



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

8th Session

11th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 27

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1991

Pages 651 - 673

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)
(Amittuq)
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 (Tuktoyaktuk)
(403) 979-2737 (Inuvik)
(Nunakput)
Minister of Health, Energy, Mines &
Petroleum Resources, Public Works and
NWT Power Corporation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sergeant - at - Arms
Mr. Harry Finnis, B.E.M., C.D.
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1991

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	651
Ministers' Statements	
- 46-91(1) International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	651
- 47-91(1) Dene Standardization Report	651
- 48-91(1) Fourth Supreme Court Justice	651
- 49-91(1) Directive to the Public Utilities Board Regarding a Cost of Service Methodology Review	652
- 50-91(1) Evaluation Report of Aboriginal Language Programs	652
- 51-91(1) Northerners Visit Pipeline Construction Site	653
Members' Statements	
- Hon. Michael Ballantyne on Official Opening of Somba K'e Treatment Centre	653
- Mr. Ernerk on Child Care Education Program at Arctic College, Iqaluit	654
- Mr. Lewis on Economic Development Assistance for Sanikiluaq	654
- Mr. Whitford on Congratulations to Rae-Edzo Fire Department Curling Team	654
- Mr. Zoe on Transfer of Airport Responsibilities from Federal Government	654
- Mr. Gargan on International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	655
- Mr. Kilabuk on Appreciation to Department of Renewable Resources	655
- Mr. Pedersen on Musk-Ox Being Served at Fort Caribou	655

TABLE OF CONTENTS, THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1991 (CONTINUED)

	<u>PAGE</u>
Returns to Oral Questions	656
Oral Questions	657
Tabling of Documents	662
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills	
- Bill 33 - Labour Standards Act, No. 3	662
Motions	662
First Reading of Bills	
- Bill 32 - Corrections Act	663
- Bill 33 - Labour Standards Act, No. 3	663
Second Reading of Bills	
- Bill 33 - Labour Standards Act, No. 3	663
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Bill 7 - Appropriation Act 1991-92	667
- Department of Renewable Resources	667
- Bill 33 - Labour Standards Act, No. 3	664
Report of Committee of the Whole	672
Third Reading of Bills	
- Bill 33 - Labour Standards Act, No. 3	672
Assent to Bills	672
Orders of the Day	672

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1991

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, 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, Hon. Gordon Wray, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Mr. Richard Nerysoo): Orders of the day for Thursday, March 21, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 46-91(1): International Day For The Elimination Of Racial Discrimination

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, Canadian society is becoming increasingly multicultural. This is also true in the North, where we have seen more and more people from different ethnic backgrounds come to our region to live side by side with the aboriginal people.

When people from different cultural groups come together, there is the potential for misunderstanding and mistrust. In an effort to promote understanding among all racial groups, the United Nations has declared today the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. March 21 marks the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa, when peaceful demonstrators against apartheid were wounded and killed.

Although we have never had to deal with racial problems of this scope in the Northwest Territories, the multicultural make-up of our society can cause feelings of misunderstanding. Each cultural group tends to view the world differently and approach situations in different ways. Actions taken by one group may be misinterpreted by another.

We are fortunate in the Northwest Territories that we have traditionally valued talking with one another and trying to reach some sort of mutual agreement on issues of common concern. This approach goes a long way to help overcome prejudice and racial resentment.

The Department of Education recognizes that one of the best ways to promote inter-racial understanding is to teach a sense of tolerance in our children. This year the theme for Education Week, which was March 4th to the 8th, was "Understanding One Another". A list of ideas was distributed to all schools to help teachers and students explore many of the issues surrounding racial tolerance in the Northwest Territories, Canada and the world.

Students and educators were encouraged to develop their own activities for Education Week, and the sad part is, Mr. Speaker, they were not short of issues to talk about. In the past six months we have seen Oka and Kanewake, troubles in the Baltic States, the Gulf crisis, Euro-Canadian and Vietnamese immigrants in fist fights over salmon fishing and much, much more.

The Department of Education and the school jurisdictions are trying to promote racial tolerance in other ways. One is to respect the knowledge and expertise that exists in our communities by putting control of education into the hands of

people at the local level. This has been done by establishing divisional boards of education, local education authorities and community education councils. As you know, there are divisional boards of education in all regions of the North, except for the South Slave, which is actively working towards divisional board status. In the Delta, the Town of Inuvik is the only jurisdiction which has not yet decided to join the divisional board.

The department and the divisional boards are also actively promoting culture-based education. This aspect of education recognizes the cultural heritage of our students, teaches them new skills from the perspective of their own cultures, and builds on their previous life experiences. Culture-based schooling gives children a better understanding of themselves, their own people and the people of other cultures. It improves their sense of self-worth and helps them face the challenges our society brings with confidence.

Mr. Speaker, it is the way of Northerners to be tolerant and respectful of one another. For instance, our consensus government is designed to help us work together instead of forcing us into confrontations. It is important that our children also learn to work things out in order for the tradition to continue. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the activities conducted during Education Week will give them much to think about. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 47-91(1): Dene Standardization Report

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister for Culture and Communications, I will be tabling today the Dene standardization project report which was completed in 1989. This writing system was developed in response to a recommendation from the task force on aboriginal languages. A standard writing system for the Dene languages demonstrates our commitment to aboriginal languages. In addition, this writing system is an efficient way to communicate in a manner which will achieve clarity and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to announce publicly that this system of writing Dene languages is the form recognized and used by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 48-91(1): Fourth Supreme Court Judge

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce to the House that the Hon. Kim Campbell, Minister of Justice for Canada, has agreed to my request on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories to appoint an additional judge to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories.

The workload of our Supreme Court has grown steadily over the last decade as greater effort is made to bring timely justice to the people of the Northwest Territories. In the last three years alone, the number of jury trials conducted by the court has nearly tripled. The volume of civil proceedings has also increased with the advent of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the cases testing its provisions. The Charter right to trials within a reasonable time has also produced heavy demands upon our court.

In southern Canada, most Supreme Court proceedings are held in regional centres only. In the Northwest Territories, our judges travel to all communities with even minimal facilities, as part of their tradition of bringing justice to everyone's door.

Judges of the Supreme Court in the provinces and territories are appointed and their salaries paid by the federal government. Appointments are made after consultation with the territorial Minister of Justice. More recently, a federal-territorial advisory committee on judicial appointments has also been established to consider candidates.

Since the number of judges on our Supreme Court is established by the Northwest Territories Judicature Act, I will be seeking the concurrence of this House after the Easter recess to bring forward an amendment to that act to provide for this fourth judicial position. I should note for Members that until 1980 our Supreme Court consisted of one resident judge. In 1983 a second judge was appointed. In 1988 the government brought forward legislation to create a third position, which was filled by the Hon. Mr. Justice Ted Richard. I am pleased to announce today this fourth position, which will provide much needed assistance to our hard-working judges and provide a better access to justice for our citizens.

I would also like to thank senior Justice Mark de Weerd for his support in helping to persuade the federal Minister of Justice in this matter.

I should point out that one of the four judges is on secondment to the Canadian Judicial Council Centre in Ottawa for the next three years, an extension of his current three-year term. Effectively, this will increase the court's resident number from two to three. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I would just like to indicate to the honourable Member that the last part of the statement was not included in your filed statement. Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I apologize to the Speaker and to the House for clarifying my statement. It will not happen again, sir.

Ministers' Statement 49-91(1): Directive To The Public Utilities Board Regarding A Cost Of Service Methodology Review

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to inform the Members that the Executive Council and I have issued a directive to the Public Utilities Board, PUB, to undertake a review of the cost of service methodology proposed by the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

During the PUB's recent review of electrical rate structures, this government pointed out that rates should provide utilities with sufficient revenues to cover current costs and to provide financial strength to meet growing demands reliably and efficiently. At the time of the review, the Power Corporation was only beginning to assemble the necessary cost of service information and the board was unable to conclude whether the corporation's current rate structure produced just and reasonable wholesale, industrial, commercial and domestic

rates.

The Power Corporation will be providing cost of service information to the PUB in mid-April, and the PUB has been directed to submit a written report to the Executive Council by September 1, 1991. This report will include an analysis of the corporation's cost of service methodology, any recommended changes that are advised, and methods of implementation to effect these changes. Reasonable incremental costs of the hearing will be covered by the NWT Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ministers' Statement 50-91(1): Evaluation Report Of Aboriginal Language Programs

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsible for Culture and Communications, later today I will be tabling the evaluation of Canada-NWT contributions agreement on aboriginal languages.

In June, 1984, the Hon. Richard Nerysoo signed an agreement with the Secretary of State under which the federal government agreed to pay \$16 million over the five years for the preservation, enhancement and development of aboriginal languages. This agreement has been extended to March 31, 1991. Negotiations are currently under way for a renewed contribution agreement.

The report reviews the activities and projects funded under this contribution agreement and also the impact of these programs on the preservation, enhancement and development of aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories. The report concludes that the "Government of the Northwest Territories acted judiciously in producing and implementing language training programs and in providing translation and interpretation services in aboriginal languages during the period of this agreement."

In addition to the continued effort made by this government to provide aboriginal languages services, the report also concludes that resources have to be directed toward maintenance and revitalization projects at the community level.

In order to meet these goals, many factors will have to be taken into account. Limits on our own financial resources and the slow progress of current negotiations with the federal government on a renewed contribution agreement cannot be ignored. The federal government also has the role and responsibility to assist our government in the protection of language rights and the provision of services. The federal government must also be fully committed to funding language services if the Government of the Northwest Territories language policy and plans for services to people and the communities are to succeed.

Moreover, the importance of community and individual efforts in making our aboriginal languages living and working languages also have to be taken into account. The government can provide support and can legislate, but the survival and strength of aboriginal languages depends primarily on people speaking their own languages amongst themselves in their homes and in their communities. It is only through this individual and community commitment that we will make aboriginal languages "dynamic, working languages of the Northwest Territories".

The report recognizes the importance of the official status given to aboriginal languages of the Northwest Territories. All of us have a special obligation to preserve these languages.

The authors of the report go as far as saying that in 20 years many of these languages will have disappeared.

