitut Radio Frequency At Kitikmeot House

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question directed to the Minister of Health. It is with regard to the Kitikmeot boarding home. I would like to find out whether there has been a radio frequency in Inuktitut at the Kitikmeot House as yet. Thank you.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will take that under advisement. It is my understanding there is, but to be clear and correct I will take that as notice, please.

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

Question O221-91(1): High Price Of Gas, Fort Resolution

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for MACA. Mr. Minister, at present I do not know of any higher gas prices in the Northwest Territories than at Fort Resolution. We are paying 93 cents a litre for gasoline. In Snowdrift, they are paying 63 cents a litre and it has to be barged in there. A lot of our trappers had to pick up their traps this winter because they just cannot afford to trap because of the price of gasoline. Will the Minister agree to look into this situation and see if he can subsidize the gas in Fort Resolution? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O221-91(1): High Price Of Gas, Fort Resolution

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, I will look into the situation that the Member describes. I will indicate, though, that the distribution outlets that we provide to the communities are operated at a non-revenue return to government. It is a break-even situation. If it is a community where a private distributor does exist and maintains an enterprise, he would probably add his operating costs onto the cost of the product.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Oral questions.

Item 6, written questions. Written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions. Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a question that was asked in the House and I think the response should be tabled. I would like to table Tabled Document 31-91(1), a letter that was written to me on

November 16, 1990, from the Government Leader, Hon. Dennis Patterson. It is with regard to the federal government's quota on beluga whales. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 32-91(1), a letter to the Hon. Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, dated March 1, 1991, concerning the federal funding cut for the NWT land use planning program, in English and Inuktitut.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motion. Notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 14, motions. Motion 4-91(1). Item 15, first reading of bills. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I had my hand up for notices of motion for first reading of bills.

MR. SPEAKER: First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 17: Expo '92 Revolving Fund Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 17, Expo '92 Revolving Fund Act, be read for the first time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 17 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

First Reading Of Bill 21: Tobacco Tax Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 21 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

First Reading Of Bill 19: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1990-91

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1990-91, be read for the first time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 19 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

First Reading Of Bill 20: Petroleum Products Tax Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products Tax Act, be read for the first time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 20 has had first reading.

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. Zoe in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Can I have some order please? I would like to call the committee back to order. Mr. Minister, would you be prepared to bring in your witnesses after we break for coffee?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The committee will recess and return at the call of the Chair.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 7: Appropriation Act, 1991-92

Department Of Personnel

The committee will come back to order. Mr. Minister, can you introduce your witnesses for the record?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I have with me today the deputy minister of Personnel, Ken Lovely, and the director of finance, Stewart MacNabb.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): We are on the Department of Personnel, main estimates, page 6.2, we are on general comments. General comments. Member for Yellowknife

Centre.

Hay Plan System

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past we have asked about the examination of what is called the Hay Plan system whereby senior people are compensated because they are at a fairly high level. The government set the system up several years ago in order to provide a more efficient public service at that level and to provide incentives for people related to their jobs and their abilities and so on. I am concerned because several times we have been told that this is not working very well and the government is looking at it, and they were thinking of changing it; and it seems as if although this comment has been made several times that this system is not working very well, we do not see that many changes in it. Maybe there are changes taking place that we are not aware of.

Excluded Positions

The other issue that is a little bit of a confusion for people, Mr. Chairman, is the whole issue under our government of excluding some people from the collective bargaining system. These are positions sometimes called "excluded" positions, but they are excluded for different reasons, usually, though, related to the degree of confidentiality related to their positions, but there are lots of other reasons too why a particular position would be excluded.

Two questions I would want to raise would be, the whole business of the review of the Hay Plan and to ask for a description or explanation of why positions are excluded, and also why these excluded positions are positions which do not come under the appeal process, so that if somebody applies for a position that is an excluded one, if they do not get the job, there is never any possibility for them to appeal that particular competition. Those are the two main questions; one about the Hay Plan and one about excluded positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, on the business of the Hay Plan, there have been some difficulties with the management and administration of it. What Members should be aware of is that the Hay Plan is the name of the plan of how we treat and pay people who are in senior management positions. These are the people who are mostly in the senior positions of government. These are not covered by the same salary ranges and benefits that are given to the rest of the government employees. Part of the difficulty with the Hay Plan was in trying to implement it properly. We have hired some people in the last year to advise us on what we have to do to better manage this plan on behalf of our employees and how to address some of the problems such as the amount of money that is paid for each position. We currently have a consultant doing this work who will be reporting to us within a month with recommendations on how we can, first of all, get to appreciate what the intent and concept of the Hay Plan is and, secondly, how to better manage it and run it, and how to maintain it properly.

On the second point that the Member raised, which is why it is that these people who apply for jobs in the Hay Plan, if they do not get the job, they do not get to appeal, there is no appeal process. They are not part of the union agreement. The union covers the other government positions. When you apply, for instance, to be a wildlife officer or an economic development officer in a community, positions like that are covered under the collective agreement. The union has argued successfully that these positions should be given the right to appeal if a person that applies is not successful in

getting the job. This is not extended to Hay Plan employees. You apply and the position is filled, then there is no appeal mechanism locked into that at all. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: Two further questions about the same subjects. On the Hay Plan, and I cannot remember the exact date when we decided to adopt the Hay Plan within the government, but it is a large company that provides this consulting service right across the country, about how you should compensate your senior staff. I want to know, in fact, whether we have an ongoing arrangement with Hay Associates to provide us with service since we use their system and whether this consultant was one of their people or whether it was somebody else. That is my first question.

My second question is, the Minister has explained that there are some people in government that are excluded, that do not have their salaries set through an agreement with the union, but simply on the basis of performance. I would like to ask the Minister why it is that the excluded people are not able to appeal. Is it because it is an agreement that they made with the union that there would be an appeal process, and since these people did not belong to the union, you did not feel any obligation to them? Is that the reason? Those are the two questions.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the answer to his last question is, yes. It has been agreed that those people would be left out of the appeal process.

