



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1991

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Mr. Richard Nerysoo): Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 5, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 20-91(1): Nutrition Month

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the promotion of good health through good nutrition is a major goal for all who are involved in health care in the Northwest Territories. The Department of Health sponsors Nutrition Month annually in March, with the intention of increasing everyone's awareness of proper nutrition. Evaluations of previous campaigns indicate that awareness has increased and general knowledge about nutrition is improving. Even so, much is still needed to change some present eating habits in the North.

This year's campaign, which began on March 1, will surely encourage everyone to "Eat Right, Feel Great"...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: ...not only in March but throughout the whole year. Poor nutrition status, including dental decay, is being addressed in this year's campaign.

Mr. Speaker, resource kits have been prepared in English and Inuktitut and will be distributed to many organizations such as health centres, day-care centres and schools. The resource kits include attractive and informative items. For instance, there is a Nutrition Month calendar, a colouring and activities book for younger children and important news for everyone concerning basic nutrition.

A high percentage of the NWT population is suspected to consume large amounts of "junk food" -- those foods which are high in sugar, fat and salt. Information is included in the kits which will help people identify which foods do not rate very highly on the scale of nutritious foods, and healthy food ideas are presented along with breakfast planning and food shopping tips.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite all Members of the Assembly to view the nutrition display in the foyer. Please join with us this month in the celebration of Nutrition Month and help the Department of Health to promote the message "Eat Right, Feel Great". Thank you.

---Applause

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

Ministers' Statement 21-91(1): Student Financial Assistance

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, in the past five

years the number of students receiving support under the NWT student financial assistance program has increased by 70 per cent; approximately 1000 students are now receiving funding.

During the past few years the department has reviewed the administration of the program and explored ways to streamline procedures so that all students receive funding without delay, without continually increasing the costs of administering the program as the number of students grow. The regional boards which were responsible for approving applications have been deleted, resulting in quicker processing of applications. A telephone enrolment system was established to speed up initial payments. A toll-free number was introduced to allow students to call with questions or concerns. A second line will be installed shortly to handle increased demand.

For the past five years the department has been depositing cheques directly into the students' bank accounts rather than relying on the mail service. During peak periods casual staff are hired to help speed up the process.

I am pleased to inform the Legislative Assembly of the latest innovation to streamline the administration of the program. During January a new computer information system was established to remove some time-consuming manual tasks. The department had hoped to have the system hooked up and running by January 2nd, but it took about 10 working days to work out some of the bugs in the system. As a result, the department fell behind in making some of the payments to students during January. I regret the financial hardship the delay may have caused some students and am confident that the changes will result in a more efficient payment system that will benefit everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss other aspects of the student financial assistance program. In response to a survey of students receiving assistance, living allowances and book allowances were increased last year, travel entitlements were amended and a transitional allowance was established for qualified students.

The student financial assistance program also helps support students in programs that have been identified as special initiatives. These include the teacher education program and the school community counsellor training program.

In addition, the student financial assistance program purchases seats in professional programs at the University of Manitoba. Two native students are currently in the engineering access program under a cost-sharing agreement with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Public Works. One native student recently entered medical studies after completing the medical access studies program.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education is committed to helping Northerners pursue post-secondary education and training. The department will continue to monitor the student financial assistance program to search for ways to improve its service to students. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Ministers' Statement 22-91(1): Northern Land-Use Planning Program

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was with great regret that I heard the announcement that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada intend to cut funding to the northern land-use planning program. Funding will be available until September 1991 to complete the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea and Keewatin regional land-use plans. Funding for all other land-use planning activities will end in March.

I have written to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs urging him to reconsider this action. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the present land-use planning program has had many positive changes in the last few years. The administrative structure was streamlined and plans are being produced. The Lancaster Sound Plan is now being implemented. The final draft of the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea plan will be completed by April. A first draft plan for the Keewatin Region will be ready shortly. Planning has also begun in the Sahtu and West Kitikmeot regions.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen tremendous community support for this program throughout the Northwest Territories. There has been more community involvement in this program than in most other government initiatives. For the first time, our people have been able to say how they want to see the land managed. Now with this decision of the federal government, most of us see this as a step backwards.

As a government, we intend to do what we can to make the federal government reconsider its decision. Mr. Patterson, as Government Leader, will also be writing to request that this program continue. We will keep the Members of this Legislative Assembly advised of any progress. Qujannamiik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. Prior to proceeding with the next item, I wish to recognize in the Speaker's gallery today, the presence of the participants in the Alberta internship program with the Alberta Legislative Assembly. They are Jennifer Wispinski, Patricia Mappin, Theresa Roy and Laura Mensch, accompanied by Mr. Blake McDougall, the legislative librarian.

Also in the gallery is Mr. Lars Luyten, an exchange student from Holland who is living in Yellowknife and attending Sir John Franklin High School.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hudson Bay.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On James Bay II Hydro-Electric Project

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns about our government's failure to take a stand on an issue that has the potential to change the lives of many aboriginal people. I am talking about the James Bay II hydro-electric project.

Mr. Speaker, most honourable Members will already be aware of the Bourassa government's irrational obsession with building a series of dams across the mightiest rivers of

northern Quebec. But honourable Members may not be aware, Mr. Speaker, that our own Northwest Territories is affected too, and that the people of the Belcher Islands are very, very concerned. Like the Inuit and Cree of northern Quebec, our way of life is threatened by the greedy and irresponsible actions of the Quebec government.

An environmental committee has formed in my constituency to deal with this threat. It is presently chaired by the mayor of Sanikiluaq, His Worship Peter Kattuk, and its membership includes Lucassie Kittosug, Johnny Cookie, Lucassie Arragutainna, Caroline Tookalook, Annie Appaqaq and Brian and Miriam Fleming. The committee has worked hard, Mr. Speaker. It has studied the plans for James Bay II and has reviewed environmental predictions. It even...

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

MR. CROW: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to complete my statement please.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Hudson Bay is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable colleagues. The committee has worked hard, Mr. Speaker. It has studied the plans for James Bay II and has reviewed environmental predictions. It even organized a meeting with Quebec Hydro officials last February so we could tell them our concerns. But still the threat of this project lingers on. What we need now is firm leadership from the territorial government. We want the Government Leader to break his silence on this issue and tell the Province of Quebec...

MR. ERNERK: Right on!

MR. CROW: ...in public, that the people of the Northwest Territories oppose this environmental insanity.

We need leadership from the same Minister of Justice who has challenged the Oldman River project and the Alberta pulp mills on behalf of the Western Arctic. Will he please devote the same amount of his time and resources to help us in the East?

We need leadership from our own Titus Allooooloo, the Minister of Renewable Resources, to ensure that baseline studies are completed on the ecology of Hudson Bay.

Mr. Speaker, Ethel Blondin and Jack Anawak have spoken forcefully against James Bay II in the House of Commons. Inuit leaders and the Grand Council of Crees have also spoken out. Even some state legislators in Vermont and New York have shown the courage to oppose the project, in spite of the electricity it would provide them.

Mr. Speaker, we in the Belcher Islands are tired of waiting for our own cabinet to take a stand against James Bay II. Now we are demanding that they speak out against this project before it is too late. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Appreciation To Power Corporation

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I chose today to

compliment the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation about the fairly successful year we have here in the city when it comes to the stability of power. I feel a little awkward after listening to Mr. Crow speak about the concerns of hydro in his area of the country, while on this side of the Territories we look at it, not differently, but we depend so much on power here that a winter that goes by with a minimum of disruption as compared to what we have had in the past, that people feel obligated to make comments on it, to extend to the Power Corporation and to the utility company in the city, their appreciation for having had a relatively good winter.

Maybe I am speaking too soon because we have 40 below today and we still have a couple of more weeks of cold weather to go, but I feel that we are just about out of the woods now and that these types of things must be said.

Mr. Speaker, it was a relief to go away for a couple of weeks in January and come back and not see 12:00 o'clock flashing on the VCR, and all the clocks in the house hours late. That was not the main concern that the people expressed last year when I spoke to the Minister on the stability of power, but it was the inconvenience that it caused the working public, and the inconvenience that it caused people who were operating electronic equipment with having a fluctuation in power and disruption at critical times -- when you have about three quarters of your letter or accounting done on your computer and all of a sudden the power goes out and you would have to start all over.

I rise today to extend the appreciation of the people in this city to the Power Corporation and the delivery system for the stability of power for the past several months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Accomplishments Of Women

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I told ordinary Members this morning that I would probably make a statement this afternoon on the subject of women. I was advised that I was stepping onto very dangerous territory.

Mr. Speaker, this week the Yellowknife Women's Society sponsored many events throughout the city, beginning with a supper at the museum on Sunday night. Some of the displays in the museum display the works of art done by various Yellowknife artists. My wife is a potter; she has a plate there. My daughter is an artist, she has a piece of sculpture there.

My main purpose in addressing the issue of women today, Mr. Speaker, is not just simply to talk about the achievements of women but to note the fact that in my own case I was brought up in a small village where with three brothers I was really sheltered somewhat from the world of women. When I married and started to raise a family I found it very strange that the first, second and third of my children were all daughters. It was not a world that I was familiar with.

However, Mr. Speaker, today my three daughters are at university and college and my son is driving a truck in the city of Yellowknife, and I think that many of the accomplishments achieved by the women's movement have been as a result, I suppose, of a greater awareness of the traditional role of women and how that can be changed so they can gain equality in our society.

Mr. Chairman, my main hope, however, is that we do not engage in a battle of the sexes over the next few generations; that we can learn, in fact, to live with each other in peace and

harmony and dedicate ourselves to the idea that one of the main things that men and women do, whenever they get the opportunity, is to try to raise a family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Animal Rights Activists

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Northerners we try to treat our animals well, and we remember that when there was an oil spill in Alaska the animal rights activists were very protective of the animals and the birds. We found out during the war that there was a spill of oil onto the land and onto the water. The animal rights activists did not say anything at all in the Persian Gulf and to this date they have not gone over and raised their concern, even though animals and birds are being destroyed.

For the people who live in the North, we have been affected by the animal rights activists because we cannot sell the skins or pelts, and they have indicated and shown the whole world, and yet at this time they are being quiet. They have hurt the aboriginal people because that was their way of living. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On RCMP Conduct In Communities

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a comment. Some communities, especially in the Baffin Region, are dry. They are not permitted to have alcohol. Up to now, even if it is a dry community, alcohol still gets into the community. The younger people in Pangnirtung get very upset because it is very clear that if a white person brings in booze, the RCMP cannot really do anything, even if they are aware; but if it is for a native person, they treat them very differently, and this is very upsetting for the younger people -- if there can be a solution that would treat the people the same, if the RCMP can treat the people the same. They are taken into custody just because of the fact that they have committed a crime before; and even if they did not commit the crime, they automatically suspect a particular person because they know that in the past they might have committed a crime. This is very upsetting for the younger people.

I think there should be a review done on the RCMP's conduct in the communities and they should treat the native people and the white people the same. We also feel this, too, as native people. I just wanted to bring this up, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question O126-91(1): GNWT Policy On Employees With Criminal Records

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of returns to oral questions. One is a response to a question asked by Mr. Gargan on February 22, 1991, in regard to employees with criminal records. When an employee is either charged with or convicted of a criminal offence, the Department of Personnel conducts an investigation to

determine what action is necessary. The government can only take action when the charge or conviction has an impact on the employee's ability to fulfil their responsibilities. Depending upon the severity, the government may decide that no action is necessary. A letter of reprimand may be issued, or the employee may be suspended for a short period of time. Depending upon the circumstances, the government may temporarily or permanently transfer or demote the employee or dismiss the individual if it is obvious that they can no longer continue in their job.

For example, if a teacher is charged with sexually assaulting a minor during off-duty hours, the teacher would be suspended pending an investigation. If the government's investigation showed that there was some basis for the charges, the employee would likely be dismissed. This would be based on the fact that a teacher must be trustworthy if they are to be given responsibility for the care of children. A violation of that trust through sexual assault is sufficient to warrant dismissal.

In another example, an employee who must drive as part of his duties is convicted of drunk driving during off hours and the judgment imposes a penalty of one month's suspension of the driver's licence. This employee would either be transferred for one month to another position where he/she does not have to drive or he/she would be suspended for that period.

There are some circumstances where the government can take immediate action such as a situation where the charge occurred at work or where the charge or conviction could significantly damage the government's reputation, interest, security or property. If the employee was in a position of trust where public safety or security is at risk, where the charge makes it difficult for the employee to carry out duties or where the conviction has resulted in a lengthy jail term, the employee is normally dismissed. However, the government treats each case on its own merits and carries out an internal investigation to determine what action should be taken. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

Return To Question O118-91(1): GNWT Rental Increase, Fort Providence

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mahsi. This is also in response to a question asked by Mr. Samuel Gargan on February 22, 1991. This is in regard to government rental increase. Effective April 1, 1991, staff accommodation rents will be based on the size of the housing unit occupied. All tenants will pay the full unit rate regardless of the size of their family. This will be true in all communities.

In level I and II communities, such as Fort Providence, a person who occupies a unit with a rent of \$1000 per month, also receives a housing subsidy of \$450 per month. The net rent would then only be \$550 per month.

Generally speaking, government employees in the communities of Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith are directly responsible for the payment of all utilities. Exceptions are made when individual units share a common heating system and are not provided with separate electrical meters. In all other communities, including Fort Providence, the utility costs are included in the monthly rental charge. Thank you.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Prior to proceeding with Item 5, oral questions, I wish to address the question of the point of order that was raised by the honourable Member for

Slave River, the Minister of Social Services, during question period yesterday.

The point of order was raised on a supplementary question asked by the Member for Yellowknife South to the Minister of Social Services. I have reviewed the unedited transcripts, pages 1062 through 1065. The first question asked by the Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Whitford, was on the question of a policy for the destruction of information from an inquiry into allegations of misconduct by a correctional officer.

The question, as posed, was in order, despite the fact the Member mentioned a newspaper report in his preamble but questioned the Minister as to policy. The Minister answered the questions but in her response mentioned a different inquiry than the one Mr. Whitford had questioned her on but did answer the questions as to policy.