Because of the great importance of this issue, I will be studying very closely and very carefully the recommendations of the evaluation report that I will be tabling today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We are getting more clarifications to statements. Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Ministers' Statement 51-91(1): Northerners Visit Pipeline Construction Site

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, non-renewable resource development, and in particular oil and gas development, is a critical part of our economic future. However, we so often hear only about the negative aspects of that development. We seldom have the opportunity to hear about the benefits which can and do accompany properly managed oil and gas development.

I would like to share with this House a letter just received from Mr. Frank Pope, the general manager of the Shihta Regional Council's Development Impact Zone, or DIZ, committee. He offers observations about pipeline development. I will summarize his letter and read a few quotes which I believe will be of interest to this House.

Mr. Pope is well known to the people of the Sahtu for his work with DIZ and his success in improving relationships between industry and communities and securing jobs and training with industry for the whole region.

Polar Gas Limited and DIZ arranged for a group of northern leaders to visit a gas pipeline construction site and an operating gas compression station along Trans-Canada Pipeline's, TCPL's, route through northern Ontario in terrain similar to the Mackenzie Valley. The group also had the opportunity to visit and speak with three of the six young NWT native high school graduates who have been trained by TCPL as pipeline inspectors. They are now working on the new pipeline construction.

Northerners on that tour group include: Mr. Frank T'Seleie, chief of Fort Good Hope; Mr. Isadore Yukon, deputy mayor of Fort Franklin; and Mr. Maurice Mendo, president of Fort Norman Hunters and Trappers Association. The group observed the full range of pipeline activities, including excavation, pipe bending, pipe placement and backfill, and was very interested in the precautions taken to protect the environment. Much of the construction in that area of Ontario was through muskeg or through rocky terrain where blasting was required. These conditions are similar to what may be expected on a Mackenzie Valley project.

The letter states, "It was our opinion that construction properly done in our region will be easier than in the conditions we viewed."

DIZ assisted in the recruitment of six northern pipeline trainees. Originally all six were hired for the period early January to the end of April. Because of the high standard of their work ethic, excellent personalities, and all-round meshing into the project, these six northern young adults have been asked to return after spring break-up to work on another section of the pipeline construction.

This year the DIZ group again plans to work with Polar/Delta Gas to employ high school students with Trans-Canada Pipelines, working in compressor stations between Alberta and Ontario. The DIZ/Polar Gas initiative is "to keep students in

school while working during the summer." The letter states, "These young workers are now pipeliners and will be an asset to the North should a project take place in the Valley in the next decade."

Mr. Speaker, these young people devoted their time and energies and are now trained as pipeline inspectors. They, alongside all those other Northerners who have, in the past, gained direct job skills and training in the oil and gas industry, should have the opportunity to work and continue to use their skills. Fulfilment of their goals depends on the existence of real opportunities in the North, within their chosen field.

I know we all recognize the necessity to develop our oil and gas resources as part of our overall economic development strategy. There is a need and there is time for the planning and development of each and every sector, including oil and gas, and that development can be carried out in a socially and environmentally acceptable manner.

The oil and gas industry holds much potential for Northerners to develop viable career and business opportunities. This potential will assist the NWT in developing a healthy, diversified economy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable Members for their attention and I will table Mr. Pope's letter for their reference. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 3, Members' statements. Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Official Opening Of Somba K'e Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today marks the official opening of the Northern Addictions Services new facility, called Somba K'e Treatment Centre. The public has been invited to attend this ceremony scheduled for 2:30 today at the centre, located on the Dettah road, six kilometres off the Ingraham Trail.

The opening of the doors to this facility represents the culmination of 12 years of work by the board and staff of Northern Addictions Services. Special credit for having the dream and the courage and determination to see this project to completion goes to the executive director, Thelma Tees.

---Applause

The funding for this facility was made possible through a \$3.1 million mortgage with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, with additional capital funds from the Department of Social Services and the support of the honourable Minister of Social Services, Jeannie Marie-Jewell, and fund-raising efforts in the community.

The building has been designed by Pin Matthews Architects and constructed by Clark Bowler Builders and Construction Managers.

It is auspicious that on today, the first day of spring, Northern Addictions Services should be having the grand opening for their new treatment centre. Mr. Speaker, the symbolism of spring and new beginnings is an appropriate theme for the opening of this building. Members of this Assembly all share in the hope that individuals who will be coming to this facility for treatment will realize new beginnings in their lives as they

deal with the challenges of drug and alcohol addiction. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Child Care Education Program At Arctic College, Iqaluit

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Child care is a subject that has received a lot of attention in this House, but as I learned yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the early childhood education program at Arctic College in Iqaluit may not continue this year. It would be a great loss if this program is cancelled. It is important for the future of our children that we have trained native child care workers.

In the communities most parents have to work to survive, and there are more single parents than ever before. We need quality child care provided by trained people from the communities. In this way, our young children will learn their language and culture, and at the same time their physical and social needs will also be taken care of properly. This program is very important to the future of our communities and, Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member to take time to support this program. We must ensure that the program continues and encourage more aboriginal people to enter the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Economic Development Assistance For Sanikiluaq

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very recently I received a copy of correspondence from the Mayor of Sanikiluaq. I discussed its contents with the honourable Member for Hudson Bay and I am very concerned about a situation that has arisen in that Belcher Island community. When we travelled with the special committee on the northern economy, Mr. Speaker, we heard many ideas about how the economic potential of communities can be improved across the Northwest Territories. Without a doubt, one of the most important things we heard was about the need to have resource people in place within communities to assist in the co-ordination and development of local economic development initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Hudson Bay has helped me to understand how vital it is that these resources should be made available in under-developed communities such as Sanikiluaq. With shrinking markets for carvings, increased prices for gasoline, and a sincere desire to reduce community dependence on social assistance, I think it is important to assist Sanikiluaq to develop some of the economic adventures on its horizon.

There is an even more important reason, Mr. Speaker. I am certain that honourable Members will recall the concerns that Mr. Crow and Mr. Arlooktoo, and several others, have raised in the past few weeks about the impending hydro development at James Bay II. The pressures this project will assert on the economic base of the community could well be enormous. When we travelled with SCONE, special committee on the northern economy, we heard about the community's plans for the harvesting of mussels and other shellfish from the sea and for developing a commercial line of northern clothing, using local resources for the collection of eiderdown.

These activities may be in serious jeopardy from the environmental contamination of the habitat that will undoubtedly come from James Bay II. More than ever before, there is a need for solid economic planning and co-ordination in this community.

Mayor Kattuk informs me that the Departments of Economic Development and Renewable Resources have indicated their willingness to jointly provide funds for up to eight months of economic planning and co-ordination. While the community is grateful for this gesture, there is a genuine and well founded concern that this is just not enough. Mr. Speaker, during the SCONE hearings we listened to earnest input from the people of Sanikiluaq about their needs and desires to achieve greater economic self-sufficiency through planning and local development. As a former co-chair of the SCONE committee, and at the personal request of the honourable Member for Hudson Bay, I am calling on the government to establish funding for full-time, permanent resource people to assist economic development in the community of Sanikiluaq.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Congratulations To Rae-Edzo Fire Department Curling Team

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to use my Member's statement to congratulate a curling team in the Northwest Territories. The firemen's annual curling playdowns were held in Hay River on February 15 and 16, 1991. Six teams from across the Northwest Territories competed. The Rae-Edzo fire department won the tournament and will go on to the national playdowns in Edmonton on March 30, 1991. They will play in the Thistle arena. The team representing the NWT at the firefighters bonspiel will be from Rae-Edzo and consists of Leon Lafferty, Greg Skotheim, Richard Lafferty, John Peter Washie, and Brad Whitehead is the spare. Mr. Speaker, this is a very notable occasion because this is the first time representatives from a smaller community are going to participate in this tournament south of the NWT, particularly Rae-Edzo, at the national firemen's bonspiel, and I would like to offer my congratulations to the team and wish them every success on this significant achievement.

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

Member's Statement On Transfer Of Airport Responsibilities From Federal Government

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for Yellowknife South for making my announcement on my behalf. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Wray, announced an agreement with the federal government to transfer the Arctic B and C airports to the control of the territorial government. I know that these negotiations were long and difficult, and I congratulate the Minister on the successful conclusion of these negotiations. The cost-sharing agreement for construction or improvements at seven airports is also a major step, and I am particularly pleased that two of the communities in my constituency will receive new airports.

However, Mr. Speaker, we had requested funding for airports in an additional three communities. Mr. Speaker, now that we can set our own agenda, the communities that did not receive funding should be given a high priority by this government. Under the federal government the administration of Arctic airports was only a small part of much larger regions, making

it difficult to set priorities for our own communities. Now we can make progress in ensuring that all communities that need them receive these essential services. The improvements in the community aerodrome radio station program also announced by the Minister were also welcome news. The enhancement of this program will improve the safety and reliability of service at the airports across the North.

While both of these announcements are progressive steps in improving the quality of air transportation, I wonder, Mr. Speaker, why it is that we have to fight so hard to get these essential services. In the case of one community, even Transport Canada ignored the recommendation of the Canadian Aviation Safety Board.

I am optimistic now, Mr. Speaker, that we as the Legislative Assembly will be able to set our own priorities and move quickly toward meeting our own transportation needs. Mahsi cho.

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

Member's Statement On International Day For The Elimination Of Racial Discrimination

MR. GARGAN: Today marks a very special day, Mr. Speaker, because March 21st was declared by the United Nations as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 1966. This day was chosen to commemorate the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa in which hundreds of people were wounded or killed for demonstrating against apartheid.

While some small progress against racism has been made since then, in South Africa and elsewhere in the world, including Canada, Mr. Speaker, the ugly reality of racism persists in many aspects of our everyday life -- in media, in employment, in education, in housing and in the judicial system.

Numerous studies done across Canada have shown, Mr. Speaker, that visible minorities, including aboriginal people, are three times as likely to be turned down for jobs even if they meet the qualifications. Often they are also turned down for rental accommodation on the basis of their racial background.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, in 1988 a survey showed that 80 per cent of corporate recruiters received requests to discriminate against minorities and 94 per cent of them actually rejected job seekers on the basis of the colour of their skin.

The Donald Marshall Inquiry showed the sad truth clearly to Canadians that his Indian status was a major factor in the wrongful conviction and imprisonment, Mr. Speaker.

