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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Speaker

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Officers

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

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

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Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1991

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Crow, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Gargan, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Lewis, Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Mr. Ningark, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Whitford, Hon. Gordon Wray, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

Speaker's Ruling

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Sam Gargan): Before we proceed with the orders of the day I wish to provide the House my ruling on the point of order raised by the honourable Member for Aivilik, Mr. Ernerk, on March 7th.

Under Rule 21(1) a Minister may make a short factual announcement or statement of government policy. I have also reviewed the relevant sections of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, Sixth Edition, relating to statements by Ministers. Citation 350 states: "The Speaker has emphasized that both the government and opposition contributions should be brief and factual. The purpose of the ministerial statement is to convey information, not to encourage debate."

I have also reviewed Ministers' Statement 27-91(1), which contains the remarks the honourable Member for Aivilik has raised his point of order on. It is the Chair's responsibility to rule on the contents of all Ministers' statements to ensure that they conform to the rules of this House. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure that Ministers' statements conform to the rules of the House.

As indicated, Ministers' statements should not encourage debate, so I rule that Mr. Ernerk does have a point of order and would request that Ministers' statements be confined to short factual announcements or statements of government policy.

Orders of the day for Friday, March 8, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Slave River.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 21(2) to deliver a Ministers' statement on International Women's Day.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would just mention to the Members that in order for Ministers to make a Ministers' statement it has to be filed in this House an hour before sitting. That has not happened so the Minister is requesting unanimous consent to waive the rule. Does the Minister have unanimous consent?

MR. SIBBESTON: Nay.

MR. ZOE: Nay.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a nay. Unanimous consent is denied. Order please. Can we get some order in the House? Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Ministers' Statement 29-91(1): Oil And Gas Industry Announcement Of A Commitment To Work Together To Form A Consortium

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House of a recent announcement by the oil and gas industry regarding preparations for the production and transportation of Beaufort-Delta natural gas. On March 6, 1991, three producing companies, including Esso, Gulf and Shell, and three pipeline companies, including Interprovincial Pipe Lines, Foothills Pipelines and Polar Gas Pipelines, signed an agreement in principle to work toward the formation of a consortium or single company which will develop a formal application to extract Beaufort-Delta natural gas and transport it by pipeline up the Mackenzie valley to southern Canada.

The announcement shows that industry has responded positively to a desire by this government and potentially affected communities that competing proposals for a Mackenzie valley gas pipeline should be avoided at all cost. The announcement is indeed good news for the Northwest Territories.

I must, however, caution Members and the public that the announcement represents only a first small step in what will be a long and complex process of project design, public review, approval and construction. It commits the companies only to work together to form this consortium; it does not announce the actual formation of the consortium, nor does it indicate that there is even a real project yet.

If and when a consortium is formed, its role will be only to prepare a gas production and pipeline project proposal and to obtain the necessary project approvals through the appropriate regulatory and public review processes.

Although this announcement is only a commitment by the six companies to work together, I am pleased that industry has kept the North informed. The industry announcement was made in the form of a short letter to my office; the three regional councils in the Delta, Sahtu and Deh Cho; Inuvialuit, Dene and Metis leaders; and the two DIZ, development impact zone groups in the Western Arctic. I will table this letter later today.

The main points to stress, once again, are that the industry members are committed to work together toward the formation of a single project consortium. This is consistent with GNWT and local community wishes to avoid competing pipeline interests. This announcement is just one small step in a long and complex process which could take more than half a decade before any construction can begin.

Mr. Speaker, it is widely acknowledged that the whole project planning and development process will benefit from, and indeed require, consultation with and the involvement of all three levels of government, northern interest groups, claimant groups and the public. This commitment to participation in project planning is clearly signalled by industry and we expect them to live up to this promise.

I have sketched out only a few of the major steps in the process, but I hope this gives Members of this House a better understanding of the announcement and its relationship to the potential gas project. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to keep this House informed on the status of the formation of a single consortium in general and of the potential gas production and pipeline project in particular. Thank you very much for your attention.

---Applause

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Madam Minister.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On International Women's Day

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the opportunity today to use my Member's statement to indicate to the Members that every March 8, International Women's Day events around the world continue to express women's concerns and to look back at the positive steps toward equality.

International Women's Day has been celebrated around the world for over 80 years. It commemorates women's struggles for better working conditions, for the right to vote and for peace in the early years of this century. In 1977, the United Nations passed a resolution calling on countries to celebrate an annual day for women's rights and international peace. Celebrations are held each year across Canada, including the Northwest Territories.

Here in the Territories, it is an opportunity to recognize the contribution women are making to ensure equality. This year a number of communities will be holding events to celebrate International Women's Day. In Coppermine, women will gather to recall the steps taken in the last year. Hay River will have an open house. A cross section of women from Yellowknife gather at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre to kick off the week-long celebration. The schedule of events, partially sponsored by the women's initiative grant program, includes women in the church; women and politics; music; films and companionship.

Here in the North it is an opportunity to recognize the contribution women are making to community life. Currently, four out of 26 chiefs and sub-chiefs of the Dene Nation are women and six out of the 13 Metis local presidents are women. While these numbers show that women are still not equal partners in the political life in our communities, they certainly are improving. More and more women are taking on leadership roles and I wish to commend them for their hard work and important contribution.

There are many celebrations across the North this week and I would like to encourage Members of this House, particularly Mr. Zoe and Mr. Sibbeston, to support and promote women's events and programs within their constituencies as a way of recognizing the valuable contribution women make to northern society. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Members' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pedersen.

Member's Statement On Initiatives Of Coppermine Women

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I

intended to deliver a prepared statement, but I will not do that. I will save that for Monday. Instead, I would like to make some comments on International Women's Day as well. Mr. Speaker, the contribution that women make in our society is often not recognized as well as it should be.