On the supplementary questions, Mr. Whitford addressed information destruction from the inquiry into the New Year's Eve occupance at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre which was different from the original inquiry. On reviewing the supplementary questions and the original question, the Member did not ask for the Minister to deny or confirm a newspaper report, so I find that the Member for Slave River does not have a point of order.

I would also advise the Members that the point the Minister rose on was contained in the procedural guidelines which do not form part of the Rules, but are mere guidelines for Members to govern themselves by.

The Chair would like to inform all Members that this point of order illustrates why we have the procedure that questions should not be asked requesting a Minister to confirm or deny a newspaper report. The Chair does not have all the information on every happening that is reported on by the media, and it is outside the House, so the Chair or the House is not privy to this information.

Oral questions should be to seek information from a particular Minister or the government. The Chair does not wish to apply strict rules to question period but if Members frame their questions in such a way, I am sure that they will get the information they wish.

Further, I wish to indicate that Members should take the responsibility for ensuring that all Members are aware of all the information related to the matter for which a question is put. Thank you.

Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hudson Bay.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O222-91(1): GNWT Position On James Bay II Project

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Government Leader, responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Speaker, the James Bay II project threatens to disrupt ecosystems and damage the cultural integrity of aboriginal people in the Belcher Islands, as well as in northern Quebec. The Minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs must take a vigorous role in speaking out about this project.

I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader, who is responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs. Has the Government of the Northwest Territories taken a formal position on the James Bay II project in its dealings with the Government of Canada and the Province of Quebec? Thank

you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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

Return To Question O222-91(1): GNWT Position On James Bay II Project

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am, quite frankly, astonished at the critical tone of the Member's statement today, and his questions, Mr. Speaker. The Member should know that our government and the Minister of Renewable Resources, has been very actively pursuing the interests of the people of Sanikiluaq, and the concerns of the people of Sanikiluaq, and of our government, over this James Bay II project.

Mr. Speaker, to answer the Member's question specifically -- have we taken formal positions with the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec -- yes we have, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O222-91(1): GNWT Position On James Bay II Project

MR. CROW: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the Government Leader. Mr. Speaker, has the Government Leader been personally involved in any discussion with the federal and Quebec governments about the impact of the James Bay II project, or has he passed the buck to his Minister of Renewable Resources and the bureaucrats in Yellowknife and Ottawa? Thank you.

--Applause

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

Further Return To Question O222-91(1): GNWT Position On James Bay II Project

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes and no. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O222-91(1): GNWT Position On James Bay II Project

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one last supplementary question to the Government Leader. Mr. Speaker, I would like him to answer clearly, will the Government Leader tell this House right now, and Canadians everywhere, that he is opposed to the James Bay II project and that he will devote territorial resources to halt all phases of the development? Thank you.

--Applause

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

Further Return To Question O222-91(1): GNWT Position On James Bay II Project

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the question does deserve more than just a yes or no. Mr. Speaker, first of all I should explain that the government's

initiatives on James Bay II are joint between myself, as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Mr. Alloo, who is responsible for the Department of Renewable Resources and, therefore, environmental concerns.

Mr. Speaker, every time we have been approached by the residents of Sanikiluaq to assist in dealing with their concerns about this project we have responded positively. Mr. Speaker, the project at this moment, as a result of an agreement between the Government of Quebec and the Government of Canada last February, will be subject to the federal environmental assessment review process guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, our government has taken the position that we should assist the residents of Sanikiluaq to be recognized as being affected by this project, and we should assist them to have their interests fully reflected and considered in the process of thorough review that is required of such a massive project.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform this House that through the considerable efforts of Mr. Alloo and myself, we have succeeded in getting the appropriate Ministers of the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec to recognize the impact on the Inuit of Sanikiluaq; to provide for intervenor funding so that their interests can be properly represented in the process of an environmental review; and thirdly, we have succeeded in persuading the appropriate authorities to consider the nomination of a representative on that 15-member panel who would be acceptable to the people of Sanikiluaq and would represent and defend their interests. I am happy to report, Mr. Speaker, that we have worked very closely with the community and they have recommended a name which we have forwarded to the federal Minister of the Environment. It is a name that our government recommends, and a name that the committee is happy with; and we are now vigorously pursuing the appointment of that person to this committee.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of our government now should be directed toward ensuring, as we did with ALPAC, that there be as full and thorough an environmental review as possible so that all of the implications of the project -- and there are serious implications -- can be addressed and dealt with, so that the people of Sanikiluaq are satisfied that their interests will be represented and will be respected. That is the stage we are at now, Mr. Speaker.

As with Kiggavik, I think that the appropriate role of our government at this stage is to ensure that there is a thorough and full environmental review. That is what we are doing at this stage, with vigour, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question O223-91(1): Treatment Of Documents Re Yellowknife Correctional Centre Investigation

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank you for your ruling today which clarified the focus of my oral question yesterday. Mr. Speaker, again I will focus on what I was asking yesterday but I will attempt to be a little bit more cautious and clarify the wording so that there is no confusion.

Mr. Speaker, on January 1, there was an incident at the correctional centre that I have been trying to get to the bottom of, and the Minister has been evasive. That is the reason that I am asking the questions like I am. I feel that she is not giving me a clear understanding whether or not the documents are going to be released.

The question I have for the Minister is again, as I asked yesterday, about the investigation subsequent to the January 1st incident. I will phrase it so that there is no mistake. Has she advised the Gilmour, Youngman investigation team on how to treat documents and working papers for this investigation?

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

Return To Question O223-91(1): Treatment Of Documents Re Yellowknife Correctional Centre Investigation

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I am just appalled with the thinking that some Members have. No, I have not indicated to the investigation team how to treat documents that formulate from an investigation. I want to make the Member aware that investigations are very serious, in my opinion, to ensure that the administration and the operation of any correctional institute is run as effectively as they should be.

With an investigation, what happens, Mr. Speaker, under the Corrections Act, section 50 is, I, as a Minister, have the authority to appoint an investigation team to review incidents -- which I have done -- within the terms of references generally formulated to give them their responsibilities within the correctional system. How they deal with their personal documents is entirely up to them.

What I am waiting for, as a result of the investigation, is the report, and under section 50 it does indicate that whoever conducts an investigation and an inquiry, pursuant to that section 50, shall report his findings to the Minister. How they report their findings to the Minister is generally in the format of a final report that can be easily read by myself. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O223-91(1): Treatment Of Documents Re Yellowknife Correctional Centre Investigation

MR. WHITFORD: The Minister just begs for trouble, Mr. Speaker -- if she simply said yes or no. Mr. Speaker, this is a public government and this is a public institution, and this government has a responsibility to let the public know what took place. All I am asking the Minister is that when this document -- she told us that this document is never going to be released -- I want to know if she has advised the team to keep all this stuff or just to go ahead, and do this report and throw everything out. Has she advised that team as to what to do with the stuff after they are finished their investigation, because we will never know otherwise?

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

Further Return To Question O223-91(1): Treatment Of Documents Re Yellowknife Correctional Centre Investigation

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I should make it clear, no I do not advise them to do whatever they want to do with their report. I basically indicate to them that I want them to report their findings as a result of the investigation to me, which they have complied with. Thank you.

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

Question O224-91(1): Lost Student Financial Assistance Applications

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Minister of Education for his statements regarding student financial assistance and I do believe that all the things he talks about are improvements to the system.

One of the things which has been brought to my attention, however, is the simple fact of applications being lost. I am aware of one student last fall who submitted an application for grants and loans and many weeks later was told that the document had been lost. I am aware of another instance this winter where a student submitted his application and weeks later was told that it had been lost. It just appears as if there are too many documents being lost in the department, and I wonder if the Minister could check into that and see what the problem is.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Sahtu.

Return To Question O224-91(1): Lost Student Financial Assistance Applications

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes, I will check into it.

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

Question O225-91(1): Subsidizing Freight Costs, Pelly Bay And Spence Bay

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Government Leader. I was told by the Minister of Economic Development that it is very expensive to transport materials to Pelly Bay. Has there been a request given to the federal government to subsidize the freight for Spence Bay?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister will be here tomorrow in the House and I will have to take that question on notice. Thank you.

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

Question O226-91(1): Process For Developing Government Policies

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our first Government Leader, Mr. Braden, one of the first things he did was to design a system for the development of policy by the Government of the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask the Government Leader, since we are involved in making laws and since we are not involved in all the other stuff that the Executive Council does, could he explain to us exactly how a policy is developed by this government so that it becomes the official policy of the government?

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

Return To Question O226-91(1): Process For Developing Government Policies

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a complex question but I will try to answer it briefly and simply. As a result of influences upon the Members of cabinet affecting their various responsibilities -- one of the foremost influences being this Legislative Assembly through its motions,

its resolutions, its recommendations, its representations through individual MLAs -- Ministers through the priorities and planning committee of cabinet have the privilege of advancing proposals for new programs or new policies, or policy changes or program changes, or other changes like reorganization of government departments and the operations of the government, which will give effect to the wishes of the people for better government.

The priorities and planning committee, which is chaired by myself, has a secretariat which reviews, screens and assesses such proposals to make sure that the financial implications are considered, to make sure that the implications on other ministries and other departments are considered, and then with the assistance of the secretariat, those proposals are considered by the priorities and planning committee for recommendation to cabinet. When the recommendations are approved by cabinet they become policy of the government and are reflected in the policies of the government which are published and amended from time to time, and are available to the public, Mr. Speaker. That is the process in a nutshell, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O226-91(1): Process For Developing Government Policies

MR. LEWIS: There continues to be some criticism of the consensus form of government. One of the things that I would like to get clarification on from the Leader is, if for example, ordinary Members would like to recommend a policy to the government, would it be treated in the same way as those policies that are dreamed up by the people that work in departments who have the job of recommending policy to the government, will we be treated the same way if we, in fact, proposed individual policies as ordinary Members?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Further Return To Question O226-91(1): Process For Developing Government Policies

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would not say that the representations of ordinary Members of this Assembly, through motions and representations through the various committees of the Assembly, are treated the same way as proposals that are generated within the bureaucracy. I would say, Mr. Speaker, they get more attention and they get a higher priority. I would like to think that we treat recommendations from the Assembly with urgency and that they set the priority for our deliberations. This happens, Mr. Speaker, every session of our Legislature. Issues emerge which are priorities and the government takes them very seriously. We cannot always respond to every detail of the recommendation, but the Members shape our agenda in our work between sessions. They set the priorities. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O226-91(1): Process For Developing Government Policies

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question related to ordinary Members, I was not talking about the Legislative Assembly, which includes the Executive Council. My question then, because it did not get answered, is this: If ordinary Members have a policy which they would like to see the government examine, can an ordinary Member get the same kind of treatment for his or her policy that they would like to see put into effect as a bureaucrat working in a department

that has some kind of channel through the policy committee, so that the government can in fact look at it? That is my question. I am talking about the role of ordinary Members, not just simply as Members of this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Just if I can take a couple of moments. It is difficult to deal with this particular issue in terms of urgency. The other thing is the complexity of the question that has been asked, even though I have allowed it to be asked, it should have really been a matter that could have been better dealt with in a written question. However, if the honourable Member wants to respond to the question. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Further Return To Question O226-91(1): Process For Developing Government Policies

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, it would be a lot easier to respond to this question if there was something tangible I could be given as to a concrete example of the Member's concern. Given that he has not been specific or he has not been specific yet, I still think I am being set-up for a fall later on, Mr. Speaker.

I will say that with regard to his question, of course a matter will not be advanced in the priorities and planning committee except through the offices of a Minister. It will not be advanced through the bureaucracy if the Minister says no, and it will not be advanced on the instance of an ordinary MLA if the Minister cannot be persuaded. There is a route that depends upon the concurrence of the Minister, Mr. Speaker, but since we are a consensus government, so we know who put us where we are as Ministers, my feeling, Mr. Speaker, is that Ministers are responsive to the concerns of ordinary Members and those concerns are by and large brought to the table, the policy table, and considered in cabinet by those Ministers. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O226-91(1): Process For Developing Government Policies

MR. LEWIS: I am trying to take direction that questions should be about policy as much as possible, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Government Leader, when a policy becomes the official policy of the government, whose signature should now appear? Is that under the authority of the Leader or is it still under the authority of the Commissioner when it becomes an official public policy?

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

Further Return To Question O226-91(1): Process For Developing Government Policies

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, policies are approved and put in policy manuals for the public under the signature of the Government Leader. Thank you.

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

Question O227-91(1): Solving Spousal Assault Problem In NWT

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Social Services. Mr. Speaker, spousal assault continues to be a serious problem in the Northwest Territories and Canada. My question to the Minister is what is the Minister's department doing to solve this

problem in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O227-91(1): Solving Spousal Assault Problem In NWT

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I guess we have been doing a number of things. When I think back to when I first became the Minister, we had family violence as an interim program of this government. Within the past couple of years we have made a firm commitment and allowed any funding in respect to family violence to no longer be an interim program, but a full program of this government with the funding being allotted in our base funding. Last year there was an additional \$400,000 in our funding in respect to family violence. There has been an increased amount of what I would say, family shelters and safe homes allocated across the NWT for victims, of either spousal assault or any type of abuse, that have an opportunity to go into these homes. There has been increased funding to many family violence programs across the Territories and also there has been an increase of family violence programs across the Territories in different communities.

There has been many different initiatives, many different ways in trying to address the family violence issue; however, I want to stress not only to the particular Member, but Members of this House, that support for family violence programs, is very critical that we also receive the support from the community to address this issue. I do not feel that it is an issue only government can support on its own. It also requires the support of many people across the North and particularly people of the communities to basically indicate to the public that family violence is not acceptable to our society. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O227-91(1): Solving Spousal Assault Problem In NWT

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your answer to my question. I would just like to make a supplementary. In the smaller communities the social workers who are working at the community level are not qualified counsellors in family violence. Do we have any kind of counselling services available in the communities?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Slave River.

Further Return To Question O227-91(1): Solving Spousal Assault Problem In NWT

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately we do not have the luxury of being able to place qualified counsellors in every community. We certainly hope that the care-givers in every community that take on the responsibility of assisting with family violence are certainly considered to be counsellors. Depending upon how the Member is interpreting "qualified counsellors", whether they are academically qualified or just individuals who are good at counselling without the academic type qualifications; we do not currently have qualified academic counsellors in every community. Thank you.