Investigations into the conduct of police in Ontario and Quebec acknowledged that racial discrimination is a problem affecting their relationships with visible minorities. Recently, we witnessed the senseless beating of a man by the police in Los Angeles solely because the individual was black.

Mr. Speaker, racism and racial discrimination are among the worst things that can happen to an individual, particularly for the children. A child who is the target of this disease is often scarred for life as he grows up with the discrimination directed at him for something which he cannot change.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members and the residents of the

Northwest Territories to take some time, today and throughout the year, to think about racism. No law, by itself, can change the deep feelings we have inside of us. We, as individuals or as law-makers, must realize that racism is wrong and totally indefensible by any standard.

We must make an honest effort in our day-to-day lives to be considerate of others and not to judge them by the colour of their skin...

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Your time period has expired. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Member's statement. Are there any nays? Proceed.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members. We must make an honest effort in our day-to-day lives to be considerate of others and not to judge them by the colour of their skin, their language, their cultural background or their religion.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have much more in common than differences. We all feel, hurt, laugh and cry the same. And I believe that we share the common needs, wants and desires for a better world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement Of Appreciation To Department Of Renewable Resources

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My constituents in Pangnirtung are into commercial fishing. This is becoming a very good way of running their economy in the community. I appreciate the Department of Renewable Resources for having helped us with the funding for this.

Commercial fishing will probably be going on for three months or so, depending on the ice conditions. We do not get much money for commercial fishing, but it is our livelihood. Otherwise, they would be going to Social Services for social assistance. They will become more independent for the next few months when they go out fishing. I appreciate the Department of Renewable Resources for assisting this initiative.

I also wish to thank the Minister of Culture and Communications for assisting us to receive a radio station in Pangnirtung. Mr. Speaker, this session is almost over and I wish everyone a Happy Easter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Members are reminding me that Members' statements should refer to one particular item. I assume that the matter was with regard to Easter and the Easter bunnies and all those kinds of things. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kitikmeot West.

Member's Statement On Musk-Ox Being Served At Fort Caribou

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today being Friday, although it is Thursday...

---Laughter

...I want to reflect on yesterday's debate on musk-ox, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Yellowknife Centre spoke very eloquently on the subject, and I spoke myself, somewhat less eloquently, and expressed my frustration that over eight years of talking about this, that really nothing has happened.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be able to stand up and thank our government and compliment them on the amazing effort that has taken place since yesterday. Results really are coming. Overnight our government has achieved that musk-ox will now be available in Yellowknife. I received in my mail this morning this wonderful little notice here that tells me that at the famous restaurant "The Cock and Ox" at Fort Caribou, under the slogan of "get skewered for less", that you will be able to get barbecued musk-ox and chicken kebabs, and this, Mr. Speaker -- in only one night after we raised the issue, have we achieved that.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, the only concern I have is that I have also heard a rumour that the government, in their desire to satisfy an MLA in his concerns, were trying to satisfy two MLAs, and the chicken referred to is, in fact, no-longer-egg-laying critters from Mr. Pollard's constituency.

---Laughter

I sincerely hope that that last rumour is untrue. If it is not, I can better understand the "get skewered for less". My compliments to the government.

---Applause

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O367-91(1): Federal-Territorial Dispute Re Electrical Inspections

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to Question O367-91(1), asked by Mr. Whitford on March 15, in respect to federal-territorial electrical inspections or inspections overall.

The Department of Safety and Public Services has been advised by the Department of Justice that it should immediately cease all electrical and other safety inspections on federal properties for which there are no specific agreements for services in place with the federal government. Justice has advised that our inspectors may have no jurisdiction on federal properties. If our inspectors do perform work on such properties, they may place this government in a vulnerable position with respect to liability.

I am well aware of the hardship this practice may constitute for local contractors. Therefore, I have directed the Department of Safety and Public Services to inspect work already in progress on federal properties up to and including June 30, 1991. At the same time, I directed the Department of Safety and Public Services to acquire an exchange of services agreement with Labour Canada. The department will also issue permits for work on federal sites, providing that the work will be completed by June 30, 1991.

However, if the Department of Safety and Public Services is unsuccessful in acquiring an agreement for services as of July 1, 1991, all territorial inspections on federal properties will cease.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to oral questions. The

honourable Member for Inuvik.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Zoe on March 8th, relative to the possible benefits accruing from the federal government's Green Plan.

Currently, federal government departments are in the process of identifying and prioritizing specific short and long-term initiatives in the various regions of Canada, including the Arctic.

Presently, the Green Plan offers two components of special interest to the Government of the Northwest Territories: the Arctic environmental strategy and a proposed Indian health and waters initiative for the upgrading of water and sewer infrastructure in Indian communities.

The Arctic environmental strategy has identified the following areas that needed to be addressed in the NWT: contaminants; hazardous waste management issues; water quality and quantity issues; and integrating environmental and economic issues pertaining to the North's economic resources.

If the Arctic environmental strategy is implemented as proposed, the benefits to the NWT that will accrue would be: financial and technical support in the prevention and clean-up of environmental contaminants, hazardous and non-hazardous wastes; and additional support in research activities with respect to northern ecosystems. At the present time, program details of the Arctic environmental strategy are about a month away from being finalized.

With regard to whether my department would be able to tap into the resources planned to upgrade water and sewage infrastructure on reserves, the Indian health and waters initiative program was just unveiled by the federal Minister of State for Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister of Health and Welfare Canada on Monday, March 11, 1991. We are pressing the appropriate federal departments for detailed information on the scope, eligibility criteria, and levels of service to be offered by this program. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O342-91(1): Inuit Artifacts In Churchill Museum

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Ernerk, from Aivilik, regarding the Eskimo Museum in Churchill. The staff at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre are working with the Curator of the Eskimo Museum in the preparation of a catalogue of their materials, and planning for a travelling exhibition. We have held discussions with the Inuit Cultural Institute on the development of a proper cultural facility to hold precious materials. The Bishop of the Eastern Arctic has met with my museum director to discuss joint co-operation in the restitution of historic resources on behalf of the Church and Inuit heritage. Thank You.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O338-91(1): Status Of Study On Management Of Great Slave Lake

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I have a reply to a question asked by Mr. Morin on the status of the study on the

management of Great Slave Lake.

In response to the question asked by the honourable Member for Tu Nede respecting the status of the East Arm draft management plan, I would like to inform all Members that the public consultation phase will be taking place in the near future.

The three departments involved in this management plan -- Economic Development and Tourism, Renewable Resources, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans -- have established the terms of reference for an independent contractor to conduct the public consultation phase. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, being the lead agency, has taken on the responsibility of tendering the contract, and I am advised that it will be advertised in the near future.

The contract has been written to include northern preference and will be advertised in our northern media. It is anticipated that bids will have been received prior to the next meetings of the Great Slave Lake management committee, which I understand is scheduled for the second week in May. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O351-91(1): Cost Of Utilizing Chipewyan Interpreters

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Morin on March 14, 1991. Mr. Speaker, I wish to assure the honourable Member for Tu Nede that when an interpreter is hired, whether it is in Edmonton or in Yellowknife, he or she is paid an hourly rate for the services offered.

The distinction needs to be drawn, Mr. Speaker, between an escort and an interpreter. Non-medical escorts provide comfort, companionship and care for a relative or community member who is required to travel out of the home community to receive medical services. Care, in this context, includes being able to interpret for a resident unable to speak English. The escort's expenses are paid by the Department of Health; this covers air fare, ground travel, accommodation and meals. The department does not pay a salary for a family member or friend to interpret when he or she is escorting the patient.

Chipewyan interpreters were not required in Edmonton last year, probably because most of the patients who were unable to speak English were accompanied by a non-medical escort who could provide interpretation.

If a situation occurs in Yellowknife or Edmonton where a patient needs an interpreter and there is no family member available, patient referral services are authorized to arrange for an interpreter, at an hourly rate of \$15. In order to be reimbursed, the individual is required to submit an account either to the Department of Health or to the appropriate regional health board.

Fort Providence has developed an effective process. Although a reliable family member would be the first choice for a non-medical escort, the nurse in charge has asked villagers to tell her if they would be interested and willing to escort patients. As a result there is now a pool of persons known to be reliable and conscientious, with adequate language skills, and willing to escort patients and attend to their needs while travelling to another community for health care. The department covers all the usual expenses for the escort such as air fare, meals and accommodation.

The department has not paid these escorts for their services

in the past and is not likely to change this practice. As you are aware, medical travel is a large and rapidly growing activity. Any provision of compensation for escorts would represent a substantial increase in costs which would be difficult, considering the current financial climate.

If the honourable Member is concerned about any specific case, I would be pleased to discuss the matter with him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O387-91(1): Possible Gasoline Subsidy For Commercial Fishermen

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. I think we are all aware that in Canada commercial fishing is assisted through departmental initiatives and incentive programs. I would like to see this also happen in the Northwest Territories, but as we all know, we are very low in funding for this area. Perhaps if we could think of the people who are trying to support themselves through fishing and other activities such as hunting, and who are trying to better themselves any way they can, I am asking the Minister if he could consider help with funding for these commercial fishermen. We all know that the price of gas is extremely high. Can the fishermen be assisted in any way, perhaps even being subsidized on the price of gas? I would like the Minister to respond to my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O387-91(1): Possible Gasoline Subsidy For Commercial Fishermen

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the Member is wondering if we could subsidize the cost of gas, I would presume for the fishermen in the winter when they go out to fish with their snowmobiles. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism, through the Development Corporation, has already assisted Cumberland Sound Fisheries this year to the tune of \$250,000, which has been provided to Cumberland Sound Fisheries to assist them with the development of the fishery. There are other subsidy programs available, although I do not know if such a one is available directly to the fishermen. There may be a subsidy program available in terms of the price of freight for the fish -- that is, to bring the fish back to the community. I will have to take a look at what programs are available, and I can advise the Member probably later as to what programs are available -- there are new programs coming in this new fiscal year -- if, in fact, that kind of assistance would be possible. I think possibly I will also ask my colleague, the Minister of Renewable Resources, if his department has any programs such as that and will have to get back to the Member. Thank you.

