



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1991

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Titus Allooloo, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, Mr. Crow, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Gargan, Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Kilabuk, 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 (Hon. Richard Nerysoo): Orders of the day for Wednesday, April 17, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 64-91(1): Justice Review, Gender Equality

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In December I announced the appointment of Katherine Peterson as my special adviser on gender equality in the justice system. I would like to provide the House with an update on her work.

The focus of the review by the special adviser is on the functioning of the justice system in the Northwest Territories as it affects women. She will be meeting with professionals within the justice system, with groups and organizations that deal with the justice system, and with members of the public who have had contact with the system. She will be working closely with the advisory committee on aboriginal justice where gender and cultural issues overlap.

Since January, Ms. Peterson has held meetings in Yellowknife and has attended meetings in Fort Smith and Rankin Inlet. She has also had contact with judges of the Supreme Court and territorial court, representatives from the Crown Attorney's office, the RCMP, and the justice of the peace administrator. Contact is also being established with women's shelters and other community groups.

The special adviser will be overseeing the development of workshop materials for delivery in the communities. She is planning to visit each of the regions and will hold public education and consultation sessions in a major centre and a smaller community in each region. She will begin in Hay River and Fort Smith in May.

A discussion paper is being prepared by her office which I expect to table as soon as possible along with a discussion paper prepared by my department dealing with other justice and aboriginal justice issues.

On the national level, a working group on gender equality in the justice system was struck after the last meeting of Justice Ministers. We have a justice representative taking an active role in this group. The federal government and all the provinces and territories, except Quebec, are also represented. The group is reviewing justice issues which are of national concern. They will be reporting to the next meeting of Ministers responsible for Justice to be held here in Yellowknife in the first week of September.

The issues being examined by the special adviser in our jurisdiction and by the working group on a national level are broad in scope and of great consequence to the future of the

justice system here and across the country.

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

Ministers' Statement 65-91(1): AIDS And HIV Testing

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, in the fall of 1989 I advised the Assembly that the Department of Health would be adding unlinked anonymous surveillance, UAS, to our AIDS/HIV program. The results of such a survey would lead to a better understanding of how the human immunodeficiency virus, HIV, is affecting the people of the Northwest Territories.

The initial sampling surveillance has now been completed, and I wish to advise the Assembly of the results. Honourable Members will remember that the UAS method consists of taking samples of blood left over from other tests, removing the name labels from the containers, and then testing the blood for HIV infection.

Over the past year, 971 such samples have been collected from territorial hospitals in Iqaluit, Inuvik and Yellowknife. Care was taken to ensure that persons already known to have HIV infection were not included in the samples. After tests were conducted on the samples, one additional infection was found.

From a statistical point of view, the numbers in the sample are very small and should be interpreted with great caution. A small sample such as this can be compared with taking a single snapshot at one point in time.

UAS is not the only type of testing taking place. Doctors and nurses are continuing to test patients if they seem likely to be infected. However, no new infections have been reported since my last update to the Assembly, and the number of infections recorded since 1987 remains at 11.

Honourable Members will, I am sure, be encouraged to know that the NWT rate is not very different from that found in some other provinces. The results of the survey suggest that there is still time for all of us to take the steps which are necessary to protect ourselves from this dreadful disease.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ministers' Statement 66-91(1): Appointments To The Status Of Women Council Of The NWT

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I am pleased to announce new members to the Status of Women Council of the NWT and make mention of the reappointments.

The reappointments from April 10, 1991 to April 10, 1992 are as follows: Rita Arey, Aklavik. Rita is a family counsellor who is interested in family violence issues and training for

counsellors in the field of human resources. Raised and educated in the North, Rita is a mother of two and is a former adult educator and has been active in community politics.

Bernadette Makpah, Rankin Inlet. Bernadette chairs the Kataujaq Society which operates a day-care centre and regional emergency shelter for victims of violence in Rankin Inlet. She is also a private businesswoman in Rankin Inlet who is involved in several companies. Bernadette is concerned about family violence and the potential effects of the GST on northern businesses and women in business.

Susan Sammons, Iqaluit. Susan is the co-ordinator of the interpreter/translator program at Arctic College's Nunatta Campus in Iqaluit. Susan was the first director of Iqaluit's transition house and has dealt extensively with family violence in the Baffin Region. Susan is concerned with day-care, militarization of the North, and cross-cultural marriages. She has a Ph.D. in linguistics and has a strong interest in aboriginal languages and culture.

Shirley Baton, Fort Franklin. Shirley is concerned with day-care, family violence and self-esteem for women and the need for funding to address these issues. As a mother of three, her main goal as a council member will be working for the creation of programs to help survivors of sexual abuse and the prevention of abuse.

Sister Agnes Sutherland of Fort Smith and Rebecca Kudloo of Baker Lake will continue their three-year terms until April 1993.

Shirley Kisoun, Inuvik. The new appointment is Shirley Kisoun of Inuvik. Shirley was born and raised in Inuvik and is of Inuvialuit and Gwich'in background. As the mother of one, her goal as a council member is to help the voice of women in the NWT. She is a member of the town council and works as a resource person for the Inuvik Hunters and Trappers Association.

The council's mandate is to work toward equality for women by providing advice to the government, conducting research and providing public education on issues of concern. They are an active and committed group of women who represent the cultural and geographic diversity of the Northwest Territories. I wish the members well in their challenging work and encourage women of the Northwest Territories to contact their representative on the council to voice their ideas and concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ministers' Statement 67-91(1): RCMP Priorities

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the House of the RCMP priorities which I have set for 1991-92. Under the policing agreement I have the authority to determine or approve priorities and goals for territorial policing. This year the priorities I have set expand upon those identified last year.

One primary concern continues to be family violence and child sexual abuse. Training of the police to deal with child sexual abuse is continuing this year. In January training was given to members from the Inuvik Region. In February training was given to members from Iqaluit and other communities in the South Baffin. With regard to child witnesses, I have asked the RCMP, in co-operation with Justice and Social Services, to examine the feasibility of establishing child interview rooms in pilot communities throughout the Northwest Territories.

Enforcement of alcohol and drug laws continues to be a priority. I also see the RCMP as having a role in prevention

of drug and alcohol abuse. The RCMP conduct an excellent drug awareness seminar in junior and senior high schools throughout the Northwest Territories.

Implementation of the aboriginal constable development program is a further priority. This is the program announced last year involving the hiring and development of aboriginal members who do not meet the basic RCMP recruitment requirements. The RCMP will hire and develop those individuals to a level that meets normal entrance standards. Twenty positions have been allotted to the program for the whole of Canada. We in the Northwest Territories have been allocated seven of these positions.

The fourth priority which I have set is to raise the profile of community-based policing. This is to be achieved by the RCMP monitoring and responding to the recommendations of the community law enforcement consultation groups in most communities. Another factor involved in this is ensuring that each new member in the division receives cross-cultural training.

These priorities, of course, do not address all of our policing concerns but they do serve to focus attention on issues which have been expressed as being most important to the people of the Northwest Territories.

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

Ministers' Statement 68-91(1): Local And Northern Involvement By Community Programs Section

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I will be tabling a document entitled "Local and Northern Involvement for 1990-91". It was produced by the community programs section of the engineering division, Department of Public Works. This section is responsible for the design and construction of capital works for forest firefighting, for community roads, site and land development, drainage improvements, community dust control and granular investigations, and for providing gravel supplies. This section also designs and constructs sewage treatment and solid waste disposal facilities in smaller communities where much of the project budget goes to earthworks such as road and embankment construction.

Mr. Speaker, as part of the territorial government's overall economic development strategy, a major priority of the Department of Public Works is to maximize the benefits to local and northern residents that can be generated by GNWT construction contracts. The community programs section is just one of the groups within DPW which has met with considerable success in maximizing the percentage of construction contracts awarded to local and northern contractors and hamlets, and in providing training and employment opportunities to Northerners.

In 1990-91, the community programs section issued 162 construction and service contracts; 98 per cent of these contracts were awarded to local and northern contractors, suppliers or hamlets. This represents about 93 per cent of the total construction dollars. As well, all architectural and engineering contracts were awarded to northern firms. This section was also successful in providing 223 local residents with training and employment opportunities as survey helpers, gravel screening plant operators, truck drivers, gravel checkers and dust control operators. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ministers' Statement 69-91(1): Victims Initiatives

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, last week, Mr. Gargan brought to the attention of the Assembly the case of Kitty Nowdluk, the Inuit woman who was taken under police escort from British Columbia to Iqaluit because she was required as a witness in a sexual assault case.

This case has received national attention and, quite appropriately, is being investigated. I will not comment on the specific circumstances of the case right now because it is under consideration by the RCMP public complaints commission. But I will say that through my officials I asked the RCMP to conduct a formal investigation into the matter. I also understand that an explanation and apology were sent to Kitty Nowdluk by the RCMP in February. Currently, prosecutions are not within the mandate of this government and, therefore, I must leave any review of the actions of the prosecutors in this case to my counterpart in Ottawa.

While I am not in a position to comment in detail on the Kitty Nowdluk case, I do wish to respond directly to some of the broader issues which Mr. Gargan quite properly raised.

The victims assistance committee, established under the Victims of Crime Act, has just completed its first full year of activity. This committee's main focus so far has been making recommendations to me as to the allotment of the fine surcharge money in the victims assistance fund. Funding has gone for a wide variety of projects, from sending community workers to training workshops, to developing a guide to the establishment of victims programs, to supporting a friendship centre to offer assistance to victims. We are pleased that this fund is becoming better known so that more applications from across the Northwest Territories are now being received.

In the coming year, I will be looking to the victims assistance committee to take a broader role in advising me about the new initiatives we are developing to support victims of crime.

With the additional money that has been allocated in the 1991-92 budget of the Department of Justice, we are planning some important new directions. Both the Native Women's Association and Pauktuutit have pointed out that there is a need for resources in each community. Local people, either working in related fields or serving as volunteers, need information and training about the justice system as it affects victims. We will be preparing a training manual for them which will serve as a permanent reference source, and also as the guide for training sessions which will be conducted in several regions over the coming year. An informational video would also be prepared as part of this package.

In order to provide community workers with a place where they can turn when they have questions, we are considering the appointment of regional victims co-ordinators to work closely with the Crown prosecutors' offices in Yellowknife and Iqaluit. These individuals would facilitate communication between the Crown prosecutors and people in the communities and would be resource persons for those community people who are working with victims.

To accompany the booklet "Kids in Court", which has been prepared this year, we are developing plans for the production of a video on child sexual abuse. This booklet is aimed at young children who are victims of child sexual abuse and have to go to court to give evidence. It explains what will take place in court, what professionals they will be in contact with, and so on. The video would convey a similar message, but through a medium that children are very comfortable with.

Many victims of violent crimes are women. Most victims of family violence or sexual assault are women or girls. I was

concerned enough about this that late last year I appointed a special adviser on gender equality to review the way the justice system treats women. I look forward to receiving recommendations from Katherine Peterson which will allow our system to become more sensitive to victims.

Under our policing contract, I set priorities each year for the RCMP. Since I established this practice in 1989, victims issues, especially matters such as training to facilitate work with child sexual abuse victims and family violence victims, have always figured prominently.

Cabinet is considering a victim impact statement program which will be implemented on a pilot project basis in communities in each region. This program will operate with the co-operation of the RCMP. The idea is to give victims a way of speaking directly to the judge about how the crime has affected them.

Under the amendments to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act which will come into force June 1, 1991, "pain and suffering" will become one of the categories under which compensation may be paid. In the meantime, officials in my department have been interpreting the old legislation broadly to allow payments for counselling needed by victims as a result of a criminal act.

I am pleased that Members of this Assembly take an active interest in the plight of victims, and I look forward to keeping you informed about the steps which are taken in this area. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Before proceeding to the next item, I wish to draw the attention of honourable Members to the presence of the president of the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Gary Bohnet.

---Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement On Alcohol Problem In NWT**

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue that touches most of our lives every day, alcohol. Mr. Speaker, alcohol is a major factor in all types of violence in our society. Sadly, it is also a killer. Just last month it contributed to the death of a young woman in Rankin Inlet. Before the arrival of alcohol, Mr. Speaker, the Inuit placed great value on family and friendship. Today alcohol divides our families and separates friends. But we can do something about that.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe we can solve the problem of alcohol abuse by reducing the amount of booze coming into our communities. Instead, we must all accept responsibility for this problem and we must all make a greater effort to teach responsible drinking. Mr. Speaker, we must help others and we must help ourselves because that is what we are all about in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I am asking for help from every sector of this society to help educate me so that I can make sure that my children grow up in a happy and healthy environment. We must all do our part, Mr. Speaker, and respond positively to help ourselves, our families and our friends; and we must work together to find a meaningful solution in the future. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Fort Simpson Metis Association Local

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that the dissension in my home town community of Fort Simpson regarding the Metis Association Local has been resolved. Members may have heard on the CBC today that there was a meeting of the Metis people in Fort Simpson last night.

---Applause

As a result of discussions, some heated and some give and take, it was decided that the present executive and board members will hand over the affairs of the organization to locally born Metis people of Fort Simpson. A meeting will be held on May 10 to choose a new executive and board and make changes to the constitution. The changes in the constitution will allow all Metis people, wherever they are from in the North, to be members; also, those Metis people who have taken back their treaty rights pursuant to Bill C-31 will be able to be full members.

I compliment Mr. Joe Mercredi, the president, and the present board of directors for their co-operation and thank them, on behalf of all the Metis people in Simpson, for their work and contribution to the Metis people in Simpson and to the general populace of Fort Simpson, for the work they have done the past few years. I know that it has been an emotional and difficult time over the past few months for all the Metis people in Simpson, but I am optimistic that through time there will be peace and co-operation once again amongst the people. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Support For Innu People Of Labrador

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today around 11:30 a.m. the Innu people from Labrador showed a film, and we met with them. I wish to thank them. Now I have a better understanding of what they are trying to do in their region. Those aboriginal people in that area have always used the land and the wildlife on it, and that was being shown in the film; but I know there is a lot of hardship in that area, and we could also see that in the film. There were some aircraft carriers from DND, and their area has been bothered by the bombers and other aircraft. The Innu people in Labrador have lived in this land for a number of years and it is their hunting ground. I wish to support those people's initiatives in trying to stop the flying of the aircraft in their area. I am also in support of their fighting against low-level flights in their region. I will be in support of their initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Support For Innu Position Against Low-Level Flights

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, along with some of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I had a chance to view a film called "Bombers and Hunters". The film represented the Innu side of the story dealing with low-level flights over Labrador. Mr. Speaker, it shows in part the way of life the people of Labrador have lived for many, many

years. It also shows in part the struggle they are undertaking now to bring to the attention of Canada, and indeed the world, the effects these low-level flights are having on the people. It shows that the country that is being over flown by these military jets is not uninhabited but is in fact inhabited by both people and wildlife, although it did not show as much the documented proof of the effects it is having on the animals. It did show some tremendous shots of damage that some of the military weapons have inflicted on the land, such as undetonated bombs. These are practice bombs that make large craters in the land.

What the film is trying to do, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, is to illustrate that there are two sides to the story. It shows the two different ways of life; life far different from the military's perspective. Those people that live in Ottawa that decide on what is best for the North; those people that do in fact fly these planes -- this is a long way from Britain, the Netherlands, Germany and France, Mr. Speaker. I wondered when I was watching this film exactly what the British, Dutch and German people would think if we were to fly sorties of that magnitude over their land. I wonder what they would do. They would probably appeal to the world court.

I think this film is worth seeing and I applaud the efforts that are being made by the Innu to document this and to make us aware so that we can persuade NATO, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to reconsider its practice of using Canada's lands for that type of exercise.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Cultural Inclusion In The Classroom

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, when the Government Leader was making a statement, I was very happy about his statement. He was talking about students taking cultural inclusion in their classrooms. I believe that this summer my home community will be the place to go on cultural programs. We have always been discussing our way of life and trying to promote it in the Northwest Territories. I am very happy and very proud that this program will be in Pangnirtung.