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

Question O228-91(1): Inuktitut Television Channel

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Culture and Communications. Last summer we heard that Lake Harbour would be able to see an Inuktitut channel only. It would be the first one in the whole Baffin Region. Also, last summer they brought in a satellite dish. I am asking you when is it going to be in effect. When are they going to start working on it? When are we going to be able to view this channel? We were told we would be able to view this channel very soon. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O228-91(1): Inuktitut Television Channel

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was told that the dish would be fixed within the month. Also we were told the TV that would be directed to the NWT would be in effect by January 1992. Thank you.

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

Question O229-91(1): Evidence Of Custom Adoption

MR. GARGAN: I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader, with regard to custom adoption. I had a response from the Minister of Justice regarding a particular case in which at one time the government said in order for custom adoption to take place it has to be recognized and accepted by the communities.

I have another letter from the Minister which indicates that in order for custom adoption to take place there has to be sufficient evidence that the adoption took place. I do not know how they come up with the conclusion on whether or not custom adoption took place.

Mr. Speaker, this custom adoption took place about two years ago. I do not know how they determine how much evidence is required in order for it to be recognized. I believe that as far as the judicial system goes there is a confusion on the whole issue. I think this is one area in which the judicial system should back off and let the practice continue.

I would like to ask the Government Leader to indicate whether or not the response indicated the first time is the right one or the second response is the correct one. I seem to be confused -- certainly the courts seem to be confused with regard to this whole issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Iqaluit.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am afraid that I cannot answer that question today. The Minister of Justice will be in the House tomorrow and I will advise him of the question. I will have to take it on notice.

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

Question O230-91(1): Tank Farm, Lake Harbour

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Public Works. The fuel tanks within the communities are my concern. When they let the oil go from the tank farms go, I am sure this is not done properly within the communities. I am sure it is the responsibility of

DPW when they release the gasoline to the ground within the tank farms in the smaller communities.

Would the government supply better tanks to the communities? I am talking about the valves especially. When the valves are numbered, it is a lot easier whether they are for vehicles or not. Can the government supply these valves to the smaller communities so they can be identified easier?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Inuvik.

Return To Question O230-91(1): Tank Farm, Lake Harbour

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the question would be most properly directed to me as Government Services is responsible for the distribution of fuel in the communities where there is no private supplier.

The situation described to the Member would appear to require some correction. I have not heard of this specific problem. I will ask my officials to contact the contractor and identify the exact nature of the problem and seek to deal with it.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Honourable Member for Baffin South.

Supplementary To Question O230-91(1): Tank Farm, Lake Harbour

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a mistake. The Minister responsible, when he was in Lake Harbour a couple of years ago, we met with him and we visited the tank farm when the co-operative had the contract. I told you once that the valves were not properly fixed and they are still not. I am sure you can remember what I am talking about. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not sure if that was a question, however if the honourable Member for Inuvik wishes to respond. Honourable Member for Inuvik.

Further Return To Question O230-91(1): Tank Farm, Lake Harbour

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, I remember my visit. I cannot quite picture the situation the Member describes. I regret that there has been no action taken. I will have to follow up immediately to see what the problem is and what is required to rectify it.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

Question O231-91(1): Housing Association Offices, Pelly Bay

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) My question is for the Minister of Housing. When you were in Pelly Bay you had the first hand opportunity to visit the housing association offices, and according to the report from the Fire Marshal's office it is unsafe. I wonder if you have plans to build a new housing association office in Pelly Bay?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Inuvik.

Return To Question O231-91(1): Housing Association Offices, Pelly Bay

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did visit the housing association office in Pelly Bay and I was apprised of the requirement for better facilities. I think we did indicate at that time that the 40 by 80 unit that is used by the housing association for its current maintenance base, in many

communities also doubles as a housing association office. I believe that there are two options being considered, one to refurbish that particular building so they could incorporate their offices therein and if that is not acceptable, I think we are looking at a separate office.

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

Question O232-91(1): Government Rent Increases, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Personnel. In his response with regard to the rent increase, the Minister indicated that regardless of the family size, the individuals are charged according to the occupancy of a unit. In a community like Fort Providence where staff do not have the opportunities to look for alternate accommodation, is it still the government's intention to still charge whatever they are occupying?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Sahtu.

Return Question O232-91(1): Government Rent Increases, Fort Providence

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

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

Supplementary To Question O232-91(1): Government Rent Increases, Fort Providence

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, also the Minister indicated that as part of the rent increase the charges for utilities are part of the rent in Fort Providence. Am I to assume that in Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith or Inuvik that the employees are being charged rent as well as utilities?

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

Further Return To Question O232-91(1): Government Rent Increases, Fort Providence

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, in the level I communities you have people paying for rent plus utilities, but only in stand-alone accommodations.

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

Question O233-91(1): Payment Of Utilities By Teachers In Eastern Arctic

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. He said earlier that there is going to be a salary increase for the teachers. He said that the teachers are paying for utilities. Teachers in the Eastern Arctic started paying for utilities as soon as we heard that teachers from the Western Arctic were paying for them. Are the teachers who are paying rent also paying for utilities? Are the teachers in the Eastern Arctic now paying for utilities? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O233-91(1): Payment Of Utilities By Teachers In Eastern Arctic

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, there are different arrangements for government staff across the Territories. In some of the smaller, more remote communities, the staff have been paying a very minimal rent -- nowhere near what it actually costs for us to provide the unit. Because of isolation and transportation costs we provide units in some communities at a very minimal rental rate.

In other communities we have rents that we have increased and they do not include utilities, rather, the utilities are paid for separately by the staff. These are in the level I communities such as Inuvik, Hay River, and Fort Smith, but they do not include places that are not separate units in the sense that if people are sharing one power unit and one fuel tank then it is impossible for us to break down the bill, so we do not ask people to pay utilities.

In the level II communities, which are most of the small communities, including the Eastern Arctic, we just charge rent. As I indicated, places like Fort Providence are included in that. Thank you.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that you answered my question, so I will finish with that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I do not believe that was a question. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

Question O234-91(1): Funding For Inclusion Of Grade 10 At Chief Jimmy Bruneau School

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, the Dogrib Divisional Board of Education submitted a proposal to the Minister. Phase one of that proposal is asking the department if they could give funding for grade 10 in the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School this year. The Minister responded by saying that the decision that he is going to make is going to be made within a month or two. The concern that the board has is they would like to know the decision soon, because teacher recruitment is starting very soon. I wonder if the Minister could make a decision prior to the teacher recruitment in the Territories. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O234-91(1): Funding For Inclusion Of Grade 10 At Chief Jimmy Bruneau School

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, we have been made aware that a number of communities and regions are coming forward with requests for additional resources to offer various grades in their communities and in their regions. For instance, some communities are asking to offer grade 10 in their communities; others are wishing to offer grade 11 and grade 12. These requests are coming in from the Baffin, Keewatin, Kitikmeot, Sahtu, Deh Cho and the Dogrib divisional boards. These requests were not part of the budget that we now have before this Legislature. What we are doing is to have the department finalize plans with these different boards as to exactly what types of resources they need, in terms of dollars, to be able to be in a position to offer these additional grades in the fall.

It does not depend on my decision at all, rather we would have to go to the Financial Management Board and see if there is some way we could find the additional money -- which would probably run into an additional million or two, at least, to accommodate these numerous requests. Because it is a substantial amount of money it is going to take some work to prepare a proper document that the government can look at and base its decision on.

I expect that within the next couple of weeks, two or three weeks, we should be able to get some indication of what my colleagues will do with such a proposal from me. Thank you.

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

Question O235-91(1): Studies On Environmental Consequences Of James Bay II Project

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Speaker, the environmental committee in Sanikiluaq has had to deal with a broad range of environmental predictions about what will happen if James Bay II is completed. One problem seems to be that we will not be able to fully assess the impact of this project because we lack scientific data on the ecology of Hudson Bay before the project is built. I have a question for the Minister of Renewable Resources. Has the department undertaken any studies on the environmental consequences of the James Bay II project? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O235-91(1): Studies On Environmental Consequences Of James Bay II Project

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member could very well appreciate that the project is very large and the potential impact on the Great Whale River system is great, and the potential impact on the Hudson Bay is thought to be quite large as well, but we do not know the extent of possible impact on the Hudson Bay itself. In order to take comprehensive baseline studies in the Hudson Bay, it will be a big undertaking on the part of the organization or government. I would have to review and ask my department to see if you could get information on the availability of the baseline data collected in the past. I do not believe that my department has undertaken such a study, but I will request my department to give you any available information on what has been done by other groups. Thank you.

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

Question O236-91(1): People At Risk, Leo Ussak School, Rankin Inlet

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Public Works with regard to the Leo Ussak Elementary School. On Friday there was a smell in the school. The school principal is in Yellowknife right now and I was able to meet with him, and he was saying that on Friday they had a problem in that school. There was an engineer from DPW there. (Translation ends) Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is this, are the children or the teachers at risk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O236-91(1): People At Risk, Leo Ussak School, Rankin Inlet

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, all the tests and the results of the tests show that the teachers and the people who are in the Leo Ussak Elementary School are not at risk. Thank you.

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

Question O237-91(1): Equality Of Rent Increases For Teachers

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education regarding teachers accommodation. Members were told about rent increases. My question is, how much is being done in the Keewatin, Baffin and Natilikmiot area, are they all being dealt with the same regarding the rent increase? What are the differences?

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

Return To Question O237-91(1): Equality Of Rent Increases For Teachers

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, if the Member would like I can make available to him and to the other Members some of the information we have on average increases. A specific interest he would have, for instance, would be on Lake Harbour. The average increase there is about \$100 for the accommodation. I am sorry, this is just for over-accommodated employees. Rather than read off extensive lists of the impact of this short-term strategy on the different communities and individual staff people, we can make this available to the Members, if that is what the Member would like. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O237-91(1): Equality Of Rent Increases For Teachers

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not a supplementary, but I would like to see the information that the Minister of Education has. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe that the honourable Member is seeking that you consider providing the information. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

Further Return To Question O237-91(1): Equality Of Rent Increases For Teachers

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes, the information I indicated I can make available should of course be translated and made available to all Members. I should add that as a general rule what was intended was that people who live in private accommodation should not be paying any more than what the government employees are paying, and this is what we are striving to do in all the communities, so that whether you are working for the government or not if you were renting a three-bedroom house you pay the same rate. This is what we are doing. We are not even close to making it the same yet. All we have done is increase the rents to work toward making the rates the same for non-government employees and government employees. I will be pleased to provide the specific information I had indicated earlier. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Time has expired for oral

question period.

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. Petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. CROW: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 33-91(1), a letter from Peter Kattuk, the mayor of Sanikiluaq, to the Hon. Titus Alloo, Minister of Renewable Resources. The letter is dated March 2, 1990 and deals with Hydro Quebec plans for development of Great Whale River. Minutes of the special meeting between Hydro Quebec officials and the Sanikiluaq environmental committee on February 7, 1990 are attached to the letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table two documents, both are written from the Kitikmeot Board of Education. The first one is Tabled Document 34-91(1), a letter written to me pertaining to Sir John Franklin High School.

The second is Tabled Document 35-91(1), a letter pertaining to the housing policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. Item 14, motions. Motion 4-91(1), the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 4-91(1): Campaign To Reduce Alcohol Consumption And To Eliminate Drugs In The NWT

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker:

WHEREAS drugs and alcohol are a major threat to the health and well-being of people in the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Aivilik, that the Government of the Northwest Territories mount a campaign to reduce the amount of alcohol consumed and to eliminate drugs in the Northwest Territories using the same techniques which were successful in many anti-smoking campaigns.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to move an amendment to the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, I believe that the mover and the seconder

must address the motion and if there are any other amendments, they follow those remarks by the mover and the seconder. To the motion. The motion is in order. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we look at the debates over the last three years, we will find that though we have been dominated by a concern for our economy as at the root of many of our problems, we also see some form of social disintegration taking place as well. While examining many of these discussions that we have had in the past, then it struck me we had been very successful over a period of about 15 to 20 years, in reducing the amount of tobacco that has been used by people in North America and yet there are other huge problems that we have not made much headway with.

Effects Of Smoking On Health

I was reminded that when I first came to this country, Mr. Speaker, I had been a high school teacher in BC for a short while before coming to the Territories and one of my jobs in the high school was to be in charge of the debating club. I learned that in the year previous to coming to Canada, that there had been an article in the British medical journal, the very first record of the linkage between smoking and lung cancer. That was in 1960, Mr. Speaker. So many of the things that happened in British Columbia at that time, especially in the school system, resulted in this issue dominating many of the things that went on in the society. It was low key to begin with. The very first debate, I remember was on the subject, Smoking Is Bad For Your Health. The team that I prepared for that debate, Mr. Speaker, in 1961 in fact lost its debate. I thought I had really given them all the information that they should have, that they had copies of the British medical journal; they had copied stuff from all kinds of magazines and newspapers, but the opposing team had been even better prepared. In the sense that at that time, at the beginning of the 1960s, the wonderful 1960s, that some people still remember as the best age in the history of mankind because of the excitement that was generated, we found that the opposing team had said things like, "Smoking is a wonderful thing. It relaxes you. You are living in a very tough society and if you smoke, you can relax, but it does wonderful things for your nervous system." It also told you that it made you more sociable, that you could socialize with people. It gave you enjoyment. In fact this team had been so well prepared to showing every individual what wonderful things smoking could do to enhance the quality of your life, that even though I had all the evidence in the world, all the medical evidence, all the documents, we lost the debate because these young people were still able to demonstrate that smoking was not damaging to your health, did not make you cough or stuff like that. In fact, it was a wonderful invention of mankind, a discovery which really added an awful lot to the quality of your life.