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

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his response. I know there are a lot of unemployed people in the community and this would be a very good way of trying to support themselves. Perhaps you and the Minister of Renewable Resources can talk about this and get back to me as to whether we can get funding or not. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I believe that was a suggestion to the honourable Member. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

Question O388-91(1): Meeting Federal Objectives Under GNWT Transportation Strategy

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to ask a question about the NWT transportation strategy, which the Minister of Transportation tabled during the last session. Mr. Speaker, I noticed this week that the federal Minister of Transport, the Hon. Doug Lewis, had commented that components of our new transportation strategy would be considered for partial funding by the Government of Canada, provided they conform with federal objectives. Like Northerners everywhere, I was glad to hear that the door may be open to implement some aspects of Mr. Wray's transportation strategy; on the other hand, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned by this reference to the federal objectives. This is, I believe, the first time these conditions have been brought to our attention.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Transportation is, what activities have been undertaken in his department to study whether initiatives outlined in our new transportation strategy conform with the objectives of the federal Department of Transport? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O388-91(1): Meeting Federal Objectives Under GNWT Transportation Strategy

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not quite sure what the Minister of Transport was referring to. I am taking the position that our entire transportation strategy fits into federal objectives. I do not think the Minister was talking so much about his own departmental objectives, but rather the Government of Canada's objectives. My attitude is that any improvements to transportation infrastructure in the North is an improvement for the North, an improvement for northern Canadians and, therefore, improvements for Canada. That is the strategy that I am going to employ in any discussions with the federal government -- whatever is good for the North is also good for Canada. Thank you.

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

Question O389-91(1): "Bringing Our Languages Home" Conference, Yellowknife

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture and Communications. I am sure the Minister is aware that in Yellowknife there is going to be an aboriginal language conference called "Bringing Our Languages Home". The meeting will be held March 25th to 27th, and I believe there will be 250 people coming in to meet during this conference. I would like to ask the Minister why this has not been brought up in the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O389-91(1): "Bringing Our Languages Home" Conference, Yellowknife

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The conference that is coming up will be held on March 25th to 28th. It is being organized by the Dene Cultural Institute and the Inuit Cultural Institute and it is being advertised by them. They are informing the people of the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Honourable Member for Aivilik, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O389-91(1): "Bringing Our Languages Home" Conference, Yellowknife

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the GNWT be helping with funding for this conference?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Further Return To Question O389-91(1): "Bringing Our Languages Home" Conference, Yellowknife

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Yes, they will be helping. Thank you.

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

Question O390-91(1): Delegates To Aboriginal Language Conference

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will there be people coming from all over the NWT for this aboriginal language conference? Is there somebody from every community coming in?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O390-91(1): Delegates To Aboriginal Language Conference

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if somebody will be coming from every community. The Inuit Cultural Institute and the Dene Cultural Institute are organizing this and there will be people from all over.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

Question O391-91(1): Arctic Co-operative Conference In Winnipeg

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Culture and Communications a question about a conference. I think the Minister is aware that the Arctic Co-operative Ltd. in Winnipeg will be meeting and they would like some interpreters for the Arctic Co-operative Ltd. conference. Do you know about this?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O391-91(1): Arctic Co-operative Conference In Winnipeg

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not been asked by the Arctic Co-operative people for interpreters. They can inform us and we can deal with it then.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Question O392-91(1): Establishment Of Credit Unions In The North

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the special committee on the northern economy tour of the NWT we visited various communities. A lot of communities were directed to the panel dealing with methods or the ability to borrow from financial institutions. One of the things that comes up quite often is credit unions. I would like to ask the Minister for Economic Development if he could advise the

House on any progress that is being made on the study that is being undertaken by Arctic Co-operatives Ltd., dealing with the issue of credit unions.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O392-91(1): Establishment Of Credit Unions In The North

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct that the SCONE, report and the SCONE committee commissioned a study on banking services in the NWT. Encouraged by the results of that study, the co-op development fund obtained funding from EDA, Economic Development Agreement, under the small business subsidiary to study the feasibility of establishing credit unions in the North.

Phase two of that study essentially concluded that operating levels earned by a central and deposit guarantee corporation are only sufficient to cover the variable cost of operation and are not sufficient to make any impact on basic overheads. Therefore there would be required, in the first three years of operation, substantial capital injection of funds.

The co-ops were hoping that they could move on this and obtain funding through the CAEDS, Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy, from the federal government. However, I am told that they were advised that CAEDS funding would probably not be available for this type of undertaking.

The steering committee group, which consisted of Arctic Co-ops, Department of Economic Development, Department of Finance, CAEDS officials, and Indian and Inuit Affairs, did agree to a phase three study which would be to look at the economic benefits of credit unions in the NWT.

Where it stands right now is there is some discussion taking place as to where money would come from. The co-ops have limited resources themselves. Apparently CAEDS money would not be available and this government has no programs whatsoever. So I guess that is where it is at, right now. The next move will be up to ACL, Arctic Co-operatives Ltd., as to where they proceed from here. However, it is still an ongoing issue, and I will try and keep Members informed as more information becomes available.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Question O393-91(1): Federal Objectives For Northern Transportation

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Transportation. It is a matter of public record that when the federal Minister of Transportation was in Yellowknife recently, he indicated that the degree to which the federal government would participate in funding the northern transportation strategy would depend very much on the degree to which it corresponded or matched federal objectives for the NWT. Although the Minister may have made some assumptions about what they were, has he undertaken to find out from the federal government exactly what those federal objectives are for northern transportation?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Kivallivik.

Return To Question O393-91(1): Federal Objectives For Northern Transportation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The whole reason for the transportation study and strategy was essentially because, as far as we could determine, the federal

government had no objectives in the North. In negotiating the highway transfer, in negotiating the airports transfer, in undertaking the marine studies, we found out that these responsibilities were scattered throughout the federal government. As far as we could determine, there were no objectives, no plan. The Arctic airports B and C policy had died. There were no policies or anything in place for airports any more. There were certainly no objectives in terms of the marine and in terms of highways. The only objective that we could discern was to maintain existing highways.

Therefore, the whole reason for the transportation strategy, and hopefully part of the negotiations, was to give the federal government objectives. Because if I am going to obtain money from the federal government, then obviously we have to have a plan. Therefore part of the strategy would be to convince the federal government that our transportation strategy should be the objective, not only of this government, but of the Government of Canada.

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

Supplementary To Question O393-91(1): Federal Objectives For Northern Transportation

MR. LEWIS: To the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact that the federal government, from the perception of our Minister of Transportation, has no objectives for transportation in the Northwest Territories, is it his expectation then, since they have no objectives and they are only going to fund something on the basis of our matching their objectives, that we can expect no money from the federal government in order to fund our transportation policy?

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

Further Return To Question O393-91(1): Federal Objectives For Northern Transportation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. No, it is not my expectation at all. What my expectation or what my attempt is going to be is to give the federal government objectives, which would be our transportation strategy, by convincing the provinces that, first of all, it is in their economic interest to agree with our strategy and between us to pressure the federal government into developing a federal agenda or federal objectives for the North and, hopefully, that agenda and those objectives will be those that we have laid out in our transportation strategy.

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

Supplementary To Question O393-91(1): Federal Objectives For Northern Transportation

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister of Transportation, therefore, tell us if he was able to convince the federal Minister of Transportation that the objectives that we have set for transportation in the Northwest Territories will, in fact, become the federal objectives? Has he got that undertaking from the federal Minister?

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

Further Return To Question O393-91(1): Federal Objectives For Northern Transportation

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I have not. Quite frankly, I have not yet tried to convince the federal

government or the federal Minister to do this. We have been working on them slowly but my whole plan of attack -- I am waiting on the results of a study that was commissioned from the Conference Board of Canada as to the economic benefits which would accrue to the provinces and to Canada in general. Once I have that, the Government Leader, Mr. Patterson, and I will be meeting with provincial governments in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, primarily, to see if we can get them onside. Then a combined effort will be made to work on the federal government.

This is a long-term plan of action. It is going to require some very careful political strategy with other jurisdictions, but we had to begin somewhere. What I have done is piqued their interest. I know that at the bureaucratic level within the federal government, there are expressions such as, "Thank God somebody finally has put a plan in place," and I know that at the bureaucratic level within the federal government there has been a good response to the strategy. This, in itself, is significant because obviously federal politicians, being like other politicians, will, to a certain extent, depend a lot on the advice that they receive from their departments and their bureaucracies. Knowing that there is a positive response within the bureaucracy -- hopefully that kind of message is now going to the political masters that this, in fact, is a good plan.

This thing will unfold over time. As I said when I tabled the transportation strategy, it took me six years to negotiate \$16 million for seven airports, so I do not expect to negotiate a one or two billion program overnight. At least now we are beginning. Perhaps if this had been started 10 or 15 years ago we might be a lot further ahead today than we are. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O393-91(1): Federal Objectives For Northern Transportation

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Transportation confirm that he does not care what the federal objectives really are and that our objectives are to do what we want in our own homeland and that he is going to make the assumption that what we do is, in fact, going to be what is good for the rest of the country and it really does not matter what the federal government does as far as developing its own objectives?

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

Further Return To Question O393-91(1): Federal Objectives For Northern Transportation

HON. GORDON WRAY: No, I am not assuming that at all, and the Member knows that, but I will explain it to him once again. What I am going to do is to convince the federal government that our objectives are their objectives. That is what we always do up here. When we are trying to convince the federal government to fund our program or do something for us, one of the things we have to set out to do in the beginning is to convince them that it is good for them. The federal government usually does not fund anything unless they think that it is good for them. We are going to have to convince them that our strategy and our objectives are good for them and for Canada. That is what we are going to try and do.

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

Question O394-91(1): Criteria Used To Determine Community Eligibility For A Community Health Representative

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, during the last few days I noticed that the community health representatives from across the Territories had a conference or they are still having it. I would like to ask a question to the Minister with regard to CHR, community health representative, positions. Could the Minister tell me what criteria is used to determine which community is eligible to receive a CHR -- the whole process of the pay, and so forth?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Return To Question O394-91(1): Criteria Used To Determine Community Eligibility For A Community Health Representative

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: The objective of the Department of Health and this government is to have a full-time CHR in every community, to work with the health delivery professionals and community to bring more understanding and involvement. The conference that has been held was to discuss a number of the issues that were current to the CHR positions. What they did yesterday and will be doing today is to develop what they feel is a broader understanding of their role in the community.