I am sure this will be a very good experience for the younger generation in our communities. I am sure they will be able to teach the younger children also about the traditional and cultural way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I will do everything I can to welcome those people that will be coming into our community. I will help them in every way I can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement On Military Activity In The North

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too, today have viewed the film "Bombers and Hunters" and I had the opportunity to have lunch with two Innu ladies from Labrador that were protesters. They protested the military flying over their land in Labrador and creating environmental havoc on their land as well as disrupting their lifestyle.

It was very touching to listen to the Innu ladies' testaments on what happened. One of them spent time in prison for her involvement. The Innu are very, very solid, and they stuck together as a people when they were fighting their battle.

That is what stuck out in my mind. When the time came for the government to take them to court, it took them seven months to find an interpreter, because new people refused to interpret for the federal government and the court system. So they had a very, very hard time to send them to prison to begin with.

One other thing that stuck in my mind, the film showed us their camps and how they lived and it reminded me of Fort Resolution, Snowdrift, anywhere in the North where people go out on the land. It is basically all the same. People travel on the land and they use the land.

I guess the military used the same arguments they are using in the North. They lied to these people when they started those flights down there. They told them not to worry about it. They said they would not fly over, that they could telephone and let them know when they would be on the land and they would not fly there. But as everyone knows, trappers do not carry telephones with them. The military attitude toward the land is it is hard and cold. We know the difference.

One word of caution to Members is that right now we are at the start of that in the North. We are seeing greater and greater military activity in the North and we, in 10 years time, could be in a new situation, travelling throughout Canada, trying to drum up support, trying to find financing to flight a military that has grown too strong. We have to stop it now while it is still an environmental issue, before it becomes an economic issue and our people become divided and start fighting each other over the same issue. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Pond Inlet Encyclopedia On Inuit Culture

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to draw your attention, fellow colleagues, to a publication written by the elders of my community, Pond Inlet, which I have provided to you on your desks. I am very proud of the work and dedication of the elders in the completion of this encyclopedia and resource on Inuit culture.

I would like to congratulate the main authors Elisapee Ootoova, and John Tongak, who headed the research team, as well as the other elders, including Gamailie Kilukishak, Susan Singoorie, Letia Kyak, Ham Kadloo and Kooneloosie Nitirak.

I would like to acknowledge the editing and word processing work carried out by younger adults, including Sam Erkloo, Asenath Idlout, Regilie Sangoya, Tapitia Takawgak and Jacobed Nashook.

I am so pleased to see these two generations of participants sharing their skills and knowledge in order to organize this history into a writing style that would be both factual and interesting. The topics included spiritualism, laws, animals and tools. I believe that through this project our own understanding of our culture and language has been enriched.

The writing project was initiated in 1985 by Ellen Hamilton, an adult educator at the time in Pond Inlet. The final proofreading was done by Rhoda Arreak, a language specialist with the Baffin Divisional Board of Education, and the main illustrator of the book was Abigail Ootoova.

I wish to thank these our friends who helped with the project to its final stage, as well the six different supporters who were willing to fund this project over its five-year period. I also

wish to recognize Nunatta Campus of Arctic College, who published the book...

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member, your time has expired. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: I wish to seek unanimous consent to finish my statement.

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

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. ...and Lesley Allen, their director of community programs, who supervised the publishing phase. I am pleased to share this book with you, which I am very proud of, for the people of my community. Qujannamiik.

---Applause

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question O386-91(1): Economic Development Officer Responsible For Lake Harbour

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on March 20, 1991, regarding the economic development officer responsible for Lake Harbour. I would like to apologize to the Member for taking so long to get back to him.

Mr. Speaker, in response to the question asked by the Member from Baffin South regarding the economic development officer responsible for Lake Harbour, I would like to inform the Member that that officer's name is Robert Jaffray and that Mr. Jaffray resides in Cape Dorset. Mr. Jaffray joined the department on February 12, 1990, and has since travelled to Lake Harbour at the end of June, the beginning of October and again in March of this year, March 26, I believe. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O337-91(1): Location Of Native Court Workers

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, return to an oral question asked by Mr. Gargan on March 13. Mr. Gargan asked about the location of court workers as compared to the location of lawyers in the Northwest Territories. I will first clarify that the court workers are employed by non-profit societies funded by the federal and territorial governments. The Legal Services Board is responsible for ensuring their funding.

As of the new fiscal year, most of the court worker positions will be in communities which do not have lawyers. With regard to the issue of why there are court workers in communities which also have lawyers, one reason is that these are communities where court is held most frequently. For communities that do not have resident court workers, a court worker usually travels to the community when the court is sitting. Also, people may telephone collect to the office which serves their community when they are in need of assistance.

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

Further Return To Question O442-91(1): Possible Scheduling Disruptions Related To Runway Work, Rankin Inlet

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a reply to a question asked by Mr. Ernerk on April 15, regarding aircraft schedules during Rankin Inlet runway construction. On Monday, April 15, the Member from Aivilik asked me if this summer's reconstruction of the Rankin Inlet runway will disrupt scheduled jet services into the community.

The work on the runway at Rankin Inlet will unavoidably cause some disruptions to the air traffic using the airport. However, the Member should know that the Department of National Defence and the prime contractor, Gely/Gautec, have organized the construction schedule in concert with the air carriers to keep these disruptions to an absolute minimum.

The biggest part of the project is the reconstruction of the runway base itself. This is expected to take approximately eight weeks, from July 1 until August 26, 1991. During this period, the contractor will not work on Mondays or Fridays between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., leaving the runway free for jet service.

The contractor will work on separate 1000-foot sections of the runway so that at any time throughout the period there will always be a minimum of 3000 feet, or 914 metres, of runway available for the smaller, lighter aircraft. If heavily loaded, the large Hawker-Siddeley 748 turbo-prop aircraft will be restricted to the Monday and Friday hours with the heavier jets. Lightly loaded, however, they can land and take off on the shorter 3000 feet of runway.

I would add that last year, with the territorial Department of Transportation's participation, the Department of National Defence advanced the original construction schedule and extended the Rankin Inlet runway to 6000 feet. This year the project will rebuild the entire length of the runway's base course. The final paving of the runway surface is not scheduled until the summer of 1993. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O301-91(1): Government Assistance For Communities Re Tax Returns

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: This is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Arlooktoo on March 11, and it has to do with assistance in completion of tax returns. Mr. Speaker, the problems encountered by individuals that do not read or write English or French in completing their tax returns is also of concern to Revenue Canada. Certain programs have been put in place for individuals to obtain assistance in completing their returns.

I have been informed by Revenue Canada that there is a community volunteer income tax program, through which volunteers are provided with six hours in training that enables them to assist any individual in completing tax returns. As the individuals that take this program are volunteers, only they or Revenue Canada can provide their names to the general public. If a taxpayer calls the Revenue Canada information line for assistance, he or she will be provided with the name of the local individual that has taken this course.

In the case of the Baffin Region, Revenue Canada provided the training program to a number of government liaison officers and other individuals in 1990. The course was offered in Iqaluit with attendance by individuals from a number of communities. In 1990 the program was also offered in Norman Wells, Yellowknife and Inuvik. In 1989 the course was

offered in Cambridge Bay and Yellowknife, again with attendance of individuals from a number of communities.

Revenue Canada also offers assistance to individuals who are having difficulty in filing their tax returns by providing direction on how to provide the minimum level of documentation to Revenue Canada. This is generally necessary when an individual trained under the volunteer program is not available in a particular community.

Mr. Speaker, Revenue Canada has indicated a strong interest in providing further volunteer training courses in the North. My officials will be writing to regional directors to make them aware of the volunteer income tax program and of Revenue Canada's interest in providing the program to individuals in the regional centres. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O310-91(1): Constituency Boundaries For Territorial Elections

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Lewis on March 12 having to do with constituency boundaries for territorial elections. Mr. Lewis asked whether the government has responded to a challenge made by a group of northern businessmen on the constituency boundaries for territorial elections. The answer is yes. The group initiated a legal challenge, and we are responding to it through the courts.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O470-91(1): Search For Lost Residents, Rankin Inlet

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Justice. In Rankin Inlet there are two persons lost. As of today it has been four days now. There are a lot of people searching in Rankin Inlet. There are two people, a father and son who are lost. Could we get all your assistance available to search for these two people in Rankin Inlet? Thank you very much.

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

Return To Question O470-91(1): Search For Lost Residents, Rankin Inlet

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is always sad for the government, for any of us to hear of anyone lost. The RCMP have over the years, along with the regional directors, provided valuable assistance in search and rescue. I think the people in these sad circumstances deserve -- most of the credit is to the people in the communities. I think it shows the strength of our communities when somebody is lost, when somebody is in trouble, the way the people in the communities rally around, work together to try and assist individuals. So, I thank the Member for his comments and question.

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

Question O471-91(1): Potential Increase In Power Rates

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and

Petroleum Resources regarding the information that I received this morning that power prices will be increasing in the future. It was announced on the radio early this morning that they will be increased by five per cent. I just need clarification on this -- is it true, because the local people are paying increases per kilowatt, and I just wanted to ask the Minister if the information on the radio this morning is true. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Return To Question O471-91(1): Potential Increase In Power Rates

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I believe the information was that as a government policy, if rate increases were sought by the Power Corporation, they would be limited to up to five per cent. It is not saying that there will be an increase, but if there should be one, and there is a requirement to be one, it should be no more than five per cent each year. At this point in time, I cannot state whether there will be an increase or not; only that the Government of the Northwest Territories would restrict the increases, as a policy, to five per cent or less each year, if they should take place. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O471-91(1): Potential Increase In Power Rates

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the information, Madam Minister. Are you trying to inform the public that the rates are not going to be increasing at this time, but at sometime in the future? Are you saying that, Madam Minister? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Further Return To Question O471-91(1): Potential Increase In Power Rates

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

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

Question O472-91(1): GNWT Support For Innu Position On Military Activities In Labrador

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Government Leader. In Labrador the military is using the land for practise, and the land belongs to the people in that area. Perhaps the Government of the Northwest Territories or this Assembly could support the Innu in Labrador in their efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O472-91(1): GNWT Support For Innu Position On Military Activities In Labrador

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the concerns about low-level flying and its harmful effects on the lifestyles of people living on the land have been extensively discussed in this Assembly and were outlined, I think, in no uncertain terms, in the position paper presented by our government to this Assembly on military activity in the Northwest Territories. In answer to the Member's question, I think that this Legislature and our government certainly are very concerned about that situation developing in the Northwest Territories; we are strongly opposed to it happening here and have taken

steps to communicate that to the military authorities and the federal government and, by inference, Mr. Speaker, we also are very sympathetic with and support those same concerns elsewhere in Canada and particularly in Labrador, where they are most damaging.

Mr. Speaker, I have not been formally approached as the head of the government to do anything with respect to the situation of the Innu, but I think I can assure the honourable Member that their concerns are our concerns. Thank you.

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

Question O473-91(1): Tenure Of Health Board Members

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Health. I think each member could be a member of the health board for two years. Is that true? I think that is what their by-law is saying. After two years, can the board member run again or not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O473-91(1): Tenure Of Health Board Members

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: The term normally applied to health board members is three years. They can also run for a second three years. They can be reappointed for an additional three years. A board member can be on for a total of six years. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O473-91(1): Tenure Of Health Board Members

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think some of the board members are very clear on this term. A person was saying that he was a member for two or three years and he was told that he would not be eligible to run again for another two or three years. Perhaps all board members should be informed about this term for board members. I think this person did not get all the information about how long each board member could be sitting in that office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to remind honourable Members that your supplementary question should be as short as possible. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Further Return To Question O473-91(1): Tenure Of Health Board Members

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I believe that all the by-laws of the different boards do state that there are initially three years with the option of another three year reappointment. However, if there is some difficulty in members not knowing, we will make sure that a directive goes out to the boards to ensure that the members are informed of the criteria on the time and reappointment for holding office. Thank you.

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

Question O474-91(1): Gasoline Subsidy For Hunters

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This

question is directed to the Minister of Renewable Resources. I know hunting is very important to all of us. The gas prices are very expensive these days so perhaps we should look for some assistance to buy gas, because most of the hunters are not working and they always have a hard time buying gas.

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

Return To Question O474-91(1): Gasoline Subsidy For Hunters

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of today, the hunters that do not have any income and who have asked the GNWT if there could be a program, the Minister of Social Services is looking at this now but so far we have not come to any conclusion if there is going to be a program. As of today, no one is getting assistance.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Natilikmiot. Supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O474-91(1): Gasoline Subsidy For Hunters

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) So you are working on this as of today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question O474-91(1): Gasoline Subsidy For Hunters

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question O475-91(1): Use Of Funding Provided To Hunters And Trappers Associations

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is also to the Minister of Renewable Resources with regard to funding. The HTA in each community gets funding from the government to assist the hunters with their purchase of gas and hunting equipment. I just want to know whether the funding the HTA gets is being confused, by paying it out to the employees of HTAs when it should be used by the hunters themselves. Is that true?

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

Return To Question O475-91(1): Use Of Funding Provided To Hunters And Trappers Associations

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding we give to the HTAs for the operation and administration of their offices is given for that. We also provide funding called community harvesters' assistance program, which goes directly to the communities. This funding is used to assist the hunters with organized caribou hunts or for fish harvesting. HTA boards have to use their discretion to give out funding or assistance to individual hunters because we give the funding in a lump sum along with the funding for the operation and administration of the HTAs. This is probably why it is getting confused but it is up to the individual HTAs to give assistance to hunters in a community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. The honourable Member

for Aivilik.

Question O476-91(1): Attendance At Arctic Co-operative Meeting In Winnipeg

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Next week, the NWT Arctic Co-operatives Limited will be having an annual meeting commencing Monday of next week. They are going to be meeting until Wednesday of next week. I think the Minister is aware that I have assisted the Arctic Co-operative when I was a member. I just want to know if the Minister is going to send out a delegate from the GNWT to help with the annual meeting of the Arctic Co-operatives in Winnipeg? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O476-91(1): Attendance At Arctic Co-operative Meeting In Winnipeg

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, I share his view that the co-ops are a very important part of the economic picture of the Northwest Territories. As such, I will be sending somebody. That individual will be myself and I intend to travel to Winnipeg this Sunday. I have made arrangements to address the delegates Monday afternoon and I will be bringing an assistant deputy minister with me who is the individual in my department in charge of the relationship between ourselves and the co-operatives.

As you know, I am also the Minister responsible for co-operatives because they are established under our legislation. I do take it seriously; so seriously that I will be going myself. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Question O477-91(1): Deposit/Refund On Alcohol Beverage Containers

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for Government Services. It deals with the deposit/refund on alcohol beverage containers, a program which his department undertook earlier this year. I would like to ask the Minister what type of advertising is being used to promote this program, for example, labels on bottles indicating that there is a refund on a bottle? I would like to ask the Minister if indeed they do have a program that promotes this returnable bottle.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take the question as notice. While I know that some public relations and publicity has been carried out, I could not, on my own knowledge, respond in detail to that question. I will provide the Member with a response and also copies of material that has been published advertising this program and is made available to the public.

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

Question O478-91(1): Assistance To Inuit Broadcasting Corporation To Film The Legislative Assembly

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Culture and Communications, Mr. Allooloo. It is with regard to the Inuit artifacts and conservation organizations. Mr. Speaker, I think that the work of the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation is very important in the Eastern Arctic, and they have not been present to do a video filming of us during the debates of the Legislative Assembly. I feel that the people of our communities and in the North should know what their Legislature is up to or what they are talking about.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, should IBC be invited over here to do some video filming of the Legislative Assembly and to be assisted by way of funding through his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O478-91(1): Assistance To Inuit Broadcasting Corporation To Film The Legislative Assembly

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation shows videos or television programs about the Inuit way of life. If they are going to be doing a documentary for the Member for Aivilik -- they have been here previously filming the procedures of the Legislative Assembly. We are trying to promote Television North at this time and if it starts running, we will get another channel other than CBC and it will be viewed by all the residents of the Northwest Territories and the Inuit communities. They will be able to do filming of the procedures of the Legislative Assembly. Perhaps it will commence sometime in November. We have not decided yet, but we are trying to target the showing of those documentaries around November. Thank you.