The Member opposite just referred to celebrations that will take place in Coppermine today and I would like to point out that three of the events that will be celebrated, and have happened this year in Coppermine, is the establishment of a day-care centre which operates entirely in Inuinnaktun and is a very, very successful endeavour in my home community, well supported by the community. It has received tremendous presents in the form of facilities, toys, et cetera, whatever is needed to operate it, as well as parental support for the operation.

There is also a very dynamic social development plan that the women's group in Coppermine have been responsible for and which is in the process of being carried out now, which will provide a multi-purpose facility, not just for women but for the betterment of the community as a whole, because in my home community the problems that are often referred to as "women's problems" are, in fact, not viewed as being exclusively women's problems. They are family problems; they are human problems; they are the problems of our community; but unfortunately the results of violence, and so on -- the brunt of that is usually borne by women.

There is also another project that the women of my community have been very involved in and that is the set-up of a non-profit housing society. We hope that through that, additional housing units will be provided through the renovations of units that would have otherwise been discarded.

So today, again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and wish the women of the North good luck and a happy International Women's Day.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

Member's Statement On Women In Our Society

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, today, would like to share a few thoughts that I have on this international day for women. I think in this day we all should reflect on the contributions that women make to our society. I think we should also, though, recognize the frustrations, in fact the very physical dangers that our mothers, our sisters, our wives, our daughters, face every day as they go through life. I think on this day men, especially, should look deep into themselves and think to themselves really how we, as men, value women is really how we value ourselves and how we value society. I think today is a day that all men should reflect on that very important role that women have in our society and should reflect on ways that we can make our society more caring, more understanding, and more cognizant that there is no way whatsoever that the women in our society should have to face the barriers and the dangers that they face on a daily basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lewis.

Member's Statement On Quality Of Department Of Health Key Chains

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very small item but at the beginning of this week we were aware that we were into nutrition and we were also into women's week. I would like to thank the Minister, whom I have tremendous respect for, for giving us this key chain here with a beautiful ribbon on it with the colours of Yellowknife, yellow and blue, on it, and two other cards, also yellow and blue. Mine has my name on it and I am sure all other Members have their names on these pieces of cardboard. I am sure this was not the brainchild, though, of this particular Minister because this particular cost item to government has "Eat Right" on one side and "Feel Great" on the other and Inuktitut on the back; it has got "Northwest Territories Health Nutrition Section" on it. But when I got this on Monday, my name was on these pieces of cardboard, but they do not stay on very long. So all I have got now is a key chain, which, if I put my keys on it and they get lost, will be returned to the Northwest Territories health nutrition section, and they will not know who they belong to.

So I would like to compliment the Minister for telling us all about the importance of nutrition and making us aware of it, but I am sure that with her engineering background and her understanding of practical matters, as a practical, modern woman, the next time she does this she will make it in such a way that if these were to get lost, at least the person's name would be on the thing that gets lost and you do not attach it to flimsy bits of paper like this. Thank you.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Good statement.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: You are using your time, Brian. You are using your time!

MR. LEWIS: It's Friday.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on March 1, regarding the federal budget as it applies to the Northwest Territories and Yukon. The 1991 federal budget includes an increase in funding for the territorial governments of \$87.3 million from 1990-91 to 1991-92. The Government of the Northwest Territories' share of this increase is \$59 million.

This amount represents the increase in the grant to the Government of the Northwest Territories under the formula financing agreement and does not represent any special incremental funding to this government.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O141-91(1): Rescheduling Upgrading Of Sanikiluaq Runway

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Crow on February 25th, with regard to the upgrading of the Sanikiluaq runway. On Monday, February 25th, the Member from Sanikiluaq pointed out that some medivac flights using Twin Otters at the Sanikiluaq airport have experienced difficulties in landing and taking off from the runway. The Member wanted to know if

the Department of Transportation intended to advance Transport Canada's schedule for reconstruction of the airport.

Sanikiluaq is not well supplied with natural deposits of good materials for the construction of runways. The existing runway has a soft base which has presented the department with special maintenance problems in keeping the runway in good operating condition. The department has tried several different approaches to the runway's maintenance with varying degrees of success. However, Mr. Speaker, this summer the airport's maintenance staff will take delivery of a new vibratory compactor. A vibratory compactor can achieve much better compaction on the runway surface than the conventional "wobbly-wheel" compactor presently in use. The department expects this new piece of equipment will go a long way to remedying the poor condition of the runway.

The Sanikiluaq airport is one to the airports involved in the Arctic B and C airports transfer from Transport Canada. The Member is correct in saying that according to Transport Canada's capital plan, the Sanikiluaq airport is scheduled for a three-year reconstruction program over the fiscal years 1991-93 to 1994-95.

Under Transport Canada's jurisdiction, the capital planning for community airports in the Northwest Territories is divided amongst three of Transport Canada's regional administrative areas. The advantage of the airports transfer, when it comes about, is that the Department of Transportation can re-examine Transport Canada's three separate plans and devise a single, integrated plan from a territorial perspective. At this stage, the department has not had an opportunity to take a close look at Transport Canada's plans to see how much sense they make. For this reason, it is too early for me to say if the department will want to or be able to advance the reconstruction of the Sanikiluaq airport, but having Mr. Crow's question, I can say that the department will certainly give it careful consideration.

In any case, Mr. Speaker, I hope the Member will find the arrival of the new compactor this summer will result in an almost immediate improvement in the runway condition. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Ms. Cournoyea.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Pudluk on chlorine in the water. Mr. Speaker, the source of water for the community of Resolute Bay is a lake and, as such, is considered a surface water supply. Germs cannot be prevented from entering surface waters, but a small amount of chlorine added to the water will kill most germs that cause sickness. Chlorine has been used for many years by communities across Canada and the Northwest Territories to protect drinking water supplies.