The first part of his question dealt with the people who designed the Hay Plan. Do we have an ongoing agreement with them to help us administer this plan? The answer is also yes, we do have an ongoing agreement with them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Appeal Process Questioned

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the appeal business, although it was always the people that were unionized that were concerned because they did not have a satisfactory appeal process, for the people that do not belong to government, that do not belong to any union, and that are applying for a job, it seems to me that those people who apply for a Hay Plan job who do not belong to any union -- I wonder why the decision was made to only allow people who had a contract under one of the northern unions to appeal a job. There are several people who do not belong to a union. They just simply want to get employment. That would be a concern that I would have about this decision that the only ones who can appeal are those people who are actually under an agreement, either with the Union of Northern Workers or with the NWTTA. I would like to just leave it at that for a minute then, Mr. Chairman, and ask the Minister why, in fact, this decision was made to treat the groups in different ways.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the agreement with the union right now is what we have in practice, and that is that the excluded positions that exist in government plus the senior management positions within the Hay Plan are positions that are not afforded the appeal process. It is the general practice of this country. For senior management it is our view that the government should have much more say about who it is that is managing their departments, their budgets and

their staff. It is not as critical as the positions that are defined within the collective agreement. He is asking, why is it that we are not advocating we include everybody? That is basically it. Some of them are positions that are considered to be filled at pleasure, almost. Most senior management positions across the country are filled by this, and so are positions of executive secretaries and executive assistants; those are excluded positions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: The other issue related to the Hay Plan. If you want to get rid of the Hay Plan, or to change it, then the last person that you would probably want to advise you is someone from Hay Associates, because they are in the business of making sure you keep their plan. As I said, we have had it for a long time. My question to the Minister is, is the government considering changing this plan or having a look at an alternative way of doing things? Simply getting a Hay Plan consultant to come here is not going to make any change. They are just going to probably do a bit of troubleshooting and help you out a little bit, but they are certainly not going to recommend that you get rid of the Hay Plan. They are going to find ways to make sure you keep it. My question is, are you seriously considering alternatives to the Hay Plan?

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

Hay Plan Looked At In Two Ways

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, there are two types of work being done right now with regard to the Hay Plan. One is the ongoing work with the people who designed the Hay Plan, for them to advise us on how we can better use the system the way it was intended. The other contract is with a different firm altogether and this is for them to advise us by critiquing the way that we provide salaries to the different positions within the Hay Plan, the benefits and what we should consider doing to improve the system.

There are two different areas of work that we are looking at. We have had a review of the Hay Plan by myself, with the department, earlier this year and we took a critical look at it. It is our view that if it is properly managed and administered, then it is a good plan. I think we have to find a way to manage it properly and consistently so that it does not become something that you shelve and leave. It has to be something that is ongoing, pretty well the same way that unions tend to keep working at collective agreements. As a government we have to keep working at maintaining and managing the Hay Plan so that it is up to date and it is well managed. The thing that keeps it attractive for senior people to go and work for the government under this system is good enough to get people who are in the collective agreement motivated to try to get into that plan. There have been times when there has been the question of whether people should leave the positions that are protected under the collective agreement to go into the Hay Plan system. There have been some questions sometimes if there was really any benefit to be gained by taking that lead. We think we can make it attractive if we manage it properly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Several governments have adopted it and some governments have adopted it and then dropped it. But one of the concerns that I have is that although this particular model may be very, very good, where you have a work environment where managers have a tremendous amount of discretion as to what they do, in our system you judge positions on the basis of how much knowledge you have to

have and you try to assess what that knowledge is and then you would assess how much of that knowledge you would need for this particular job.

Also, there is another element in it related to budget, the amount of budget that you have. It almost seems to me that the vast majority of departments did not give managers a tremendous amount -- it has increased a little over the last while, but not that much. It seems to me you would judge a position because of the size of the budget and then you would find out that the budget that you had was not discretionary. You did not decide how much a staff member was going to get paid; that is determined by the position number. So up to about 60 or 70 per cent of that budget -- the manager had no control whatsoever over it. It was simply something that was in the budget and made it look an awful lot.

So if you had a department with lots and lots of people in it, then you really did not have control over that budget in the same way, perhaps, as you would if you were running a company in the private sector, because in the private sector you found you did not have all the checks and balances that you have in government. It is quite a bit of a different environment.

So I wonder if the Minister is satisfied, having examined the way that we pay staff, that the model we have for judging how much knowledge you need to have for a position and how much real managerial skill you had to have and whether the budget, since much of it was really non-discretionary -- you did not have really much room to decide how much money would be spent and you would be told what to do with it, anyway, by the Minister through the budgetary process -- that there was very little room to manoeuvre inside government operations, and whether this model of having the budget be a significant part of the way you judge a job really mattered that much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, one of the things that I found interesting, when I took over the responsibility for Personnel, was to get briefed on all the details of what the Hay Plan is. I had heard about it for a couple of years before but never really got to figure out how the plan really was intended to be administered and what it is. I know that part of this discussion begs the question of maybe setting up a briefing, for Members that are interested, just to get an idea of what it is and how people are supposed to be taken care of under the Hay Plan.

The Member was asking if we do have a budget which you do not really control; you sort of dish out the money as a computer calls for it. There is a rating system in there that would give you some points, but not as much as if you had total discretion over that money. The system does recognize that you get more points the more money you are totally responsible for. If you have money that you have discretion over as to how it is used, that gives you a different rating than if you have the same amount of money but you have absolutely no say over how it is spent; it is in your budget and if somebody calls for it you spend it. So the jobs are rated with that in mind.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Zoe.

Appeal Rights

MR. ZOE: In regard to the appeal process, an individual that is not a union member, if he is applying for a position in the collective bargaining -- I do not mean the excluded positions, the regular positions -- can an individual who is not associated

with the union appeal under that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: The appeal rights for somebody who is not working for government, who is in the affirmative action target group -- they have appeal rights now. So if you are not working for government and you apply to be a janitor in Edzo, you now have appeal rights, where previously you did not. If you are working as an executive assistant and you want to apply for a teaching position, appeal rights are extended to you even though you are in an excluded position, because you are still working in government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mahsi. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: So the individual who applies for the janitor position has appeal rights, but you are saying that somebody that is in an excluded position currently, that applies for a regular job that is union also, has appeal rights. Is affirmative action applied to all excluded positions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, I am having trouble understanding the question. Maybe you could ask it again.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, our government has a policy which is called the affirmative action policy. Does that policy apply to all excluded positions? If, say, an aboriginal person is applying for an excluded position and that aboriginal person currently is not a union person but is just an ordinary person off the street that wants to get into the government. Would the affirmative action policy apply to that individual?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the government put the affirmative action policy in place and we are expected to follow our own policies. When we are filling these positions it is my view that we all try as best we can to follow our own policies in filling them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, the response is that we all try. Do they or do they not? Do they apply it or not? Yes or no.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, if that is the case, then say that an aboriginal person who applied on an excluded position, does that individual have an appeal right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: No.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: If that aboriginal person feels that that policy was not adhered to, who does that person go to? Because we have no appeal process, who does he go to if he does not feel that policy is not applied right?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, when people apply for positions in this area and they do not get the job, sometimes we get to hear about it right away, but in some cases we get to hear about it as MLAs and Ministers. I hear about them as the Minister of Personnel. So very often we do keep an eye on the positions that we know could be filled if good people are encouraged to apply for them.

Sometimes you do have to go out and shake a few bodies to make them look at opportunities seriously, and sometimes to the point of encouraging people to go and try new things. The onus is not just on us to do this, but whenever we know that native people, women, the other affirmative action target group members apply for jobs, we are aware of it and we try very hard to make sure that they get the best possible chance at the job. That is the way we handle them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): General comments. Mr. Zoe.