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

Question O479-91(1): Lawyer For Kitikmeot Region

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question for the Minister of Justice. In the Kitikmeot Region, do they have any lawyers working for the people; say in Cambridge Bay, to help the court workers?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Return To Question O479-91(1): Lawyer For Kitikmeot Region

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, in my budget I indicated to the House that there is a sum of money allocated for a lawyer in the Kitikmeot Region. My understanding is that the legal services board, in conjunction with the people in the region, will go through a process of interviewing and hiring a lawyer.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O480-91(1): Representation At Justice Meeting In Sitka, Alaska

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is also directed to the Minister of Justice. Currently there is a meeting going on in Sitka, Alaska, in self-sufficiency in northern justice issues. It is the fifth northern conference. Are any officials from your department at that conference at this

time?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Return To Question O480-91(1): Representation At Justice Meeting In Sitka, Alaska

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are a number of officials from my department. There are officials from the federal Crown and there are a number of people from communities who are representing the NWT in Sitka, Alaska.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W11-91(1): Deposit/Refund Recycling Program In Yellowknife

MR. WHITFORD: The deposit/refund program in Yellowknife has not been promoted by the government or by the contractor carrying out the program. There has not been any advertising nor has there been a poster up in the liquor store. Many residents do not know about the program. They do not know that they are paying a deposit on their bottles and they do not know that they can collect a deposit for it at an agency. There is a substantial number of deposits that are not being returned to the consumer.

The question is: What percentage of the glass containers are being returned in Yellowknife? What is being done with the deposit money that is collected but not returned to Yellowknife residents? Does the Minister intend to use these unreturned deposits to cover the cost of recycling the glass? If not, what does the government intend to do with the money?

MR. SPEAKER: Just to remind the honourable Member that written questions normally do not require preambles. Written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, return to Question W9-91(1) asked by Mr. Lewis to the Minister of Health, concerning the difference between industrial and medical oxygen.

Return To Question W9-91(1): Difference Between Industrial And Medical Oxygen

Hon. Nellie Cournoyea's return to Question W9-91(1), asked by Mr. Lewis on April 9, 1991: Chemically, medical oxygen is the same as industrial oxygen. The difference is the degree of purity required and the process it must go through to meet the criteria set out by the Canadian Standards Association, CSA. Processes for sanitation and quality assurance are more vigorous for medical oxygen.

CSA Standard Z305.1-M1984 Nonflammable Medical Gas Piping Systems specifies that oxygen which will be supplied to a patient should: be greater than or equal to 99 per cent oxygen; not exceed five parts per million, ppm, carbon monoxide; not exceed 100 ppm carbon dioxide; not exceed five ppm nitrous oxide.

The Food and Drug Act regulations state that "due to the unique production and handling characteristics, of medical gases, the application of the regulations to medical gases may be different from their application to other pharmaceuticals...." Consequently, Appendix A of the regulations provides information which enables manufacturers and importers of

medical gases to comply with the Good Manufacturing Practices, GMP, Division of the Food and Drug Regulations. It provides an interpretation of the regulations governing premises, equipment, personnel, sanitation and raw material testing.

Apparently, no medical ill-effects would be expected even if industrial oxygen were inadvertently used. The required concentration of industrial oxygen is 93 per cent compared with 99 per cent for medical oxygen.

Industrial oxygen is not submitted to the intense filtering which medical oxygen receives; therefore some particulates might remain. If industrial oxygen were used in a medical setting the flowmeters which regulate the delivery of oxygen to the patient must be equipped with a filter, Canadian Standards Association Z305,3-M87. This filter would ensure that stray particulates would not reach the patient.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Item 9, petitions. Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Petition 15-91(1) signed by 286 residents of the city of Yellowknife. It deals with the deposit/refund program on liquor containers. It in part states that the recycling program in Yellowknife has not been well dealt with according to the litter collection and recycling objectives. What it suggests in the petition is that the government re-look at its program dealing with the recycling of bottles and glass.

MR. SPEAKER: Petitions. Honourable Member for Sahtu.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: I wish to table Petition 16-91(1) on behalf of the citizens of Norman Wells. It reads as follows: "We the undersigned ask the Minister of Health to provide the people of Norman Wells the option of travelling to Yellowknife for health services." There is a total of 208 signatures on this petition.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 92-91(1), the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, Rate Structure Regulations Amendment.

I would like to table Tabled Document 93-91(1), Local and Northern Involvement Report for 1990-91, Department of Public Works, in English and a summary in Inuktitut.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I would like to table Tabled Document 94-91(1), a letter I received on April 10, 1991, regarding the capital budget allocation of one per cent on arts and crafts, from Arctic Co-operatives Limited, signed by Mike Illnik, one of the directors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 95-91(1), Band Council Resolution from the Dogrib Rae Band. It is pertaining to their position in regard to land claims.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 96-91(1), entitled "Lottery Review Report, October/90", in English and Inuktitut.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to section 32, subsection (3), of the Financial Administration Act, I wish to table Tabled Document 97-91(1), entitled "List of Funds Transferred Exceeding \$250,000 for the Period October 17, 1990, to February 13, 1991".

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motions. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Notice Of Motion 15-91(1): Support For Innu Re Efforts To Stop Low-Level Flights

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on Friday, April 19, 1991, I will move the following motion, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot: That this Legislative Assembly support the Innu people of Labrador and northern Quebec in their ongoing efforts to stop military low-level flights over their land. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motions.

Item 13, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. The honourable Member for Aivilik.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with Motion 13-91(1), which I gave notice of yesterday. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Aivilik is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the motion that he gave notice of, Motion 13-91(1), with regard to the completion of the Economic Development Agreement. That particular motion is in your books. Does the honourable Member have unanimous consent to proceed with his motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: There are no nays. Proceed, the honourable Member for Aivilik.

Motion 13-91(1): Complete Negotiations On Economic Development Agreement

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you honourable Members.

WHEREAS, this Legislative Assembly supports the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism's approach to a new Economic Development Agreement with Canada;

AND WHEREAS, support for the approach has been received from business, community groups and organizations, and elected community officials during the recently concluded consultation phase;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that this Legislative Assembly encourages the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada to complete negotiations so that the Economic Development Agreement can be implemented within 60 days;

AND FURTHER, that this motion be conveyed to the Government of Canada by the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism through the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerning the motion that I made, first of all I would like to thank my colleague from Natilikmiot for seconding my motion. This motion concerns the Economic Development Agreement. I fully support it, and the people in our communities will be assisted more with education and finding jobs, and I want this to be implemented within 60 days. I want the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism to advise the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs about this. (Translation ends)

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

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to second the motion because it will affect all the people in the Northwest Territories who are unemployed, whether Inuit or Dene. Maybe the people who are working can wait, but we have to consider the people who are unemployed, who are not making money, and we do not want to keep them waiting. We always support any economic development, and the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism and his officials came up with this idea and they introduced this Economic Development Agreement. The arts and crafts industry is used in most communities and it also affects the carvers and the tourism industry, and the private sector, because it will support the people of the North. I wish to thank the Member for Aivilik for introducing the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. To the motion. Final remarks, the honourable Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I call for a question.

Motion 13-91(1), Carried

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

---Carried

---Applause

Motions. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today on support of the Innu people and low-level flights over their land. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Tu Nede is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with the

motion that he gave notice of with regard to support of the Innu people of Labrador and northern Quebec with regard to ongoing efforts to stop military low-level flights over their land. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, the honourable Member for Tu Nede.

Motion 15-91(1): Support For Innu Re Efforts To Stop Low-Level Flights

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that this Legislative Assembly support the Innu people of Labrador and northern Quebec in their ongoing efforts to stop military low-level flights over their land. Thank you.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the Assembly for granting unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Some Members may ask themselves, why should Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly pass a motion to do with in effect, people that are out of our jurisdiction. Mr. Speaker, let me reassure you that these are aboriginal people and their battle to stop low-level flights over their land is similar to the battle that the aboriginal people have fought for the past few years in the Northwest Territories to stop low-level flights over the Snowdrift area. The community of Snowdrift as well as this Legislative Assembly have in the past passed motions opposing low-level flights. We as a Legislative Assembly passed a motion to oppose low-level flights over the Snowdrift area, I think it was last year.

We in fact can only gain by the Innu winning their battle. They are up against the same Department of National Defence that we are, the same Department of National Defence is doing the same in Labrador as they would like to do in the Northwest Territories in the future. If we, as Members, do not do everything possible that we can now, we will be fighting a battle in the future that might be harder to win. So now is the time to do whatever we can and now is the time to take whatever action we can to help the Innu people.

At the beginning in their lands, it was a very small thing that happened. Now it is something up to 6000 to 7000 flights a year. The military say it is a small thing that they are proposing for the Northwest Territories. Maybe in the future that is what will happen in the Northwest Territories as well.

In watching the film today that the Innu ladies presented to us at noon hour, I was moved by their sincerity and their ability to gather their people together and work so unified on one cause. There was no split in their people and that was very good. They themselves are under a very different system and very different condition to us as aboriginal Northerners are. They are a minority in their land. They have an insensitive government that does not listen to them because they are a minority. They have an insensitive government in Ottawa. As a matter of fact the Minister of National Defence, Bill McKnight, actually went there to meet with them, walked out of their meeting, would not listen to them. Mr. Cadieux, our Minister of Indian Affairs went there and said he would listen but he never did anything.

Hopefully we can do our part in not only listening to them, but taking some action. One of the actions available to us is to pass a motion in this Assembly to support them. I realize they have a long, hard battle and I am wishing them the best in the battle. We in the North have already experienced military build-up in the past few years. We have seen people sitting

on different sides of the fence on this issue. Basically there are some people that say yes we need military presence for economical reasons and they are willing to support it, and I am not always saying that the military is all bad. There is some good to military when they build roads, help build communities or help do some peaceful thing. Also, I do not see them as only being there to practise war games.

A point of interest to Members of this Assembly is that just yesterday the Innu people have been honoured with a peace prize from the Danish government. There will be two Innu people travelling to that country to receive the peace prize. If we as Members of this Assembly can pass this motion and let them know that they have our moral support in what they are doing, I think then we have done what we can do for today. It does not mean that we stop at that and leave it at that. Maybe in the future we can do more for them and we benefit from it because I think the battle has just started in the Northwest Territories to stop military action that could be harmful to our environment and hopefully, Mr. Speaker, Members of this Assembly will support this motion. Mahsi cho.

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

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my honourable colleague, Mr. Morin, I watched the tape with interest. At times it was very emotional. While the military uses the land for their air tactical training practices, the Innu people in that area use the land for their livelihood and for their survival. There are very uncompromising differences between two groups. While the military has the backing of the Canadian government and international government, the Innu people from that area, Labrador, has nobody to turn to except their people. We know that if we let this one go without our support, I know and we know the same thing is going to happen within the Territories. By supporting the Innu people from Labrador we will be supporting our native people, the hunters and trappers within the Territories. Mr. Speaker, the motion is one that we know will need everyone's support from the House. Therefore, I would urge all my colleagues to support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the person that moved the motion and the seconder. I wish to thank them both for introducing that motion from the bottom of my heart. I am in support of this motion, Mr. Speaker. I, myself have had to try and survive on the land and on the waters. Remembering that I was born an Inuk and hunting was my livelihood when I was growing up and I am sure this will be done by our younger generation. When the military flies so low on our lands, I do not support their initiatives as they disturb our wildlife in our areas. The reason why I am fully supporting this motion also is, first of all, I do see the Innu people in Labrador are still struggling to fight the military activities within their area and I have heard through the newspapers about the struggle. I will tell you, my fellow colleagues, that when the airstrip in Rankin Inlet is completed, the military aircrafts -- F-18 jets -- will soon be arriving to our community. I am sure that for the Inuit people, our environment and our surroundings, and our land and water that we depend upon so much will be disturbed. We do not want this to be disturbed by military low-level flights in our region.

Mr. Speaker, fellow colleagues, I will be fully supporting this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Final remarks. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just in closing remarks, Mr. Speaker, the one fundamental right that we all like to express is the right of living on the land and the right to make our living from the land. That is a fundamental right of aboriginal people. Our government is on record saying they are a strong protector ensuring aboriginal rights are there. Not only us but our children. With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the Assembly to vote in favour of this motion. Could we get a recorded vote, Mr. Speaker?

Motion 15-91(1), Carried

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Crow, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Zoe, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Morin, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Wray, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Patterson, Mrs. Marie-Jewell, Mr. Ningark.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. All those opposed to the motion, please rise. All those abstaining from the motion, please rise.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Order please. Record of the recorded vote is 14 in the affirmative, no opposition and one abstention. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

Item 14, motions. Item 15, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 37: Judicature Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 37, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, be read for the first time.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 37 has had first reading. Item 16, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed to second reading of Bill 37, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member seeks consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 37. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Minister.

Second Reading Of Bill 37: Judicature Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 37, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from three to four.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Bill 37 has had second reading and is referred to committee of the whole for today. Second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 22-91(1); Bill 3 and Bill 26; CR 6-91(1); Bills 6, 30, 31 and 37, with Mr. Zoe in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. I would like to call the committee to order. The committee has a number of bills to be considered. We have Bills 3, 6, 26, 30, 31, 37; Tabled Document 22-91(1) and Committee Report 6-91(1). Could the committee advise the Chair which item they would like to consider, and in what order? Government House Leader.

Motion That Tabled Document 22-91(1) Be Considered As First Item Of Business

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee consider Tabled Document 22-91(1), A Position Paper on Political and Constitutional Development, as the first item of business for today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Could I get a copy of your motion, Mr. Ballantyne? I have a motion on the floor which reads: "that this committee consider Tabled Document 22-91(1), A Position Paper on Political and Constitutional Development, as the first item of business for today." The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you know, the government through a motion of this Legislative Assembly, has been given a date certain to debate this particular motion. Certain Members wanted more time and the government agreed to back off from that commitment on the understanding that this particular motion would be debated this week.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, we will be breaking tomorrow. It is the feeling of the government that many very important issues are happening in the Territories and southern Canada. Those issues that are happening here in the Northwest Territories include the TFN, Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, claim, the desire of the people in the Eastern Arctic, the Nunavut area, to have a territory of their own. There is talk of a plebiscite. There has been some discussion up here in the Western Arctic of the process to include the people of the Western Arctic into a full discussion of the issues facing people in the Western Arctic, including the implications of

division, when and if it happens, the conditions under which division could happen. I think the very real desire of the people in the Western Arctic to be involved in a public process, whereby they can have a say in the future of the NWT.

There is also the desire of people in Nunavut to have a full discussion on the possibility of a plebiscite held sometime in the next year on the boundary for land claims.

There are many important events happening in southern Canada right now, which your House has commissioned the special committee on constitutional development to deal with. The country is changing rapidly. The Northwest Territories is changing rapidly and the government feels it is very important that all those facts surrounding those changes, are put in front of the people of the NWT so that they feel, when all is said and done, that they have had adequate opportunity to be part of the process leading to these changes.

So we appreciate very much today, the support of this Legislative Assembly to allow this debate to go forward, so that the government can lay out, at least, their concepts. We are eager to hear the comments of Members who, I am sure, have some very valuable insights as to what is happening in southern Canada and here in the North. So we think this debate is very important and hope that this motion is supported and that Members will get involved in this debate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): To the motion. Mr. Sibbeston.

Deferring Discussion Of Constitutional Development Future

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I am one that is not too enthusiastic about dealing with this paper at this time. While I appreciate that it is, to a certain extent, the government's idea on constitutional development, they made it a big issue in the Speech from the Throne, I think the government and Executive heard from Members on this side that the government was purporting to make it an issue; that most of the MLAs did not see constitutional development as an important issue at this stage and in our mandate.

We are in the dying days of our mandate and I felt that I did not really have a mandate, did not really have a strong feeling, was not getting any representations from my constituency that this issue is an important one. So right from the very start I said that we ought not to deal with it, it is not significant, it is not important at all and better we leave it be. Let the new government that comes into place next fall, deal with it.