Very little chlorine is required to make water safe for drinking. The proper amount of chlorine added to the water does not cause taste or smell. Occasionally there may be some noticeable taste or smell immediately following the addition of chlorine to the drinking water, but this is not dangerous to health. Chlorine levels in water supplies are monitored regularly to ensure that the correct amount is being added. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Returns to oral questions.

MR. ZOE: Point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Zoe, your point of order.

Point Of Order

MR. ZOE: My point of order, Mr. Speaker, is under Rule 23(1) with regard to Members' statements. The honourable Member for Slave River made a statement with respect to International Women's Day. I have no problem with the contents of the statement, but according to the rules, Mr. Speaker, under Rule 23(4): "A Minister may make a statement in accordance with Rule 23(1), but such statements must not relate to the Member's responsibility as a Minister." Mr. Speaker, under that particular rule I would like to get your ruling on the Member's statement that the Member for Slave River made. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. Mr. Zoe, the Chair will take your point of order and make a ruling.

MR. SIBBESTON: Point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston, your point of order.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, too. The Member, in the statement that she ought not to have made under this heading, unfairly mentioned myself and Mr. Zoe and we want a public apology.

--Laughter

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order there, Mr. Sibbeston. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O276-91(1): Pilot Signage Project, Mackenzie Highway

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Some time ago he made a comment about signs on the highways not lasting two or three days after they were put up. I have been pushing for some time now to have interpretive signs, larger ones, with more details about our fine, beautiful territory and a bit of history, and I would like to ask the Minister if his department would consider a pilot project and put up, say, three signs between Enterprise and Yellowknife in different regions, which I could suggest to him, and use that as a test to see how long they would, in fact, last. I have a feeling that they would last much longer than the two or three days that he indicates. I wonder if his department would consider that as a pilot project this summer.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O276-91(1): Pilot Signage Project, Mackenzie Highway

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly will consider it. The Member has always given me very practical suggestions. I still feel they are not going to last too long. The present signs that we have are constructed of metal, probably about one inch thick, and they do not last too long. I want to show you what happens to them, Mr. Speaker. This is a typical highway sign. As you can see, shotgun bullets, you can see how much chance a plywood sign has of lasting out on that highway. This is one of the better ones, by the way. This is one of the ones that we salvaged. I will it take under consideration, Mr. Speaker, but I am not hopeful for their longevity. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just to remind Members that you

cannot display signs in...

--Laughter

Mainly because you cannot record it in Hansard. Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O277-91(1): Moneys For Salaries, Expo '92, Returning To NWT

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have given sort of second reading to a bill on providing the revolving funds so that this government could participate in Expo '92 in Seville. I have tried to ask the Minister for Economic Development and Tourism a straight economic question. He has indicated that \$1.4 million in the business plan would, in fact, come to the people of the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask the Minister, how is he going to guarantee this \$1.4 million for salaries is going to come to the people of the Northwest Territories?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I would like you to rule if the question is in order, given the Speaker's ruling yesterday.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Wray, on your point of order, the bill that you have referred to has had second reading and is in committee of the whole, as are all of the other bills including the financial bill, the budget. All Members do not know whether or not, nor does the Minister know whether or not, those bills are going to be passed. Because they are in consideration, Members are allowed to ask questions on it. I would like Mr. Lewis to repeat his question.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not repeat the preamble. I would like to ask the Minister, since he stated in his argument that we should consider going to Seville, in his argument he had indicated that \$1.4 million would come to the people of the Northwest Territories in salaries. How is he going to be able to guarantee that that \$1.4 million is going to come in salaries to the people of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O277-91(1): Moneys For Salaries, Expo '92, Returning To NWT

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seeing that it is Friday morning, I will not challenge your ruling. I cannot guarantee anything at this point in time. I cannot guarantee that the bill is going to pass. I cannot guarantee that the business plan is going to stay the same. I cannot guarantee that we are going to get all Northerners who are going to reply to the job advertising. There is nothing that I can guarantee at this point in time. All that we are doing is proposing and hoping that this is what we are going to be able to do, but obviously until closer to the time, until we start seeing the number fall-out, and until we start seeing who is applying for these jobs, there are no guarantees.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Again, just to remind Members that Members cannot challenge the Chair. Mr. Lewis.

Question O278-91(1): Availability Of Business Plan For Expo '92

MR. LEWIS: Since we are all open-minded Members of this House, Mr. Speaker, and we have already agreed with the principle and it seems like a good idea, I would like to ask the

Minister, since we will be discussing this eventually in committee of the whole, is he prepared to table in this House the business plan which accompanies any decision we have to make as to whether this is a good economic idea or not? Will he give us that business plan in this House?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: New question. Mr. Wray.

Return To Question O278-91(1): Availability Of Business Plan For Expo '92

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. I see absolutely no reason why not. I have given it to all Members of the standing committee already. Why would I not give you the business plan? However, it should be pointed out that the business plan is a very preliminary business plan and will change over the next two years; there is no question about that. So what you see today may not be the business plan six months from now or 12 months from now.

Business plans are not permanent things. They change with differing situations, but certainly the preliminary business plan that we have prepared right now, most certainly the Members can have it. I have made that available to all of the Members already and there is no reason why I would not put it in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Lewis, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O278-91(1): Availability Of Business Plan For Expo '92

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What has happened is that the business plan was explained to some Members of the standing committee on finance, not all Members, as I understand it. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism when, in fact, he is prepared to table that business plan in this House so that we can look at it to find out and determine whether this is a good economic venture or not.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Wray.

Further Return To Question O278-91(1): Availability Of Business Plan For Expo '92

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. The business plan was presented to more than just the standing committee on finance; all Members were invited to a briefing. Members who chose to go were the ones that saw it. I will table the business plan at the same time as we are discussing the bill in committee of the whole.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lewis, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O278-91(1): Availability Of Business Plan For Expo '92

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I would like to be better prepared, could we, in fact, get that business plan tabled in this House before we get into the details of the bill so that Members can really be better prepared to look critically at the bill when we discuss it in committee of the whole?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Wray.