Campaign Against Smoking

However, Mr. Speaker, from those early days where it was a subject of debate, there were essays about it, competitions, posters, science experiments on the whole issue of the effect of smoke. It was not until probably the mid-1970s that you saw the beginnings of the effect of the campaign against smoking taking place. In 1975, I remember going to a convention in Calgary and it was sponsored by the Teacher/Parent Federation of Canada. They were looking for a new subject in order to get people more interested in issues in the country. They had chosen this one as the one that would get people excited. Well what happened, was that I returned to Yellowknife in 1975 after being with all those people from across the country who felt that one of the things they could do was to get people to stop smoking. I

remember returning with all these buttons which you could wear, things you could put in people's offices to tell you that you are not allowed to smoke in the office, and that was new. That was absolutely brand new. They were not around anywhere. There was not much debate about smoking in public places, on airplanes, in public buildings.

This was the beginning of a campaign if you like and very soon after that, you saw these signs with circles and a cigarette in the middle with a line through it appearing all over the place. You saw the education system promoting anti-smoking among young people. You saw changes in the law where the law now is changed so that this was prohibited in public buildings and so on.

The point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, relating to the general motion that I presented today is that we were very successful in reducing something which was very obviously a major factor in the health of people and also perhaps to a lesser degree, had some impact on other people who had to take in the second-hand smoke from tobacco.

Although this was a danger to the health of people, and to some degree gave discomfort to others, you cannot compare the impact of cigarette smoking or the impact of alcohol on the human body and also the consequent behaviour of people who find themselves dependent on alcohol. I would say the same thing with drugs. These two things have a much more devastating effect on our society than smoking and yet we chose smoking as the thing that was the least desirable. In fact, it worked for one thing whereby we were able to convince people it was bad, we were able to get the laws changed, we have the public better informed, it seems to me that we were not as successful in identifying alcohol and drugs and using the same kind of campaign to restrict the use of these substances as we have done with smoking.

I discussed earlier on, Mr. Speaker, the whole issue of policy. Sometimes walking through the park I have an idea, and I am sure other Members do who have lived here far longer than I have, and I think, "Gee, that would be a great idea", and it is something that comes into your mind and it slips away and you forget to write it down. But when I was thinking about this discussion we were going to have today, this debate, it struck me that one of the things that we were able to do with regard to tobacco was to have the manufacturers of tobacco put on their cartons that the Surgeon General recommends that this be taken in limited quantities or this is damaging to your health or that there is a connection between tobacco smoking and cancer. Those were the kinds of things that were then put on tobacco packages.

Putting Warning Labels On Liquor

So sometimes coming through the park the odd time I think, "Why can we not do the same thing with liquor?" I know we do not manufacture it here, that is one of the problems, we have no control over it. But surely since we do control just that one substance in the Territories, why do we not, as a matter of policy, put a label on a bottle of booze that says it is poison if you drink too much of it, it will damage your health and you should be careful. Maybe people will look at it and say, "This is right. I had not thought of it. All I can think is how much fun I can have drinking it."

But if you also have another message that says, "This is not very good for you and if you drink too much of it, it is going to hurt you." That may have some effect.

Because one of the natures of a campaign is that it builds. It starts off, you get an idea, you develop it and then other ideas come and campaigns do not have to be terribly expensive. They can have an impact and a change in the

the problem. And say, "This is the problem, these are the kinds of incremental things that we can do in order to change people's thinking about things." If we keep on hammering away, finding more illuminating ways of demonstrating the impact of the problem on our society, maybe we can change things.

Mr. Speaker, after 30 years of looking at the danger of smoking and how it could be changed and how debate, discussion and information has gradually changed people's attitude to smoking, I wonder whether we cannot use the same kind of brain power, the same kind of initiative in order to get people to take a similar approach to the elimination of drugs and also perhaps to a reduction in consumption of alcohol.

That is a very brief statement of the problem as I see it and perhaps some notion to the government through this formal Legislative Assembly, of how we could maybe begin attacking this problem.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Honourable Member for Aivilik.

Drug Use Increasing In Communities

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased that my colleague for Yellowknife Centre made the motion and I support this motion because we all know the amount of drugs that go into the communities is increasing.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that my constituents in Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour and Rankin Inlet have great concerns about the drugs coming into the communities. I am aware of the drugs and the organizations in the communities become tools to decrease the use of drugs because they have power within the communities and other means to use more of the committees and the health boards because we have to start thinking that using drugs is dangerous to the health.

In the different communities we have to start thinking of having no drugs in the communities. Just like the government or public offices have smoke free buildings, maybe we could apply that to the regions and have smoke free regions or territories. I think we should use the radio stations, any means to get the message across through the newspapers and to use more of the RCMP because they could do more work in the communities. We have to fight the drugs that are coming into the communities.

For example in Rankin Inlet there is an inter-agency group that is dealing with the prevention of the use of drugs. This committee is made up of all Rankin Inlet residents. Whenever the territorial government makes a public letter to the communities, they use their own letterheads. I think they can use them to convey a message that drugs are dangerous or harmful. Perhaps in one of the corners of the letterhead, so that we will become more aware that drugs are harmful and are not good for our bodies.

I think we need assistance in all of our communities and we have to help each other to slow down the use of drugs altogether. I know, Mr. Speaker, that we can beat this thing because it affects our future, our children, our grandchildren and it is not going to help them.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

Motion To Amend Motion 4-91(1)

MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move an amendment to the motion. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic that the motion be

amended in line three of the "now therefore", by deleting the words "to eliminate drugs" and adding the following words immediately after, "to show the dangers of illegal drugs". Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. Honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, to the amendment.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in full support of the intent and spirit of this motion, but Mr. Speaker, I feel that the original motion calls for our government to mount a campaign to eliminate drugs in the NWT and that would include, if the wording is left as it is, legal drugs too, and undermine the work of the Minister of Health. To clarify it I think the amendment is to show the dangers of illegal drugs.

One other point is that the motion, as originally put, asks our government to mount a campaign to reduce the amount of alcohol consumed. Alcohol is a product which is legal and which we ourselves retail. The illegal drugs that the motion aims at – in our society it is a criminal offence to use and distribute illegal drugs, so they are slightly different. I thought that the amendment would clarify more of the intent and the spirit of the motion, which I fully support. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the amendment. Seconder, the honourable Member for High Arctic.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy that I was able to second the amendment to the motion. I think a lot of people are aware that there is danger in using drugs, and the fact that it is illegal. These can be very dangerous for us if we abuse the use of drugs, so I am happy that I was able to second this amendment to the motion.

Motion To Amend Motion 4-91(1), Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the amendment. Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion to amend the motion is carried.

--Carried

The motion as amended. To the motion, the honourable Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak in favour of this motion. I am happy that the honourable Members, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Ernerk, moved this motion. It has been a concern of mine for quite a few years now, the alcohol and drug abuse in the communities.

We know from newspaper reports a few days ago that even legal drugs are a problem in the Northwest Territories. Some young people took too much of a legal drug, Gravol, and just about died, and that is drug abuse. We also hear stories of people sniffing propane and getting burned if it blows up. That, too, is abuse.

Costs Of Alcohol Abuse Exceed Liquor Tax Revenue

I think it was two years ago that I asked the Minister of Health and the Minister of Social Services, as well as the Minister of Justice, to table in this House the approximate cost of alcohol abuse in the Northwest Territories. If you add all of those departments' costs, the approximate cost is \$80 million. This is what it is costing us, as a government, and that is directly related to alcohol abuse whether it means courts, keeping them in jail, social services, people being sick and sent to hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, a year and a half ago in Snowdrift – one of the

Mr. Speaker, a year and a half ago in Snowdrift -- one of the communities that I represent -- the band council and Chief Felix Lockhart decided that anyone who sat on the community council had to be sober. They worked very hard with the council and they did a lot of consultations with the councillors, their families and the people in Snowdrift and they, together with the assistance of Social Services, developed a program where the council and the chief and all of their families went out to get treatment at the Stoney Medicine Lodge, Mr. Speaker. That was one of the first in Canada. They did go back recently for their follow-up and still the majority of them have their sobriety.

Since that has happened I have noticed, as their representative, that a lot more things are being dealt with. It is just like people are coming awake. They are more sincere; they are more committed to doing things for the people. So I am in strong favour of having a campaign in the communities to help people become aware of what alcohol and drugs are doing to our people.

I know that if we looked at the statistics very closely, we have lost a lot of our young people -- young lads and young women that could be leaders or could be businessmen and could do very well, but we lose them at very early ages because of drowning, suicides, some freeze to death, some get killed in car accidents, skidoo accidents -- we lose a lot of our young people to alcohol abuse. I have noticed that the government -- the AIDS disease that is going around and smoking are causing deaths, they say, so they spend a lot of money on a campaign to make people aware of that, but I think we should also spend money on a campaign to make us aware of how many people we lost -- I know we lost a lot more from drinking than from AIDS or smoking and I feel confident in saying that -- if people are made aware that it is all fine and dandy to go and send somebody a notice in the mail saying alcohol is bad for you, it causes this or that, or drugs are bad for you. You have to sometimes wake people up. You have to sometimes do something drastic to get the attention of people.

I think that we have the proper facilities in the communities already, through our drug and alcohol workers that are being funded by Social Services, to the capability of Social Services funding, and I think some other departments in government should kick in and fund these people as well so that they can bring the message to the people. Those are the people who should be taking the message to the people. Right now they are so underfunded that a secretary in an office makes more money than a drug and alcohol worker and it takes years of training to become a good drug and alcohol counsellor. So once these people are trained they learn all other kinds of things with their counselling and then, because of financial implications or whatever, they have a tendency to leave that field and go into another field of work because their wages are so low.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this motion but I think that -- maybe not necessarily the same type of campaign the government used on AIDS and smoking -- but maybe the campaign has to change. There is hope for people and there is hope that we can get our alcohol consumption down in the Northwest Territories. Maybe it will end up costing the government a few tax dollars but in the long run we will save, because it is costing us \$80 million a year now to deal with the problems that we make \$11 million in taxes from and that does not make sense. So, Mr. Speaker, I will vote in favour of this motion. Thank you.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be voting

in favour of the motion. It is a good motion. Its long-term results, I think, are what we must focus on. Alcohol and drug abuse have been around for a long time. I do not think there is a Member in this House who has not been affected in some way over the years through personal or indirect contact with people that they love, that have been either brought to an early grave or to a health situation where the quality of life is not what it should be because of the use of alcohol and of late, the illegal use of drugs.

All Misused Drugs Are A Hazard

I think the motion is very broad by saying "to eliminate the use of drugs". But we must keep in mind that it is not only the popular illegal drugs that are hazardous but that all drugs, if misused, become a hazard in themselves. What is designed to save your life can, in fact, end it by misuse.

Everybody knows that it does not take long for someone to find a way to short-circuit something that is designed to be helpful. They will find a misuse for any kind of drugs that can be found in the medicine cabinet, to attain some form of high or escape or whatever it is that it is used for. I do not think we are too far off the mark when there are warnings printed on ordinary medicine, your box of Aspirin, Entrophen, Motrin, you name it, Demerol -- I am sorry, you do not use that over the counter, but the common one is Gravol, not Demerol -- that is designed for a particular use and you know it can be misused.

What I am trying to add to this motion is that it does not necessarily mean that we have to enter a campaign to treat the alcoholic or the drug abuser. We have to go further than that. We have to go earlier than that. I think the education of people begins in the home. It begins with the parents and peers and the people that young people see as role models, your MLAs, your teachers, your clergy. It begins there. When they are influenced by these people to misuse or abuse -- if they see others doing it, then it must be good. So what I am suggesting is that the campaign, when it is begun, takes a look not only at the person who has already been afflicted, but looks as well at the image that we create of drugs and alcohol.

Deception Of Liquor Commercials

I use the term "drugs" -- I would illustrate it by saying that whenever we get a slight headache we grab for the aspirin. You look on the television program and the commercials, a good percentage of them deal with either spirits of some sort, beers; they show pictures of youth and vigour and having a great time, and they do not show the other side of it; the person who has been consuming alcohol for a while and the toll it takes on the body. They should show a few pictures like that once in a while and maybe it will illustrate the misuse of that.

You see pictures of people having a great time and skiing and frolicking in the water and after that retiring to a nice crackling fire to grab a beer with their buddies. I think that is where some of this begins. The same with the use of other drugs that are designed to help a person. You have a headache and there are about 14 different commercials now that have ways of curing that. You can imagine. There are take-offs of every type.

So I think this is where we have to start as parents and as leaders in the community, to be able to point this out in the schools, contact somewhere or another with people, to point out the fact that it is not necessary oftentimes to use even medication. You have a headache -- drink a glass of water. But we promote it and it becomes second nature and I think it is a step toward using other things for a headache or a

social problem.

I wanted to point that out because I know the Ministers responsible for any kind of successful campaign that is delivered in the Territories, be it AIDS or cigarette smoking or nutrition, will want to know what we think and that will give them direction as to how they can go about dealing with this problem.

I know we will have to come up with ingenious ways of doing that, and judging by some of the other publications in the past, we will do a good job on it; but it takes that initiative that we, through this motion, will give the government and the Ministers responsible for this kind of a program to begin.

But I do want to point out that all of the campaigns that we may launch, be they colourful and humorous, bold and brave like the Minister has done with the AIDS campaign in the Territories, are still not enough if the people themselves do not believe in it. You can preach all you want and tell people all you can about the hazards of misusing something, substances, but it will not do any good unless they believe it. I cannot express enough that particular aspect of it.

To the motion, I do not know whether we will ever be able to -- I guess the success of any program will be as much as people want, but we want to start somewhere and I applaud and support the motion and I will vote in favour of it and I will work with the Ministers responsible in the government to carry out a campaign that will see a reduction in the illegal use of anything, be it legal or illegal, in the Territories that is going to affect our citizens.

We know the high cost in lives and high cost in dollars to combat the effects of substance abuse in the Territories. It is almost never-ending; it is a drain on everything that we could better use money for and energies that we have. So nipping it in the bud is the way to go and I would encourage those Ministers that will be responsible for this, should the government decide to do something in the future on it, to focus on the children, the young adults and some older adults as well. And those adults who have had experience and exposure to the difficulty that one can experience in life, having a substance abuse problem, would throw their energies and support behind a campaign such as this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion as amended. Honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the motion on the floor, I did want to indicate to the Members that I certainly did take a look at this motion and had given quite a bit of thought to it. With respect to that, I do want to indicate to the Members that I am sure that the government, my colleagues and I support this motion that is put forth.