So these are part of the reasons that I think that we ought not to deal with it, that we should just defer the matter again, maybe until June and then at the time defer it even further, until after the election. That is my view. I am not enthusiastic about dealing with it and I just hope Members also agree that we should not deal with it at this stage.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): To the motion. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do acknowledge that, as Mr. Sibbeston has suggested, there may not be a strong outcry in the streets of our constituencies today to debate these issues, but I think it is very important that we look ahead, to the months ahead, to events that will occur and that will overtake us if we do not prepare for them and plan for them and give the people of the NWT some notice that we have considered them.

When the plebiscite on the land claims boundary, as a basis for a political boundary for a divided Northwest Territories,

comes forward, I think the people of the NWT are going to want to know that in its last session, our Legislature considered that issue, prepared for that plebiscite and let constituents know that it is an issue that we are committed to dealing with, in conjunction with our support of the TFN land claim and particularly article 4 of that claim.

Dealing With Problems Of Division

When the Spicer report comes out, July 1st, in a few short months, with recommendations dealing with the Northwest Territories, with provincehood, I think our constituents are going to want to know that we considered those issues at our last session, because we could see them on the horizon.

When the amending formula committee, under co-chairmen Jim Edwards and Gerald Beaudoin, makes its report in a number of months, and undoubtedly makes reference to the situation of the Northwest Territories, I think the people of the Northwest Territories are going to want to know, that this Legislature had prepared and considered those issues and given the government, through elected representatives, some advice and support on the positions that we are going to have to take, whether this Assembly is in session or not, when those major developments occur this summer.

Mr. Chairman, in conjunction with the plebiscite on the land claims boundary, as a basis for a political boundary, we will be taking steps toward division of the NWT and the creation of new political jurisdictions in the NWT. It may not be an issue in people's minds today, at this very moment, but Mr. Chairman, when those steps are taken and when movement starts to occur, I think people are going to want to know that this Legislature considered those issues and had a plan. And particularly, Mr. Chairman, that it had a plan to involve people of the NWT in shaping their future as these events occur.

Mr. Chairman, as initiatives are undertaken by the Government of Canada to devolve further authority to the people of the NWT in critical areas like oil and gas management and revenues, mining and mineral projects and the management of our land and water, all of which are issues that are very much of concern in our communities, I think people are going to want to know that we considered these issues.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, sometimes I do not think our Assembly appreciates the wonderful opportunity we have here in the North. We are not faced with static fixed models of government here that we cannot do anything about. Here we have the opportunity to shape our own future and shape our government, in a way that meets the special circumstances of the Northwest Territories. Other parts of the country would be very glad to have that kind of an opportunity to build a new model that would have a better place for aboriginal people, for example, than they found in the provincial models, in the reserve situations in southern Canada.

So we are very privileged in that regard and, therefore, Mr. Chairman, I think that we should welcome the opportunity to step aside from the day-to-day issues that have preoccupied us over the last number of months in dealing with housing and social issues and the problems in connection with the budget, and take a look at our future and provide some leadership for our constituents, and provide some advice for your government, about these decisions that are going to be looming on the horizon in the months to come. We need advice and help from the MLAs as a government in order to deal with those major issues in the future months as these developments occur. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the discussion paper on political and constitutional development, there is an agreement in place between the Eastern Arctic and the federal government with regard to the creation of Nunavut and that should be happening within five years. I am also concerned about the cost factor in the event that there is a split to the East and the West. What will the cost factors be with regard to the creation of Nunavut? I understand that the Government Leader does have facts and figures regarding how much it is going to cost to create a new territory and...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Gargan and other Members, I would like to remind Members if they can pertain their comments to the motion that is under consideration. The motion reads, for Members' benefit again, "That this committee consider Tabled Document 22-91(1), A Position Paper on Political and Constitutional Development, as the first item of business today." So the question has been asked, are we going to discuss this paper as the first item of business today, or not? I would like the Members to keep their comments pertaining to the motion, not into the details. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I am not afraid of making this an election issue. I do not think it should be discussed now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Mr. Morin, to the motion.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not going to speak to the motion, but I was listening to the Government Leader. It is always entertaining to listen to him rambling on and on, and not say a hell of a lot. It is my view that this time would not be the right time to talk about political and constitutional development. My understanding is that we have been here now for four years, and the top priority of this government was economic development and the creation of work in the communities.

Now all of a sudden in the last year of our term they swing over to the top priority of political and constitutional development, and I guess that is the thing that bothered me, as well as other Members, this mood swing they have had or whatever you want to call it. I guess that is the issue, but if they want to talk about it we are here, we will discuss it, but I am going to vote against that motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the motion, and I will restrict myself to the motion, I will vote for this motion, Mr. Chairman. It is not a priority in my constituency but this Legislature has set up a committee for political and constitutional development and have voted to put me on that committee. I do not see how I, in all conscientiousness, can remain a Member of that committee and also cast a vote obstructing the desire of some Members to debate the issue. I may not say much in debate, but I will support the right to have it put on the floor and I will support the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. To the motion. Member for Aivilik.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I understand the motion and I want to say, to begin with, that political debate and discussion is an ongoing issue with all residents of the Northwest Territories. Certainly it is an important issue for the people that I represent within the Aivilik riding, and for that matter for all people of Nunavut. I want to indicate, Mr. Chairperson, that I will support the motion to debate the political development of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

South, to the motion.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is something wrong with the equipment here, Mr. Chairman, it gives me a little spark every time I touch it. I will support the motion. I have said before that it is not a big issue and I have not been tasked with discussing this at length by my constituency. It is not one of the pressing issues right now, but it is an important issue, and I think it is time that we hear what the government has in its intentions, and I think this is the forum to do it in. It is too bad, though, that it has been delayed to the last minute. This is, in fact, the 11th hour and I would have been quite content to have let it go. I have said before that I am not really in favour of dividing the Territories immediately, but I would recognize what the people of Nunavut wanted and if this is one way of establishing the line in the sand, so to speak, I will listen carefully and make my comments brief. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Zoe): Thank you. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion That Tabled Document 22-91(1) Be Considered As First Item Of Business, Carried

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

---Carried

We will deal with Tabled Document 22-91(1) right after we come back from our short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

Tabled Document 22-91(1): Position Paper On Political And Constitutional Development

I would like to call the committee to order. The committee is discussing Tabled Document 22-91(1), Position Paper on Political and Constitutional Development presented by the Executive Council, Government of the NWT to the Legislative Assembly. General comments. Mr. Patterson.

Mr. Patterson's Remarks On Political And Constitutional Development

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to speak to this position paper on political and constitutional development of the Northwest Territories which was tabled on February 25. Mr. Chairman, I would propose to speak in general terms about the position expressed in the position paper with a particular emphasis on devolution aspects and, Mr. Chairman, I do not like that word, "devolution" very much. I prefer to put it in simpler terms of taking control of our own lives by increasing our ability to influence events which affect us. But that is an area I am going to touch on since I am involved in that principally in our cabinet and my colleagues will follow and emphasize other aspects.

Mr. Kakwi and Mr. Allooloo will speak to western and eastern constitutional development respectively. The question of national constitutional issues as they relate to the political, social and economic evolution of the Territories will be dealt with by Mr. Ballantyne, and Ms. Cournoyea is going to touch on the role of the Northern Accord.

Mr. Chairman, I do think it is worthwhile emphasizing what probably all of us will repeat as we speak to this position paper. When we speak of the political and constitutional development of the Northwest Territories, we are also speaking

of the social and economic development. They cannot be isolated. Political and constitutional development is not an abstraction removed from the day-to-day realities of the average person. Now I do acknowledge, Mr. Chairman, that if we stop a typical man and wife, say on the streets of our constituencies and ask them what they thought about matters political and constitutional, they probably would answer they could care less and all they really care about were bread and butter issues, particularly the price of bread and butter and gas.

It is also true, Mr. Chairman, that our constituents become very interested when politicians attempt to develop new constitutional arrangements behind closed doors and then attempt to impose them on the population without opportunity for public participation. We do not have to search very far for examples of that and I think that was primarily the reason why the Meech Lake Accord failed ultimately this past summer.

Mr. Chairman, while constitutions appear distant and irrelevant to the question of day-to-day life, they very quickly become relevant when political inertia affects economic and social well-being and when changes to the political order threaten our security and well-being. In our country the population is frustrated and angry and probably exhausted with the constitutional crisis we are living through. Some people are saying not entirely without justification, and I guess we have heard some comments to that effect even in this Legislature, it is a waste of time, it is keeping us so preoccupied that we cannot devote the time and energy that is required by pressing issues in particular economic issues.

Well I would say to that, Mr. Chairman, first of all we have dealt with economic issues extensively in this Legislature. We did not ignore them and I would secondly say, do we really have a choice of neglecting these larger political and constitutional issues? In Canada we are facing a time of change in which our House nationally must be put in order, politically, or as a country we will not be able to deal with the critical, social and economic problems we face in a modern competitive world.

That I think also describes our situation in the Territories. Our political structures must be changed if we are to effectively pursue our economic and social futures. Our constitution, our northern constitution, as expressed in the Northwest Territories Act, which I guess is the closest we have got to a constitution, is out-of-date. I think almost everyone would agree on that. It does not effectively serve the needs of the people of the Northwest Territories as they pursue their social and economic interests.

Political Development Of NWT Complicated Situation

At one level I think the political and constitutional agenda is very simple. We must have more political and constitutional responsibility if we are to be in a position to promote and protect our social and economic well-being if we are to be in a position to deal with the demands of our constituents. At another level it can be seen as very complicated and I guess in part this is what our position paper is all about. It may appear complicated because there are a number of different elements of political and constitutional development which are probably not being very well co-ordinated and which are often thought of as single issues and not as parts of a bigger whole.

The main elements of the political and constitutional development puzzle in the Northwest Territories that we identify in this position paper are: 1) division of the Northwest Territories and the development of new constitutions for the two new territories; 2) the settlement and implementation of land claims; 3) the transfer of responsibility for land and water management; 4) the Northern Accord; 5) self-government; 6)

participation in the national constitutional debate.

Mr. Chairman, I guess it is an accident of history perhaps that each of these elements seem to have virtually taken on a life of their own. It is no one's fault that we find ourselves in that situation but it will be a grave mistake if we do not take corrective measures. Maybe it is not entirely true to say that each element has been given a life of its own. What I mean to say, Mr. Chairman, is that the inter-relationship of some of the elements have been recognized by some of the parties for some of the time, but never have all of the parties recognized the relationship of all of the elements consistently.

Mr. Chairman, I guess what I am trying to say is we have not consistently shared a view of the big picture. We have not shared a master plan for the realization of the political, economic and social future of the Northwest Territories. The federal government of course as a major player, must be a party to the development of the master plan. I am pleased to report that discussions with Minister Siddon on the position advanced by the government in its position paper have been very positive and I am optimistic that I will be able to report very shortly that the Government of Canada has agreed to approach the political and constitutional development of the Northwest Territories on this comprehensive basis.

However important the concurrence of the federal government may be, we here in the North must assert the leadership which is necessary if we are to progress.

Indeed, Mr. Chairman, that is the issue underlying this paper. The comprehensive approach, in our view, is not an option. We will progress with the comprehensive approach or we will not progress at all, in our view. We must have a work plan with deadlines and agendas or we will not see progress. We will have either stagnation, or worse, we will have an uncoordinated mess.

Mr. Chairman, I would now direct my remarks specifically to the matter of devolution and its place in the comprehensive approach. Ms. Cournoyea, as Minister for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, will speak on the transfer of responsibility for petroleum and mineral resources so I am going to emphasize the matter of land and water management.

The transfer of responsibility for land and water management under which I would include environmental matters, including provincial-type authorities for environmental assessment and review, together with responsibility for non-renewable resource management which Ms. Cournoyea will address, are the last of the remaining major provincial-type responsibilities which remain to be transferred to this government.

In all other respects, we are really a province in all but name. There are a few things outstanding such as the attorney general function and matters like labour which is probably not appropriate for us to take on just now. We have all the authorities of a province. It is only in the natural resources area that we are not equal to provincial citizens of Canada. More importantly, those transfers are fundamental if the people of the North are to have the ability to make the decisions which are so important to their social and economic well-being.

We must have the power to determine the pace and conditions of development and ensure that benefits will flow to northern people. We must have the control to ensure that Northerners will not bear the costs of unacceptable environmental damage resulting from development; that we will not have to bear the social cost without having any participation in the decisions.

Also, Mr. Chairman, the TFN, Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, and the Dene/Metis land claims are unique in that they will require a fundamental reorganization of the way government manages land and water. Our government will never be the same after those claims are implemented. Therefore, it is essential that the government and the people of the Northwest Territories prepare themselves as soon as possible for the transfer of responsibility for land and water management in the context of the implementation of land claims agreements. Indeed, that relationship between land claims, the transfer of land and water management and the Northern Accord, underscores why it is so important that we in the North begin to make some sense of an admittedly complicated situation.

The government believes that Northerners are going to suffer socially and economically if we are not able to bring more order to the political and constitutional agenda. Land claims will likely become stalled and unresolved. The Northern Accord may be set back and most important, the desire of northern peoples for more control over their own lives could be frustrated. As I said earlier, as Northerners and as Canadians, we have no choice. We must get our houses in order.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I believe northern people recognize the importance of getting on with the business of northern political and constitutional development. They understand, or they must understand if they do not, what is at stake. I am confident that following this debate, our Legislature will take further steps which are necessary to advance the agenda in this vital area of political and constitutional reform. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. We are discussing the position paper on political and constitutional development. Any general comments? Mr. Minister.

Mr. Kakfwi's Remarks On Political And Constitutional Development

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we learn after spending some time being involved with this issue of political and constitutional debate is that the words you use and the way that you phrase things is very important. There is some need for us to try to follow some text in making comments because we are providing comments to the public but also trying to provide some record of why we think this is urgent.

I wanted to say just a couple of things before I got into the text of it. One of the things that strikes me is that this is the end of the Legislative Assembly as we know it except for a few more days, perhaps, in June. It has been for some of us, perhaps, a very long four years. I sense that some of us may be tired and a little bit weary. Perhaps some of us are afraid to stick our little necks out because elections are coming and we do not know if we are going to be re-elected or not. Some of us are most obsessed with re-election, and we do not want to think about the big issues of the day.

I believe that it is a burning issue, and when we strip away the rhetoric, they are issues that deal with issues with the chiefs. It is a burning issue with the people that want to see Nunavut. It is a burning issue with the people that want to see Denendeh come about. It is a burning issue with the chiefs that want to clarify their role in the self-government mechanisms that they hope to create. I do not accept that these issues are not also MLA issues. I believe that the majority of MLAs support the work to be done to continue working for Nunavut and Denendeh. This is the reason we should have this debate and make some decisions now. I remind the MLAs of a famous quote by a philosopher named Edmund Burke, who said at one time, "It is good for fellow

Christians to take heed of this." He said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." And I think it is incumbent upon us to wake up all good men and women and make sure they do not succumb to apathy and become too complacent in their duties.

Mr. Speaker, the Government Leader provided a rather comprehensive overview of the position paper that we have tabled here in this House. Ministers will be presenting more detailed analyses of certain elements of the comprehensive strategy as we offer our views to the Legislature.

As the Minister for Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development, I have a special responsibility for the Inuvialuit and Dene/Metis regions with regard to claims. I will be focussing on the implications of division of the Northwest Territories for the residents of those regions of the NWT that would not be included in the Nunavut territory.

I believe that the aboriginal peoples of the North hold strongly to the view that they retain an inherent aboriginal right to self-government. I believe that constitutional development and the realization of aboriginal self-government within a public government rather than a separate government context has been a major goal of the Inuvialuit and the Dene/Metis for many years. Both parties argued long and hard with the federal government in the early days of claims negotiations to have this topic included within the scope of claims. For instance, the Dene Nation made a national splash across Canada with the issuance of the Dene Declaration in the summer of 1975. Those of us that were there, those of us that were involved in native politics, would remember the strong views that were presented at that time and since then, over the years, about why this is so fundamental to the Dene and Metis leaders.