Further Return To Question O278-91(1): Availability Of Business Plan For Expo '92

HON. GORDON WRAY: I intend to bring the bill forward next

week, and the Member already has the business plan. He was given a copy of it. Maybe he has lost it or he did not look at it, but if he wants another copy he can have it. The press has it, and it is no big secret. I will table it next week. The bill will probably go forward next week anyway, so there is no great problem.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question O279-91(1): Impact Of Federal Budget On Implementation Of Green Plan

MR. ZOE: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Minister, has the recent federal government budget had any impact on the implementation of the Green Plan that the federal government announced last year?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Allooooloo.

Return To Question O279-91(1): Impact Of Federal Budget On Implementation Of Green Plan

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not to my knowledge.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question O280-91(1): Plan To Combat Spruce Budworm Infestation, Liard Valley

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Yesterday the Minister gave me a copy of the report on the spruce budworm and insect infestation in the Liard valley. I had a question last fall that he answered and said that the team that was going to be studying this problem would present some recommendations. The report does not contain any recommendations, Mr. Speaker, although it gives a good outline of the problem. I would like to ask the Minister if he has the recommendations, because we are nearing the time when these little critters are going to start getting active again and I would like to know if he has the recommendations for dealing with this problem.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Allooooloo.

Return To Question O280-91(1): Plan To Combat Spruce Budworm Infestation, Liard Valley

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had preliminary discussions with the community of Fort Liard in terms of finding possible solutions to this problem. It is our understanding, on the advice of Forestry Canada, that the initiatives that we had taken in terms of correcting the problem were not working. One of the ways to possibly combat the problem is to harvest the forest that is infected. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Whitford, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O280-91(1): Plan To Combat Spruce Budworm Infestation, Liard Valley

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the answer but I do not think that was quite what I was asking. I was asking if there was a series of recommendations that they may have made, because the problem did not exist only after reading this report, and it did not exist only in the Liard valley, but also up the Slave River. I just wondered if there were any recommendations made by these entomologists as to what

action the department should take to combat this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Allooloo.

Further Return To Question O280-91(1): Plan To Combat Spruce Budworm Infestation, Liard Valley

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is looking at possible solutions and is also putting together an action plan to address the problem that would include the insect and disease survey, preparation of detailed maps of the most heavily infested areas, preparing a community protection plan for Fort Liard which will address the removal of the most heavily infested stands around the community and developing a harvest plan for Fort Liard. This will identify the stands identified in the community protection plan and stands on the west side of the river which would be removed. It will also assess the need for a biological control program in the Fort Liard area next summer. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question O281-91(1): Plans To Offset Funding Cuts In Land Use Planning

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, Members are aware that federal Minister Siddon announced recently that funding for the land use planning program was being cut. The Government Leader, on his trip to Fort Simpson and other small communities in my area last week, saw the real effects of that announcement, with good people being laid off and good people who had been involved to date not being able to continue working in this area. While I appreciate that the Minister of Renewable Resources has written a letter to the Minister about this, I am wondering if the Government Leader himself is planning to do anything about this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O281-91(1): Plans To Offset Funding Cuts In Land Use Planning

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct that I did see first-hand the good work that was being done in the Deh Cho region on land use planning, and I was informed when I visited the regional council office and got a briefing that, in fact, work is well under way and that perhaps the plan is as much as half completed in that region, which makes it very unfortunate that it should be stopped just when committees are active in communities and getting involved in this important work.

Mr. Speaker, I have been talking to the Minister of Renewable Resources about how we can put pressure on the federal government to reconsider this decision. I am pleased to learn that Mr. Allooloo is already planning to personally meet with Minister Siddon on this matter within weeks, and depending on the results of that meeting, Mr. Speaker, I will be involved as well. I think that the first step would be for the responsible Minister to have a meeting with his federal counterpart, and I will be following that closely and following up as necessary once Mr. Allooloo makes that trip to Ottawa and has those discussions with Mr. Siddon. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Sibbeston, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O281-91(1): Plans To Offset Funding Cuts In Land Use Planning

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Government Leader's opinion about this matter because it seems to me

that in the announcement cutting off the funding, there was something said about the funding continuing for the areas where land claims negotiations were still going on. The cut was really in those areas where land claims were not being done, especially in places like the Deh Cho. I want to ask the Government Leader whether he thinks the Dene/Metis people that are not prepared to negotiate regional claims are being somewhat punished for not co-operating in a sense with the federal government, and part of this punishment is cutting off the funds. Maybe it is a bit of a cynical view, but Mr. Patterson knows the federal government and he knows Mr. Siddon, and is it possible that that is the approach and attitude of the federal government and the federal Minister?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O281-91(1): Plans To Offset Funding Cuts In Land Use Planning

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I know that there is a rule in our House about not attributing motives, and it is difficult for me to speculate on the motives that might have been in place for, in effect, discriminating between regions in the Northwest Territories in allowing some work to continue and some not to continue. I do believe that the federal Minister stated that in his opinion the process, considering the cost -- and I think the government had mentioned having spent some \$27 million on the process to date -- had not achieved many results. That was the reason given by the federal Minister.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that there are restraint problems required by the size of the federal deficit. However, Mr. Speaker, I would agree with the Member that, especially in areas where claims talks have been suspended, unfortunately, especially in those areas, then the need for land use planning is even greater. We saw that, Mr. Speaker, over the Patterson sawmill issue a year or two ago when, because there was not progress on land selection and land use planning in place, there was confusion and frustration and anger about land use decisions that were made by government. I would say that it is especially important that if the process is to be continued it should be continued in places where there is not the security and comfort of claims talks going on. I agree with the Member that it is not fair to discriminate between regions, that if moneys are being advanced in part of the Territories, they should be advanced or continued in the remainder, especially if funding is being cut off in one region and extended in another. That does not make sense at all. Mr. Speaker, I will not speculate on the reason, but I agree there is no good reason for this discriminatory behaviour and that is a point we will be making strongly with the federal Minister. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question O282-91(1): Federal Budget Impact On Green Plan