However, I do also want to indicate, with respect to reducing the amount of alcohol consumed and to show the dangers of the illegal drugs, this is not only for the government to look at but for everyone in this House and all respected leaders across the Territories. I do want to let Members know that for years there has been an awareness campaign on alcohol abuse and I know, since I have become Minister, I have certainly felt that the awareness is out there, people are aware of the fact that alcohol abuse does have a detrimental effect on individuals.

Alcoholism A Progressive Disorder

However, I was not sure, and I still do not honestly feel, that people are fully aware that alcohol is a disease, and that it is

a progressive disease. I believe it is a progressive disorder which involves individuals being physically and psychologically addicted to alcohol. Knowing that it is a disease, I think we have to take steps to treat the disease, and with that we have made a concerted effort in trying to address this by placing and supporting treatment centres in the Territories.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Prior to looking at treatment centres, we as a department requested that a feasibility study be done and I do want to indicate that there was a feasibility study specifically completed in Hay River. At that time it was discovered, and I am sure Members are not surprised, that teenage alcoholics in the South Slave region likely began to experiment with alcohol at the early age of 10 or 11 years, which is certainly disturbing to observe. They often begin drinking on weekends and more regularly before they initiate daily drinking. The development process of alcoholism takes only a few months, at times several years, before debilitating effects begin to be manifest on an individual.

Mr. Speaker, apparently it only takes three or four ounces of alcohol daily over a period of a few weeks to establish a physical dependence and addiction. As I stated, I think ways of trying to address alcohol abuse is to encourage and give individuals who are addicted the opportunity to take treatment. I am sure the same remarks could be made for the abuse of drugs.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate to the House that I think we as leaders, as MLAs, and leaders across the Territories, have to start taking a leadership role by discouraging the use of alcohol. Particularly when I look at government, I think we should discourage the use of alcohol at any receptions, meetings, conferences, gatherings, or any event that is sponsored financially and supported by the Government of the Northwest Territories. That is a way of taking a leadership role in discouraging the use of alcohol, not only by government departments but by its agencies and management boards.

I want to point out to Members that I do not think it is only up to government to reduce the amount of alcohol. It is up to each community, up to each individual, and the effects that we as leaders can have in encouraging communities and individuals can be significant. With that, I do want to advise Members of the House that there is no doubt that we support the intent of the motion, but I want to stress that it requires the co-operation of every leader and resident in the Territories. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion, as amended. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

MR. SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say a few words to this motion. I think it is a good statement. It is a kind of a motherhood type thing. Who in their right mind would be against something like this in our Assembly? I am just afraid that it is so much of a motherhood statement that in dealing with it and thinking we have done wonderful things, we do not really get to the bottom of the real problem in the North. I did not want to spoil the party, or did not want to spoil the good thoughts that everybody had here. I know that if the motion passes everybody will think, "We are doing wonderful things. We can go back to our constituents and say that we are trying to do something about it," and so forth. In

my view, however, it is kind of not dealing with it in the full, full way; it is kind of just dealing with it in an easy way. Who could ever say they are not doing anything whenever you talk of an ad. Ads are going to be good. Ads are going to be effective to a certain extent but it does not really get down to the bottom of the problem as to why people drink and what we as a government and society in the North can do about the alcohol problem in the North and the increasing drug problem that has come about in the last few years.

Drinking is indeed such a problem that if you looked at the News North the week before, I could not help, as the MLA for Fort Simpson, but feel a little bit ashamed because of all the publicity that was in the News North about people from my own home town and area. If you looked at the front page you saw that there was a rapist who got five years. I know some of the circumstances, and liquor was involved. On the third page you see manslaughter, someone being charged with manslaughter, and again I am aware that liquor was involved in that. On another page you see that three different people were being charged with sexual offences. On another page there was a story about a person who did not leave the bar and was consequently fined. The newspaper was rife with bad and sad stories of people in my own constituency because of liquor, and I could not help but feel a little bit sad about that fact.

Eliminating Alcohol And Drugs The Best Way

So I asked myself, how can we quell, how can we in some real meaningful way do something about the drinking and drug problems that are becoming more and more prevalent in the North? In my view, the best way to deal with the problem is to eliminate liquor and drugs. That would be the most effective way, to completely have it against the law to have any liquor coming into the NWT, at the borders have some way of stopping liquor from coming into the North. That, in my view, would be the most effective if our Assembly and government passed laws. We make eight or 10 million dollars a year profit from liquor in the North. If we as an Assembly and government said that it is such a problem, we are going to take the real hard step of saying that we are not going to tolerate the situation any longer, we are not going to count on the taxes we make from liquor and just as an Assembly and government say, "Henceforth liquor is prohibited in the North and anybody with any is going to be sentenced and dealt with very harshly." To me that would be the most effective way of really having prohibition in the North. I have been involved in that campaign; I have been involved when I was younger in the 1970s in trying to have liquor removed from Fort Simpson, and it is a tough campaign because most people will agree with you on a Monday night, Tuesday night, after a hard weekend of drinking when people are a little hung over and a little bit shy and a little bit ashamed about what has happened. In a room like this everybody would nod their heads and agree that indeed we should not have liquor here, but come Thursday or Friday night it is a different story. People are hyped up and interested in drinking and everybody now is against you for talking this way even angry at you. I have seen that because we attempted in Simpson to not have liquor.

I must say that as a native person and seeing liquor have such an effect on native people in the North, that I am kind of still mad at the government for bringing liquor into the North the way that they did. I am mad, as a person, for the way the government introduced liquor into the North without asking the people, without consultation, without doing something, without dealing with the local people as to whether liquor should be brought into the North. It was brought in -- the government of the day, Stuart Hodgson and his group, supported alcohol coming into the North and I am still mad at the way that liquor stores have been set up in places like Fort Simpson and other

places in the North and have, in a sense, made liquor available to people to whom it was strange and to whom it was a dangerous sort of thing.

I have always felt that the government was unfair and if you are a real cynic you would say that the government did this deliberately to undermine the native people of the North. There has been tremendous undermining of native people at the leadership and at all levels. At one point in Simpson, over a course of a 10 year period, there were 30 people that died from liquor. In little Nahanni Butte, in the course of one year, there were something like three people who died from drinking liquor and eventually there were restrictions imposed in the community.

Prohibiting Liquor Has Helped

I have gone through the process of trying to prohibit liquor, trying to restrict liquor, and I believe it helped. Inasmuch as we did not win, as it were, it did help the situation quite a bit. I remember when we were involved in putting restrictions on the liquor store in Simpson, I remember the older people whose children were affected -- I remember them being so happy, tears in their eyes, that for once something was going to be done. They were so happy that the status quo was not just accepted and the feeling was that, indeed, if you really want to you could do something about it. People had some hope that through the restrictions there would be less drinking, less alcoholism and fewer people dying and suffering.

In my area, in Simpson and some of the small communities, we have had prohibition. I do believe that it has helped and so I continue supporting some restriction on the liquor. Basically, a message to the people saying that it is not there for you to consume to the point where you are going to kill yourself, but also that it makes it so that vast amounts of liquor are not carried into the small communities where small communities have been known to be just totally drunk and people drinking excessively.

I have to say, through my own experience, it does help to have restrictions. I recognize that it is not realistic and practical to think that we could ever shut down liquor totally. I concede the fact that liquor is here with us in the North and that we probably have to live with it. I think things like restrictions and when a community want prohibition, I think those are good. I feel that our government must put more money into dealing with alcoholism and the drug problems by funding these rehabilitation places, as our government is doing on the Hay River Reserve and here in Yellowknife and other places in the North. I used to think that these places were not very effective, but I have come to realize that with proper programs and proper approaches people can be made to quit drinking; I have come to that realization. It is basically a sickness and you can be cured. You may have to go back two, three, four or five times but I do believe that it can eventually help a person quite drinking.

I heartily support the many programs that are available, such as, AA, ALANON, Adult Children of Alcoholics, all of these programs. I have personal knowledge and experience with them. I do feel that they are effective programs and, in fact, in some respects the only effective programs in the world that can make a person quit are the AA program and the ALANON for the spouses that are involved. I have come to realize that our government must spend more time and funding and providing for workshops among the people.

In terms of a cure for alcoholism, the best and most effective cure is for a person to recognize this problem and to talk about it and share it with other people. Workshops are effective in doing this -- making people talk about their problems and talking about common solutions that may occur.

These are the things that I think the government must do, whereas this motion is good and I know we are all going to feel good about it, we think we are doing something, but it will only have a limited effect and in the end what will count most is our own personal views -- whether we, as leaders, do not drink, show leadership, whether the leaders in the community show leadership and not drink and also whether we, as a government, put more money into alcohol rehabilitation, fund workshops and things of that sort. When communities want restrictions and want prohibition we must support them. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Final argument, the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Prevention Better Than Cure

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief. I believe that the Minister of Health would agree that modern approaches to health suggest that if you can prevent something from happening it is a lot better than waiting for something to happen and then try to cure it afterwards. If you can find a way of stopping something, that seem to be a much preferable route. We all agree that we need to have facilities to help people who are addicted, that have problems whether they have problems because they smoke too much or because they drink too much or because they are addicted to drugs, it is a problem that exists.

What I am saying is that if we take a longer view and are responsible as legislators, we should say, "Look, we have to halt something. We have to turn some things around." You only turn things around if you are going to appeal to the hearts of the people. You can appeal to their brains and their hearts.

My few concluding comments, Mr. Speaker, are to indicate to the Members that I thought quite a bit before advancing this motion because, although it seems to be motherhood, I have all kinds of practical ideas about how you could in fact begin to change the hearts and the minds of men. That is what I think we should be concentrating on. I think that any examination of the newspapers would indicate that practically all our crimes, a large percentage of them -- and I am not going to bore people today with statistics -- but a large percentage of our crimes are alcohol-related or related to some kind of dependency on some form of substance.

For that reason alone, as well as the fact that our whole social fabric is being upset because we have this kind of dependency at an alarming rate in the Northwest Territories, I would indicate that we should provide some kind of leadership by beginning a well thought out campaign which could include elements of what other people have said already in this debate. My concern, Mr. Speaker, is that we consider alcohol to be a friend in some cases, just in the same way that fire can be a friend in some cases, or water can be friend, but if it becomes your enemy it is the worst kind of enemy that you can have.

To me, Mr. Speaker, the concern I would like to express to all Members is that a campaign, and the idea of a campaign, is to try to get people to change, not to try to get people off the ways so that we have to fix them up, but to find some way to get people to understand and to change so that we would not have to spend all this money in correcting behaviour, setting up institutions, developing programs, coming up with ideas; a fully organized and orchestrated campaign so that we could recognize it for what it is, one of the big social problems that we have to face, and so that we use the techniques that have already proven to be successful in eliminating something

which is far less serious than the problems of drugs and alcohol. We have already shown, I have already demonstrated to you, that we have tackled smoking for the last 15 years and there has been an appreciable difference in the smoking habits of people because of some specific things that we have done to change peoples' behaviour.

You only get change if you have really appealed to people, to thinking people, and to people who realize that in addition to being destructive to themselves they are being destructive to others as well.

I do not intend to debate other Members about who is responsible for alcohol because it would be another history lesson on the way alcohol, in fact, was distributed throughout this country, beginning in about 1870, to an alarming degree, but in fact many many years before that, too. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this motion, not because it is motherhood but because it makes sense. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for a recorded vote. Thank you.

Motion 4-91(1), Carried As Amended

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. That concludes debate on this motion, as amended. A recorded vote has been requested, Mr. Clerk. All those in favour, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Crow, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Morin, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Whitford, Ms. Cournoyeva, Mr. Alloodoo, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Butters, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Ningark, Mr. Gargan.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. All those opposed to the motion? All those abstaining?

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SPEAKER: The count of the vote is 20 in the affirmative, no opposition and one abstention. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Item 15, first reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second 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 second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to establish the Expo '92 revolving fund.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 17 has had second reading. Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

Second 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 second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Petroleum Products Tax Act to define "retail price".

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Bill 20 has had second reading. Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

Second 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 second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to make supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1991.

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

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 second reading. Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Second 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 second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Tobacco Tax Act to increase the tax rate of the percentage of the taxable price per gram of cigarette tobacco, effective April 1, 1991. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Bill 21 has had second reading. Bills 17, 19, 20 and 21 are ordered into committee of the whole for today.

Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 7, Committee Report 2-91(1), Bills 8, 9, 10, 17, 19, 20 and 21, with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): When we concluded yesterday we were dealing with the Department of Public Works, Bill 7, Appropriation Act, 1991-92. We will take a 15 minute break.

--SHORT RECESS

Bill 7: Appropriation Act, 1991-92

Department Of Public Works

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with the Department of Public Works, main estimates, 1991-92. Madam Minister, did you make your opening remarks already? Does the committee agree, then, that the Minister bring in her witnesses? Madam Minister, please bring in your witnesses. We are on page 10.10 of the Department of Public Works. There was no report from the standing committee on finance on this department. Would the Minister please introduce her witnesses?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I have Mr. Larry Elkin, who is the deputy minister; and Dave Waddell, director of finance.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Madam Minister. General comments. Does the committee agree we go to the details?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We are on page 10.10. Directorate, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$7,167,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Project Management, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Project management, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$7,163,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Accommodation Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Accommodation services. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to again ask the Minister about the way that accommodations are obtained. I know I have asked this question in question period but I am still not certain, I am still not satisfied with the methodology that is being used. I know that Public Works is charged with the responsibility of obtaining the physical space for departments, and it is a department's responsibility to provide adequate work space for employees. It is also a department's responsibility to plan ahead, to look at their needs coming down this year, next year, or five years from now, and to make that known to Public Works so that there is a needs assessment done so that they do not get an order for thousands of square feet of office space today, and they go

looking tomorrow. They should know that six months ahead, a year ahead, so that they can find the best way of going about getting it and making sure that people are informed, the private sector, to provide this kind of space. I know it is a major undertaking by this department to do that kind of thing sometimes.