At this point in time there are no criteria in terms of numbers of people in a community but our objective was to make sure that there was one person for each community at the outset. The program is going very well. We are seeking their advice in a workshop setting to ask exactly what a CHR does. This is a fairly new position and in the last three years we have developed a number of trained CHRs. The program is going on from getting their experience and how they feel that they fit into the overall delivery system in a community level, to defining the terms of reference and exactly what role and what the criteria and what the job description should be. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O394-91(1): Criteria Used To Determine Community Eligibility For A Community Health Representative

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand there are a number of positions which are part-time or full-time. I would like to ask the Minister, who determines if they are going to be part-time or full-time?

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

Further Return To Question O394-91(1): Criteria Used To Determine Community Eligibility For A Community Health Representative

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, it depends on the budget that we are able to allocate to the positions. Every year we come forward and try to work into the Department of Health so many new positions. The intention is that all of the positions are to be full-time.

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

Supplementary To Question O394-91(1): Criteria Used To Determine Community Eligibility For A Community Health Representative

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister provide me with a list of how many CHR's we have in each community?

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

Further Return To Question O394-91(1): Criteria Used To Determine Community Eligibility For A Community Health Representative

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I can provide that list. I cannot recite them off now, but I can say that we have 31 CHR's who have completed their training. We have six still in training, and it is anticipated that this fall, in 1991, there will be six CHR's in the training program. So the training program will go on. However, I will provide the positions according to communities, whether they are filled, also what the salary levels are and when we expect them to be filled if they are not. Thank you.

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

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since it is Friday, I would like to -- actually it is Thursday but we are pretending it is Friday -- we are using Friday hours today.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. We are using the hours that have been authorized by the House. We are not necessarily using the hours of Friday. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Question O395-91(1): Agricultural Policy For Nunavut

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Government Leader. Many years ago, when I came to Nunavut, I saw no potential whatsoever for agriculture in that part of the world. There was a small experimental farm in Fort Chimo, Kuujuaq, and I know that the nuns in Chesterfield Inlet kept chickens, and I believe that some Hudson's Bay managers kept the odd pig. Is there a policy which allows the practice of agriculture in that part of the world we know as Nunavut?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O395-91(1): Agricultural Policy For Nunavut

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I am told by the Minister of Renewable Resources that such a policy is under development. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Supplementary To Question O395-91(1): Agricultural Policy For Nunavut

MR. LEWIS: Since the practice of agriculture in that part of the world would be very, very difficult and very expensive, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government Leader if, in the development of this policy, the government would look at subsidizing agriculture in the same way that it is done right throughout the rest of Canada, especially in the prairie provinces.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Further Return To Question O395-91(1): Agricultural Policy For Nunavut

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would think that subsidizing agriculture in Nunavut might not be a very expensive proposition. So yes, indeed, the government would entertain that favourably.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Question O396-91(1): Iqaluit Farmer

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that in the Government Leader's constituency there is a farm in which a very old resident keeps pigs, goats, chickens, doves, in fact quite a wide variety of animals. Is this a conforming or nonconforming farm? Because we have a policy to govern the practice of agriculture in his part of the world.

MR. SPEAKER: New question. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O396-91(1): Iqaluit Farmer

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, while on a constituency visit in Iqaluit last Christmas, I visited Mr. Bill MacKenzie's house and his farm, where I observed a very pregnant goat. I believe her name was Ismarelda.

---Laughter

Or was that the pig -- the pig is Abigail. At any rate, Mr. Speaker, the goat has kids, one of which, I understand, has needed special attention and home care. So I know Mr. MacKenzie, at the moment, has a kid in his house -- like many of us.

Mr. Speaker, our economic strategy does acknowledge that there should be a certain amount of government intervention in the economy. But I think it would be very unfortunate if government policy went so far as to prohibit anyone from having a kid. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Glad you are both visiting the same person. Honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O397-91(1): Inuktitut Radio Programming In Manitoba Transient Centres

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Health. I would like her assistance for my constituents. In Churchill and also in Winnipeg, at the transient centres, the facilities used to house patients that have to go to centres for treatment from the Keewatin Region, I have been told by numerous people that they have no access to Inuktitut radio programming, even CBC Winnipeg and Churchill. Can the Minister assist the Inuit in these two transient centres to get access to Inuktitut programming provided in the North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Nunakput.

Return To Question O397-91(1): Inuktitut Radio Programming In Manitoba Transient Centres

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

Question O398-91(1): Departmental Plan For Complex In Lac La Martre

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I asked the Minister

of Renewable Resources if he could provide me with the departmental plan for the community of Lac la Martre. Is the Minister prepared to provide it today? I requested that prior to the adjournment of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O398-91(1): Departmental Plan For Complex In Lac La Martre

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated last week, I will ask my department to see if they can provide the Member with the plans for the building in Lac la Martre and also attempt to find a PY to man the building. I will be discussing this matter privately with the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Hay River.

Question O399-91(1): Deposit And Recycling System For Pop Cans

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Government Services, through you sir, the Minister has, through his NWT Liquor Commission, implemented a deposit and recycling program for aluminum beer cans. When will he extend that deposit and recycling system to aluminum pop cans in the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Inuvik.

Return To Question O399-91(1): Deposit And Recycling System For Pop Cans

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, as the Member knows, the funding for the program for reclaiming beer cans has come out of the liquor system. However, I am aware of the initiative that the Member has indicated to the House, and I believe that the joint committee within our government, which is led by Renewable Resources -- MACA, Municipal and Community Affairs, and Government Services are on the committee, and there is one other department -- would be looking at that to determine how funding can be identified to ensure that when pop cans are brought to the reclamation centre, people are funded for carrying out that return.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions.

Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 76-91(1), a letter from Mr. Frank Pope, general manager, Shihta Regional Council, regarding the visit of their development impact zone committee to an Ontario pipeline construction site and gas compression station.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 77-91(1), Northwest Territories Education Annual Report, 1990, in English and Inuktitut.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 78-91(1), The Dene Standardization Reports, in English and Inuktitut; Mr. Speaker, I would also like to table Tabled Document 79-91(1), Evaluation of Canada-NWT Contribution Agreement on Aboriginal Languages. Thank you.

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

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 80-91(1), a letter received by me from Iqaluit regarding the early childhood education program, which expresses concerns about the termination of the early childhood education program in Iqaluit.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 81-91(1), Electrical Rate Structure Review, October 1990, a report of the Public Utilities Board respecting rate structures in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motions. Notices of motions. Item 13, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 33: Labour Standards Act, No. 3

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 25, I shall move that Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 3, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 8-91(1). The honourable Member for Sahtu.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 8-91(1): Tabled Document 22-91(1) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Tabled Document 22-91(1), A Position Paper on Political and Constitutional Development, presented by the Executive Council, Government of the Northwest Territories, be moved into committee of the whole for discussion as the first item of business on Wednesday, April 10, 1991.

Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. However, we do not have a quorum in the House at the moment. To the motion. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, to the

motion.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder why a specific date has been mentioned in the Member's motion. Why did he not just make it general so that it can be discussed during the duration of the session, rather than a specific date. I do not know why that requirement is there. Just a comment.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Motion 9-91(1), the honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Motion 9-91(1): Extended Adjournment Of The House, Carried

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that when the House adjourns on March 21, 1991, it shall stand adjourned until April 9, 1991;

AND FURTHER, that if at any time prior to April 9, 1991, the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 15, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 33, Labour Standards Act, No. 3.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Slave River is seeking unanimous consent to give first reading to the bill she gave notice of, Bill 33. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

First Reading Of Bill 33: Labour Standards Act, No. 3

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 3, be read for the first time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 33 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 32, Corrections Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Slave River is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 32. Are there any nays? Proceed.

First Reading Of Bill 32: Corrections Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable Members. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Corrections Act, be read for the first time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 32 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to give second reading of Bill 33, Labour Standards Act, No. 3.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent to give second reading to Bill 33. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Second Reading Of Bill 33: Labour Standards Act, No. 3

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 3, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, would be to increase the minimum wage and establish different minimum rates of wages to be paid to different classes of employees. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 33 has had second reading. Second reading of bills. Bill 33 is referred to committee of the whole for today. Item 17,

consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 7; CR 2-91(1); Bills 8, 9, 10, and 33, with Mr. Zoe in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I would like to call the committee back to order. Yesterday we concluded with Bill 7. We are on the Department of Renewable Resources, under general comments. Does the Government House Leader have any comments as to what the committee should consider for this afternoon? Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the committee's agreement, the Minister would like to go ahead with Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 3. When that is concluded we can go back to the Department of Renewable Resources.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): I will call on the Minister of Safety and Public Services to make her opening remarks right after we come back from recessing.

--SHORT RECESS

Bill 33: Labour Standards Act, No. 3

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will come to order. We are dealing with Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 3. Madam Minister, do you wish to make your opening statement? Not right now? While we are waiting, I would like to acknowledge the presence of Judith Wright-Bird, the president of the NWT CHR Association and the CHR Association delegates from across the Northwest Territories. Those are the people sitting way in the back.

--Applause

Sorry, this is all of them in the gallery.

--Laughter

I would also like to acknowledge the presence of Darlene Watts from Port Alberni, British Columbia, the president of the National Indian and Inuit Community Health Representatives Organization.

--Applause

Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. I do not have my opening remarks. This is the second time material has been taken off my desk. I am just waiting for the material to be returned.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. We will just wait. Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for the delay. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this amendment is to increase the present minimum wage of five dollars per hour and to establish different minimum rates of wages for communities located on and off the NWT highway

system. The amendment also establishes different rates of wages for employees under 16 years of age.

For those communities prescribed by regulation to be located on the highway system, the minimum wage will be \$6.50 per hour, while for employees under 16 years of age, it will be six dollars per hour. For all other communities the minimum wage will be seven dollars per hour, while for employees under 16 years of age, it will be \$6.50 per hour.

I am sure that all Members of this House will agree that the time has come to raise the minimum wage and I look forward to receiving the support of all Members so that the increase can be implemented on April 1. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Madam Minister. The chairman of the standing committee on legislation, Mr. Ernerk, do you have any opening remarks?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. The standing committee on legislation has responded to government initiatives to raise the minimum wage in both the seventh and eighth sessions. The bill before the House this afternoon results from a comprehensive examination of various options and concepts for structuring a minimum wage that meets the special circumstances of our northern work environment.