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in light of the response that I received from the Minister for Renewable Resources, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance a question. Would the Minister of Finance confirm that the recent federal government budget will not have any impact on the implementation of the Green Plan?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

Return To Question O282-91(1): Federal Budget Impact On Green Plan

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I can only repeat what the Minister of Renewable Resources said. What

we know right now is that they are adding a year to the Green Plan. We do not know right now what any impact will be. At this point in time we have no indication that there will be an impact to this. The federal government has not actually clarified how they are going to do the plan over six years, as opposed to over five years. The Minister is correct, there is not an impact to us. We are exploring it and will be able to get back to you, if in fact there is an impact, but now we do not know of the impact.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O283-91(1): Constitutional Development

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I refer to the Speech from the Throne, Tabled Document 1-91(1). Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that this government has indicated that its priority for the rest of this Assembly will be constitutional development; and in light of the fact that the Belanger Campeau Commission in Quebec has caused so much controversy and the Allaire report has caused so much controversy; the Spicer Commission seems to be mired in all kinds of difficulties, all kinds of public scandal or the costs about people quitting, and in light of the fact that the federal government's committee on the amending formula is also running into some difficulty, I would like to ask the Government Leader what this government proposes in order to avoid all the pitfalls that seem to be plaguing all the constitutional work that is going on in this country in the whole area of constitutional development, which this government has said in the Throne Speech is the major issue we have to face over the next few months.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O283-91(1): Constitutional Development

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to say we are looking forward to getting sound advice and ideas from the honourable Members of this Assembly when we have the debate later on in this session on constitutional and political development in the Territories and in the country. We will need, and the country will need, all the wise advice that can be provided by the Northwest Territories. May I say, Mr. Speaker, I think that we are in a unique position in Canada in being able to offer good advice on how to deal with problems like linguistic tensions. The Government of Canada is having problems dealing with two official languages. We have effortlessly decided that we can support and respect and officially recognize many more than two official languages, Mr. Speaker, and we are, in this very House, showing respect and tolerance for all the working languages of the Northwest Territories.

We also have experience to offer in dealing with aboriginal rights and recognizing aboriginal rights within the context of public government. Mr. Speaker, straddling all the provinces in this country and occupying a unique part of Canada which is neither east nor west in the national context, I think we can bring a fresh voice and a fresh perspective to the national debate.

We are now working closely with Members of this Assembly through our special committee on constitutional reform, which is actually going to be meeting again today, which involves the Office of the Speaker, which involves myself as well as ordinary Members and other Ministers of the government. Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Member that we are not just looking at territorial issues in that committee, but we are also looking at making a contribution to the national debate, preparing

submissions on the amending formula and preparing to take our part in determining the future of Canada through the other processes that are ongoing, both nationally and in various provinces in the country. We are going to continue to stay involved as we became involved in the Meech Lake process, Mr. Speaker, but we will need all the help we can get from the people of the Territories and from honourable Members of this House. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Pollard.

Question O284-91(1): Northern Businesses As Part Of Oil And Gas Consortium

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Energy. She made a great announcement today about the agreement in principle for a consortium of pipeline companies and oil producers. My question to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, does she feel that there might be a place at that table, as part of the consortium, for a consortium of northern business people including IDC, Inuvialuit Development Corporation, MDC, Metis Development Corporation, DDC, Dene Development Corporation, those development corporations and private business? Could we in some small way be part of that consortium, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Madam Minister.

Return To Question O284-91(1): Northern Businesses As Part Of Oil And Gas Consortium

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, in this time of economic depression, I would think that most anybody would be welcome; however, it is very early in the process. I think it is very unusual for this number of people and pipeline companies and other major companies to get together in this fashion to work together. I am very pleased that they took our suggestion that we only wanted to deal with one proposal because that would accommodate better the involvement of people who are interested in participating. I certainly feel that at this stage we can find some involvement and if the companies do decide to get together past that stage, I certainly think that they have had the message that others would be interested in taking part in the construction or a major proposal such as that. As a government we will continue to pursue that representation on behalf of the residents and corporations of the Northwest Territories.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Pedersen.

Question O285-91(1): GNWT Position On Staff Housing

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning the federal government announced that they would be getting out of staff housing in four northern communities: Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith and Whitehorse. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see that one government, at least, listens to motions in this House and pays attention to them. I am just wondering if the Government Leader would reconsider our government's response to the motion to get out of staff housing and follow the example of the federal government, and instead of changing rents, make a commitment to get out of staff housing as the motion from this House requested them to do.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O285-91(1): GNWT Position On Staff Housing

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I heard the announcement this morning as well, but I have not got any details other than there was mention of a three-year time period and there was mention of government employees having the opportunity to purchase federal staff housing. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the honourable Member that it was precisely that plan of allowing employees to purchase government staff housing, the details of which were announced in this House last session. If I understand the federal announcement correctly, they have followed our lead, Mr. Speaker, in suggesting that government employees should be able to buy their houses.

I would like to point out to the honourable Member that the federal move, as I understand it, is confined to only four communities in the Territories, whereas our announcement applied to all communities in the Territories.

I will closely examine the federal announcement, Mr. Speaker. I must say it is welcome in that over the years, we have been frustrated that steps we have taken toward moving out of staff housing have always been hindered by the reluctance of the federal government to do anything about their low rents, their expensive subsidies and provision of furniture at no cost and utilities at no cost, and the like.