Appeal Process For Excluded Positions

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I do not know about other Members but I think that we should have an appeal process for the excluded positions. I know these people can go to the Minister themselves, but I think an independent body, an appeal process, where they can hear the complaint from the applicant if he feels that the affirmative action -- especially if the affirmative action policy was not applied properly or if it was not even considered at all, we should have the mechanism in place where this individual can go rather than directly to the Minister to see if he can intervene.

Because we do not have a system in place, especially for the people who are non-union. I do not even know if a union person has appeal rights. Even the union person that wants to get a job in an excluded position does not have any appeal right, either. So I think we should seriously consider putting something in place. I wonder if the Minister would agree that we should have an appeal process for excluded positions. I know the Hay Plan does not call for it, but I think it is warranted to have an appeal process for the excluded positions because we are totally different than other jurisdictions. Maybe in other jurisdictions it works fine, but it is not working up here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, there have always been suggestions that if people are treated unfairly in the areas where there is no appeal, that they have the avenue of appealing directly to us as a government if they feel they have not been treated properly. As managers of government we have the right to review positions that we fill, but I doubt that at any time we would give up the right as a government to fill senior management positions and start sharing it with the union. There is a point where you have to stop, and I think everyone recognizes that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I said this appeal process should be in place, where the appeal board would be independent so that a neutral group would look at the concerns of the applicant. I know they can appeal to the government, but obviously the government is going to side with the department. Even if they appeal directly to the Minister, the Minister is going to side with his people. They will find all kinds of excuses to agree to the decision that was made. They are not going to go against what the department does. So an independent body would be an appropriate place for the government to give their reasoning as to why they have given a position to an individual and an applicant can bring their arguments to the independent body. That is why I am

asking for an independent body to be set up for excluded positions, an appeal board.

Mr. Chairman, we have one for the union positions. The government sits on it, the union people sit on and I think there is one person from the general public that sits on it, or something to that effect, where the union people can present their case, and so forth. Why can we not have one for these positions too, an independent body?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

Executive's Exclusive Right To Fill Certain Positions

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the fact is, as the people who hire the senior managers, once we decide to hire, who is the appeal going to go to? It cannot be somebody other than the Executive because we are the ones that basically fill these positions. There is nobody to appeal to. There is, as I said, an opportunity if people feel they were unfairly treated to bring this to our attention and there has been a willingness to do that. I do not know what else could be said. If we are going to lose an exclusive right to fill these positions by having an appeal process and a different independent body hearing it, we have lost it. You might as well throw it all in the collective agreement.

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

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, these are for the people that are not unionized, that are willing to get into government. They are applying on excluded positions, and they are not with the union; so I do not know why you would throw it all in the agreement with the union people. Mr. Chairman, the Minister said they have a right to appeal to the Executive, but as you know, the Executive are quite busy on a day-to-day basis and it is not that often that the Executive Council meet. According to the Government Leader and even the Minister, he knows that he has a tight schedule, so rather than the Executive Council dealing with this appeal process, why can they not delegate it to an independent body, set up a body to look after that on their behalf? There is nothing wrong with that. That is what we are suggesting.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I am not that busy. We do what we can to treat people that fill these positions fairly, and we do spend time with the people who have problems or complaints about the way they are treated, if they feel they were treated unfairly, if they feel they did not get a fair opportunity to apply or be heard at interviews for these positions. As I say, we in the Executive are charged with this responsibility to fill these positions and if we set up a body that is going to hear appeals outside of ourselves, we are giving it up, and there is no way that we could do that.

A man that runs a business is not going to set up a committee outside of himself to hear appeals from all the people that he did not want to hire in the first place. That is his job and his mandate, and he is not going to let somebody else have it. If Mr. Zoe is hiring employees to build him a house, he is not going to let a committee from somewhere else decide who the final people are that are going to be hired if they all feel Mr. Zoe did not give them a fair hearing.

There is a principle here and that is that the managers, the Executive, have that final say. Anything like what you are suggesting would erode that completely.

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

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, we are under general comments

and at the appropriate time I will be making a motion to that effect once we get into details.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you for reminding me, Mr. Zoe. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very brief question. I am not too familiar with the policies under the Department of Personnel; however I know there is an appeal process through the union. I would like to find out what federal government public servant policies are in place. Do they have an appeal process for public servants within the provinces, and do they have a similar appeal process for federal government employees? That is my question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Qujannamiik. Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: The answer, Mr. Chairman, is yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Morin.

Salary Level For Hay Plan Positions

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I am not sure if I understand this correctly. Maybe you can clarify it for me. The Hay Plan covers senior positions and they are paid according to how much money they manage directly, how much money they have in their responsibilities. Is that correct?

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, this is what I was alluding to earlier. It might be worthwhile if there are a lot of questions in this area about the Hay Plan that perhaps we might do a brief explanation of what the Hay Plan is. In response to the Member's question, for Hay Plan positions there are three main things that are used to decide the salary level of positions. Those are the amount of responsibility you have. That is one of the things that we said; that is, the number of people and the size of the department, the amount of money you really manage. The other thing that we use to decide how much to pay people is their knowledge; that is, the experience and the skills that they bring to the job. The other is their rating which tries to assess their ability to solve problems. Basically, if there were no problems we would not need them there, so the reason we try to get the best possible people is to help us solve all the problems as they come up, and so there is a rating system to try to figure out how good they are in that area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So you pay them according to their management skills, their knowledge, their experience and their ability to make the right decision and solve the problem, and also for how much money they have to spend.

I guess the reason I want that clarified is that if I was to hire a manager -- you know, as a government, is that not kind of self-defeating if you give them a wage increase from \$10 to \$11 a year? You can get more money under his belt or a bigger bureaucracy and that is not encouraging him to decentralize, to take responsibility away from him and give it to the community, or give it to the region. Instead you are going the other way. Maybe you can clarify that for me. That is how it seems to me.

You are the deputy minister and you are in charge of a million dollars, I will pay you \$100,000. You are a deputy minister in

charge of \$50,000, I will pay you accordingly. It does not give them any incentive to decentralize to the communities or regional level, because then they will get a decrease in wage. I sure would not do it if I were a deputy minister. It is like asking a guy to cut his own throat.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Any comments? Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the money that we vote in this House, for instance the Education money, is my responsibility as the Minister of Education. The deputy minister is the one that I charge with the responsibility of making sure it is managed and administered properly.

We give out a huge percentage of that money. Maybe \$90 million of it goes out to boards, but ultimately we are still the ones responsible and Mr. Handley is the one that answers for the way it is managed, to me; and I, in turn, respond to the Legislature.

So even though we can give out most of it, even if we had a thousand little contribution agreements with communities, the deputy minister is still the one who has his neck in the noose, so to speak.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: I agree there, Mr. Minister, but the thing I was getting to is you had said earlier that it is to the degree of responsibility they have in funding. Using Mr. Handley for an example, his degree of responsibility is not as great because the boards are answerable as well. But another deputy minister would have a higher degree of responsibility or control of that money because it is not in boards or agencies or regional or community levels.