The Inuvialuit and Inuit leaders, over the years, have said similarly strong words about their right to negotiate and be architects of their constitutional future.

The major task of the Constitutional Alliance of the NWT, aside from the boundary and the terms and conditions for division, was really the elaboration of principles to guide the development of a constitution for the West. Here the Iqaluit Agreement offered major advances in this regard, and, along with the earnest work undertaken by other groups deeply concerned with this issue, I believe it still continues to serve as a useful tool for future work.

The self-government aspirations of the Inuit of the Nunavut claim settlement region, as represented by the TFN, are clear and straightforward. They want to see the completion, ratification and implementation of the Nunavut claims settlement and also the creation of a Nunavut territory that would encompass their settlement region. The target date for the realization of both objectives is 1997.

The prospect of division by 1997 creates a climate of urgency to get on with the work of constitutional development in the Mackenzie Valley and the Western Arctic. However, it also provides us with the opportunity to continue to forge ahead together to build a constitution and a government for these regions which truly reflects the rights and aspirations of our peoples.

The first requirement is the establishment once again of a credible process for political and constitutional development in which the communities and the regions can actively and productively participate. Furthermore, it is important that such a process be endorsed by this Legislature during this session in order to avoid the possibility that an upcoming territorial election and the subsequent time required to select a new government does not postpone progress on constitutional

development until 1992.

Therefore, in conjunction with our tabling in the House the government's position paper on political and constitutional development, Members of the Executive Council have engaged in numerous discussions with western aboriginal leaders, including the leaderships of the major aboriginal organizations, exploring the possibilities of designing and implementing some type of process by which this important task could be undertaken. I am pleased to report that virtually every leader we spoke with shared our interest in the subject as well as the urgency we attached to beginning immediately.

Proposed Commission To Develop Constitutional Proposal

Aside from the numerous contacts with various individuals, the Hon. Michael Ballantyne and I have held three meetings with the leaders of the Dene Nation, the Metis Association of the NWT, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Sahtu Dene/Metis Council. On a question of process, all parties have agreed that the Western Constitutional Forum is no longer the appropriate vehicle to spearhead constitutional development for the Western Arctic and the Mackenzie Valley. In its place, all of the leaders are proposing that an independent commission comprised of four persons be mandated to develop a comprehensive constitutional proposal for public consideration by way of a plebiscite.

This committee of political leaders that we have had discussions with also prepared terms of reference, including the membership and structure of the commission, its mandate and objectives, its relationship with other bodies, and the steps it will follow to fulfil its mandate.

The project will be divided into two phases. Phase one will run until the end of 1991. During this phase the commission will review the existing principles and proposals for constitutional development that have been produced in recent years by a wide variety of groups and organizations with an interest in this topic. Based on this review, the commission will prepare a discussion paper and other appropriate instruments for public communication, including a tentative set of principles to guide the development of a constitution.

Communities, regions and aboriginal and other organizations will be asked to provide direct input into the commission through community meetings, workshops and a constitutional conference, if the commission deems one necessary. Various groups will be able to apply for funding to assist in the formulation of in-depth positions.

The commission will complete phase one in December by releasing a preliminary report which will include a summary of the responses it obtains from community meetings as well as a revised set of principles and constitutional options. Such a progress report will provide, I believe, voters with much-needed information in time for the boundary plebiscite, which we believe should be held in early 1992.

Phase two will entail the completion of a comprehensive constitutional proposal for submission to the public for scrutiny by way of a plebiscite. It is reasonable to expect that this project can be completed and ratified before 1997, the proposed target date for division.

History Of Debate On Division

The issue of division is not new to this Assembly. The Legislative Assembly sponsored a plebiscite on division in April of 1982, which resulted in an overall majority voting in favour. The following month the Members of this House accepted the results of the plebiscite and endorsed division.

In March 1987 the Legislative Assembly approved the Iqaluit Agreement, a boundary and constitutional agreement for the implementation of division that was reached between the Western and Nunavut Constitutional Forums in January of that year. The Legislative Assembly agreed to hold a plebiscite on the boundary for division on May 20th, subject to the Dene/Metis and Inuit finalizing a claims boundary by March 31st. The Legislative Assembly voted to reaffirm its support for the creation of Nunavut in October 1989.

Article 4 of the land claims agreement in principle, signed by the Government of Canada and the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, required TFN and the Government of the NWT to develop a process that could lead to the creation of a Nunavut territory, consistent with the Iqaluit Agreement. A joint letter to the Government of Canada from the TFN and the Government of the Northwest Territories proposes the introduction of legislation to create a Nunavut territory in 1992.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Minister, your 10 minutes are up. Do you wish to ask consent to go ahead?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Are there any nays? Proceed, Mr. Minister.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you. A joint letter to the Government of Canada from the TFN and the Government of the Northwest Territories proposes the introduction of federal legislation to create a Nunavut territory in 1992 and sets 1997 as the target date for division, the actual implementation. While the creation of a Nunavut territory appeals to a great many Inuit as a vehicle for self-determination, we all know that division is much more problematic for residents of the potential western jurisdiction. The Dene/Metis and the Inuvialuit remain determined to see their historic aboriginal rights recognized and protected, whether they be rights to land and resources, to wildlife, to language and culture, or to self-government. Everyone wants a healthy economy to provide opportunities for themselves and their children and a level of services which enhances the quality of life. They want to continue to move towards provincial status where more power and authority resides closer to home within institutions of government that maximizes their participation in decision-making.

Progress toward a land claim settlement for the Dene/Metis has been slow. The April 9, 1990, land claim agreement has been rejected by three Dene/Metis regions, although the Gwich'in and the Government of Canada are hoping to finalize a claim in the Mackenzie Delta this summer, and the Sahtu Dene/Metis and the government are exploring the possibilities of completing a claim in their region. This development has increased feelings of uncertainty in the West, which the prospect of division does not help to allay.

On the other hand, one of the major contributing factors to delays in the claims of the Dene/Metis has been the absence of a clear definition of Dene/Metis political and constitutional rights and the implementation of a system of government which reflects those rights. In this sense, the proposed commission for constitutional development is intended to be the vehicle to fill that void and, in doing so, possibly facilitate the settlement of claims for all Dene and Metis.

The Inuvialuit have been working successfully to fully implement their land claim for some time. Nevertheless, the prospect of a political separation from fellow Inuit does not generate a sense of optimism in the Western Arctic. Yet the Inuvialuit also have something to gain from this constitutional process, even if it includes division. For many years the

Inuvialuit have been lobbying for stronger community and regional government, for more power and decision-making closer to home. There is no doubt in my mind that community self-government will be a central issue in the commission's work.

Non-aboriginal residents are not without concerns as well. They share with aboriginal residents the uncertainty about their economic future, but a strong case can be made that the Mackenzie Valley and the Western Arctic region constitute a viable, interdependent economic region with good prospects for the future.

Cost Of Division

Everyone realizes that division will come with a price tag. The two governments cannot be created from one without some increases in cost. No one wants to see division delivered at the expense of programs and services at the community level. For this reason, the Government of the Northwest Territories, in conjunction with the TFN, has completed a comprehensive study on the cost of division as it relates to the expense of running two governments. With the results in hand, we will soon be ready to sit down with the Government of Canada to try and arrive at an arrangement whereby division will not proceed at the expense of services to the people in our communities.

Finally, drawing boundaries between peoples has never been an easy task. The Dene/Metis and the Inuit have struggled for years to agree on a satisfactory boundary to separate their land claim settlement areas. These discussions have been made all the more difficult by the knowledge that the claims boundary would inevitably be the only logical political boundary if division were to take place in the future. Protecting the interests of peoples on either side of the line as well as the appreciation that devolution, the efficient management of lands and resources, and the management regimes resulting from claims are closely linked, point to this conclusion. It is anticipated that the Hon. Tom Siddon, on the advice of our former Commissioner, Mr. John Parker, will soon announce a claims boundary to separate the Inuit and Dene/Metis land claims areas. I sincerely hope that Mr. Siddon's decision will meet the critical needs of all parties and that we will be able to move beyond this issue without rancor to focus on the critical issues of how we are going to go about governing ourselves within our respective regions.

It is not surprising that the Inuit find little enthusiasm in the other regions for division. It is important that people throughout the North appreciate the circumstances and perspectives each bring to this momentous task. Yet the fact remains that the creation of a Nunavut territory is really the creation of two territories. As such, it is a unique opportunity to finally shape, with the active participation of all northern residents, a truly northern system of government; one which incorporates the needs, cultures and aspirations of the North's original peoples into its fundamental character and one which can meld the historic, collective rights and interests of aboriginal peoples with the individual rights of all its citizens.

Clearly this project could succeed without division if the Inuit were prepared to actively and wholeheartedly participate as full partners. However, Inuit leaders have, for the last two decades, made it very clear to us on many occasions that their heart lies with the creation of a Nunavut territory, and unless and until we are told otherwise, there is little point in trying to pursue this approach. Can we, the residents of the Western Arctic and Mackenzie Valley region, live with division? Can we build a better future for our children, even as the citizens of Nunavut try to do the same? The answer lies in whether we are successful in putting forth creative, practical solutions to the problems I have raised in the foregoing

discussion.

This government believes that the immediate formation of a commission for constitutional development with the above mandate would be a big step forward in this direction. Therefore, we will be asking this Assembly, by way of a motion, to recommend to this government the establishment of such a commission to undertake public consultation and recommend a constitution for a future territory for the Mackenzie and Western Arctic regions for ratification by the public.

Thank you for listening, and I look forward to hearing your wholehearted views on this important initiative, and for your enthusiasm which I have just drummed up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you, Mr. Minister, for your presentation. According to the list that was handed to me, Mr. Ballantyne is on the list to make a presentation. General comments. Mr. Allooloo.

Mr. Allooloo's Remarks On Political And Constitutional Development

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to comment on this subject. What we are dealing with, and what will become of the NWT in the future, has to be prepared by those of us who have been elected. My ministerial colleagues and I wish ordinary Members to comment on this subject. (Translation ends)

Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak to the Members of the Legislative Assembly about a matter which is important not only to the elected representatives in this government but to all of the Northwest Territories residents. As pointed out when the Assembly sat in February and March, there are immediate social and economic issues which must be addressed by the Legislative Assembly. The government has taken steps to deal with these issues in the short term. However, the fact that these issues exist highlights the importance of planning for and taking charge of our future. The government's proposal for a comprehensive approach to political and constitutional development, set out in the position paper tabled in the Assembly on February 25, 1991, by the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, is the blueprint for this course of action.

In this sitting of the Assembly, we would like to focus on the political and constitutional development of the Northwest Territories and agree, through debate, not only on the merits of adopting this approach, but also moving forward immediately to implement it. Other Members of the government are speaking to you today about major elements of the political and constitutional development strategy. I would like to inform you in more detail about a matter which is a cornerstone of the government's position but also of particular importance to me. I would like to speak to you about the creation of Nunavut.

The settlement of the Nunavut land claim is near conclusion, after many years of difficult negotiations. While some areas, including land selections, must still be finalized, the negotiators are confident that a final agreement can be ready for consideration by Inuit early next year.

The ratification of the agreement is an extremely difficult decision for all involved, especially because of the federal requirement for extinguishment. This is an issue that every Member in this Assembly knows. It has been a decision that aboriginal peoples throughout the Northwest Territories have had to face in the negotiation of their claims. The Government of the Northwest Territories is working with the federal government and the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut to address an issue of equal importance to the people of the

Eastern Arctic. That is the creation of the Nunavut government.

Extinguishment Of Aboriginal Rights And Creation Of Nunavut Linked

I recently attended regional land claim workshops in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Extinguishment and the creation of a Nunavut government were the key issues in the minds of the delegates. They made it clear that their land claim is fundamentally linked to the creation of Nunavut; that certainty with respect to the creation of a Nunavut government is an important consideration in extinguishing their aboriginal rights in the Nunavut region. The Legislative Assembly has expressed its support for the creation of Nunavut many times and as recently as October 1989. We hope that the steps which we are now taking as a government will lead to the certainty sought by the delegates.

The Eastern Arctic land claim agreement in principle reconfirmed the support of the federal government, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut for the creation of Nunavut. Article 4 of the agreement in principle committed the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut to develop a process which would lead to Nunavut. This process was outlined in a letter sent to the Prime Minister last October from the Government Leader and the President of the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut. In response to the requirement under article 4, the letter proposed that legislation to create Nunavut would be tabled in Parliament in 1992. This legislation would allow five years, until 1997, to set up a Nunavut government. It would also allow time for the people of the West to determine their constitutional framework.

There is a lot of hard work ahead of us. The work or the difficulty in creating a new territory at this time in Canada's history cannot be under-estimated. We recognize that the federal government is the ultimate authority for the creation of Nunavut and the division of the Northwest Territories. Only they have the legal power to create Nunavut. They must also provide the additional financial resources to make it function. The federal government is supportive of the creation of Nunavut and are members of the tripartite steering committee which is overseeing the work. The federal government has indicated that it will act in response to the wishes of the people of the Northwest Territories and will take its direction from them.

There is a federal concern about the potential additional cost of running two territorial governments created through division. The Government of the Northwest Territories has taken the lead in determining the cost of the division. This, from our point of view, is one of the most critical tasks. Adequate funds must be available to continue necessary services throughout the North. Financial resources must be provided for operational costs as well as for the new capital requirements in the Nunavut territory. We have contracted with a top consulting firm for a two-stage review of the financial requirements of the division. The results of the first stage, which identifies new additional costs of division, will be reviewed by our cabinet this month. The second report is due in June. We will identify how funding could be provided to the two territorial governments; for example, our current arrangements for formula funding.

The long-standing boundary issue must still be resolved and subjected to a territory-wide plebiscite. This is a condition of article 4 of the agreement in principle. As you may recall, the failure to reach an agreement on the boundary following the Iqaluit Agreement was a serious setback at the time for the creation of Nunavut.

The federal government has now appointed our ex-Commissioner, Mr. John H. Parker, to review the boundary issue between the Inuit and the Dene and Metis land claim areas. Mr. Parker has made his recommendations for the boundary to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and made his report to Mr. Siddon on April 15, 1991. Mr. Siddon has told us that he will make his final decision shortly after John Parker makes his presentation. We have already agreed in the Iqaluit Agreement that the claim boundary and the political boundary will be the same.

In order to facilitate the plebiscite, the Government of the Northwest Territories would like to introduce revisions to the Plebiscite Act in this session of the Legislature. The Legislative Assembly will also have to discuss and agree on the timing of the plebiscite and wording for the question. The government is proposing that the plebiscite be held in January 1992, prior to ratification of the Eastern Arctic land claim agreement.

Everyone Must Understand Proposal

The plebiscite is being held to get agreement on the boundary between the two territories and is not intended to reopen the debate about division. The government wants to make sure that everyone in the NWT, both in the East and also in the West, has a chance to understand what is being proposed, not only for the division of the NWT, but also for the other elements of the comprehensive approach to political and constitutional development.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): (Translation) Mr. Minister, your 10-minute time limit is up. Would you like to get unanimous consent to continue?

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: (Translation) Yes, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): (Translation) Are there any nays? Please go ahead, Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you. The government has to make sure that everyone in the NWT, both in the East and in the West, has a chance to understand what is being proposed, not only for the division of the NWT, but also for the other elements of the comprehensive approach to political and constitutional development.

For example, the division of the NWT has not been actively discussed since the 1987 Iqaluit Agreement. The government feels that some time should be taken to inform Northerners about this process and allow for a productive exchange of ideas about what Northerners see as their future. The creation of Nunavut is related to other important initiatives, such as land claim settlements and western constitutional development.

With division, constitutional development becomes important, not only to my people but also to the residents of the new western territory. A process must be established which will allow the people in the West to consider their future. In this session the government will be introducing a proposal for the process to permit the participation of the northern residents in this debate. This will leave no room for the federal government to question what the people of the North want.