The legislation reflects, I believe, an earnest commitment on the part of the Minister of Safety and Public Services, the Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, to address the need for a long overdue increase to the territorial minimum wage, while at the same time recognizing that the cost of living is higher in our more remote communities.

Today, Mr. Chairperson, the government has introduced a bill entitled Labour Standards Act, No. 3, to take the place of the Labour Standards Act, No. 2, which was given first reading this past Monday. Labour Standards Act, No 2, would have raised the minimum wage to \$6.50 per hour and would have made everyone subject to that single wage.

During its initial review of the bill on February 25, 1991, the standing committee felt that an alternate structure should be used to meet the needs of workers in areas of the NWT where the cost of living is consistently higher. After a detailed study of the issue, the standing committee met again with the Minister and her officials on March 20, 1991, to recommend the establishment of a two-tiered minimum wage structure. This innovative model would provide for a minimum wage of \$6.50 in communities serviced by year-round roads but would also provide for a minimum wage of seven dollars for workers in off-road communities or work sites.

The definition of what constitutes an "off-road" as opposed to an "on-road" community could be difficult in some circumstances, Mr. Chairperson. For that reason, we recommended to the Minister that the new regulation-making powers be included in the legislation to define these. She has responded with a system that will establish a schedule of prescribed communities in which workers receive the base minimum wage rate of \$6.50. Workers in all communities or work sites not prescribed in these regulations, would be eligible to receive a minimum wage of seven dollars.

Mr. Chairperson, there is an additional component to the proposed legislation that also resulted from a recommendation which the standing committee was pleased to provide for the Minister. The current bill provides for a lower minimum wage to be paid to workers who are younger than 16 years of age. Employees under 16 years of age in prescribed communities would receive a minimum wage of six dollars an hour.

Employees under 16 years of age in off-road workplace settings would receive a minimum wage of \$6.50 an hour. In both cases, the minimum wage for a youth employee is 50 cents lower than the corresponding minimum wage payable to workers who are 16 years of age or older.

Mr. Chairperson, as always, it is difficult to know exactly where the dollar values for a minimum wage should be set. In September, 1989, the Minister of Safety and Public Services of the time, the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, appointed a labour standards law review panel to conduct a study into employment standards in the NWT and to make recommendations as to provisions which might be contained in a new employment standards act. This panel recommended that the minimum wage should be raised immediately to \$6.75, payable to all workers across the NWT. Further recommendations in their final report dealt with the revised process for establishing the minimum wage. Without wishing to demean the serious and committed efforts of the panel's membership, this project was severely flawed by the heavy focus on Yellowknife interests. The panel did not travel to outlying communities, did not hear representation from the eastern regions of the NWT, and did not seek out input from aboriginal organizations. Their recommendation for a single rate minimum wage did not reflect the needs of other communities, nor that fact that there are value differentials in the work performed by employees of different ages.

Mr. Chairperson, I believe that the bill before the committee of the whole today will address these issues. It will, as honourable Members may wish to note, provide all workers of the NWT with the highest minimum wage anywhere in Canada. Given our relatively high cost of living and our need to be able to offer a good living to those in the northern workforce, the standing committee on legislation is supportive of this innovative bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: I would just like to make a few general comments. It was October of 1985 that we last raised the minimum wage, which is the reason that it urgently had to be done. It is unfortunate that we could not have done it last October. The will was there on everyone's part to raise the minimum wage, but it was a matter of how it should be done.

I would like to say that I would be supportive of the Minister's original intention to have some sort of regulation or even a policy, in the government, that would cause an annual review to take place so that we would not get behind like this and again not touch the legislation for five years.

Public Hearings Should Be Required

The only thing I would like to say on that matter is that if we are going to remove the authority to establish the minimum wage from the Assembly to a regulatory body, I just want to say that what we require, I think, is that there would have to be something in the actual legislation which would guarantee that regulatory body would have to hold some sort of public hearings or give some form of public notice that they were intending to make a change.

The way we have it right now, when the legislation has to be amended, at least it guarantees that notice of intention to pass a bill in the house is on a public record so there is at least that opportunity, short though it may be, for public knowledge of the introduction of the bill. In the normal process that bill could be given notice of and passed within a week. At least there is that much notice.

I would like to tell the Minister that I would be supportive of

having some regulatory system in place that would annually review the situation, taking into consideration the cost of living and actual prices of food and other factors that are available in other departments and divisions of her responsibility that could give advice in this area.

I am happy that they made this increase. I am also glad that they have made the distinction between the minimum wage that has to be paid to school age children and those beyond school age. The age 16 -- basically for a person who is an employer, it makes that employee more valuable to them when they turn 16 because they can, for example, get a driver's licence. They do not have to attend school, so therefore these could be full-time employees once they are 16. There is the possibility they could even be supporting a family at that age because once you are 16 you can get married without your parents' consent. There are all sorts of reasons why 16 is a good age. Also, having a slightly lower salary for younger people starting out will do something to possibly encourage employers to hire younger people and train them on the job. When they turn 16 they will automatically get a wage increase.

I would like to thank the Minister for understanding the committee's concerns with the initial legislation that came before us in October and correcting it now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. General comments. The honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I just want the committee to be aware that that was the intent of the first bill that we proposed. It was to try to set up a system where the Minister did not have to come back to legislation or the Assembly to change the minimum wage. The initial bill addressed that problem by placing the responsibility for the change of minimum wage from legislation to regulation, and this House did not accept that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. Does the committee agree that we go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 2. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, in clause 2, in paragraphs (1.1)(a) and (1.1)(b) -- those areas where you are prescribing -- communities are prescribed by regulation. A little bit of work has been done in this area. There may be situations where the government may want, for some reason, to prescribe a location rather than a community because there are work sites that could be right next to a community but not technically in a community. I have an amendment where I would like to change the wording where it says, "community", for example, in paragraph (a) and in paragraph (b). In (a) it would say, "where the employee works in a community or place prescribed by regulation..."

Mr. Chairman, the amendment, because it covers a couple of sections, is just being translated right now, so I would withhold making my motion, if other people have things to say. If there are no comments, I will make the motion and then we would possibly have to adjourn for five minutes.

Would it be better, Mr. Chairman, if I made the motion and then we continue on with other sections?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. McLaughlin, if you have a motion prepared, would you please read it, or make a motion?

Motion To Amend Clause 2, Bill 33

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I move that An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 3, be amended by repealing subclause 2.(1) and substituting the following: "2.(1) subsection 13(1) is repealed and the following substituted: 13.(1) Subject to this part, an employer shall pay to each employee a wage at a rate not less than the rate set out in subsection (1.1) or not less than the equivalent of that rate for the time worked by the employee. (1.1) The minimum rate of wages to be paid by an employer is as follows: (a) where the employee works in a community or other place prescribed by regulation and is 16 years of age or older, \$6.50 an hour; (b) where an employee works in a community or other place prescribed by regulation and is under 16 years of age, six dollars an hour; (c) where an employee works in a place other than a community or other place prescribed by regulation and is 16 years of age or older, seven dollars an hour; (d) where an employee works in a place other than a community or other place prescribed by regulation is under 16 years of age, \$6.50 per hour." Mr. Chairman, that is my motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Before I make a ruling on the motion, we will have it translated into syllabics, French and English. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come back to order. Mr. McLaughlin, we have the act in the Inuit language as well as the French and English versions. For the benefit of the Members, would you read your motion again?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, my motion would repeal the existing wording and replace it with the following wording in subclause 2.(1) so that it would read: "13(1) is repealed and the following is substituted: 13.(1) Subject to this part, an employer shall pay to each employee a wage at a rate not less than the rate set out in subsection (1.1) or not less than the equivalent of that rate for the time worked by the employee.

(1.1) The minimum rate of wages to be paid by an employer is as follows: (a) where the employee works in a community or other place prescribed by regulation and is 16 years of age or older, \$6.50 an hour; (b) where the employee works in a community or other place prescribed by regulation and is under 16 years of age, six dollars an hour; (c) where the employee works in a place other than a community or other place prescribed by regulation and is 16 years of age or older, seven dollars an hour; (d) where the employee works in a place other than a community or other place prescribed by regulation and is under 16 years of age, \$6.50 an hour." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. The motion is in order. To the motion. Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the committee's consent to bring in two witnesses, please. Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring in these two witnesses in order to obtain clarification on the proposed amendment to this motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in her witnesses? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Go ahead, Madam Minister. For the record, would you introduce your witnesses?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: On my right is the deputy minister of Safety and Public Services, Mr. John Quirke; on my left is Diane Buckland, legislative counsel, legislative division, Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Just to remind the Members that when bills are being considered in committee of the whole, questions relating to the contents of the bill shall only be addressed to the Minister or Member in charge of the bill. No witnesses in the committee can make statements to the bill unless it is for clarification. To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, the intent of the motion is simply to make sure that if a situation does arise where the Minister or the government for some reason thinks that a place outside of communities should be put in the prescribed list, they would be able to do it. An example I can think of that might be a practical application for doing something like this would be if there was a project in a community which basically hired youth for the summer to supervise children in a day camp situation. There might be a situation where the day camp operation could have a facility which was located outside the municipal boundaries of the community and they use that facility for periods of time, or maybe one of the employees of the group was there all the time. You would not want to have a situation where the employees, while they were at the facility just outside the boundaries, would be paid a different wage for the couple of hours of the day they might happen to be outside the formal community itself. That is an example of why I think the government may want to have that option available to them in case it had to be used. It is pretty unlikely that it would come up, but if it did, the Minister would be able to do something about it in order to prevent confusion in the area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. To the motion, Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of bringing in witnesses was just to get clarification with respect to other places. With respect to the comments of the Member who proposed the amendment, I just want to make it clear to the Members of the House that if other places, say, for instance, lodges are to be one example that are to be prescribed as to whether they are off-highway or what applicable minimum wages are to be applied to them, these other places have to be changed in regulation upon request.

I just wanted to clarify, through legal counsel, the process with respect to regulation changes as to what would be designated as other places. Mr. McLaughlin gave one example for day camps, but I want to tell Members that sufficient notice would have to be given in order to change the regulation to address day camps, and it would be difficult to address these situations after the fact. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The Minister is requesting that the committee consider letting her witness clarify the amendments. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I did not

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I did not ask if my witnesses could clarify the amendments, I just wanted to seek clarification from my witnesses and advise the Members of clarification in respect to this proposed amendment to the bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Go ahead, Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I believe I have already proposed to the Members and advised them of clarification as to how I understand the bill. If there are no other questions, then we are willing to vote on the bill itself.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Amend Clause 2, Bill 33, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Question has been called. To the amendment. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion to amend is carried.