Should the incentive be as to how much they can decentralize, how much they can give that money out to someone else's control? Because if you want to take government to people, that is the way it should be, at the community level, and there should be encouragements there for them to do it, instead of encouragements to horde. This way it seems that there would be more of an encouragement to horde responsibility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, the business of handing out money is not for deputy ministers to decide. Most decisions are made by this Legislature and by the Ministers. So when we decide to decentralize we give out instructions and we find out what the problems are of doing it, whether it conflicts with the funding agreements we have with the federal government or we have under the Financial Administration Act, some of our own legislation, or whether Justice has problems with it -- the usual hoops that we have to jump through.

But in the end it is we who decide, and deputy ministers are asked to do it. What happens is your salary does not drop because you are no longer managing \$50 million, you have given it all away and you only have \$10 million to manage. In the cases of departments where you give it out, your ability to know what is happening with that money out there, your knowledge of what it is you are doing -- we are demanding much more of the individual, so it is all set by that.

Also your ability to solve the problems that arise as a result of the change in the way you are managing comes up, so you cannot really say it is a hindrance, although there might be some grounds to think that there are people who want to keep their clutches on the money and never give it away.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The perception is there and it could be taken that way. When you say it is the Legislature and the Minister that make that decision and push it, then what is happening with the decentralization policy? Why are not more things being decentralized to the region and the communities? There has to be a block there someplace between where a decision is made here and policy or your decision, and at the bottom where it is supposed to be happening.

Senior civil servants – possibly their salaries should be based on their initiative to solve problems, as you said, but to solve them in a positive way. So if you do want to do something, they do not keep coming back and saying they cannot do it and here is a big list of the reasons they cannot do it. They should come back and say, "Here is the problem and this is how we will overcome it to do what you want to do." But it seems that when we want to do something in here, the department says they cannot do it, but there are no answers saying, "That is the problem but we can do it; we just have to do this."

So if their wages are based on that, then you should revisit that. Because they are not doing the problem-solving. If that is the direction the Legislative Assembly wants to go, then it is up to them to solve the problems, not put the roadblocks in the way; take them down and adjust their wage to that. For example, if you have a deputy minister that has got 45 per cent native employment in his department, then give him a higher wage than the one that has 10 per cent; those types of initiatives, because that is the direction that the government says they want to go. That would really push because then you would have a bigger team working toward a common goal and you would have little prizes at the end as they meet those goals. If a person gets \$50,000 a year and he has only 31 per cent native employment, maybe when he reaches 40 per cent you can give him an extra \$10,000 a year. That is cheap to increase that. You understand what I am getting at.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Are there any comments, Mr. Minister?

Setting Goals For Different Departments

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: One of the things that I know as a Minister is that every year we set goals for our different departments. You get asked the question, "What do you want to do this year? Is there anything new that you want to do?" You come back and say, "There is no new money but is there anything you want to do anyway?" So you try to jot down all the things that you want to get done. If you do not do it, then somebody else will do it, and I think deputy ministers can do it. They can set the goals and say, "Look, Mr. Minister, you have no ideas yourself but here are a few you can think about and adopt yourself." They basically set the goals and say, "This is what I want to get done. Do you agree?" I think there is always the possibility that people can get appointed as Minister and end up in a situation like that.

The people that I have worked with over the past few years have all been fighting really hard to set the agenda year to year, plus the long-term agenda for this government. The Ministers expect, and they rate their deputy ministers on the type of work that they do, the kinds of problems that they solve, and their ability to do the job that they are asked to do. If they are not doing it, people are not happy with them; then nobody asks them to stay. There are people who do excellent work and we recognize that through merit increases, bonuses and just the kind of recognition that anybody that does a good job should have. So there is an attempt, and I do not know that it is that new, but it seems to me we are still a little

bit in the transition stage from where the Minister never really had that much control over departments to the point where it is recognized that we do and we are expected to set targets and objectives for our departments and for the government overall. That is one of the things that we do with the Government Leader: decide how our departments are doing, the managers, and particularly the deputy ministers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. The Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just leave that line of questioning for now. Mr. Minister, how many native people do you have in the recruitment end? Do you have any real cross-cultural training for new people joining the government? For example, if you hire a person, then the people in the communities become dependent on people to do a job for them; civil servants are supposed to be working for the people. They are there to do a job, so you become dependent on them to do that job. For example, an economic development officer has to come into the community to do a job, yet he might not understand the people. If you have a cross-cultural program where any new employee has to go in the bush and completely depend on a Dene family to survive, for maybe a week, then the boat is turned and he might have a better understanding or a better view of working for Dene/Metis people. Is there anything like that in your department, or can something like that be put into place?

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

No Cross-Cultural Training For New Employees

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, on the business of the cross-cultural workshops and whether new government employees, people that we hire from the South, are given this, the answer is, we do not have across-the-board cross-cultural experiences or workshops set up for new employees as we bring them up from the South. There are a number of reasons for it – something that I had enquired about some time ago, as well, for teachers. There is a cost that is attached to it, for one thing, to bring people up early. We offer to do it for teachers that are willing to come up a week early and get used to their new community, their new neighbours. If they are willing to come up early and not be paid for it, then we are willing to do it. Otherwise, it affects the collective agreement and it could become part of what the union demands and it could be at the table. There is quite a huge cost, and the Member is aware what we are trying to do is turn the percentages around so that we hire less and less people that need this type of experience in the first place. Hopefully, this need will diminish considerably.

There is something to be said about providing this experience. Maybe it is so that we can light the fire under people, for instance, who never want to step outside in the bush in the first place. Sometimes an experience like this is so good that it is all they want to do – go out and run around in the bush every weekend. But it also must be recognized that there are people who go into the North, they go to work, they go home, they go shopping, and they never go out anywhere. It does not matter how many experiences you subject them to, they are not going to change.

For the area, I was not quite clear on that question of how many native people we have in Personnel in recruitment. There are about 30 to 40 aboriginal people in the department and there are about approximately 10 people who are involved in the recruitment area. Two of the superintendents are aboriginal people in Personnel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Tu Nede.

Incentives For New Employees

MR. MORIN: Thank you. I know the Minister answered my question in the House earlier about specific plans but is there, for example, for a person being hired, do you have a program so that if they start off as an interpreter, they are evaluated by themselves, maybe by their union representatives, maybe the government too, for example, on a six month basis? And there is a whole program laid out on how they are going to end up being the deputy minister for Culture and Communications or ADM, so that they have a set goal and there is a system that they can progressively go through. Do you have something like that?