All the activities which form the elements of our comprehensive strategy are related and must be co-ordinated with each other. For example, the Government of the NWT is working with the Dene and Metis in the negotiation of their regional claims and their aspirations for self-government arrangements.

The ongoing implementation of the Inuvialuit settlement is also a priority of our government. We have learned from our

experiences with the implementation of this settlement and are taking steps to resolve them for the Inuvialuit situation and avoid them for future claim settlements.

Last, but certainly not least, the transfer for responsibility for land, water, minerals and the Northern Accord to both territories is a fundamental element of our comprehensive approach. Without control over these resources, citizens of the NWT do not have the necessary tools for fully responsible government. We have waited long enough to take our place within the Canadian Confederation.

This session of the Legislative Assembly and the upcoming debate, in which all Members of the Assembly will have responsibility to speak out, are crucial to the development of our political, social and economic futures. These important issues not only address our immediate socio-economic concerns but also provide the opportunity to determine a course of action which reflects the needs of Northerners. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ballantyne's Remarks On Political And Constitutional Development

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister in our cabinet responsible for national and constitutional issues and as the chair of this Legislative Assembly's committee on constitutional reform, I think it is incumbent upon me to provide Members with some observations on the current national unity debate and how its deliberations and eventual outcome may influence the constitutional course we are considering for the Northwest Territories.

As you know, in our committee we have done a pretty thorough analysis of what is happening across the country and I think a brief review of the national constitutional "state of play" as of April 1991, would be useful in order to identify the circumstances and issues which must be taken into consideration during this Assembly's deliberations of our government's proposals for a comprehensive approach to settling aboriginal claims, dividing the NWT, resolving self-government aspirations within public government institutions, and completing the devolution process.

Mr. Speaker, it is perhaps an understatement to say that since June 23, 1990, and the failure of the Meech Lake Accord, the National Assembly, government and people of Quebec, have taken unprecedented steps to review their province's options for remaining in Confederation and pursuing a course leading toward some form of sovereignty, sovereignty association or independence. And this, Mr. Chairman, should give us serious concern in the NWT.

Your special committee on constitutional reform has kept current on the work of the Quebec Liberal party's constitutional committee, which recently released the Allaire report calling for significant transfers of powers from the federal to the Quebec government. If this devolution of authority cannot be achieved to the satisfaction of the Quebec government by the fall of next year, the Allaire report recommends that the government conduct a referendum on sovereignty for the Province of Quebec.

Just two weeks ago, the commission on the political and constitutional future of Quebec, the Belanger-Campeau Commission, as it has become known, released a similar report, which indicated that unless the Government of Canada responds positively to Quebec's demands for greater autonomy and control within Confederation by the fall of 1992,

a referendum should be called to determine if Quebec voters want to leave Canada. So I think this debate is timely; events out of our control are swirling around us, and I think it is very important that we take stock here in the NWT as to what will be our ultimate position in this changing constitutional picture, what ultimate picture will emerge.

Mr. Speaker, it would appear that Quebec has now completed the task of developing broad options to guide its constitutional future. It has only been 10 months since the failure of Meech Lake. So things are moving extremely rapidly, and to a lot of people the options do not seem very encouraging. On the other hand, Premier Bourassa's recent statements to the effect that, depending on the circumstances, Quebec's first choice is Canada give us a little reassurance, although perhaps not as much as people would like. Moreover, his government's proposals to begin informal discussions on constitutional options with more than just the federal government also demonstrate some hope that a constructive federal-provincial-territorial dialogue can once again be established. We have to make sure that we are part of that dialogue. Nevertheless, we must accept that while the premier and his government might have some room to manoeuvre, the options are limited and very much dependent upon what the rest of Canada concludes in similar constitutional exercises which are being sponsored by the federal government, almost all provincial and territorial governments, and a host of private sector organizations.

Initiatives By Federal Government

Mr. Speaker, Members are no doubt aware of the initiatives being taken by the Government of Canada. We had the citizens forum of Canada's future, the Spicer Commission, that has been holding hearings in the Northwest Territories. Its report is intended to cover the full spectrum of Canadian views and opinions on everything from the distribution of powers between various levels of government to the future of national bilingualism programs and the need to resolve the outstanding aboriginal rights issues. That is expected by July 1, 1991. There is not a lot of time before that particular report will come down.

Another federal initiative, which our special committee on constitutional reform recently appeared before, is the joint House of Commons-Senate committee on the process for amending the constitution. Your committee will be making a more detailed presentation later this month in Ottawa to provide this forum with more details on how the constitution's amending formula can be changed to address both northern and national concerns. Again, this committee is expected to table its report to the House of Commons on July 1, 1991. So everything is coming to a head.

In addition to that, the federal government has established a committee of deputy ministers to study the distribution of powers between federal and provincial governments. Ottawa is also funding private sector organizations to conduct research and analysis on the country's constitutional options and undertaking programs of its own to promote national unity. To complete the picture at the national political level, all five national political parties, including the Reform Party and the Bloc Quebecois, are developing or have developed national constitutional principles or positions. So to say the very least, Mr. Chairman, the situation right now is very fluid.

Provincial governments, other than Quebec's, did not take long to jump back to the constitutional fray once the Meech Lake Accord was officially declared dead last June. In order of their re-entry into the national constitutional debate, Alberta, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia have established legislative or government committees to study the future of their provinces within confederation. Saskatchewan

and Nova Scotia have also expressed their intention to follow a similar course. Only Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island have stated that they will not establish a formal constitutional review process. While some provincial committees are expected to report by the summer of 1991 deadline, most have an open-ended mandate and will remain operative until options for constitutional change become more refined. There are a number of other initiatives by non-government organizations that I will not go into details about right now.

Comprehensive Nature Of National Constitutional Debate

Given this brief summary, the first point to conclude is that despite a high degree of national constitutional fatigue, the federal government, provincial governments, political parties, non-government organizations, the media and the Canadian public are gearing up for yet another constitutional round which will go far beyond what Canada experienced in the late 1970s and early 1980s during the patriation debate, and definitely more comprehensive than the proposals for constitutional change as contemplated by the Meech Lake Accord. We felt threatened by Meech Lake and unless we do our homework we should feel quite threatened by what could be happening in the next year or two across this country.

This will not be just a Quebec round as we experienced during the Meech Lake debate. It will not be like the aboriginal rights round that we took part in between 1983 and 1987. It will not be a round similar to the patriation debate which focussed largely on the establishment of a Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, for want of a better expression, it would seem that everything is up for grabs. With few exceptions, everything is on the table as governments, aboriginal associations, women's organizations, minority groups, property rights advocates, the business community and academics seek to reform constitutional injustices of the past and chart a new course for Canada's future. For example, the Prime Minister has indicated that the federal government is willing to re-examine the long-standing arrangements governing the division of powers between Ottawa and the provinces. That should give us a lot of concern. As we try to evolve towards the same sorts of powers that provinces have, the federal government is talking about changing them. Where does that leave us?

New approaches to amending the Canadian Constitution, involving greater citizen participation through constitutional conventions, constituent assemblies, and referenda are being considered.

The federal government's long-standing commitment to bilingualism may be revamped to build on its successes and correct its failures.

An overhaul of the taxation arrangements which have governed federal-provincial fiscal relations for many years is being considered.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Minister, your 10 minutes have elapsed. Do you require unanimous consent to continue? Do you wish to complete your presentation, Mr. Minister?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate the support of this committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Are there any nays? Continue, Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After a decade of focussing on individual rights resulting from the introduction of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, some groups and government are advocating the entrenchment of collective rights to reflect fundamental social, economic and cultural characteristics of modern Canada.

And, of significant interest to the Assembly and the majority of the residents of the Northwest Territories, there would appear to be overwhelming support across Canada for resolving outstanding aboriginal constitutional issues. Mr. Chairman, on this issue, the public opinion polls, the testimony before commissions and task forces, and the statements by governments in discussion papers are unanimous. Canadians are saying that aboriginal rights issues simply must be included as part of our nation's overall constitutional agenda.

Implications For North Of National Constitutional Debate

So what does all this mean to the Northwest Territories in terms of our future as a region within Canada and our own internal objectives such as settling aboriginal claims, dividing the Northwest Territories, realizing self-government aspirations within public institutions of government, completing the devolution process, and eventually assuming provincial status within confederation?

To begin with, some of our observations may help to demonstrate the relationship between potential national constitutional developments and the objectives which our government is seeking to achieve through the comprehensive approach which we are debating this session.

On the practical side, we should anticipate that despite our best efforts, if the country continues to remain in a state of constitutional turmoil, the profile of northern constitutional, aboriginal, and economic issues, and objectives on the federal government's agenda, may be limited at best.

Moreover, dividing the territories and creating yet another territorial act or one at the national level, may not be very attractive to the federal government and some provincial governments when achieving consensus amongst the existing group of 10 provinces and two territories is proving to be a most difficult task. Division of powers may sound like a dreary constitutional exercise, except when one considers that Quebec, for example, is proposing that it should share authority for certain functions, such as aboriginal affairs, with Ottawa. It could change the historic relationship between aboriginal people in the federal government. I think people in the Northwest Territories should be very aware of some of the things that are being proposed.

Northwest Territories native organizations have negotiated in good faith with the federal government assuming a certain set of rules and conditions and exclusive federal jurisdiction in the area of aboriginal affairs. What happens in the North, with our claims settlements and negotiations, if the federal government and the provinces decide that jurisdiction for aboriginal Canadians will be shared, as opposed to the exclusive responsibility of the federal government? I suggest that comprehensive claims, self-government and existing treaty rights will take on a whole new perspective across the country.

In a similar vein, what are the circumstances under which we seek to complete the devolution of powers to northern governments when the whole issue of divisions of powers is under review and current arrangements subject to change? Do we proceed on the basis of the existing arrangements or do we adjust our objectives to reflect new realities? Or will the federal government put this initiative on hold until a consensus has been reached with the provinces?

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, if I may exercise some licence as the Minister of Finance, I am also concerned about new arrangements which are being contemplated in terms of the fiscal relations between federal and provincial governments. I am really concerned. Our formula financing agreement ends in four years, and it is really up in the air at this point what form new federal-provincial-territorial fiscal arrangements will take. What will be our protection? How will we continue to provide programs? These are questions that I think we all should be asking ourselves.

Moreover, we have experienced how deals made by the federal and provincial governments during the past decade have placed unprecedented requirements on the attainment of provincial status by the territories. We have also seen how the federal government and the provinces can make new rules for the expansion of provincial boundaries into our territory with no opportunity whatsoever for input or reaction or ratification by our governments or legislatures.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think it is necessary for me to further elaborate on the implications which events at the national level will most certainly have upon the territorial constitutional agenda which we are considering in this debate.

A Northern Response

Given the review of what is taking place at the national level and how this constitutional dynamic could impact on the agenda which we hope to establish for the future of our territory, how do we respond? That is a question all of us should ask.

Mr. Speaker, our Legislature and our government have a long tradition of playing a constructive role to ensure that territorial constitutional concerns and objectives are effectively articulated at the national level. For example, our Minister of Energy, the honourable Member for Nunakput, and our former Government Leader, Mr. Braden, assumed a significant role during the constitutional patriation debate in the early 1980s, co-ordinating this Legislature's initiative to ensure that aboriginal and treaty rights were recognized and retained in our new Constitution.

The Speaker, Mr. Nerysoo, and the former Government Leader, Mr. Sibbeston, made significant contributions to the aboriginal constitutional conferences between 1983 and 1987 which, although unsuccessful in terms of achieving amendments on self-government issues, clearly demonstrated that our Legislature and government have a meaningful and productive role to play at the national level.

I should also acknowledge that the special committee on constitutional reform made a significant contribution during last year's Meech Lake Accord debate and continues to remain as the forum where both the government and the Legislative Assembly jointly develop and present northern positions on national constitutional issues.

I would like to also make mention of the role of our Government Leader, our premier, who made presentations to every premier in this country during that debate -- and I know when Mr. Sibbeston was Government Leader it was brought to the attention of the Assembly that perhaps the Government Leader should be called "premier" and in those days that was not met with a lot of support; but I, for one, am really tired of seeing correspondence from MPs, correspondence from premiers in other jurisdictions, addressed to Dennis Patterson, Government House Leader. I think it is time that people of the Northwest Territories had enough confidence in our evolving role in Canada to recognize that the role of our Government Leader has essentially evolved to a role of a premier. We should be proud of that.

Nevertheless, while the determination demonstrated in the past may contribute to future success, we are facing a new and radically different set of circumstances, as I have attempted to outline in my remarks thus far. The new set of circumstances demands that we consider new approaches if we are to achieve our territorial objectives and make an effective contribution at the national level.

Proposals To Guide Participation In National Debate

The following are some of our government's ideas to help guide territorial participation in the national constitutional debate. First, we must ensure that when Members and Ministers speak for northern residents, we are confident that the message we carry is based upon full and meaningful consultation with our constituents. Our messages to the federal government, provincial governments and Canadians generally will only be as strong as the mandate we are given by the residents of the Territories. You have heard both Mr. Patterson and Mr. Kakfwi talk about a commission. This commission will hear from the people of the western Northwest Territories their view on what should happen here in the Territories and how it should all fit in an evolving Canada. I think it is very important we support that concept.

Secondly, while we continue to promote the idea of participation in national constitutional issues on the basis of a limited number of northern and aboriginal issues, we can no longer avoid the fact that the national agenda is comprised of more than just those issues. Sooner, rather than later, if we are to make a constructive and relevant contribution to the full range of issues at the national level, we must broaden our perspective. We are part of Canada and, while we are still a territory, we must address the issues which go beyond our own legitimate regional concerns.

Thirdly, following from this point, we must be prepared to articulate our vision of Canada and how the North is a part of this vision. As a jurisdiction which has a majority aboriginal population, which is dependent upon a strong federal government, which has a challenging mandate to manage and administer one third of this country, which faces tremendous costs and physical challenges to develop our economy, we have a responsibility to articulate our vision of Canada on behalf of our jurisdiction and in support of other northern regions of this country.

Fourth, although we were able to secure a role last June for our government at First Ministers' Conferences on the Economy, the Constitution and Aboriginal Matters through the companion resolution to the Meech Lake Accord, no guarantee of this status has been achieved for the current constitutional round. Therefore, we must commit ourselves to use every avenue and lever available at the national level to ensure that our concerns and objectives are articulated and considered.

Finally, a few words about the provincial status issue are in order insofar as various constitutional initiatives at the national level could establish new and more reasonable terms for the entry into confederation of Canada's territories.

Mr. Speaker, while constitutional reform in Canada during the next few years may be radical, I have no doubt that in the final analysis there will still be in future a federal level of government and a provincial level of government. And I will tell you, although there are many risks facing us, there are tremendous opportunities, and there are those people in the Territories who say that we should not pursue the goal of provincial status. What I say to them, and what we say to them, is that there is no guarantee in the status quo. There is no guarantee in the funding arrangement with Ottawa. There is no guarantee in our constitutional position in Canada

now. For people to think that we can go back to the 1960s and 1970s and live happily ever after -- that is not in the cards, and I think we have to be practical and we have to be very aggressive. No one here is saying that we want to be a province tomorrow or next year. We have to aggressively protect our opportunity to be a province, and if we do not aggressively at the national level pursue our aims and objectives, we could very easily become a mere bargaining chip as regions in this country lobby back and forth, make arrangements and make deals as they create a new order in Canada. So I think it is incumbent upon us to be extremely aggressive in pursuing our long-term goals.

Whatever the circumstances or conditions of our achieving these goals, we must not lose sight of the fact that our evolution through claims settlements, through self-government initiatives, through division, and through devolution, encompasses more than just our own internal territorial aspirations, totally unrelated to the rest of Canada. We are a part of Canada. In the final analysis, two new territories created from our existing jurisdiction will eventually become two new provinces in Canada. Therefore, we must take full advantage of all the opportunities available during the current constitutional round to ensure that the transition to provincehood is under the terms of entry for all existing provinces, or at least equitable terms acceptable to the Northwest Territories.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I hope that my remarks have helped to demonstrate that our debate must consider the linkages between territorial and national constitutional objectives. The timing and the circumstances of our debate in the North demonstrate that we cannot ignore how national events will influence the course of events in our territory. Moreover, while my remarks may suggest a course of action at the national level, I trust that you and other Members who serve on the Legislature's special committee on constitutional reform, Mr. Chairman, will appreciate that the government's views are intended to provide a constructive contribution to formulating a committee position. In the past, the government and the Legislature have forged a common and effective coalition, and we are continuing to do that. I am impressed with that level of cooperation.