Why I raise this issue is that it has to be seen to be done. In order to be fair it has to be seen to be done; it just cannot be done and say that it is fair, it is the best deal we can cut. It has to be seen to be that way. Everybody that is involved in that kind of a business has an opportunity to participate. Northern companies can participate, and it can be above any kind of questioning by persons like myself.

I just want to point out that although the Minister did point out the method that they use and it did not seem to be quite standard enough so that there is no confusion. It seems to go one way or the other, sometimes. That is what I understood her to say. I want to point out that I, for one, am still not happy with the method that is used. I hope that something comes out of this and that we will make sure that her department does not come under criticism. I know that she is trying to do the best thing for her department and the people that she is serving, but it has to be seen to be done properly and above board and to give every person that is in that kind of business an opportunity to participate in government projects like this. I do not think there is a question in it, but I will be keeping a close eye in future.

I wonder why there is no long-range plan put out so that the public can see, and those in the business community that supply accommodations can see that. Not only here but all over the place. It is done in other departments that I know of. They need so much equipment and they advertise that next year they will be needing this and whoever is in that kind of business has an opportunity to at least respond or not respond if they choose. If they do not have a chance to, then there is criticism and that is where my concern lies. Mr. Chairman, I think in some cases there is not quite an opportunity for the business community to participate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the honourable Member said that it was not really a question. I provided the reply to the question he put forward as an oral question and as a written question, and that is on record. I certainly accept that he is a bit concerned that whatever we do as a Department of Public Works, given that we handle a great deal of the government's coffers, that we be extra careful in whatever we do in making sure that people have an equal access or as much northern access to bidding on contracts as possible.

I would just like to say, once again, that the department went to a great deal of trouble to try to accommodate the desires of the Legislative Assembly in trying to put a longer range plan forward so that we would know what is acceptable in terms of providing government office space.

Expansion In Capital City Restricted

As you know, there is a great deal of criticism that this government tends to feed on itself and also that we may not be completely supporting the initiative of decentralization, so we did come forward with a seven year office plan some time ago and we got sent back to the drawing board about five or six times. Subsequently it was stretched out to seven years and we were told very definitively that we have to restrict the amount of expansion in the capital city and that we should concentrate much more on the needs of communities and regions, so certainly in whatever we do we try to take that into

consideration; and given the fact that it is a money department, spending from the territorial coffers, we realize that people are looking at us very critically at this time because of the downturn in the economy and sometimes not having very much else that people can make their living on except by acquiring contracts.

We are aware of it, and I think that I have tried to answer the Member's questions. He still has a concern, and I am not disregarding that as we continue in letting out the available business contracts. However, as he knows, whether we have a five or a seven year capital plan, every year we are still subjected to what the Legislative Assembly is going to approve year by year because it comes in our yearly budget projections – whether we can expend territorial funds on a long projected basis, or maybe the Legislative Assembly is going to change its mind, or whether we proceed with the seven year capital plan even as it is.

It is a year by year problem that we have to face in trying to give notice out to contractors of what is going to be made available for them to bid on. For example, right now we have a number of items in our budget, but we cannot legally go out to tender until it is approved. Those things have to be taken into consideration, but I certainly take the Member's point and I appreciate the fact that he is pointing those particular concerns to us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: I seem to be having some problem making myself clear this week in the House, but I am not asking the department to go out and tender on every item that they are dealing with. The question that I am raising, and the issue that I am raising, is to have in that capital plan, which they do to some extent, a space requirement plan.

I have been involved with three budgets. This is the third one, and I cannot recall anything being cut out of the budget like that, because it goes through; so I am not that concerned with maybe luring the business community to something that is not going to be there because the Legislative Assembly is going to cut something out. That is not what I was getting at, Mr. Chairman. What I was getting at more than anything else is that it not be tendered so much as proposals for the provision of space. There are a number of management firms, not only here but in Hay River and Fort Smith, that deal with properties; and if they have an opportunity to look at something, they could submit a proposal. It does not cost this government anything. I know I have spoken against the use of proposals sometimes to solicit ideas, but it is also a way for a company or a provider of some service to be able to introduce their brand or their way of doing things.

There is more to illustrate what I am getting at. There are more companies than just Caterpillar, for example, that produce heavy equipment and if you are looking for road equipment, if you specifically state that kind, you eliminate a lot of people; but if you ask for a type of equipment or some equipment to do a particular job, you state the type of job that you want done and some other conditions, and somebody will submit a proposal that will point out the benefits of their product.

It is the same with accommodation. You ask for proposals and they will submit a proposal as to what they can provide, be it hotel space, Assembly room – not everybody is going to provide a room like this, for example. It is just impossible. Somebody may be able to say, "I have been waiting to do that. Now here is an opportunity to do that." It gives the small business person or a person who may hesitate to do something, an opportunity to look at that. I do not want to

belabour the point. It is done, but I think that the point I am trying to make is still that it is good that you give the business community an opportunity to say no, rather than to come back and say, "We could have done better than that." I know that everybody says that once tenders are closed. "Our pencils were not sharp," or "I could have done that." If they do not have an opportunity to even bid on it, or submit a proposal, I think we are doing the North a disservice. I know the Minister has not done that, but it is just that I say, again and again, in order for justice to be done it has to be seen to be done; or that you should do this properly and you should give everybody in the business community a fair crack at government business. It has to be seen to be done, as well. You look in the newspapers, or wherever they tender these things, or seek proposals, and they have an opportunity of going there and looking at that, and doing something about it. That is what I am getting at and that is the last comment I will make on it, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I believe those are comments that the honourable Member wished to state at this time. I do not believe there was a question there.

Accommodation Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Accommodation services, total O and M, \$35,966,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Buildings and works. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to touch upon the issue of privatization. Firstly, I want to indicate to the Minister that I am pleased with some of the remarks that the Minister made during her opening remarks yesterday, especially as they applied to getting more local people involved from the economic development point of view. I really think in the 1990s that we have to begin to think much more about economic development opportunities, especially in the smaller communities when the population is increasing so much. We have to be concerned about the young people who will have been trained to take over some of the government programs that this particular department carries out in the communities.

One of the successful programs out of this was the privatization of the heavy equipment section in Rankin Inlet in the Keewatin Region a number of years back. I think it has been very good for the people of Rankin Inlet and certainly it has been good for the government people, because the government is now utilizing local business. A number of other departments that I want to ask about, whether or not the government has put some thought into privatizing these different divisions -- I do not know what the proper term is -- I am particularly talking about electrical, furnace mechanics, as well as carpentry programs. I wonder if the government would consider privatizing these particular programs to the people, say, of Rankin Inlet, as well as in the other communities within the Keewatin Region, because I think it is extremely important that we take a look at local employment opportunities as much as possible. Thank you.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, certainly in some communities the communities have reflected that they

would like to -- not only privatization but as a community council -- do more in terms of their own maintenance. But certainly, I do not think the department in itself would look negatively if someone came forward with a proposal and presented to us or showed an interest that they would like to take over those functions, whatever they may be, within the scope of our department. So if there was a proposal that came forward I would think that we would entertain it with some favour. We have not neglected to do so when there has been a proposal put forward. I cannot tell you specifically in Keewatin if someone has made a proposal but if they have, I believe that it is the general direction of the department that any proposal should be taken seriously.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, sir. How do people go about requesting of the government to take over some of those maintenance responsibilities such as the ones that I mentioned earlier? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, there is really no set criteria on how you do it. Certainly in one area of the NWT -- not the Rankin area -- there has been a group of people that have put in a three-page suggestion paper on how they propose to take over some of the functions of DPW, because they did not want to get in a full proposal; they just wanted to know whether we would be interested in moving further with it. So they have not put in a total proposal, but that letter of interest was sent to myself. Certainly if it could be sent to the regional superintendents, I would suppose at the beginning any company would not want to go to a great deal of specifics. But the questions were asked of the department whether we would entertain certain components of take-over that they felt they had the capability of doing. So I would think at the outset I would not encourage people to go to a great deal of specifics but to make the request so that we can begin to look at the areas that they are interested in. So I would think a brief proposal could be made to the superintendent of the Department of Public Works or directly to the Yellowknife head office.

Buildings And Works, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Madam Minister. Buildings and works, O and M, total O and M, \$26,459,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Vehicles And Equipment, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Vehicles and equipment. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: I am not sure whether we had a chance to speak to the Minister about this, but the government does own and operate a lot of equipment on its own. I believe that each vehicle, for example, has a life expectancy. Is this correct, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: That is correct, Mr. Chairperson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: The new equipment nowadays, the trucks and cars and other equipment, in some cases -- I know it is an arguable point-- but in some cases the equipment nowadays is much superior to what it used to be and, in fact, the life expectancy of a vehicle, again in some cases, can be extended with the proper maintenance. Given the price of vehicles and equipment these days-- when I bought my first vehicle it was under \$2500 for a three-quarter ton truck. Now to replace that same vehicle, I am looking at upwards of 10 times the amount just to get what I got back then. I still have this vehicle, by the way. I paid \$2500 for it and I still have it and it runs perfectly well. But today to replace it I am going to pay \$25,000 for that same vehicle.

Given the conditions that prevail today, the equipment being more dependable, is the department looking at extending the life of a vehicle instead of writing it off after two years or five years; that we extend it by one or two years maybe and add a little bit on the maintenance side but reduce the capital on the other? If we save a few dollars that way it would go a long way to reducing some of the expenses of the department. I just wondered if anything had been done in that area that would either rule out or support that kind of a suggestion for extending the life of equipment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, that is part of the guidelines that we do have in assessing whether you replace a vehicle or whether you give it further maintenance. I think the honourable Member, in alluding to the care he does give his own vehicle -- sometimes DPW does not have that luxury because we have sometimes many drivers, and when the vehicle is not owned by the particular person sometimes there is not as much care given or the person does not have as much experience. So although we do try to give the longest work life to any kind of vehicle, it is generally judged by what it would cost to maintain it or do extra work on it. So the statements the Member is making are part of the guidelines that are set down in making the determination whether you replace a vehicle, extend it further or give it more maintenance to keep it going.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: I am sure that the department does have guidelines that they use. I was just asking that these guidelines be revisited in light of the changing economic times, to show the department's sincerity, if you will, in saving money through fewer purchases, perhaps, and wherever we can save a buck or \$1000 or a percentage of our overall budget. I just wondered if those guidelines would be revisited in light of what I was saying on dependability. I do not know what the guidelines are, but I just would not want to see generalities made that when something reaches an age of five years then it is just automatically done away with and put up for auction and sold just because it has reached a certain age. I guess the guidelines could extend to a number of different factors. I just wanted to have the Minister's department be made aware that these things can be reviewed. I am sure they are, but I just wanted to remind her to look at these things again in light of changing times and values and with the intent of saving in mind.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, certainly we will continue looking at each vehicle in evaluating what we do, when we replace, and when we maintain. We can certainly make that commitment because it really is part of the general guidelines in establishing when you replace and when you maintain. We will continue to do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Vehicles and equipment. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I was going to bring something up under project management but I missed it so I thought I would catch it under buildings and works, but I missed that, and now we are onto vehicles and equipment. I just have a very brief question to ask about buildings, if I could get the consent of the group to go back just for one minute.

Revert To Buildings And Works, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that we return to buildings and works?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Go ahead, Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is generally to do with buildings in the Northwest Territories and the fact that we have looked at several ways of constructing things. Since about 1974-75, I suppose, we have been concerned about energy conservation and all kinds of things to increase the life of our buildings, and so on. But over the last while we began looking at ways in which we could build things that would be standardized; they would be more cost-effective if we have buildings that were of one design, pretty well. I suppose that would be more practical. At one time we had gone the other route and allowed all kinds of local input to determine what kind of structures you wanted to have and how they should be sited, and so on.

My question is a very simple one. When you decide to go to a standardized design, what is the process that you go through to decide that this is the standardized design that you want? Do you try it out first and say this is the kind of thing that we want to have and have a lot of experience with it so you know it is exactly the kind of standard that you want to adopt throughout the Northwest Territories? We have had so many different styles of everything that you wonder how you could ever standardize something if you do not have some process to determine what it is that should be your standard garage or your standard school or your standard office building. What is the process?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, if I can, I would like Mr. Elkin, my deputy minister, to go over the process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Elkin.

MR. ELKIN: Mr. Chairperson, if I could speak to the point. Certainly the issue of standardization of all of our facilities is very important and is a high priority. The fundamental reason that standardization occurs is to reduce the cost of designing and constructing, and the cost of O and M. Also, through a standardization of the facilities themselves, and the components of the facility such as heating systems and mechanical, the fact that the systems and the buildings are the same means that people who live in the North and are trained are not always faced with the issue of going into one school with one set of systems, but the systems and the facility are basically the same and, therefore, it makes it very easy for recruiting and training of staff and moving them from community to community if they so choose.

A very fundamental part of standardization is working very closely with the client department because you cannot

standardize a building and its components until you have a standardized program. So we work with each of our clients, whether it be the Department of Education or whoever, to come up and agree on what kind of facilities they need. In the case of a school, that it remains the same from school to school. So pinning down the program standards with the client is very key. Once that is achieved, and based on the long years of experience we have in building with different kinds of materials and systems, whether it be sewer and water or heating, we are able to ensure that the systems and components that have been tested over time and work well are used.

We do not let our architects dream too much. Architects who dream do not like the Northwest Territories any more because we impose a lot of standards that they are required to follow. So it is a team effort involving the client departments, our own staff, and the consultant industry in the North to fully understand the goals the government is trying to achieve and, by and large, it strongly supports that role as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Buildings and works. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that from the deputy's remarks there is not much future for architects in the Northwest Territories. They have really designed everything that they wanted to design and they know exactly what it is that they want, and really that is not a growth industry any more.