Mr. Minister, for example, even the oil companies have that and they do not have the affirmative action policy or anything. The oil companies had that for their native employees back in the 1970s. Mr. Whitford is well aware of a similar program so that employees know that they are going to progress and it keeps employees on the job and it keeps them trying to strive to gain higher employment.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, at this time there is no way that a native employee or an affirmative action employee in government can say, "Look, I want to develop a career path for myself and I want the government to sit down and help me do that." I think that is part of what I would like to see come out of further development of the affirmative action policy. I have said it before that I think we are getting the number of people in but they are also leaving fairly quickly. What we need to do is counsel the people that we have in government so that they stay; not only that they stay but that somebody spends time with them to help them, encourages them to stay but also encourages them to work their way through the different positions and responsibilities that they target for themselves. If that is what the Member is suggesting, I would like to do it. I do not know how to go about it but it is something that we could set as a target for ourselves to get done. We could specifically state that as something we want the Department of Personnel to do and add it onto the list of things to do and give it some priority.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments. Are there any further general comments? Does the committee agree we go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): We will start on page 6.2 on the program structure. Any questions? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Departmental overview, page 6.3 and also on page 6.4. Any questions? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Just a question, Mr. Minister, on page 6.5, "This page intentionally left blank". Why was this?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: It means it is intentionally left blank. There is nothing ever intended to be written on that page.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Objectives, any questions? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Directorate, page 6.10, total O and M, \$3,069,000. Mr. Zoe.

Motion To Recommend That Executive Council Implement Appeal Process For Excluded Positions

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I think it is under this activity that it would be appropriate to move a motion that I said I was going to move. Mr. Chairman, it is with regard to the appeal process. I move, that the committee recommends to the Executive Council to implement an appeal process for excluded positions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Your motion is in order. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you. Under general comments I think I gave all my argument points. But to repeat myself, I guess what we are suggesting to the government is that we should set up some sort of independent board to take appeals, especially the ordinary person that is not union that wants to get into a government job and is applying for an excluded position, that means non-union position. Those types of people are not looked after. Once they apply for a job and if they do not get it or if they want to make an appeal, they have no place to go except to the cabinet, and you know how cabinet is. I think having an independent body would be more appropriate to take appeals.

Say if an aboriginal person feels that the affirmative action was not applied properly or if they did not adhere to the policy itself, then he can go somewhere to get his case listened to, rather than going to the Executive Council, because the Executive Council is going to listen to the Department of Personnel as to why they hired that particular individual and not necessarily listen to the case that the applicant is making.

So an independent body would be more appropriate. It is the same thing that they have with the union positions. They have an appeal board. That appeal board that we have for union people has functioned well. Why can we not have one for the non-union people? It can work. So that is basically what my motion is dealing with and I ask Members to support this.

Motion To Recommend That Executive Council Implement Appeal Process For Excluded Positions, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Mr. Zoe. To the motion. Question is being called. All in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

Directorate, \$3,069,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Classification, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Classification, total O and M, \$992,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Staffing, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Staffing, total O and M, \$7,660,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Labour Relations, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Labour relations, total O and M, \$2,597,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equal Employment, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Equal employment, total O and M, \$1,118,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Employee Benefits, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Employee benefits, total O and M, \$14,416,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Total official languages agreement, \$265,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Total regional health boards, \$1,722,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Total divisional boards of education, \$2,418,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Arctic College, total Arctic College, \$1,209,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Personnel, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Total department, \$5,614,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Page 6.09, program summary, total O and M, \$29,852,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Does the committee agree that the Department of Personnel is concluded? Mr. Lewis.

Motion To Defer Department Of Personnel Capital Estimates

MR. LEWIS: I move that we defer the rest of the department because ordinary Members have tried to have a better understanding of the housing policy of the government and until we have a full briefing on it, we do not wish to consider that part of the capital in this department, as it relates to the housing policy.

Motion To Defer Department Of Personnel Capital Estimates, Ruled Out Of Order

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Mr. Lewis. I am sorry I have to rule your motion out of order because there is no capital and the O and M for the Department of Personnel is concluded. Mr. Lewis.

Motion To Defer Conclusion Of Department Of Personnel

MR. LEWIS: I would have to go into a long convoluted explanation of how this particular department relates to capital. So rather than do that, I would simply like to defer conclusion of this department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Well, you have placed the Chair in a very difficult position because I have called for total O and M of \$29,852,000 and I heard agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Mr. Lewis.

Motion To Defer Conclusion Of Department Of Personnel, Withdrawn

MR. LEWIS: I withdraw my motion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you very much. That concludes the Department of Personnel, as I indicated. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and your witnesses. According to the orders of the day the next item of business is Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development. Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government is willing to proceed with Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, with the concurrence of this committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Mr. Allooloo. Does the committee agree that we now deal with Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department of Executive

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): This is under the Executive on page 2.11. Does the committee agree that the Minister makes his opening remarks? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development Secretariat

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the proposed 1991-92 main estimates for the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat. The secretariat is a central Executive agency that reports directly to myself and the Hon. Titus Allooloo, the associate Minister. The mandate of the Minister, the associate Minister and the secretariat is to protect, develop and promote the interests of the public government and of the residents of the Northwest Territories in the negotiation and implementation of aboriginal claims settlements. We are also responsible, together with the Government Leader and the Minister of Justice and their agencies, for protecting, developing and promoting these interests in political and constitutional development within the Northwest Territories.

The land claims portfolio is extremely sensitive and time-consuming because the issues affect almost all facets of life in the North. Members are quite aware, for example, that after some 10 years of preparatory work and defining negotiating parameters, followed by six years of intensive formal negotiations, the Dene/Metis land claims comprehensive negotiations have terminated.

Last April a final agreement was initialled with the Dene/Metis indicating the intent of negotiators to recommend it for approval to their principals. However, at a joint Dene/Metis assembly in July, delegates adopted a position calling for major changes to the general extinguishment provisions of the agreement. Alternatively the delegates directed their leadership to pursue the issue in court. Not all delegates agreed with this position. The Dene and the Metis of the Delta region, who now call themselves the Gwich'in, decided to pursue the negotiation of a regional land settlement based on the provisions of the April agreement. The Sahtu region has also indicated their interest in pursuing a regional settlement.

In November the Minister of Indian Affairs, the Hon. Tom Siddon, formally announced the termination of land claims negotiations with and funding for the Dene/Metis negotiations secretariat. He has received a new cabinet mandate to negotiate regional land claims with the Dene/Metis based on the April agreement. Formal negotiations are now under way with the Gwich'in. The Dene/Metis of the Sahtu region met with Indian Affairs Minister Siddon on February 22nd when they presented him with a proposal for settling a regional claim. The Minister's immediate reaction to the proposal was that the Sahtu people were asking for too large a share of the land and compensation available in the April agreement. He said he did not feel that the proposal was a basis for continuing negotiations but promised to analyse the proposal and formally respond in writing.