---Carried

Clause 2, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 3. Mr. McLaughlin.

Motion To Amend Clause 3, Bill 33, Carried

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, there is similar wording in this clause that needs amending, based on the same purposes. I move that An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 3, be amended by repealing clause 3 and substituting the following: "Section 16 is amended by adding the following after paragraph (f): (f.1) prescribing the communities and other places in which the minimum wage established by paragraphs 13(1.1)(a) and (b) applies." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Clause 3, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 4. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 3, is now ready for third reading, as amended? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): I would like to thank the witnesses and Madam Minister. The Government House Leader has requested that we go back to the Department of Renewable Resources. Does the committee agree that we return to Renewable Resources?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 7: Appropriation Act, 1991-92

Department Of Renewable Resources

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Allooooloo, do you wish to bring in your witnesses?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Allooooloo, bring in your witnesses. When we concluded yesterday we were still on general comments, page 12.10. Before we proceed, Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Chairman, to my left is my assistant deputy minister, Bob Wooley; to my right is my assistant deputy minister, Bob McLeod.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I received correspondence that the hunters in Repulse Bay received \$18,785 for their expenditures, for their secretary, and to the members of the HTA, for operations such as telephones, office supplies and to the band for fishing and for the jaws of the polar bear. I do not know how the other Members feel about this. In Repulse Bay they said that the funding is not sufficient for the year, \$1597, because of the fact of inflation. They could have used \$20,280, which would have been the total for the year. Maybe the other HTAs feel that they do not have sufficient funding. I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, about the funding, because the HTA operations help the communities themselves and the government.

With regard to wildlife, when they say that they will not have sufficient funding for operations, would the Department of Renewable Resources consider increasing that funding that they provide? Thank you, very much.

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

Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding that is provided to the HTAs is based on a formula, depending on the general hunting licence holders in the community. That is what we have used up until now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): (Translation) Member for Avivilik.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not get a response. Can the funding be increased by a certain percentage?

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There will not be any increase at this time. We would be willing to increase it, but because of the government's policy of restraint we are unable to do so at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): (Translation) Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Repulse Bay Hunters and Trappers Association wanted to hear if there was going to be an increase. Thank you for the answer.

Damage Done By Animal Rights Activists

The other item I wanted to touch on is the animal rights activists. They have deteriorated the Inuit culture and taken away jobs. A while back the sealing industry went down, and the animal rights activists, the Europeans, did not even try to understand our culture. We Inuit want to try and promote our culture and show it to the world. I am aware that the territorial government is behind us all the way. They try and educate the world about the Inuit culture. I support them, and I know there is room for them to do more work on that.

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and the Dene organizations support us fully. CITES, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, were also involved to promote our culture. I am happy with that. The renewable resource economy in the North should have more support. A lot of people are pushing for this.

I am sure we can promote more handicrafts in the North, and even make briefcases. I know that is done at this time. But they have to be top-of-the-line products. As well, Mr. Minister, I would like to give you my support. The sealskins or furs in the communities that we use -- I wonder if they can be more neatly made to sell in Canada or in the North or to the world. I wanted to state that to the Minister. I also had a question to see how much work is being done to promote the Inuit culture.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Member stated, I fully support his comments that we have to find some ways to make better use of the economic side of renewable resources. We are also involved with the CITES and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. I am sure that we are slowly getting the message across that here in the Northwest Territories we can manage our wildlife pretty well. That is the kind of recognition we have gained through the international conferences that we attend.

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

MR. ERNERK: What is being done to promote the aboriginal, Inuit way of life in the NWT, in terms of trying to provide more educational opportunities to southern Canadians, as well as the international community, with respect to wildlife management, conservation, and things like that? Keeping in mind that any initiatives that the government has and other organizations have had who relate to wildlife management promoting conservation, good wildlife management and things like that -- keep that in mind, please, that you do have my full support.

I do want to know what other initiatives have been undertaken by the GNWT to promote the use of wildlife in Canada, things like trapping and management in Canada as well as in the international community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Minister.

Promoting Understanding Of Natural Resource Harvesting

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been trying to make the people in Canada try to understand our way of life and our ability to manage wildlife in the Northwest Territories, this initiative is being taken through the Fur Institute of Canada. They have a program where they go into schools to make the school kids understand how the wildlife harvesters use natural resources, how wildlife is managed and conserved, and the importance of using these resources. Also, through the fur auction houses we have a program set up to make the people of Canada understand why the natural resource harvesting is important. Through our Ministers of Wildlife conferences, we have agreed to set up a wildlife policy for Canada that would promote the use of wildlife. Thank you.

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

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Minister. I have another question that I would like to ask about renewable resources. I made a few comments about economic development opportunities. You are wearing a sealskin vest. The sealskin vests are very nice, and when the sealskins are worn as clothing they look very nice, but the products that we see are made outside of Canada. I think that the territorial government could assist the people in a big way if we had processing facilities to make clothing in the NWT. I think you can make all kinds of clothing such as parkas, vests and other items. They would be made in the North, made in Canada, to be sold outside the NWT, in Canada and outside Canada.

I think we have a lot of seals in the NWT. I believe it is estimated there are about 70,000 seals. I was just using the vest as an example, but we can make other products out of the very same skins. Do you want to establish a manufacturing facility to provide more jobs for our people? How do you feel about that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) The Department of Economic Development and our department are trying to put together a tannery within the NWT so that sealskins and other fur pelts can be manufactured in the NWT. I think that this can provide jobs and also there will be finished products made in the NWT and we will be able to sell our crafts. There will be a Nunavut one and this will be the first one. Sometime in the future there will be another plant in the Western Arctic. I know that this will create more jobs, and we are working on this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): (Translation) Mr. Ernerk.

are these manufacturing facilities going to be made? Will it be a year or two years from now?

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During this session the Minister of Economic Development announced the territorial government's agreement with the federal government on the re-establishing of the Economic Development Agreement.

(Translation) We will be working through that to establish those manufacturers. In the Baffin Region there is already a building that has been constructed through the Inuit Tapirisat, of Canada and this is going to be a tannery. I cannot tell you exactly when this is going to start operating.

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

Hunters and Trappers Income Support Program Needed

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I have another comment to make on another subject. It is related to hunter income support program. I believe you said a number of weeks ago that your department is working with the Department of Social Services to try and implement this hunter income support program. It is quite important, Mr. Chairperson, for the people we represent. Certainly, it is important for the people that I represent because a majority of them are hunters and trappers.

We must begin to try to help as much as possible our hunters and trappers in our communities so that people have something to do. We have to make every effort to get our people to do something in the communities. I have tried to persuade the Government of the Northwest Territories to implement fully the hunter income support program because it is important, extremely important, for the people in our communities. It is a comment and not exactly a question, but I do want to get some response from the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree that it is important to set up a program whereby hunters would be able to get assistance from the government. As I stated earlier yesterday, my department, along with the Department of Social Services, is working together to come up with a possible solution to the problem. As well, we are working with the Dene/Metis and TFN, Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, to establish a program. Hopefully, we will be able to have a program of some kind of assistance to hunters and trappers throughout the NWT sometime this year. We recognize the need, and we support the harvesting that is done by the community members. Thank you.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This proposed hunters income support program has been around for a long time; it has been around since about 1985 or 1986. I recall when I was with TFN that we worked on the proposal with the Government of the Northwest Territories, so it has been around for a long time. My main concern continues to be, how soon can we get this program implemented? I appreciate the Minister's comment that perhaps it will be sometime this year, but we must do it soon.

I do have another question to the Minister on a similar matter. It has to do with fuel assistance to the hunters and trappers in the NWT. How much fuel assistance do they get per year?

I understand it was something like one 45-gallon drum a year. Is that true, or is there more now? How much fuel assistance do the hunters get, the GHL, general hunting licence, holders? I understand it was something like 45 gallons a year. Is that right?

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware of a universal program that would give assistance to local hunters and trappers in terms of assisting them to get fuel; I was not aware of that program. We do give assistance to outpost camps. When they live in the outpost camps we normally assist them in getting fuel for their camp. We also provide, outside of our core funding to local HTAs, a community harvesters assistance program. That money is administered by the local HTA.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wording was my mistake. I apologize to the Minister for misleading him about the wording. It is not fuel, it is gasoline. It was brought to my attention some time ago from the riding of Aivilik that they do receive, I believe, gasoline assistance so that they can go out and hunt and trap, seal hunt, and do these kinds of things in their communities. Is it correct that they do have gasoline assistance?

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said in my previous remarks, local community HTAs are able to tap into one of our programs, which is the community harvesters assistance program. Under that program they administer the funds and they determine what sort of assistance should be given to a particular hunter in that community. Through this program, the local HTA is able to assist hunters in getting gasoline to their hunters and trappers. Thank you.

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

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will thank the Minister at this time. That is all I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. We are on page 12.10. Are there any general comments? Mr. Morin.

Reviewing Of Comments Made Yesterday

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, yesterday in my general comments there were some questions which I was wondering if you could answer, possibly, today. One question was that we were still looking forward to working with the department to test the water in Fort Resolution Bay. I am wondering if the Minister can give me an update on that, on when your department will be coming in to do that water testing. Would you be able to start doing it this spring when the run-off starts? Thank you.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Chairman, when we come into the community this spring we will get community members to help us test the water.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also touched on the area of burning prairies. That may even be part of the buffalo management -- I am not sure -- but it was an issue I

buffalo management – I am not sure -- but it was an issue I had brought up two or three years ago. There was a study that is completed now so what we are asking for is to bring this suppression crew in a little sooner and do some pilot projects on burning prairies. Thank you.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still waiting for a proposal from Fort Resolution. We agree that we should do it. We are also working on the logistics of this burning to make sure that it could happen. The community has not got back to us yet on the proposal. That is all we are waiting for. Thank you.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is good to hear that you are in agreement in general. Would you send one of your staff down, whoever has that expertise, to Resolution to assist the HTA in developing that proposal? Thank you.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Yes, we can.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the general comments yesterday I made mention of a forestry base that was in the capital budget two years ago and it has now disappeared. I would just like to get it on public record that we had asked to defer it so that we could make better use of our capital projects. Where is it now? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Chairman, it is still in the five-year capital projects and it is still in the plans.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to recognize in the public gallery, Rotary International northern experience students. The students are from Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Alberta and Saskatchewan. They are visiting Yellowknife as guests of the Yellowknife Rotary Club. Welcome to Yellowknife.