I think that we should welcome the steps that the federal government has taken and I can assure the honourable Member that if the federal government has gone farther than we have, I will be very surprised. I will want to make sure that we are doing at least what they are doing because it is about time the federal government caught up with steps that we have already begun. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Pedersen.

Supplementary To Question O285-91(1): GNWT Position On Staff Housing

MR. PEDERSEN: To the Government Leader, supplementary. Mr. Government Leader, how many staff housing units have we sold since the policy that you have referred to was announced?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O285-91(1): GNWT Position On Staff Housing

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A prerequisite to the sale of staff housing is an assessment and evaluation of those units. I am sure the Member will appreciate, Mr. Speaker, that with communities all across the Northwest Territories this is no small undertaking. Funds have been allocated for the special costs associated with evaluating and appraising staff housing units and that work is proceeding at pace.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, without knowing the details, that there have been very few, if any, sales since the announcement last session because the priority has been to get appraisals done. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

Question O286-91(1): Oil And Gas Consortium To Transport Beaufort-Delta Natural Gas

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government Leader a question I would normally have asked the Minister of Energy, but I think the issue is really larger than what she can deal with. This deals with the announcement by Ms. Cournoyea this morning about the oil and gas industry announcing a consortium to be in place with a view to transporting the Beaufort-Delta natural gas.

While some Members in this House may think this is good news and react positively to it, on behalf of my own constituents, the Dene and Metis people living in the Deh Cho area, I cannot be as optimistic and I cannot be as elated about it because I have to express what I know would be their concern about the prospects of a major pipeline going through their area while land claims in their area are not settled.

I wonder if the Government Leader can tell me what he is doing to protect the interest of all people. Whereas the Inuvialuit people in the Delta and the Beaufort area look at a project like this positively, and other Dene/Metis along the road where they have land claims would see it positively. In our Deh Cho area where there are no land claims negotiations and no prospects on the horizon of a breakthrough with respect to negotiations with the federal government on restarting claims, what is the Government Leader doing to protect the Dene/Metis interests in our area to be sure that a project like this does not go without their concurrence and without there being a land claims agreement in place?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O286-91(1): Oil And Gas Consortium To Transport Beaufort-Delta Natural Gas

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have never understood the recent position of the Dene Nation and the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories to be, "No development." Mr. Speaker, I have understood the position to be that the Dene Nation and the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories wanted to be satisfied that development in the Mackenzie valley took place with respect to the environment and also with an opportunity for full public participation in development decisions, and full access to northern benefits. That was my understanding of the position taken recently in connection with the gas export licence hearings.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reinforce what the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources stated today, that this is only a first step and there is a long and complex process of public review and approval before we get to the stage of decision-making. I believe, from my meetings with Dene and Metis leaders, that what they are saying is, "This time, if there is going to be a major development, we do not want to be left out. We do not want to see the benefits pass us by." I also know those communities are saying, "Our young people do not have jobs. Our development corporations are faltering because of lack of opportunities," and I think that if we can handle their interests, as a government, with respect and ensure that they have an opportunity to have a full say before decisions are taken and participate fully in opportunities that may be provided, that we can get the best of both worlds. We can get economic opportunities, we can get environmental respect, but we can also have a chance for people in our communities in the Mackenzie valley who are looking for work and looking for opportunities to participate.

It is a balancing act, Mr. Speaker, and I think that our government is well prepared to make sure that aboriginal people's interests are not overlooked, land claims or no land claims. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Sibbeston.

Supplementary To Question O286-91(1): Oil And Gas Consortium To Transport Beaufort-Delta Natural Gas

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I think I am probably in the best position to gauge the views of my constituents. I think the Government Leader is saying that people are not against development -- this was true, but I think that attitude -- the Government Leader must remember that in the last few years we have been in an era and a period of positive things happening in the North with land claims negotiations and with changes in our government, but in the last few months, since last summer, with land claims coming to a halt in our area, I think I have begun to experience and see that the positive attitude toward government is not as it was a year or two back. The possibility in our area exists of people going back to the old view of being against development, particularly when there was no...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston, would you state your question, please?

MR. SIBBESTON: I was working up to it nicely, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

I just wanted to get, again, from the Government Leader, what is the government going to do to protect all interests? Whereas the interests of the Delta are there in making sure that the gas and so forth from their area is being sent south, along the route there are some Dene and Metis people that may be against a development such as this. I just want assurance from the Government Leader that in dealing with this consortium they are not jumping up and down with joy and forgetting that there are some Dene and Metis along the way who are not very happy these days and may, in fact, oppose a development project such as this because their land claims are not settled. What is the Government Leader doing to protect my constituents' interests in this matter?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I would like to remind the Members to keep their preamble short if it is on a supplementary question. Mr. Patterson.

Further Return To Question O286-91(1): Oil And Gas Consortium To Transport Beaufort-Delta Natural Gas

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I think the Member will recall sitting with me just last week in the office of the Deh Cho Regional Council talking about the new priorities that had emerged with the regional council now that claims are off the agenda, as it were, as a pressing issue that preoccupied them at every meeting. The flavour I got from the discussion with the people associated with the regional council was that what people are now turning toward in this region, Mr. Speaker, are economic development opportunities and training associated with economic development. This was going to be a new priority of the Deh Cho Regional Council, and I was asked whether our government would respond, and I welcome the news, Mr. Speaker, because I think that we are well placed with our economic strategy, with Arctic College and the employment strategy that the Minister of Education is putting together, we are well placed to prepare people for the future and we have a window of time, Mr. Speaker. It is very clear that, with respect to this announcement, it is only the first of a very long process; I think that my sense is that

communities are saying, "We want to be better prepared for these kinds of projects by being trained, by having small businesses established which are locally owned and ready to take advantage of some of these opportunities."