Even though negotiations are proceeding in smaller geographical areas with Dene/Metis of similar tribal groupings, and in accordance with an agreement already negotiated, many tough issues remain to be resolved and there is no guarantee the process will proceed quickly or smoothly. The Delta has extremely tough overlap issues involving other claimant groups and another governmental jurisdiction. Acceptable provisions and procedures must be developed to implement the land and resource management regime set out in the April agreement. Other issues relating to aboriginal self-government, constitutional development and devolution will affect progress. Nevertheless, all parties want to proceed as quickly as possible and we have set ourselves a target date to complete the negotiation of a regional agreement in the Delta by the end of June.

In the South Mackenzie it is not yet clear what organizations represent whom and what their land claim agendas are. The Dene Nation is now exploring court options for clarifying the issue of aboriginal title extinguishment. However, the Dogrib in the North Slave want more information on the April agreement and how it affects aboriginal and treaty rights before deciding if they will support any court action. It may be some time before organizations emerge in the South Mackenzie with a clear mandate to pursue land claims issues.

An agreement in principle with the TFN was signed on April 30th, almost a year ago. Since then land selection negotiations have been virtually completed in the North and South Baffin Regions and in Sanikiluaq. A team of implementation negotiators have also been reviewing the agreement in principle to identify implementation tasks, responsibilities and costs. The review will also identify sections requiring clarity or that will pose problems from an implementation perspective. Such matters will be referred back to the chief negotiators. The chief negotiators are also reviewing the agreement in principle chapter by chapter, making final changes. They have completed the wildlife and conservation sections and are beginning the land and water management sections. They have set themselves a target date of October 31st this year to complete a final agreement.

It is important, Mr. Chairman, if these aboriginal land claims are ever to be resolved, that our political and constitutional agenda be more clearly defined and begin evolving. The Speech from the Throne delivered by Commissioner Norris outlined a number of key elements of political and constitutional development that this government believes must be approached in a comprehensive manner. The government tabled a position paper on these matters on February 25th for your consideration and discussion later in this session.

In addition, the Executive Council recently approved a recommendation from the political and constitutional development committee to restructure the Government of the Northwest Territories participation in land claims negotiations. We are assuming a more independent role, apart from the federal negotiating team, and have contracted Mr. Robert DeLury as chief negotiator to conduct our negotiations. We feel that these changes will provide us with the skills and flexibility required at these complex negotiations. Those are my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Pollard, chairman of the standing committee on finance, does your committee have any comments on the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development activity?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have one motion, Mr. Chairman, and that deals with the fact that in the books we were provided with in November, there were no

objectives listed for the upcoming year in those main estimates.

Motion To Recommend That Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development Secretariat Develop Departmental Objectives, Carried

I would move recommendation number nine, Mr. Chairman, that the committee recommends that the Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development Secretariat develop objectives to guide its efforts in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. I have a motion. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Are there any general comments? The honourable Member for Yellowknife centre.

Role Of Territorial Government Re Aboriginal Rights

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only concern Members have expressed, that I have heard, on this item, Mr. Chairman, is the role that the territorial government plays in the whole area of aboriginal rights. I know some of my colleagues have indicated that this is something which is really strictly between the federal government and the aboriginal people. It is not very clear exactly what the territorial government can do to help in resolving what these aboriginal rights are, how they can be exercised, and so on. That seems to be the major item of this particular activity, Mr. Chairman. There have even been some suggestions that the name was not an appropriate one. Some suggestions were made that perhaps the activity could be renamed to better reflect what it is that the government was trying to achieve as it relates to political and constitutional development. That is the only comment I have to make. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Do you have any comments, Mr. Minister? General comments. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: That was a general comment and there was no question hidden in there, but I could ask a question. Could the Minister explain to Members what way, in fact, the territorial government is involved in either the business of negotiating aboriginal rights, defining them, or having to make sure that they are recognized? It is not clear to some Members what the role of the territorial government is as it relates to aboriginal rights. Maybe the Minister could explain exactly how we are involved.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, I cannot say that I know when this secretariat came into existence. I cannot even pretend to know what effect it has had for this government to say that it has a Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Political and Constitutional Development sitting in cabinet. I do know that across this country it is probably the most progressive label, progressive name that we have attached to the portfolio. The fact is, there is only one Minister of Aboriginal Rights in the country and that is myself and Mr. Alloo. The provinces, for the most part, call their Ministers, Ministers of Native Affairs. It does not say much for the attitude toward native people. It does not jump out at you

and I think that is the kind of effect that it should have.

As far as the role is concerned for this government, it has been a role -- for instance, in the First Ministers' Conference -- where the government has consistently felt it has taken very strong positions in favour of aboriginal people. There is always the question about strategies on how we do it, but the fact is that this government, as far as I know, has always supported the inherent right to self-government for aboriginal people and fought for the inclusion of it in the Canadian Constitution.

There has been work done by this government to have people recognized in the Canadian Constitution, aboriginal people. There has been work done by this government to change the claims policy so that it takes on a more fair, even humane, perspective of aboriginal people. This government has done some work to improve the land claim agreements that have been negotiated.

What we have recognized, I think, from the beginning is that primarily the negotiations are between the Crown -- the Crown meaning Canada, the national government -- it is primarily between those guys and the people up here, the Dene, the Metis, the Inuvialuit, and the Inuit. As a government here -- previous Ministers before me have said that we are an interim government; we are here but there is some question about how we got here, whether it was with the blessing of the people who were here before us or not. What we have done in the past is just be a part of the federal team. As a public government we are expected to let the federal government know what they have to look out for when negotiating land and resources and management regimes, so that the public interest, whatever it is, is articulated by somebody. We have seen that as our role as a public government but also to see what we can do to support a quick settlement.

When the negotiations were coming to a critical stage, the last couple of years, there were repeated calls for this government to put more resources, more experienced people, more priority in this area and that we should look at becoming more independent from the federal government so that when the Dene, the Inuit or Metis want us to be more aggressive in supporting their side, we are not under the thumbscrews of the federal government.

We felt there is something to be said about trying to develop more of an independent role where we can actively lobby the federal government to be more flexible and creative in the way they handle negotiation items. It is with that view that we took the position that we are going to be more of an independent body in the negotiations. Not to be able to veto negotiations, but just to be able to step away from the federal government and give them a kick in the butt when we think it is appropriate. That has been the role.

We want to get the claims done. We think in many ways over the years that aboriginal people have not been treated fairly, the set-up for negotiations is not in favour of the aboriginal people at all and they need all the support they can get. We also recognize that the interest of northern people have to be spelled out for the federal government. So this is the role we have taken recently and I hope this helps the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Lewis.