My question still remains, does this mean that things can never change and we are stuck now into a system that is proven and we have all the answers? It seems to me that you also have to make room and a way for progress. You may have learned a few things up to now and you decided that you learned enough to lock yourself into one way of doing things. How can you change now? How can you take advantage of new technology and new ways of doing things? The world is changing very fast and you cannot just simply say, "We have all the answers; we have the perfect design," because we are learning stuff all of the time. How do you handle that once you have made up your mind about the way everything is going to be?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I know we are talking about standardization but there is room for improvement. There is room for taking advantage of new technology. Certainly, the idea of standardization is to bring some fundamental decisions and criteria that we should meet, but we are not dead and buried in the buildings that we have today. Some buildings we can make improvements to. Not everything is perfect, and things change. Standardization does not mean that we do not take those new things into consideration. If there is something that can improve a system or improve a building or lend better to the efficiency of a building, we are always exploring that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Buildings and works, O and M, total O and M, \$26,459,000. Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the Minister's policy on contracting out work that presently the staff in O and M do, and I will just give Fort Liard as an example. Fort Liard is presently serviced by staff in Fort Simpson. I think they have one employee there. But apart from that, in terms of the skilled trades, the carpentry, the plumbers and so forth, they usually travel from Fort Simpson to Liard whenever they are needed. When we were in Fort Liard on the weekend, the chief there talked about the idea of

the maintenance -- there is increasing work in the community as government's presence in buildings increase. On the other hand the band development corporation has their own contingent staff, the plumbers and electricians and other maintainers. He was wondering whether the government ever would be receptive to the idea that all services for government in Liard are contracted out to them so that it would not necessitate staff travelling from Fort Simpson, because that takes time and there are some costs involved in travelling and the work could simply be performed locally. So I was just wondering whether it is something that the government has done in the past and whether in this instance the government would consider what I suggested.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mahsi. Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I think I answered the question previously when it was asked, and a proposal to do as such wherever it makes sense, certainly we are open to proposals. I think at any given time that there is a certain obligation on the government to have some technical people that will check to see whether the interest of the government is in fact being served. So certainly, I think that on a number of occasions, particularly in that community, there have been some aspects of the government's maintenance contracted out already. So certainly it is an ongoing relationship with that community to see what else makes practical sense to do.

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

MR. SIBBESTON: I find the Minister's comments encouraging and I will certainly pass on her comments to the chief and the people involved in the band development corporation in Liard. I am sure they will look at what the Minister said as encouraging them to submit a proposal and begin some discussion with the government about taking on some of the maintenance work that is presently done by government staff in Fort Simpson. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Buildings and works, total O and M, \$26,459,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Revert To Vehicles And Equipment, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Vehicles and equipment, total O and M, \$3,862,000. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister if the territorial government vehicles-- when they are not going to be used by the department any more, they are classified as surplus in the communities. When that happens, a lot of times the hamlet would like to get them. Would it be possible to pass them on to the hamlet councils?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, the disposal of an excess vehicle normally is that it is offered to other government departments. If that is not the case, then the first option is that it is given to the hamlet.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I know that the Minister is already aware of a letter dated December 17, 1990, from the former mayor of Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok, who mentioned that there was a DPW surplus vehicle which

was to be transported or sent to Rankin Inlet for the purposes of Arctic College. The hamlet has expressed an interest in obtaining this vehicle. I am wondering, please, if the Minister would consider turning over this vehicle to the hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet instead of sending it back to Rankin Inlet. If the department would be willing to do that, I would be most appreciative on behalf of the people of Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, sir.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I will check into that particular matter and inform the Member exactly where that stands. If at all possible we will attempt to comply with his wishes.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the vehicles that are sold as surplus, that DPW no longer requires, they are sold by tender and a lot of the vehicles are in really bad shape and they are still very expensive. The people who are bidding on them bid very high; and for various reasons, I do not really agree with the way things are done in different communities. I think it would be better, if and when the old vehicles are declared surplus by the government, if you would establish a ceiling on how much can be bid for certain equipment. A lot of the community co-operatives will buy old vehicles from DPW and they spend a lot of money bidding on a vehicle that is not in very good condition. I think you should put prices where you can start bidding and how high you can go -- especially for motor vehicles and skidoos.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I will most certainly look at that. However, I guess when we have a surplus vehicle, certainly the department would attempt to get the best price that it can because that generally goes back into the general revenue of the GNWT to be used for other purposes. But I would not know how we would do that, because if we did put a ceiling on it everybody would know that. We can look at that because I think I am aware of the particular circumstances that the Member brought up, that people in the communities who may not have access to a lot of cash sometimes get left out, so I understand his problem. We can try to look at something that would make it more fair to local people to bid. I do not know how we will do it, but we will look to see if it can be accomplished.

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

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that I would like to ask you to look again at the policy and how you handle the sale of government surplus because the department sometimes sells vehicles that do not even run. I think that if you are going to sell anything you should look at the condition it is in and ensure all the parts are there. I have also heard that someone bought something from DPW, a Honda, and it did not even have wheels. I think that you should be more careful about what you are going to be selling through the department. Thank you.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I believe that when we have some item in surplus, from time to time even a vehicle that does not run, some people would like to pick it up for parts, but generally the Department of Public Works makes a statement exactly as to what kind of condition that vehicle is in or is not in. If there is a case where people are saying there is more to the vehicle than there is, then

there may be a problem, but generally when any type of item is put out to tender it is generally described and people can take a look at it and inspect it before they put a bid on it. I do not think it is the intention of the department to pretend they are selling something that is in good shape, because sometimes you even sell just tires without the vehicle, but it is generally outlined. That is the general policy so people who bid know what shape that item is in.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Arlooktoo mentioned earlier, I have mentioned this many times, and maybe you have to consider it more closely because it is not written down at all as to which parts are broken and which parts do not work at all, or which parts are missing when they are up for sale. Maybe if it is clarified as to what is wrong with the vehicle, there would be a lot more bidders and it may not be as expensive. This is the way I would want it looked at, because when all the broken parts are identified it would be a lot better. They could say that the vehicle does not work very well. Along with Mr. Arlooktoo, I am not happy with it, and I think it would be better that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, okay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Vehicles and equipment, total O and M, \$3,862,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Utilities, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Utilities, total O and M, \$32,460,000. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: I just wanted to address this area of utilities because it carries with it such a tremendous budget for O and M. It is probably one of the areas that could come under a lot of criticism because of its very nature, the heating and lighting, and both those things require fuel oil to produce, to heat water, to heat buildings, to generate electricity in large part. It all stems to a very small area of energy and that is in the form of oil. I think when you look around at the world situation, it is not an infinite resource. There were programs a few years ago that really got going, the federal government in its energy conservation program. In my opinion and because I had something to do with it directly, it took off like a house on fire, only to drop down after a while to a less visible degree of involvement. I wish to see that maintained or resurrected if it is, in fact, dead.

Revive Energy Conservation Program

I do want to applaud the Minister and her department and officials for the work they are doing in the area of energy conservation. You can see from the newspaper that there are articles in there about energy conservation from time to time. There are letters or articles in the envelopes that you get -- at least the civil servants get in their pay cheques -- that give you some direction on energy conservation moves. There is an energy conservation awareness week or day, and there is some work done in the schools, but I think we need to revisit that area as well in order to facilitate a reduction in the amount of energy used by Public Works to provide heating, lighting and hot water to all of its buildings across the North. Even a small percentage reduction will result in large numbers of dollars saved. The price of oil has gone up, as we know,

so you aim and you set a target and a small amount will result in substantial savings.

The Minister is to be applauded, and her officials are to be applauded, for the efforts that they have made, but I cannot help but notice, not only here in this government, but in the federal government and almost worldwide, there is just lip service being paid to it. People have dropped back into their old habits and when it comes to energy conservation they go gung-ho for a little while and then we get a little oil crisis and we go gung-ho again, but then we slowly move back. We want hot water and we want lights on longer than we need them, and perhaps we do not put a sweater on when we should -- it goes on and on. Although it may appear to be not cost effective initially to go and examine these buildings or do these energy audits that used to be done, in the long run I believe that we need to put more emphasis in just this one area and I think the benefits will really be visible later on down the line.

I just want to let the Minister and her officials know that I certainly am one that is watching this area carefully, as carefully as I can. I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that although they are doing a good job, a good job does not just stop once the good job is done. The federal government did that once it got its energy conservation program going. It did too good a job, I think, and it got scared and it just sort of backed off and let people slide back to their old habits and all of that.

The Minister should, every now and then, remind her officials by encouraging them and continuing to encourage them in the good work they are doing, but also to have them do more promotion and have them do more hands-on stuff too. I go around and I do not see any, even in this building, little tabs over the light switches that say, "Please turn out". The bathrooms back here, the lights are still on so we are guilty of this. I am saying, get this going again and keep it going, Madam Minister, so that it is one area that we can demonstrate our sincerity when it comes to reducing costs for utilities. It is a very expensive part of our living in the North and if we all do our part, and her department continues to promote that actively in the workplace, in the homes, in the schools, we will see that. Even within this government, judging by the size of this budget, even a very small percentage of reduction each year will result in substantial savings far greater than the cost of the promotion and the cost of the people that are necessary to deliver these programs. I am kind of stroking the Minister with kid gloves, I guess, in this area because it is an area that they need to be commended on. On the other hand, just a little reminder to never let go and never give up in that area. Do not follow the example of the federal government that just backed away, in my opinion, from energy conservation when they had energy conservation on the run. I will stop at that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Madam Minister, are you responding to that comment?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I do not think I will have to mention some of the energy saving ways we are going about conservation, because the Member surely keeps track of exactly what we are doing. I certainly thank him for acknowledging that.

As an overall government, I believe that the most significant way of trying to put together the program that we have and recognition of people's involvement in this is to get people paying for their energy consumption. I think that is what we have to move forward to as quickly as possible. Because when you are not paying for energy, we can do everything that we can in trying to get people to acknowledge that they should be part of the program as well, but if you are not

paying for it, then what the heck.

On the one project that we were asked for some information on, in terms of the residual heat projects -- one was in Lac la Martre, and we felt that we had saved about \$20,500; Rankin Inlet is \$41,000; Coppermine was \$14,000 to \$15,000; Cambridge Bay about \$90,000; Pelly Bay about \$30,000; and Sanikiluaq about \$17,000 to \$18,000. I think we have done some things in trying to measure them. There are a lot of other things that we are doing but still we have to get our clients to feel a part of the program. Part of the problem is that they do not pay so it does not seem to be all that important. So I think that is the next stage that we have to decide that we are going to move toward implementing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Vacant Buildings Using Energy

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to briefly talk about vacant buildings that belong to the GNWT. I think the vacant apartments use some electricity also. I know this from living in the Baffin because there are some vacant places. There should be something done with those vacant places. They should start checking to see how many vacant places there are and check to see how much electricity and utilities they use. I wonder if this can be looked into. Thank you.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. Generally when a building is not being used and it is being heated, the policy is that the heat gets dropped down to a very low level just to keep it so that it does not freeze. That is the general policy that the Department of Public Works personnel are supposed to adhere to. Certainly it does not pay, from time to time, to close a building totally down or turn the heat off. Those are the areas that, I suppose, have to continually be monitored closely. I hope that the people who are working in the field recognize and continue to work by the guidelines that the departments put out to them. If the Member feels that there are some areas or some instances that it is not being done, we are pleased to hear about that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Utilities. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not saying that they are not doing their job well, but I think they should look into stuff like that, or maybe shut the water system off so that they will not have to use the utilities. If the units are going to be empty for a length of time, they could drain the water and then that way they would not have to use any utilities. This is just sort of a reminder. Thank you.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Utilities, O and M, total O and M, \$32,460,000. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Under this utilities program, I do have one or two comments. I will probably tell the Minister of the Housing Corporation the same thing when we get into his department. I do want to say that I agree, to a lot of extent, with the remarks of the honourable Member for Yellowknife South. I also agree with the Minister's responses to some of these items here.

There are so many ways to save energy in the communities

because, as we all know, the weather gets extremely cold in the communities -- strong winds, the bad storms, blizzards, and situations like that. One of the things that I often notice is that when the house gets too warm in the communities we have a habit of opening the windows and letting the cold air in. There is a thermostat in place in the house, but that is the way we operate. It is a fast way to get some cold air into the house. We have a big job to do in terms of trying to conserve energy in all of the houses in the North.

I am going to speak of the ones I am most familiar with in the communities. One of the things that I used to notice even 15 to 20 years ago was that people in the communities used to snowbank the houses and build a porch onto the house or sort of attached to the house. I still, personally, do these things because I find that by snowbanking the houses and building a snow porch, it cuts down on the use of energy. There is a lot of savings from that point of view.

I wonder if the government considered using the subsidized term employment program to employ a number of people. I know that they did previously, and I wonder if they considered using STEP and employing a certain number of people in the communities to snowbank some of the government houses. I take it we are talking about government houses in this program, not necessarily the Housing Corporation housing. I am wondering what the Minister's response would be with regard to that idea in the communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I am fully in favour of any way to conserve energy because it should be known very clearly, and I think all the Members here know but maybe the general public does not know, or the users of accommodation, that the more money we spend on energy heating houses and paying for that resource, this takes away from other programs that we should be funding. As the Member says, he uses snowbanking on his own house because it is his own home and he is paying for his own utilities.

I think in terms of the STEP program the communities make good use out of that and the program is probably underfunded based on what people want to do in other areas at the community level. But I see no reason why government people living in government accommodation, given that in a lot of communities there is not too much to keep them occupied, why they cannot bank their own homes. Perhaps the reason why it is not so important at this time is because they are not paying for their energy. So I do not think at this point in time that I could say that we should re-direct the STEP program which is so vitally important and the very limited funds provided at the community level, to re-direct it to do something that occupants of government housing could probably do themselves. So certainly the subject matter is fully supported as far as I am concerned, and the way we do it. I think that the people that are living in government accommodation, even if it is not their home, they should be encouraged to do so. Maybe we can make it part of their employment.

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

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the teachers who are working for the government go out on holidays, they leave their apartments or their houses in the community and they leave their power on. The GLOs, government liaison officers, were advised to check the units when they are empty to keep the heat down and to make sure that the lights are off when they are out of town. I think this would be a help. Can this be done? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I am sure it can be done but we have the Department of Public Works people in each community and I would not want to slough off that job to GLOs who have another mandate. If the idea from people living in the community is that maybe we are not monitoring as much as we could, certainly we will take a look at that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Utilities. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was pleasantly surprised to hear the figures that were saved in energy through the use of heat recovery. It is a fairly substantial amount, \$213,000 is what I put together here. It has always been a disappointing fact to see these powerhouses in the North that are run by diesel, venting or exhausting their surplus heat into the outdoors. That did not serve any purpose. In some cases, they began simply by having vehicles parked outside the powerhouse, by the radiators, that kept them warm, and led up to the coupling of pipes into warehouses and buildings near by. This is an excellent move and I am sure Public Works is going to continue with that wherever it is possible, in conjunction with the Power Corporation.