As far as aboriginal rights and land claims are concerned, Mr. Speaker, I think that it is not a specific constitutional responsibility of our government. We are not responsible under the Constitution of Canada for dealing with issues like land claims and aboriginal rights, and it is difficult for me to answer precisely what we are going to be doing, except that we will be encouraging some kind of a just resolution of those issues with the Government of Canada; but in the meantime, communities that wish to be prepared for economic opportunities, whatever they might be, will get the full support of this government. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Zoe.

Question O287-91(1): Possible Benefits Accruing From Green Plan

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Minister, you will recall last year that the federal government announced a Green Plan to upgrade water and sewer infrastructure, particularly on reserves. Has the department determined if we can tap into this resource?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, the department is aware of the announcement and the department is interested in the possibility of some advantages accruing to not only the reserve but northern communities as well. As yet we do not have anything positive to report, but I will take the question as notice and ask if my department can give the Member an up-to-date report on the work they are doing in this area.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O288-91(1): Tapping The Aurora Borealis For Electrical Power

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is International Women's Day, Mr. Speaker, so I would like to address this question to the Minister responsible for power, that is the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. I would like to ask the Minister, in her analysis of all the power sources in the Northwest Territories, has she examined the massive electrical power that exists in the aurora borealis? Did she know that there was enough electrical power there to provide, in fact, all the electrical requirements for all of North America? Was she aware of that?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam Minister

Return To Question O288-91(1): Tapping The Aurora Borealis For Electrical Power

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the tapping of the aurora borealis has been an exercise that has been going on for many, many years. In Inuvik in 1959, 1960, 1962 and 1963 we had a very large number of people coming from the USSR and the University of Alaska, measuring and making some projections on what could be utilized from the aurora borealis. I am aware of the statements and information recently that have brought in a broader magnitude of possibilities. However, I am sorry to say that we have not, particularly within the Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources or the Power Corporation, extended ourselves to

such magnitudes. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Lewis, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O288-91(1): Tapping The Aurora Borealis For Electrical Power

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are very familiar with the Japanese tourists that come here in the summer, but there is now a massive research project being undertaken by a very distinguished Japanese scientist in order to capture this power. Is the Minister responsible for power aware that, once again, the Japanese have examined this and have seen it for its economic potential? Is she aware of this research project?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question O288-91(1): Tapping The Aurora Borealis For Electrical Power

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Lewis, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O288-91(1): Tapping The Aurora Borealis For Electrical Power

MR. LEWIS: Since it seems that once more the Japanese have found ingenious ways to tap the resources of the world, and since the aurora borealis is a feature in our skies that we see right throughout the winter, would the Minister responsible for power keep in touch with this development to see if, in fact, any advantages could accrue to the people of the Northwest Territories?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

Further Return To Question O288-91(1): Tapping The Aurora Borealis For Electrical Power

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I believe that with the responsibility I have been given by this Legislative Assembly to attempt to continue to find sources of energy that would be more economical, environmentally friendly, and such, certainly I think it is part of that responsibility to keep up-to-date on any new methods of delivering energy from sources. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Whitford.

Question O289-91(1): Use Of Coal As An Alternate Energy Source

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we are on the subject of energy, I did speak to the Minister about this and I do not know how seriously she took it, but the question deals with a very old source of alternate energy in the form of coal. We all know that in the Northwest Territories there are a good number of places that do have coal deposits, maybe not the best coal deposits in the world, but they are there nonetheless, and we are still importing large amounts of oil into the Territories for heating. I would like to ask the Minister if the issue of coal has ever been revisited by her department in light of dwindling oil resources and the possibility of exploiting this potential of energy in the North. Has it been revisited lately?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ms. Cournoyea.

Return To Question O289-91(1): Use Of Coal As An Alternate Energy Source

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, yes, there have been a number of places that the Power Corporation, in co-operation with the federal Energy department, have looked at deposits, where they were, the proximity of the community, and what it would take to use the coal resources. In one instance they determined that comparatively it was uneconomical to do so. However, I would like to say to the honourable Member that even though there are a number of deposits that have been looked at and discarded because of their locality or their proximity to the community, certainly with new technology, and as we go into a more sophisticated way of delivering energy, these same areas will continue to be on the drawing boards, mainly because in the end we would like to use the resources. But right now at this point in time, coal is determined to be a dirty resource which creates acid rain, pollution. A lot of the communities which have used coal in the past, such as Paulatuk, which has a name after that became a very dirty places. The coal that Paulatuk burned before it became a settlement caused a lot of debris and soot. We will continue -- we are not discarding the idea -- we will continue to identify sources. We know where there are a lot of sources of coal and we will continue to consider them as part of the overall development of energy use in the Northwest Territories.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Madam Minister. Item 5, oral questions, supplementary. Mr. Whitford.

Supplementary To Question O289-91(1): Use Of Coal As An Alternate Energy Source

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for her comments and her response. It is true that it had a bad history, but times have changed and I think there has been a lot of research into that area in the past while. I would like to ask the Minister if in the research of the deposits, whether there were any deposits in the vicinity of the western part of the Northwest Territories, say Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, in this general area. Has her department been able to uncover any kind of information that would identify any deposits, say Horn Plateau or in that area?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will take that as notice and provide the answer because I do not have the exact location of where the deposits are. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Lewis.