I conclude my remarks by stating what is perhaps the obvious. Our country is facing major and fundamental challenges which regrettably have been subjected to unreasonable and unrealizable deadlines. Nevertheless, and despite the somewhat pessimistic mood of the country, many elected leaders agree that Canadians must take advantage of the desire for change in a constructive fashion which strengthens the overall fabric and regional components of our nation. As a relatively new and vitally important region of this country, we must take advantage of the opportunities which this climate for change presents.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to review the national constitutional debate and its relationship to northern issues and objectives. I thank Members for their patience. I know at times it goes on, but I thought it important that we get it on the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you, Mr. Minister, for that wonderful speech. General comments. Madam Minister.

Ms. Cournoyea's Remarks On Political And Constitutional Development

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, as MLA representing the communities with rapidly growing numbers of young people but with very limited numbers of emerging job

and career opportunities -- we all know of the lack of economic development opportunities faced by the Northwest Territories. We know and share the concerns about finding lasting and meaningful work here in the North for our residents.

Because of the importance of the issue we have dedicated many of our financial resources to developing new opportunities for income development through departmental budgets, new government programs and new legislation. While we have had some success in this area, we must also examine the broader political and economic environment in which we are operating and the effect that it has had on economic opportunities in the North.

It is that linkage between government and the economy, which is of importance today. This linkage is clearly evident in the way political and constitutional development affects the non-renewable resources sector, which is the largest employer in the NWT, other than government. When asked what it would take to increase their NWT investment in the North, thereby creating new jobs and business opportunities, the responses from representatives from the mining and oil and gas industries generally fall into two categories.

The first is a global business climate and includes such things as commodity prices and markets and the worldwide economic conditions. Clearly they are issues which fall well beyond the influence of this Assembly, even that of the Government of Canada.

This is not the case for the second category which can be readily labelled as the investment climate. This includes an array of well-known problems and concerns, including high cost, limited transportation, infrastructure, uncertainty. Also playing a role are concerns over land ownership, regulatory confusion and widespread suspicion at the community level over certain forms of resource development stemming from negative past experiences, such as few local benefits, environmental disruption or business failures.

Investment Concerns Over Land Ownership

Industry is reluctant to risk the already large sums of money associated with non-renewable resource development in northern Canada if the prospects are lengthy legal battles, endless review by layers of federal and territorial bureaucracy or lack of support by local people. Even the North's virtually untapped vast petroleum and mineral resources are not sufficient to overcome an unstable investment climate.

For these reasons, political and constitutional development has a great deal of importance. It lays out a long-term plan for how decisions will be made in the North by resident decision-makers and once the rules of the game are established, industry will be much more interested in investing in the North.

Clear rules, procedures and division of responsibility will also ensure that communities and regions are part of that decision-making and do have a role in determining their own future. With that participation will come the confidence, not only to support development, but to maximize the associated benefits as well. One has only to turn to the Chevron-Fort Good Hope joint venture as an example of this mutual co-operation in resource development.

However, as every Member of this Assembly can appreciate, dealing with the link between economic and political development is never easy. A good example of this is the problem we had in explaining how the Northern Accord would be implemented. In developing our proposal for the transfer of oil and gas management responsibility from the federal to

the territorial government, we consulted actively with a wide range of interested parties, both here in the NWT and in the South and with land claims groups in particular.

We wanted to make sure that the management regimes we were proposing were sound and that the new structures would mesh efficiently with other licensing processes, such as a water board, land use or environmental permitting. We also wanted to make sure that we would be able to capture as many benefits as possible for Northerners.

Once we began these discussions it became clear that we could answer only half of the questions. We were able to explain how the subsurface activities would be managed but not how the surface issues would be decided. This was difficult enough when the TFN and Dene/Metis claims were progressing smoothly, but has been complicated greatly by the advent of regional claims in the Mackenzie Valley. For this reason, a formal process on constitutional development will greatly facilitate the finalization of the accord. It will also resolve many of the same questions which will arise once discussions with the federal government over the devolution of minerals begin.

Mr. Chairman, as Members will recall, we tabled our position paper with the federal government in May of last year, but did not proceed to formal negotiations for two reasons: Uncertainty surrounding the Dene/Metis claim and stalled talks with the Yukon territorial government over Beaufort Sea issues.

One issue which the Dene/Metis considered to overlap both the claims and the Northern Accord, concerns a negotiation and enforcement of subsurface benefit requirements. The Dene/Metis were not satisfied with how their final agreement dealt with these issues. We have been told that the federal government left with the Dene/Metis, an understanding that their concerns about subsurface benefits would be addressed in the Northern Accord and this has led to some confusion. The GNWT does not have and could not acquire through the Northern Accord, the ability to pass legislation providing an aboriginal group with the authority to negotiate subsurface benefit agreements. This would involve legislating in respect of Indians, which is an exclusive federal responsibility under the Constitution Act and will not be devolved to the GNWT through the Northern Accord.

If the Government of the NWT is to pass any legislation dealing with aboriginal peoples, it can only be through the implementation of final land claim settlements. As these issues have resurfaced as part of the Gwich'in and Sahtu claims, the Minister of Aboriginal Rights and Constitutional Development will be initiating a new process, hopefully to resolve the issue, as part of regional claims.

Devolution Must Respect Terms And Conditions Of Land Claims

This question is helpful because it shows why the comprehensive approach to resource management is important. Devolution must respect the terms and conditions of land claims settlements and must not impede the final resolution of land claims. This is why our proposal deals only with management of oil and gas and not with ownership. The federal government remains in a position to determine land quantum and resource management regimes at the negotiating table.

A good example of this is the operation and responsibility of the Department of Renewable Resources, the fact that the GNWT is responsible in these areas are not restricting progress at the claims negotiating table with regard to such important issues as wildlife management and environmental review. Similarly the finalization of the accord will not impede

the completion of claims as the accord will respect all matters settled in claims.

The second reason for the delay in negotiations with Ottawa has been the difficulties associated with reaching agreement with the Yukon over our respective roles in the Beaufort Sea. As Members will recall, the enabling agreement of 1988 said that the two territories should reach agreement commensurate with their interests. As the two sides had very different views as to their interests and very different stakes in development, the discussions have not been easy.

Mr. Chairman, I met with my counterpart from the Yukon earlier this week and I do feel we are very close to an agreement which is based on the offshore accords already signed between the Government of Canada and the Governments of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Modifications were required to bring the arrangements into line with the Canada Laws Offshore Application Act which was recently passed by Parliament and which sets out the process by which provincial and territorial laws are applied to offshore areas. We will be bringing the agreement to the Assembly prior to the end of this session.

With these two matters well on their way to being resolved and the government's comprehensive approach well under way, the timing is appropriate to soon begin formal discussions with Ottawa.

Prior to that, we will have reviewed our revised Northern Accord proposal with the key stakeholders. It is our intention to table the accompanying legislation based on the Canadian Petroleum Resources Act and the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act with SCOF, standing committee on finance, and SCOL, standing committee on legislation, later this spring to coincide with the public consultation on the two bills prior to the Legislative Assembly consideration of the bill next winter.

I believe it is important to follow this timetable due to the announcement by the federal government that it would soon be introducing amendments to the National Energy Board Act to empower it to replace the Canada Oil and Gas Lands Administration.

The danger of such a move would be that it would enshrine in federal legislation a new regulatory body as a replacement for the previous administrative mechanisms and this would clearly not be of benefit to the NWT because the board, despite its well deserved reputation as a world class regulator of federal energy interests, is not in tune to the onshore upstream aspects of the industry which are, everywhere else in Canada, provincial responsibilities.

By co-ordinating the completion of the accord and its accompanying Northwest Territories legislation with the amendments to the National Energy Board Act, we could effect an efficient transfer of powers by having the NEB operation in marine areas with northern panel appointees -- as in offshore the East Coast -- and a GNWT administration exclusively onshore.

As federal legislation is withdrawn, ours would be there to take its place. Such a co-ordinated process would ensure that the two regimes operate efficiently and could offer significant cost-savings by a sharing of northern-based technical and professional resources.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Madam Minister, your 10 minutes has elapsed. You will require unanimous consent of the committee to continue. Do you wish to continue? Madam Minister, do you wish to continue?

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Madam Minister wishes to continue, are that any nays? Continue, please.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I know that I have covered a lot of ground in the comments that I have made, but I would like to return to our central theme, that as MLAs we have an obligation to sort out the issues facing NWT residents. While we cannot increase gold prices or create new oil fields, we can set in motion a process to develop a stable investment climate in the North and over time that will lead to the economic development and opportunities which would not materialize under the present status quo. Local control and decision-making will, in turn, ensure that affected communities are part of the decision-making process and that economic benefit opportunities are maximized.

Taking a leadership role in this resolution of outstanding political and constitutional development issue is an important step in that direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, in allowing me to make these remarks. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you, Madam Minister. We are on the position paper on political and constitutional development. Mr. Zoe.

Mr. Zoe's Remarks On Political And Constitutional Development

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, unlike some of my colleagues, I do think that questions concerning the very complex matter of political and constitutional development in the Northwest Territories should be debated and dealt with by this Assembly at this time. Yes, it is true that we do not have enough time to deal comprehensively with all the issues, but what we do have time to do is to get the ball rolling so that when the new Assembly is chosen next fall by territorial residents, this new Assembly will not be starting the debate all over again. I suspect that a good number of us who take part in this debate today will be back next fall.

Mr. Chairman, I have read and thought a great deal about the political and constitutional development paper before us today. It does a very good job of summarizing the issues for us, like land claims, division, the Northern Accord, devolution, constitutional development, self government, and national and political issues.

It provides us with the big picture. Its primary concern is to describe the elements of a comprehensive approach to political and constitutional development and to identify the need for a process. While this is all fine and good, I think the position paper leaves out what is, in my mind, the most important element of all, the form or purpose new and reformed constitutional and political institutions should serve.

Rather than speaking to the details of these important issues at this particular time, I would rather be somewhat more philosophical in my comments because I believe this is the place to start. Let me explain.

As I just mentioned, the position paper leaves out what is, in my mind, the most important element of all, the form or purposes new and reformed constitutional and political institutions should serve. Leaving out what the purposes new and reformed constitutional and political institutions should serve is akin to building a boat without first knowing exactly what the boat is going to be used for. That is, form follows function. We must first know the function or purpose of the

constitutional and political institutions we are supposedly in the process of designing before we can decide what form they will take.

If we want government and its institutions to create non-democratic forms of control and decision-making, by leaving out the right of citizens to participate in the exercise of political power, then we choose one type of political and constitutional design. If we want however, to design a government and its institutions that will foster the full range of citizenship rights and equality of opportunity, then we choose a different design.

I am really speaking about the question of rights, democratic citizenship rights, and how we go about designing political and constitutional institutions that foster these rights. The function or purpose of the political and constitutional institutions that we are designing anew or reforming should be to ensure the fruition of the full range of citizenship rights.

Complex Situation Of Citizenship Rights

What do I mean by citizenship rights? I turn to T.H. Marshall, a famous political theorist for help here. Marshall identified three primary elements to citizenship rights, civil, political and social. The civil element distinguishes the rights necessary for individual freedom, liberty of the person, freedom of speech, thought and faith, the right to own property and to conclude valid contracts and the right to justice.

The political element refers to the right to participate in the exercise of political power as a member of a body invested with political authority or as an elector of members of such a body. Its institutional express is parliamentary.

Finally the social element includes the whole range from the right to a modicum of economic welfare and security to the right to share to the full in the social heritage and to live life of a civilized being, according to the standards prevailing in the society. Its institutional associations are educational, health and social services. Programs associated with the social elements are income support, disability assistance, pensions, education, housing, health care, legal aid and food support. All those social benefits of contemporary society deemed essential.

These rights of citizenship must be built into the design of our institution. What concerns me is that we are not discussing them, while at the same time the neo-Conservatives who presently govern this great and diverse country of ours are systematically destroying these rights as they dismantle the social safety net by slashing government transfer payments for health, education and social housing. Just when the unemployed, those most denied their citizenship rights, are most in need, the Conservatives cut \$100 million from the Canada Jobs Strategy after making explicit promises when changes to unemployment insurance were introduced that they would not. The rights of citizenship in southern Canada are under attack and are systematically being rolled back. The threads of democracy are being cut away by the Conservatives, making Canada increasingly less democratic and more a land where the wealthy rule to the detriment of ordinary Canadians.

I am reminded here of what my colleague, the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, said on February 14th of this year in his reply to Tabled Document 1-91(1), Speech from the Throne, and I quote: "...the opportunities are here now for all of us to do something so that we do not end up like a Province of Alberta, so we do not end up like a Province of Ontario, or any of the other provinces where none of the aboriginal people who originally lived within the borders of those institutions have any say over the way that those governments

are run. Here we have an incredible opportunity, the last opportunity in Canada, to do something before the status quo cements itself."

I would like to add to my colleague's excellent comments the following: That unless we design our political and constitutional institutions with the purpose of giving full expression to the citizenship rights I have outlined, we, too, will end up like southern Canada. In fact, in many ways we are already a mirror of southern Canada if we look at the incredible levels of inequality in social and economic life conditions found in the North.

We have a responsibility as legislators and representatives of the people of the Northwest Territories to ensure that we allow full participation in the design and the implementation of this great experiment in northern politics. The central purpose of the structures we are designing is that they must foster the most advanced level of citizen's rights found anywhere in the world. That is our mission and we must not settle for anything less.

I agree with Mr. Kakfwi that we need to set up a commission along the lines of the old Western Constitutional Forum to deal with these complex and controversial issues. This time, however, we should not have politicians on the commission. They have too many other concerns to deal with and are just too busy to put the time and energy required to deal effectively with these issues.

If I could just complete my comments at this time with a few words about the reason that I think we clearly need a commission to deal with a very difficult and, so it seems, increasingly complex situation.

As Members know, since July 1990, the joint Dene/Metis Assembly, the dream of the Dene/Metis to the settlement of a single claim covering five Dene/Metis regions has collapsed. Delegates at this assembly in a majority rejected the final land claims agreement.

On August 1, 1990, the Delta region withdrew its negotiating mandate from the Dene/Metis leadership and asked Canada to negotiate a regional settlement on the basis of the April 9th agreement. On September 29th, 1990, the Sahtu followed the Delta's lead. On March 28th, 1991, the four communities in my constituency, the Treaty 11 group of the Dogrib communities of Rae, Lac la Martre, Rae Lakes and Snare Lake, passed a resolution to declare neutrality on the issue of the settlement of the claims process with the intent of exploring other alternatives.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): I am sorry, Mr. Zoe. I thought you were concluding a minute ago so I let you go a little bit longer. If you wish to continue, you will have to seek unanimous consent.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I seek unanimous consent to continue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): The Member seeks unanimous consent. All those in favour? Are there any nays? You may continue, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you. The question of land claims in the Western Arctic is no longer the somewhat straightforward question of a single claim. We are going to have to come to grips with the very challenging and complex situation concerning land claims in the Western Arctic. The course of political and constitutional development in the North will have to come to grips with what is going to be a very different -- from what we thought it would be less than eight months ago, administratively, jurisdictionally and politically -- post land

claim environment, particularly in the Western Arctic.

We have an enormous task ahead of us. It will be our government's ability to deal effectively with these constitutional and political challenges Northerners face that will be the ultimate test of our strength and determination. We must design northern political and constitutional institutions with the purpose of demonstrating our commitment to democracy in the North. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

Mr. Ernerk's Remarks On Political And Constitutional Development

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have a prepared statement in front of me at the moment regarding what we are discussing today. I will speak from my heart and also from in my mind. From what I visualize regarding the constitution, I am going to speak from my heart.