Minister's Role In Public Government

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since this is a public government, I would like to ask the Minister whether he finds it difficult, since he is the Minister responsible in this government and has to weigh up the need to assert aboriginal rights, while at the same time exercising his responsibility in

public government, how he is going to behave when aboriginal rights and the need for public policy clash. Because by definition he is a Member of a public government. So when these come into conflict, whether aboriginal rights are going to conflict with the good of the general public, how is he going to be able to discharge his responsibility as the Minister who, in addition to being a Member of a public government, has a special responsibility for aboriginal rights? It is a very difficult problem and I would like to know how he can respond to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, I think for me that is quite a personal question, but I have accepted a long time ago that part of my job is part of what I face every day and what my people and your people and everyone else faces every day, which is the uncompromising reality that we are not going to go away. There are Inuit people here, Metis, non-native people of all ethnic backgrounds, and we all have to accept that we are going to live together.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I find that right in my own family as well. I have been, through the years as a single person, thinking there was a possibility that there might be a truly Dene government only for Dene people and I have written some of the rhetoric of the 1970s and I have gone further than that, I have preached it across the towns and cities of this country.

It sounds great and it feels great to give the talk, but invariably when I come home the reality is that we are not doing anything. It has been the preoccupation that whatever is done is going to be accepted, that whatever deals we make have to be made with the people that are around us.

I do not know that I have great difficulties with knowing what my responsibilities are and knowing what has to be done. I know that over the years it has been difficult for aboriginal Ministers of this government. You look at the popularity charts of ex-Dene Executive Members like James Wah-Shee, Richard Nerysoo, Members like Mr. Nick Sibbeston, and I would know that they have not done very well when you look at the number of fans that they have in the ranks of the Dene Nation.

Invariably what happens to you when you come over here is you lose a good percentage of your appeal to the more strident, vocal leaders that are exclusively in the Dene communities. I recognized that when I ran for the Legislature and accepted this portfolio. You lose some friends. I do not know if they were friends at all. Maybe it is a good thing you lose them.

---Laughter

But I never lose sleep over it. I do not know if even during my time in the Dene Nation I ever saw a day that I compromised the rights of people. I have never been in a position where I have advocated the denial or erosion of anybody's rights to gain rights for my own people. I might have been perceived that way in constitutional discussions with the Inuit or Inuvialuit, but I have never felt, honestly, that I have ever put myself in a position and said, "To hell with these people. What matters is my own and nobody else."

So there is no discomfort caused at all with the responsibilities I have. I do make it a point to have good critical advisers and staff around me all the time. That helps tremendously. Thank you.

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

Member for Aivilik.

Intergovernmental Conferences Dealing With Aboriginal Rights

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really was not planning to speak but since you recognized me I shall go ahead and ask a question. Mr. Minister, has there been any recent move to hold intergovernmental conferences dealing with aboriginal rights by the Canadian Government? Thank you.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Chairman, earlier this year at a gathering of First Ministers the Government Leader, Dennis Patterson, advocated that we should look at meetings to discuss the situation facing governments across this country and their relationship with aboriginal people in light of what was happening in Oka and the fallout with Meech Lake. We have since then done some work to pursue the idea. We have met, for instance, with the Ontario Premier, Bob Rae, and his Minister of Native Affairs to explore the possibility of getting the provincial Ministers responsible for aboriginal people and the federal Minister to convene a meeting. The response was positive on the part of Ontario.

We wrote a letter to Tom Siddon, the Minister, suggesting that the federal government should take the lead and recognize that it is in the interest of the Canadian public, the Canadian government, and the aboriginal people of this country to begin a dialogue and begin a discussion to see what can be done to alleviate the many problems and differences that exist in this country. The answer from Mr. Siddon was brilliant. He said, "No"; he said, "Not now". All the press missed this, I think. He said that it is not fitting into the constitutional agenda of the government at this time.

We took it upon ourselves anyway to pursue the matter with our provincial counterparts and are currently assessing whether or not there is sufficient support for an officials meeting of provincial officials only, to look at whether or not there is a sufficient agenda and interest on the part of the provinces to convene an officials meeting here in the North later, to be followed by a provincial Ministers meeting on native affairs. That is currently what we have been working on. We are assessing the possibilities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments. Member for Hay River.

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nobody knows better than the Minister the impact that not having a land claim in the western part of the Territories is going to have on us, and it is going to become very, very serious to not only beneficiaries but people like myself who are not beneficiaries. Companies who want to do business in the Northwest Territories, or in the western part, anyway, want to have political stability. They want to know what the rules are today, next week, next month, next year and five years down the road if they are going to invest millions or billions of dollars. There are a number of people in my constituency, Mr. Chairman, who are very disappointed that the land claim was not even put to the people for ratification and my first question to the Minister would be, is there any way that he feels there could be some arrangement made to have a ratification vote to see what the grass roots beneficiary feels about the land claim that was signed here a year ago? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: The short answer to it is no.

There is not the political will on the part of the Dene leaders and the Metis leaders to work together to put the question in front of people at this time. What we are faced with, and I think it is manifesting itself more recently, is that the Dene and Metis leaders are a bit disorganized and there are political realignments being made, so I do not think there is a remote possibility that we could revive the single claim of the Dene, or get the feds to agree to do it, and to organize a ratification vote for the April 9th agreement. I think it is something that seems to have been washed under the bridge and people are no longer dealing with the Metis Association as it used to be; they are no longer dealing with the Dene Nation as it used to be; people are reorganizing along tribal lines, almost, in effect, turning the Dene Nation into a confederacy of tribes and nations. I think that opportunity is another one that all of us have lost for good.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. General comments on Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development. If there are no further general comments, is the committee ready to go into the detail? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Aboriginal Rights And Constitutional Development, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): We are on page 2.11, Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, total O and M, \$864,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. That concludes Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development. Mr. Ernerk.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I have a motion on the floor to report progress. It is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated, six to five. According to the list of the order for consideration, the next department to appear is the Department of Justice. Acting Government House Leader, since the Minister is not in the House, what is your suggestion?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the concurrence of the committee the government wishes to proceed with the Department of Public Works. Mr. Chairman, it is the Minister's birthday today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree that we go to Public Works?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): We will proceed to deal with the Department of Public Works. Madam Minister, are you prepared to make your opening remarks? Madam Minister.

Department Of Public Works

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In presenting to this Assembly the proposed 1991-92 budget for

the Department of Public Works, I am pleased to provide you with a summary of the department's plans and objectives.

The Department of Public Works has the responsibility to design, construct, lease, operate and maintain a broad range of buildings and works in every community in the Northwest Territories. As a result the department's programs play a major role in the creation of employment and business opportunities in the NWT. Therefore, the department will continue its commitment to carry out its responsibilities in a manner which creates meaningful and lasting opportunities for Northerners.

Two reports on local and northern involvement, highlighting the department's continuing efforts and achievements, were tabled in the Legislative Assembly last April. These reports showed that the department has been successful in achieving high levels of contracting with northern and local businesses. In 1989-90 the department awarded 88 per cent of the construction, maintenance, service and leasing contracts, and 98 per cent of the architectural and engineering contracts to northern and local businesses. This amounted to \$71 million worth of business. During this session I will be tabling another report on the efforts and achievements of DPW in maximizing local and northern employment and business opportunities.