--Applause

Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, we had sent one of our local people to Fort Smith to be trained as a game warden and I believe he has finished his training. I also mentioned yesterday in my opening remarks about that position. Would you be transferring him back to Snowdrift this summer?

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The individual that the Member is talking about is currently working for us. We can look at the point raised by the Member as one of our options.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had also stated in my opening remarks about the bad shape of the equipment from your department in Fort Resolution -- I am talking about a boat. As the Minister is aware, a power boat is needed in

Fort Resolution because we do not have any rescue boat. Even the RCMP only have a 18 foot Lund, so when the waves get big on that lake you have no protection. I am asking you to upgrade your equipment in Fort Resolution so that it can be called up if needed in an emergency.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will look at the Member's concern.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, in my opening remarks yesterday, the Minister is aware that the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories should be working on developing a hand-held tool for processing raw hides, not taking away from the traditional process. Will the department get in touch with the Science Institute and do everything possible to help them to develop that tool as soon as possible? Thank you.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Yes.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the reason I have to go back and revisit these past issues that I just mentioned is that maybe the Minister was in shock or dazed yesterday because he did not have any comments to my comments and these were the questions in there. That is the reason I have to revisit them today.

I had also mentioned that I have a concern about raw moose hides not being used, so the animal is not being used to its fullest. Sometimes we use motions in the Assembly to guide the departments; sometimes we use them so that Ministers can see that there is general support for doing something. Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to put a motion on the floor.

Motion To Consider Allocation Of Funding For Purchase Of Moose Hides From Hunters, Carried

I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Renewable Resources consider allocating funding under the fur marketing service revolving fund to permit the purchase of raw moose hides from hunters that have access, and to resell them to the people in the community that have difficulty in obtaining hides. Thank you. This motion is translated and everything.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Mr. Morin. The motion is in order. To the motion, Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot foretell the future yet. For the information of the Members from the East, who do not have moose, in the Eastern Arctic, a lot of times in the West people do not bring the hides in because they weigh a lot and you burn a lot of extra gas. It costs a lot of money to bring it back from 200 miles away. So if they could pay a small amount to that hunter when he brings it in, we all have community freezers and the hide can be put in that freezer. For example, if they bought a hide in Snowdrift for \$75, that would cover 15 gallons of gas. Then they could resell that hide to another community, for people who want to tan it. That way you create a little bit of an economy and you help the hunter out, as well, for gas, and we will have enough hides to make handicrafts for Expo in Seville, Spain. Basically, we will get better use of our resources. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Mr. Morin. To the motion. The Chair does not recognize a quorum. Would you ring the bell please, Mr. Clerk? We now have a quorum. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

General comments. Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) I would like the Minister to consider the communities that have no wildlife officers, namely Broughton Island and Pangnirtung. When will they get a wildlife officer located in those two communities? Because they are very useful to the community. Is there such a lack of wildlife officers that these two communities do not have one at this time? I know that money is always the problem. I would like the Minister to respond to my question of getting a wildlife officer in those two communities that I just mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): (Translation) Thank you. Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These two communities will be getting Renewable Resources officers shortly. The reason for the delay is that we had difficulty getting appropriate people to fill those positions. We have wildlife officers for these two communities now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): (Translation) Mr. Kilabuk.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you know when you will get wildlife officers for those two communities? Will it be March or April?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): (Translation) Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) We will let you know this month when you will be getting your wildlife officers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the past year I have grilled the Minister on a number of different issues: the spruce budworm problem in the Liard Valley, reforestation, various topics on pollution, and certain items on wildlife. Mr. Chairman, the Minister and his department have been very good. They have got back to me very promptly with the information, and generally speaking, the responses have been very good. The department is well maintained and managed, and they are dealing with the majority of issues in a fashion.

There is only one question that he has not answered since last year. I did ask him about it; it does not have anything to do with Yellowknife South.

SOME HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible comment)

Seal Problem In High Arctic

MR. WHITFORD: That was why I was a little afraid to raise it now, but I will have to make peace with my colleague for Rae-Lac la Martre over this. It dealt with the issue of the suspected invasion of seals into the Arctic from off the eastern coast. That was one of the questions I asked last year, and I never did get a response to it. I do not know whether or not it is perceived to be or is a problem or is going to be a

problem.

What I was raising at the time was a perception, at least in my mind and in the mind of one of my colleagues from the High Arctic, as to whether or not foreign seals from the east coast, as a result of Greenpeace's activity in the area of killing the seal industry off Labrador, and the effects on the Norwegians and the other killers of fur seals in that area -- what I was getting at was the number of seals that would have survived would have to look for new feeding grounds because they would continue to multiply. This would cause pressure on their immediate area, which we are already experiencing. If you would read some of the concerns expressed by the Newfoundland people, there is a depletion in the cod stocks now. And they attribute some of this to the numbers of seals that are surviving and feeding.

The concern that I had would be that those seals would move further north. This concern was also expressed by one of my colleagues. I just wonder if anything has ever been done to look at the possibility of that happening, as remote as it may seem. I just wonder if there has been any study or examination of that potential problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are aware of the problem and it has been pointed out to us by not just the Members but also community members, that the seals from Newfoundland are coming up to north Baffin by the thousands in the summertime. We have the same concern, that these seals have to feed on food that is normally eaten by resident seals. I have raised the concern with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans that there should be a study done on what the impacts are. We feel the impact is negative, but we have no conclusive evidence that they are doing damage to the resident fish stocks. So far the DFO, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, response has been that there is no plan at this point to put some money into this study. Thank you.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the Minister for his response. Although it is nice to hear that they have identified the source of the problem, it is still kind of scary, I guess, that there is no solution. I am sure this is not only a territorial matter; it is a matter that the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans will be examining, and I would encourage the Minister and his department to keep on it because it is not something that can easily be stopped.

It is like the issue in the Liard Valley with the spruce budworm. Once they get in there, it is difficult to get the little critters out, and I think the same thing would apply to the seals. Maybe we can look at some way of getting them to Seville, Mr. Chairman -- cover them with chocolate or something and sell them. I would encourage the Minister and his department to continue to liaise with Fisheries and Oceans on that issue before it does get out of hand.

Firewood In Short Supply

The other thing, Mr. Chairman, in some parts of the Territories, although we are surrounded by trees and wood, there are areas like Yellowknife here where we have to go an awful long way to get firewood. Many people, during the early 1980s when an energy crisis was looming, switched to wood, or added wood to their supply of heat. It is getting more difficult to find wood now. There were areas like the burn near Rae-Lac la Martre, which Rae-Lac la Martre generously shares with the residents of Yellowknife. However, those stocks are fast depleting, and I wonder if the Minister's department would

the city. You cannot go around the city to cut wood because we have a whole bunch of parks, and it is not easy to travel around because of the numerous lakes. The only place where we have any chance is in the Rae-Lac la Martre area and further west from there to the Deh Cho and around the Fort Simpson area.

So I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister and his department have looked at that and would be able to assuage people's fears that soon there will be no firewood around; maybe open up areas of green wood cutting if possible, keeping in mind, of course, the distance that one has to travel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you have any general comments on that?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure whether the Member is talking about seals in north Baffin or the trees in the Yellowknife region. Mr. Chairman, with respect to his earlier remarks concerning harp seals, it has been communicated to us that the seals coming up from Newfoundland used to be harvested by the Newfoundland residents. They still have a quota, but they are barely scratching the surface. Their harvest has dropped dramatically and that is why the seals are multiplying and going up to the north Baffin.

When I was home the last time I was informed that these seals, which are not normally in the area in the winter, are learning how to make breathing holes, in the north Baffin and south Baffin areas, and are staying around that particular region year-round.

With respect to the green trees, the dead trees, woodlots and whatever, we have attempted to address this problem and through our program, which is the forestry program, we work with the community to identify woodlots through demonstration projects. We have been out identifying a few lots that the community members are able to harvest. Thank you.

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

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for not making myself clear. I thought I had the situation of seals addressed because the Minister did respond that they were looking at the matter, and I hope that dialogue will continue. However, his further response enlightened me to the success that these migrants are having now with the adaptation to new environments. This is certainly a very interesting question.

As far as the wood is concerned, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the department's efforts in addressing that. Mr. Chairman, with that, I think I have had good relationships with the department and I want to extend to them my "thank you" for the co-operation that I have had with the issues that I have had to address.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity, as well, to make a motion that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): The motion to report progress is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--Carried

Thank you, Mr. Minister, and your witnesses. The Chair will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call the House back to order. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

MR. NINGARK: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 33 and Bill 7 and wishes to report progress, with three motions being adopted; and Bill 33 is ready for third reading, as amended.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 19, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask consent from the Members to present Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 3 for third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Slave River is seeking consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 33. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Third Reading Of Bill 33: Labour Standards Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 3, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried. Bill 33 has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to give assent to bills?

ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER NORRIS: Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby assent to Bill 1, The Adoption of the French Version of Statutes and Statutory Instruments Act; Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 1; Bill 12, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 1991; Bill 14, Loan Authorization Act, 1991-92; Bill 17, Expo '92 Revolving Fund Act; Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1990-91; Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products Tax Act; Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Tax Act; Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act; Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, No. 2; Bill 28, An Act Respecting Interim Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1992; Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 3. That is the end of the bills I will assent to today. Thank you for your attention.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Please be seated. Order please. Item 20, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings for April 9th: at 9:00 a.m., ajuqtit and at 10:00 a.m., caucus.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, April 9th.

1. Prayer

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 Motions
13. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 7; Committee Report 2-91(1); Bills 8, 9, and 10
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 9th, 1991.

--ADJOURNMENT

Available from the
Publications Clerk, Department of Culture and Communications
Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T.
\$35.00 for 1st session, \$25.00 for 2nd and 3rd session; or \$75.00 per year
Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Northwest Territories