Surplus Hydro Power Not Used On Talston River

What I wanted to ask about is the use of electricity as an alternate energy. It may not be too far off the mark to say that since Pine Point shut down its mill, or the operations there, the Talston River is still producing electricity in quantities that are not used, I would guess, there is a lot of surplus power -- some surplus power there that could be utilized in the intra. I realize that at some point in time there is going to be enough demand somewhere along the way, if they ship it out or sell it to other communities. But right now there is only Fort Smith, Hay River and Fort Resolution and whatever line loss they have, using that power -- 22 megawatts of it. I am not sure if Fort Smith, Hay River or Fort Resolution and line loss can utilize 22 megawatts. I wonder if any cost studies have been done on how to use that power to heat buildings during the winter, even on an interim basis. Because hydro electricity is generated with water and it is always there, it is going to go down the river regardless of whether it goes through the turbine or not. I thought that until such time as it is required that we use that hydro for heat and thereby cut back on the amount of fuel oil that is going to be used in those three communities that I mentioned.

I realize, of course, that you are going to have to convert heating systems to use electricity but it is not something that is going to be so expensive that the payback will not be there. Even if it does not make money, it will still save in gallons of oil by utilizing an energy source that would not otherwise be used. It does not cost any more to produce more hydro, or if it does it is substantially less, far less, than the cost of producing energy through the use of natural gas or oil or other forms. I think that for the time being, in the foreseeable future, the way from what I understand is the Power Corporation's plans to extend their line, that might be worth doing, worth looking at, at least to see if we can save some dollars there in the form of oil purchased. Not just dollars, but the fact that we are saving so many hundreds of thousands of litres of oil, which is non-renewable, by substituting a renewable resource.

As one of my colleagues said, maybe I should have done my homework to see whether or not the Minister's department has done that already, but it is something I want to go on record as saying that I would like to see happen wherever possible,

to use hydro as a form of heat generation. It is an area, if handled right, that is not environmentally unfriendly. Rivers can be harnessed, such as the Taltson, that have a limited impact on the environment around, and their end use contributes to the environmental well-being that we are all concerned with. Electricity is something that is not to a large extent contaminating, and we are killing several birds with one stone here. I just wanted to wonder aloud whether or not this government is looking at that to reduce the costs of energy in Fort Smith, Hay River and Fort Resolution through the utilization of hydro produced by the Taltson River system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I am sure we can look again, but certainly the power supply is available from Taltson to the community in whatever amounts they wish to utilize and consume. In terms of the people who live there, who are living in private dwellings, they still see the use of either propane or fuel to be less costly than the use of electrical energy if you measure the kilowatt charges. We will certainly look at it, but in the longer term the Power Corporation still plans to proceed with the Taltson hydro project to service more hydro electricity to consumers around the lake and to Yellowknife. I would think that if it was cost effective we can look at it again. It was looked at before and in terms of what you are buying it was more cost effective to use either propane or to use fuel. I think if you look at the communities -- and maybe Mr. Pollard can better assess and say how many private individuals who pay for their own utilities are utilizing electrical power instead of propane or oil -- I suppose that would be a good bearing, but we are willing to look at that suggestion again.

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

Deciding On Rate Structure For Surplus Power

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hear what the Minister is saying. I understand that it had been looked at before and it is true, if you use the same pricing as wood, few people would choose that. There are advantages in looking at the price structuring when it comes to the selling of surplus power. Often in southern grids, for off-hour power, that is time hours, the power rate is cheaper for certain industries for example, certain utilities, for example, to use power at night when it is being generated. You still have to generate power and Taltson runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, without letup. Water is going through. It does not matter whether it goes through fast or slow, it is still going through. So if it goes through at a moderately fast rate, it is going to produce energy if there is a demand. So you make a demand for it. So you have a different price structure, one for heat and one for domestic power for the operation of all other things. I have probably chosen the wrong forum for this, Mr. Chairman, so I do not want to go on and on because I am hyped up on hydro.

I think maybe when we come to the Power Corporation we can discuss this a little bit more, but I just throw this out as food for thought for the department because I know for everything I say they will probably come up with a counter argument. I am saying do not put blinkers on like you do on horses so that you only look in one direction, you should examine all these other things. I am not saying, that the Minister has done that, or her officials have done that but I am saying let us revisit it under the present conditions, the fact that the price of oil is now 43 cents a litre for heat when we can find an alternate form of energy by using hydro, without changing anything, without doing anything. It is just a matter of deciding on a rate structure that would use surplus power.

It is not the same as diesel, if you want to keep the

consumption down because it costs money to generate; but with hydro it will not make any difference, water is still going to go through that gorge. It has to; there is nowhere else for it to go, so you might as well squeeze every bit out of it as you can. I say, let us heat these government buildings in Fort Smith, Hay River and Fort Resolution with this renewable clean energy form and get away from the diesel while we can. When we put that transmission line north of the lake and tie up with the Alberta grid, as we hope to see one year, and down the Mackenzie Valley to connect to other things, that is a different story. We are using it for domestic use and other uses, but for the time being let us utilize it if it is possible. As the Minister has pointed out, they have studied it before and it may not have been cost effective then, but the price of oil was not 45 cents then. I encourage the Minister to have her officials dust off those studies and maybe get something out of them instead of seeing water and energy going for naught. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Madam Minister for your indulgence.

Utilities, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Utilities, total O and M, \$32,460,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Operations, Total O And M

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

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, it is not listed on this page, but I have not seen it in any of the other activities either. I wonder if I might ask a question on the business incentive policy. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Go ahead, Mr. Pollard.

Business Incentive Policy

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that this department has been given the task of revamping the business incentive policy and I must say that they seem to be the most knowledgeable about the policy, Mr. Chairman, so I would just like to point out to the committee, and the Minister, some of the difficulties that I see in the Northwest Territories right now with this policy, with each department having sometimes to make a decision on this particular policy. Sometimes answers are not received back on queries to this policy for some months. In one particular case, in my constituency, Mr. Chairman, by the time an appeal went through and there was a verdict rendered on the appeal, the project had been built and the person who was unsuccessful, who was the person who had appealed, the appeal was upheld. Because it took so long the job was no longer available to that company and it was done by the company which was ineligible.

This brought to my attention the fact that it does take a long time if you really are not working with this policy daily. My suggestion to the Minister would be that she investigate with her cabinet colleagues the possibility of having this department made responsible for all queries or clarifications required with the business incentive policy. Those queries may come from the general public who are being served by this government, or contractors. They may, in fact, come from other departments who are seeking information immediately. I will make that suggestion and ask if the Minister would care to comment on the validity of that suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, certainly at the present time the Department of Government Services has a mandate to monitor and answer queries in this area and I can discuss it further with my colleagues and the Minister responsible for Government Services. At the present time the items and the recommendations are going out to businesses and interested people and by April 6, we should have our response, and that can probably be incorporated in what we finally end up with at that time. I will certainly discuss it with my colleagues.

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

MR. POLLARD: That is exactly what I am suggesting, Mr. Chairman. If this new policy comes into effect that the responsibility for the interpretation of that policy should rest with this department -- I am not saying we should take anything away from any other department -- I am merely saying that it would be one or two experts on that total policy who could give almost an instant answer, as opposed to right now sometimes it has to wind its way for weeks through the system.

The other thing that I might suggest, Mr. Chairman, is that the policy is there to improve the lot of people of the Northwest Territories and to improve the economy. The Minister might also consider having an 800 number so that wherever you are, you could just call in and get clarification on a point. I think the Minister would agree that it is getting more complex, at least the draft that we have seen is getting more complex, and there needs to be a central agency that has total familiarity with the policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Operations, O and M, total O and M. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I have a query about a policy as well, that I do not see defined clearly in this budget. It may not belong to this Minister but perhaps you could inform me. Does the accommodation policy for contractors in communities, does it rest with this department?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, it rests with this department on all contracts that the Department of Public Works is responsible for.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this policy that you use in contracts that you are responsible for, is that an identical policy that is used by other government departments that may contract, such as the Housing Corporation for instance?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, other than the Housing Corporation, who has a relationship to the federal government, my understanding is that all government departments other than the Housing Corporation follow the accommodation criteria.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is nothing to be gained by the Minister reading it out to me. I would just like to ask the Minister if she could give me a copy of that policy, please.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Operations, Total O and M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Operations, operations and maintenance, total O and M, \$3,013,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Details of grants and contributions. Are there any comments on contributions? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Page 10.18, information item, schedule of lease budget requirements. Are there any questions on this item? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, union president's salary, total union president's salary, \$66,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, Arctic College, \$4,211,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Health boards, \$4,339,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, divisional boards of education, \$5,680,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties, Official Languages Agreement, \$170,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total department, \$14,466,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Program summary, total O and M, \$116,090,000. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, in revenues there is \$12,000 from a coin laundry. I wonder if the Minister could tell us where that coin laundry is, please, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, we are fully prepared to answer that question. There are 11 washers and 11 dryers in three buildings in Yellowknife – Burwash, Dorset and Rockhill – each producing an average income of \$45 per month.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Any further comments on revenues, recoveries and transfer payments?

Total O And M, Agreed

Back to page 10.9, program summary, total O and M, \$116,090,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate**Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): We will now go to the capital estimates, page 10.11, detail of capital, directorate, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$54,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total buildings and works, \$54,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total activity, \$54,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Project Management**Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Page 10.13, detail of capital, project management, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$500,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total buildings and works, \$500,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total activity, \$500,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Accommodation Services**Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Page 10.15, detail of capital, accommodation services, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$1,123,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Fort Smith, total region, \$71,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Inuvik, total region, \$336,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Baffin, total region, \$335,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Keewatin, total region, \$178,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Kitikmeot, total region, \$14,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Accommodation Services, Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total buildings and works, \$2,057,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total activity, \$2,057,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works

Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Page 10.18, detail of capital, buildings and works, headquarters, total region, \$1,385,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Fort Smith, total region, \$30,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Baffin, total region, \$100,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, under Baffin Region is Federal Building upgrade, Iqaluit. Which building is the Federal Building, please?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, it is the residence for the Arctic College. The area warehouse includes all the workshops and offices for Arctic College and the GNWT warehousing.

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

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister assure me that -- I notice there is only \$100,000 in for this year but for the future years it is anticipated at \$1.5 million -- that this upgrade will go to no portion of the building which is being slated for replacement for residences by either Arctic College or the education system generally?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, I have been informed that we can give him that assurance.

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Merci beaucoup. Baffin, total region, \$100,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Kitikmeot, total region, \$30,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total buildings and works, \$1,545,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Page 10.19, detail of capital, equipment acquisition, Baffin, total region, \$10,000. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, \$10,000 and we are looking at future years' anticipated of \$1.56 million in Sanikiluaq for the generation of power. Could the Minister tell us how close she is to making a deal with herself, in her other capacity as the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, in the transfer of this to the Power Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, the Power Corporation will take over the total operation, that is the operation, in 1992, April 1st, and the turnover of the plant in its entirety, plus the operation and maintenance, on April 1, 1993.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Are there any further comments, Mr. Pollard? Total region, \$10,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total equipment acquisition, \$10,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total activity, \$1,555,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Vehicles And Equipment**Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Page 10.21, detail of capital, vehicles and equipment, equipment acquisition, headquarters, total region, \$147,000. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: I was going to ask if this acquisition of equipment for headquarters -- this is not just for Yellowknife. This is through headquarters you are purchasing for elsewhere? A fire truck for somebody or a pickup here and there? A little something for the Kitikmeot, maybe.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, the breakdown is that some of them will serve Yellowknife and the others will serve the area, such as Rae-Edzo.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would be curious to know how much of a role the northern preference will play in these types of purchases -- where we advertise in the North to northern suppliers for vehicles, and I understand they are fairly competitive. Does the northern preference play much of a role in this purchase, or do we look to southern suppliers for this equipment?

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairperson, I can assure you that the northern preference will apply to the acquisition of these vehicles, even though the vehicles are not built in the NWT.

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

MR. WHITFORD: I did not mean to assume that they were built here. I realize that we do not have a car/truck production plant but we do have some good suppliers of vehicles that win national acclaim for their volume, for example, and it is something fairly hard to do, so I feel that if we went to them and gave them an opportunity to provide rather than to go to Edmonton or anywhere else, we would do well by it. I know we do not produce vehicles here.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I was just trying to lighten the response and it was just a joke that the -- I realize he realizes that we do not manufacture vehicles in the NWT.

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Detail of capital, vehicles and equipment, total region, \$147,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Fort Smith, total region, \$203,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Inuvik, total region, \$58,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Baffin, total region, \$170,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Equipment acquisition, Keewatin, total region. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Keewatin, vehicles and equipment various, \$91,000. Where are these going to in the Keewatin? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: There is a backhoe going to Rankin Inlet for \$52,000, approximately; the frost removal system for Rankin Inlet; and a pickup for Baker Lake.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Detail of capital, vehicles and equipment, equipment acquisition, Keewatin, total region, \$91,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Kitikmeot, total region, \$27,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total equipment acquisition, \$696,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Vehicles And Equipment, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Total activity, \$696,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Any questions on capital recoveries on page 10.23? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Program summary on page 10.9. Capital expenditures, total capital expenditures, \$4,862,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Does the committee agree that this concludes the program summary on the capital estimates? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Does the committee agree that the department is concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Thank you, Madam Minister and your witnesses. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Whitford.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: So soon?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): I have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

AN HON. MEMBER: Well done.

---Applause

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 Natilikmiot.

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 19, third reading of bills. 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; at 10:00 a.m. the special committee on constitutional reform.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 6th.

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, 10, 17, 19, 20 and 21
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., Wednesday, March 6th, 1991.

---ADJOURNMENT

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