The department has already started an evaluation of the existing procedures, policies and approaches that encourage local and northern involvement when a motion was passed, during the sixth session of the 11th Assembly, asking that a policy be developed which would permit only companies resident in the Northwest Territories to tender on government contracts. To address this motion, Public Works was assigned by cabinet to co-ordinate the study with the participation of all departments and agencies of the government. This work has been broad and very comprehensive because the government has many existing policies, procedures and approaches that provide preference for northern companies and residents related to contracting. Also, the motion impacts on all areas of government. The motion covers a very broad range of construction, purchasing, consulting and service contracts. As a result, a number of revisions and enhancements to the government's existing contracting preference policies have been developed. As well, the introduction of new measures to increase the levels of northern and, particularly, local involvement have been suggested.

The results of this evaluation and the suggested changes have already been presented to both cabinet and the standing committee on finance. Cabinet has directed that this document be circulated, as a discussion paper, to Members of this Assembly, northern businesses, communities and industry groups. Based upon the responses received during March to this discussion paper, cabinet will move quickly to implement the necessary changes.

Special Approaches In Awarding Contracts

The majority of Public Works contracts are publicly tendered. These tenders include a broad range of policies, procedures, and directives that have been developed and implemented to maximize local and northern business, employment and training opportunities. Although all government projects include these local and northern involvement measures, occasionally a project is undertaken using a special approach. These special approaches are part of the strategy aimed at achieving an even greater level of local and northern involvement than is normally possible through the standard tendering procedures. These special approaches include awarding contracts on the basis of both price and the level of local and northern involvement; negotiated contracts; construction management; and partial and full authority

agreements with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and community governments.

We recognize that carrying out projects using these special approaches takes additional time for design and construction. Also, the overall cost of these projects may be higher because of the need for increased project planning and on-site project supervision by the department's staff. There is also the need to provide additional training to local workers. However, these additional costs are a worthwhile investment. Long-term benefits will accrue to all Northerners through increased training, employment and business development opportunities.

The Northwest Territories Construction Association and northern contractors frequently highlight the lack of adequately skilled people and businesses to participate in construction projects. While the department is taking steps to improve or create opportunities for training in respect to its own program delivery, my cabinet colleagues and I know that there is much more to be done to provide appropriate training and development programs for northern labour and business. Therefore, the department will continue to work with the Departments of Transportation, Education, and Economic Development and Tourism as well as with the NWT Housing Corporation to co-ordinate training, education, employment and business development efforts directed at the construction industry.

Privatization Opportunities

To further contribute to the economic development of the North, the department continues to support the development of privatization opportunities. Opportunities continue in the operation and maintenance of buildings, works, vehicles and equipment, and in the leasing of office and residential accommodation. During 1990, 49 new and renewal leases were awarded to the private sector at a value of \$2.8 million per year.

In conjunction with the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, the NWT Power Corporation, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and other agencies of the GNWT, as well as the federal government, the Department of Public Works will be analysing the efficiency of government-funded maintenance programs at the community level. The NWT places unique demands upon the GNWT in the delivery of programs and services to a small, dispersed, and isolated population. Logistics, underdeveloped labour and contractor resources, and extreme climatic conditions are but a few of the problems that are faced by maintenance people. It is felt that a co-ordination of effort would result in more effective mechanisms for training and development of the labour and contractor services at the community level, recognizing the government's objectives in devolution, delegation, privatization and affirmative action.

Due in part to the rising fuel prices and the current period of fiscal restraint, the department continues to emphasize energy efficiency in building design as well as the need to cost-effectively manage the use of utilities in GNWT buildings, and to encourage the general public to do so as well. This will be addressed by the following measures.

The energy conservation capital projects program will continue to implement projects that have quick payback periods. In 1990, projects ranging from \$5000 to \$60,000 were funded. The simple payback periods average 2.5 years for the whole program.

A utilities management system has been implemented to assist in the cost effective management of the utilities budget. An energy management information system is being developed which will catalogue the before and after experience of energy

conservation projects anywhere in the NWT. As well, various energy conservation public awareness programs will be continued throughout the NWT. The department provided information and services to the public on technical and practical approaches to achieving energy efficiency. Through community-based programs, regional energy management officers assisted residents, owners and operators of small businesses and institutions, municipal officials, school students and educators, operators of government buildings, and the general public.

In conjunction with its client departments, DPW continues to promote the standardization of facilities. The aim of standardization is to reduce design, construction, operation and maintenance costs. The designs incorporate quality standards based on minimizing the lifetime cost of the systems and buildings. Due to rising energy costs and the capital projects required to either maintain or to bring community infrastructures up to levels of service provided across Canada, it is important that we keep the lifetime costs of these facilities as low as possible.

Highlights Of DPW's Budget

I would now like to highlight some of the details of the department's 1991-92 budget. The proposed main estimates reflect an increase in operation and maintenance of six per cent. There has been no real growth in person years. While the total person years has changed by 2.5, this change is a result of reinstating the budget that was removed from the department during the 1990-91 main estimates for the maintenance of the Iqaluit and Fort Rae water/sewage systems. These systems were to be transferred to these communities. However, as the communities are not yet prepared to fully take them over, DPW has been asked to continue to operate and maintain these systems until transfer occurs sometime in the future. The major components of the increase in O and M relate to: negotiated salary increases; the leasing of office space and staff housing throughout the NWT for all government departments and agencies; the operation and maintenance costs of new assets identified in the capital plan; and the impact of utility rate increases.

DPW's proposed O and M budget reflects the funding requirement to properly operate and maintain the GNWT's infrastructure in an efficient, effective and economical manner. In keeping with the spirit of restraint, no new initiatives have been proposed for 1991-92.

It is recommended that the community granular program be administered as a revolving fund and not as a capital program. The appropriate legislation to establish this revolving fund has been drafted and will be introduced during the session for consideration by this Assembly. The community granular program is a very important program. Its purpose is to identify, develop and stockpile granular materials to ensure they are available for use on community capital projects. Through this program, the long-term granular requirements of the government and communities are identified and the location of suitable quantities and quality of gravel are identified.

To summarize, the department's 1991-92 proposed O and M budget is \$116 million and the capital is five million dollars. In addition, the capital project budget that DPW will be carrying out on behalf of all territorial government departments will be approximately \$78 million. A further \$14 million will be used to provide operation and maintenance services on behalf of regional health boards, divisional boards of education, and Arctic College.

In implementing these combined O and M and capital budgets of approximately \$213 million, the Department of Public Works

will continue to play a very important role in stimulating and supporting the northern economy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are my opening remarks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: I would like to congratulate the Minister on those remarks, and move that we report progress, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. I have a motion on the floor which is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

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 Rae-Lac la Martre.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 7, 8, 9 and 10, and CR 2-91(1) and wishes to report progress with two motions being adopted.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 19, third reading of bills. Item 20, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, and at 10:00 a.m. caucus.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 5th.

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., Tuesday, March 5th, 1991.

---ADJOURNMENT

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