Question O290-91(1): Name Change Of Gordon Robertson Education Centre

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tried to ask this question yesterday but I refer to Tabled Document 39-91(1), the Minister's attendance at the conference for high school presidents. I wonder if in the absence of Mr. Kakfwi I could ask the Government Leader whether in fact there is a move to change the name of Gordon Robertson Education Centre to Inukshuk High School. I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, because this school has been known as GREC since 1970, and I would like to ask the Leader, since Mr. Robertson is still alive and was a former Commissioner of the Territories, whether that name change is going to take place.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

Return To Question O290-91(1): Name Change Of Gordon Robertson Education Centre

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do know something about this issue and I can tell the Member that I believe he was not quite correct in the way he described the representations of the president of the student council of the Gordon Robertson Education Centre at a recent meeting with the Minister of Education. As I understand it, Mr. Speaker, the president of the student council from the Gordon Robertson Education Centre expressed her concern that students had not been adequately consulted on an issue which was very important to them, that is the name of the school. In fact, the student council president expressed concern about the proposal of the Iqaluit education council to change the name from the Gordon Robertson Education Centre to another name.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Member that the Minister of Education was impressed with the students' concern and has told me that before a decision is taken by him on this request from the Iqaluit education council that he will be reviewing the matter and he will be attempting to take into account the concerns of the students who have said, in effect, "This is our school and we feel very strongly about having a voice and being consulted before the name is changed." I think the Minister of Education is reviewing the matter at this very moment, Mr. Speaker, and will not be making a decision in haste. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lewis, supplementary.

Question O291-91(1): Policy On Naming GNWT Buildings

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this issue of name changes that has been raised by the students, I would like to ask the Government Leader if there was a policy on the whole issue of how things should be named in the Northwest Territories. Because it seems to me that unless there is some policy, people could be changing stuff all over the place at great expense to businesses and also for individual people that get used to one name and then it can be changed very quickly. Is there a policy on this issue, Mr. Speaker?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: New question. Mr. Patterson

Return To Question O291-91(1): Policy On Naming GNWT Buildings

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member may well be aware that as a result of negotiations with the federal government some years ago, our government assumed a major role which is the responsibility of the Minister of Culture and Communications, on geographical names, and we have that responsibility now primarily within our government with respect to geographical names.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the names of territorial government buildings, as I understand it, I do not think there is a formal policy, Mr. Speaker, but I think the practice has been that cabinet approves the names of new buildings and cabinet also deals with requests for changes of names. There have, for example, been situations where school names have been changed from such and such a community territorial school to a name respecting an elder or a more indigenous term in the community. The policy on building names, Mr. Speaker, very simply is that they are reviewed and approved by cabinet generally, and community wishes are taken into account as much as possible. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Time for oral questions

has expired.

Item 6, written questions. Item 6, written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, a return to Question W5-91(1), asked by Mr. Pedersen of the Minister of Public Works, concerning square footage and cost of government office space leased.

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

Hon. Nellie Cournoyea's return to Question W5-91(1), asked by Mr. Pedersen on March 1, 1991: As of March 1, 1991, the Department of Public Works leases 395,075 square feet of office space in Yellowknife. This includes space for all government departments, Arctic College and the Mackenzie Regional Health Services. The cost of this space is \$10,591,192 per annum. As of March 1, 1988, the department leased 309,017 square feet of space, at a cost of \$8,287,367.

The increase in this three year period is related to a number of programs. Transfer of the federal health program, including the Mackenzie Health Services, resulted in a major increase, along with the transfer of the Arctic airports program. The new Departments of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Safety and Public Services, and Transportation all required some additional space. Some portable classrooms lost in a fire were replaced with leased space and some space was provided for Sport North and the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 7, 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. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Tabling of documents. Ms. Cournoyea.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 41-91(1), a letter from G J Willmon, Esso Resources Canada Limited, dated March 7, 1991, concerning the oil and gas industry commitment to work together to form a consortium.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motion. Notices of motion. Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 22-91(1): Income Tax Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 11, 1991, I shall move that Bill 22-91(1), An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the first time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 13, notices of

motion for first reading of bills.

Item 14, motions. Motion 6-91(1) will remain on the order paper for Monday.

Item 15, first reading of bills. First reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 7; CR 2-91(1); Bills 8, 9, 10, 17, 19, 20 and 21, with Mr. Zoe in the chair.

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

Bill 7: Appropriation Act, 1991-92

Department Of Justice

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I would like to call the committee to order. We are dealing with the main estimates. We are on the Department of Justice. Yesterday, when we concluded the day we were on the details of the budget and we were dealing with the objectives. Mr. Minister, will you be bringing in any witnesses?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, with the committee's permission, yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree that the Minister brings in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. For the record, would you please introduce your witnesses, Mr. Minister?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Geoff Bickert, deputy minister of Justice; and Louise Dundas-Matthews, director of finance and administration, Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. We are on pages 7.6 and 7.7 on the departmental definitive objectives. Are there any comments? The honourable Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairperson, looking at the budget here, we are dealing with a lot of money. The only Members that are present in this room are from Nunavut, aside from the Minister, Hon. Michael Ballantyne. I think it is unfair for the Members of the Legislative Assembly from Nunavut to deal with this particular budget. As a result of this -- Mr. Lewis is in now -- I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I have a motion on the floor to report progress. The Chair does not recognize a quorum. Madam Clerk, will you ring the bell? I have a motion on the floor to report progress, which is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to call the House back to order. Item 18, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has

been considering Bills 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 19, 20 and 21, and CR 2-91(1), and wishes to report progress.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 19, third reading of bills. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to Members' statements.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is requesting unanimous consent to go back to Item 3, Members' statements. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patterson.

REVERT TO ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Volleyball Game Challenge

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to let Members of this House know that a challenge has been given to the Members of cabinet and their staff to test their mettle on the volleyball court against ordinary Members and Legislative Assembly staff. I am pleased to inform Members that the Members of cabinet are willing to rise to the occasion, and arrangements are still being made for this important event to take place next Wednesday evening, March 13th. Mr. Speaker, we are not quite organized enough to have a coach yet, but we will be practising quite vigorously and we will hopefully be prepared to do honour to the Executive branch of government. Thank you.

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the special committee on constitutional reform after adjournment today. Meetings for Monday, ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m.; at 10:00 a.m. the standing committee on legislation.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Monday, March 11, 1991.

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. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Monday, March 11th, 1991.

---ADJOURNMENT

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