I can honestly say at this point that the constitutional issue in our land, as far as the future goes, within Nunavut, as we look in the future, has been an ongoing issue, and I am very happy about that. What moved me, when I saw this paper, I wanted to comment, firstly, regarding the Nunavut issue in our country. I am going to read the English part. (Translation ends)

Tabled Document 22-91(1) states: "The Government of the Northwest Territories has committed itself to a division scenario which would see the introduction into Parliament in 1992 of legislation providing for the creation of Nunavut and the implementation of division within five years of the enactment of this legislation. A government for Nunavut would be set up and running by 1997."

(Translation) What is written in this paper, Mr. Chairman, I support. The people of my constituency support the, 1997 deadline, and it is, generally speaking, supported by all residents of Nuavut. Nonetheless, in the Northwest Territories we have already gone to an election in our area in 1982 regarding the division of the NWT and to develop a boundary.

If the Northwest Territories were to be divided, Nunavut would be a territory within our country for the Inuit; for our constituents it is feasible for our future, for our children, for our grandchildren, and this is what we are preparing for -- the lives and positions of our children and our grandchildren regarding economic factors today so that there will be an improvement for our future, and this, for our Nunavut, is directed to us. We are preparing for this, to organize within our country, so that it continues in our future.

Also, Mr. Chairman, regarding the Government of the Northwest Territories, as we look to the future and 1997, to the people of our country, this is what we are waiting for. It will always be that way before it is implemented. (Translation ends)

One of the things that I want to mention again, and it is something that I have mentioned in the past, is that the Nunavut government, the Nunavut territory, will be a place for all people. Nunavut government is not going to be an ethnic government, it is going to be a government where all people will be able to participate in both the constitution, as well as political development of the new Nunavut territory.

Obviously, Mr. Chairperson, there are some important aspects to the establishment of Nunavut. Inuktitut language, for instance, will become an official language of the new

government in Nunavut. Along with this, Mr. Chairperson, Inuit will have a larger role to play, will be able to participate more within the civil service of the Nunavut government. I think this is a very positive response to the people of Nunavut territory, and it is a very important issue with the people of Nunavut.

(Translation) This issue of leadership will be important. It is important today. There are many leaders in our land. They vary, and as far as Nunavut goes, for instance Tungavik Federation of Nunavut or other organizations or bodies within the different regions, or the mayors that are elected, and leaders in our land -- it is obvious that in Nunavut, once it is implemented, the leadership will continue within Nunavut.

Once Nunavut materializes within our land, there will be conflicts and differences, as we have seen in these past years. For instance, we have Yellowknife as the capital. There will be a lot of debate as to where the capital of Nunavut will be. As I mentioned before, perhaps we should consider two capitals, one for the Legislative Assembly process and one as an administrative centre. But, Mr. Chairman, when we are dealing with constitutional issues it is obvious that we can resolve this, as far as Nunavut goes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Ernerk, your 10 minutes are up; if you wish to continue you will have to ask for unanimous consent.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, but I am just going to stop here for now because there are some other Members who wish to speak and I will have another opportunity.

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

Mr. Sibbeston's Remarks On Political And Constitutional Development

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I think apart from Mr. Ernerk, who spoke from the heart and without script, it just seems to me that political and constitutional development discussions today seem to do weird things to people in a sense that everybody seems to be reading dry script and quoting philosophers that we have never heard of.

If this is constitutional and political development, it is boring and it is not going to get anywhere. Constitutional and political matters are of the heart and emotion, and it must be in that nature, otherwise I do not know who people are really saying these things for. Do they expect that people out there are going to read this stuff, or what? I am disappointed to date with respect to the government's performance in terms of the long, lengthy treatises. I do not know who wrote some of their scripts, but it is not really you people; it is administrators and other people who obviously wrote your stuff. It is boring and irrelevant, as it were, so I just think that the whole discussion has gotten off to a bad start and it is indicative of how the government is handling this.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Your point of order, Mr. Allooloo.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Chairman, my point of order is that the Member is insinuating that the Members who were speaking from the script are not coming from their heart. My point of order is that...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): What you said to start with certainly was not the beginning of a point of order. Try again if you want.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: I was speaking from the heart. I believe that political and constitutional development of the Northwest Territories is very important to the Dene people, as well as the Metis people...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): I am sorry, Mr. Allooloo, but I do not believe you have a point of order. Order in the House. Order in the House. Each person has the opportunity to speak for 10 minutes, and if people would like to speak again, they will have another opportunity to speak for a further 10 minutes after everybody has had their first attempt. Mr. Sibbeston, I will readjust the time clock like they do in hockey games and give you another couple of minutes.

MR. SIBBESTON: I was very rudely interrupted, really, and it is terrible.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame!

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I do not agree, in essence, with many of the things that have been said -- what little I caught of it because it was read from script -- but I do not basically disagree with the intent of the paper that we are discussing here today. It has some good stuff; but my essential and main point is that it is so late in your mandate, it is so late in terms of the life of this government, that it is worthless, and it is not going to work. That is my essential point.

I do not disagree with the fact that we have constitutional matters before us, that what is driving this debate and this issue now before us is the fact that TFN land claims are coming to fruition. An agreement has been signed, and I take it that, in time, it has to be implemented, and part of the TFN component is that there is a provision for Nunavut, that there be division and that a new government be set up. That, I understand, is what is driving this debate or this intent, or desire, on the government's part to have a big constitutional conference here in the West. That, I believe, is what is driving it. It is unfortunate it has come to us on such a dry kind of platter and so late in the life of this government. It is too bad that the government over the last few years did not recognize that this was coming about. It is too bad that this debate did not come about two or three years ago.

Government in its life produced three papers, and I have them here, one back in 1988 and one in 1989 called "Seize the Day". You should have seized the day back in 1989, not in 1991. You are two or three years late, and that is my point. With elections coming up this fall, with elections for the major native organizations coming about this summer, with summer coming on in its usual form, so hot that people are not interested in serious discussion on constitutional and political development, nobody in the West is going to be interested in this topic of constitutional and political development. So for the Minister, the government, to come along and say, "Hey, let us get with it; let us create a crisis" is not going to work.

Constitutional Matters Dealt With At Crisis Times

If you look back in our history in the North, during the times when we dealt with constitutional matters, they were times when there was a crisis out there among the people. We came along in 1979, Mr. Patterson and I and others, and we began the discussion of political development because we went through an era of the Berger days and there was a lot of turmoil and conflict between the native and non-native people in the North and there was a desire to change. This government that we stepped into, we came upon in 1989, was questioned.

So there were a lot of incentives, a lot of reasons and a

rationale to question the government and deal with constitutional matters. We went the process. I was there with Mr. Patterson talking about plebiscites, talking about division. I supported it, and I was there talking about changes in government, and we brought some of these things about. But there was an atmosphere, there was a climate, which begged us to deal with it.

So here we are in 1991, with just a few months remaining in our mandate. The situation is completely different. There is not a constitutional crisis. There is not a question about this government as it was in 1980. There are not constitutional and political concerns out there.

I see what is happening in the West as the Dene/Metis struggling to get land claims started and finished. There are two regional claims going on. In our area of the North there is nothing going on with land claims. Things are dead, and there is more concern about getting land claims going than constitutional development discussions.

Little Concern About Constitutional Matters

So in this climate I do not see that people are very concerned about constitutional development. I agree eventually that we will need to talk about constitutional matters. In the West we have a tougher and bigger task than in the East. The Inuit people -- good for them, lucky for them, that the kind of government that they see is very similar to the territorial type of government and the Inuit people are in the majority. Good for them.

But in the West here, among the Dene and Metis people, the situation is different. The moment we have division, the Dene and Metis people are going to be in the minority and there is a need, over the course of the next few years, to talk about constitutional development. That is more important here than in the East; I recognize that. And when the task comes, I will be up to that task, no question about it, as I have been in the past. But I am saying, not now. But the government at this late stage, trying to foist, trying to entice the Dene and Metis people with this little commission, I think, is to a certain extent deceiving, to a certain extent, wrong. It is promoting the idea of a commission on the basis that we are going to be talking about self-government.

Mr. Kakfwi knows. He was before the chiefs last Thursday down in Rainbow Valley, and we were there too. Mr. Kakfwi was there trying to promote the idea of a commission and I did not see one chief jump up and down with glee and with support. All of the questions were other things. Dene chiefs were more concerned about other things than a constitutional body.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): I am sorry, Mr. Sibbeston, even with the generous timekeeper's adjustment of your 10 minutes, you have gone beyond the 10 minutes. If you wish to continue, you will have to seek unanimous consent.

MR. SIBBESTON: I am going to convince you guys.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): Mr. Sibbeston, your time has expired. If you want to continue, you will have to ask for unanimous consent. Mr. Sibbeston is asking for unanimous consent to continue. Does he have the indulgence of the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McLaughlin): There being no nays, you may continue, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: No, as I understood what the chiefs said to Mr. Kakfwi in response, I know that Mr. Kakfwi was trying to get a positive response, but I honestly did not see it in that room. It seems as if the chiefs were talking about everything else under the sun. Some of them were bread-and-butter type issues, and I know that the chief from our area -- I have to, you know, pay my due respects to the chief from my area -- and his major concern was, what was the government doing with respect to the reference question that the government was going to put before the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories? That was his most important concern, and his message was, "Hey, let's deal with some basic things. Let's deal with some things that are more important to us; then we will talk about constitutional development." That was the message that I got.

So today I am aware that the Minister has had some meetings with the Dene Nation and the Metis Association, and I take it that there are some indications of support for their involvement on this commission. But if that is the case, I am surprised. I am surprised that the Dene Nation and the Metis Association -- I see the president here sitting in the gallery -- I am surprised that they would, at this late stage in the life of this government, when its mandate is quickly running out, with summer coming on, with their elections up for contention, that they would agree to a process of constitutional discussions, when they know in the communities people are not concerned, they know that there is not a crisis in the West here, and they know that the summers are hot and people are not interested in constitutional development. People are more concerned with keeping cool in the summer than talking about political and constitutional development.

We talk about this paper here. I have read this paper over the course of the Easter holidays. I have read this paper, the Iqaluit Agreement and the two agreements that there are previous to it, and I do not see much in here. It talks about 1997; it talks about interconnecting all the various things that are happening; and it talks of the TFN claim and the need to deal with that, but I do not see much more than that. The stuff that Mr. Kakfwi talks about is not even in this paper.

So I suggest to people here, the MLAs, that the government's constitutional paper is not very well thought out. Mr. Kakfwi's idea of a constitutional group is a kind of last-minute, last-thought idea that has just come to the floor, come out to the public, in the last week or so, and it is a kind of last grasp gasp effort by the government to make constitutional and political matters an issue at this late stage in our Assembly's life.

I do not think that that is fair, and I mostly do not think that it is going to work. If I thought for a moment, that between now and December 1991 we could have a thorough discussion, I would agree, because I agree that that discussion has to go on. But, I see in the mandate, the terms of reference that Mr. Kakfwi is proposing, that the committee ought to do its work, go and visit communities, and report by December 1991. Between now and then, as I said, summer is going to be upon us, elections, and in the communities people are not even going to be there; they are not going to be in the mood to discuss political and constitutional development. That is the reason, and I say it sincerely, I do not say it for the sake of being critical or being obstructive or being against the government for the sake of being against the government. I just say it honestly and sincerely because constitutional development matters are so important. I just do not see how we are going to be able to deal with such a serious matter in the course of the summer.

We are all going to be so involved in political matters; Ministers may want to deny it and say they are not going to be involved politically or that they should be involved with

constitutional stuff. Everybody here, if they are interested in re-election, is going to be working this summer on being re-elected. That is the political reality. There is no use hiding that fact. On your minds, in terms of the work and all the things that you do, you are going to be foremostly interested in getting yourselves re-elected. In that situation, you do not have time; your energies will not go into constitutional and political matters.

Reasons Plan Will Not Work

These are the reasons, just the practical common sense reasons that although I would want this to work, it is not going to work. You are going to be frustrated. People in my area, I know offhand, are not going to want to have meetings and talk about constitutional matters, and then we are going to be involved in the election in October. In December this little group is supposed to report, and the report is not going to be of any substance because they will not have properly met and considered matters. You are going to have to maybe extend their mandate.

To me, it is better to start afresh. Leave the matter lie now, because there is no interest in the West, no energy to be put forward towards it. Start anew after the election, freshly, with new ideas and new energies and a new plan; a plan that is well planned out, and that is going to come into effect over the next few years. That is the kind of approach I think you should take, rather than what you have before us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Sibbeston, are you still on the floor? Mr. Ernerk. Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Sibbeston still has the floor. Order please. Mr. Sibbeston has the floor. Go ahead, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Chairman, I really wish that the MLAs here would reconsider this matter. I appreciate the concerns of the government, and particularly the Inuit Members, that I am sure support the major thrust of the paper; but I really wish they would reconsider the matter in the interests of dealing with the constitutional situation in the West on a more rational basis. I feel that while this paper is good, it is not going to harm anybody. It is harmless in many respects. It has lots of good things in it. I will be curious to ask the government and Mr. Kakfwi what is the basis of his constitutional group -- I am not going to extend the time I am going to talk; I am not interested in continuing the matter at length...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Order please. Mr. Sibbeston still has the floor. Go ahead, Mr. Sibbeston.

MR. SIBBESTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is unfortunate that the proposal that Mr. Kakfwi has is not in here. If it was, then one could have considered it but this -- his idea of a constitutional conference or committee or whatever it is called, is not even contained in this paper. It is something that he had just introduced today. I appreciate that he has been talking with the native leaders over the last few days but it is not something that we could have considered in light of what the government has had here. So it seems to me that his idea -- I take what I read in here as good stuff. Do not take me wrong. It is good stuff; there is nothing wrong with it. Just the timing is wrong, and that is what is wrong with it. I do not even disagree with the constitutional group or committee -- I do not know what Mr. Kakfwi has in mind but that is not even bad. But that should just be set into place next fall after the election. Oh, commission, that is what you call it. That is what that is. Well that should just be next fall after the election.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with all the things that are in here and I agree that we in the West have a tremendously difficult task

ahead of us. We have a lot of work ahead of us in the next few years. We need to deal with the constitution...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): It is now 6:30 p.m. and the Chair will rise and report progress. Thank you.

---Applause

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 22-91(1) and wishes to report progress with one motion being adopted.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Third Reading Of Bill 2: Department Of Justice Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 2, Department of Justice Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 2 has received third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Third Reading Of Bill 5: Reciprocal Enforcement Of Judgments Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kivallivik, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 5 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

Third Reading Of Bill 23: Property Assessment And Taxation Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 23 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Third Reading Of Bill 8: Bulk Sales Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 8, An Act to Repeal the Bulk Sales Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 8 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Third Reading Of Bill 4: Medical Profession Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 4 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Third Reading Of Bill 9: Financial Administration Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 9 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Third Reading Of Bill 15: Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 15 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Third Reading Of Bill 29: Public Utilities Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 29, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 29 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

Third Reading Of Bill 10: Insurance Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Insurance Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 10 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

Third Reading Of Bill 16: Locksmiths, Security Guards And Other Security Occupations Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 16,

Locksmiths, Security Guards and Other Security Occupations Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 16 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

Third Reading Of Bill 18: Boilers And Pressure Vessels Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act and to Amend An Act to Amend the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 18 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

Third Reading Of Bill 24: Social Assistance Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 24 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

Third Reading Of Bill 25: Marriage Act

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Marriage Act, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 25 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

Third Reading Of Bill 32: Corrections Act

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I have a Member's statement about volleyball, if I may get consent.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 3 for a very important and vital Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

REVERT TO ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Volleyball Match

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, after this afternoon we may all wish to bounce around on the volleyball court tonight. The Members of the Executive Council and staff would like the chance to vanquish their shattered reputation on the volleyball court, at 7:30 tonight at St. Pat's. Thank you.

---Applause

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of ajauqtit at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning; at 10:00 a.m. the standing committee on legislation.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Thursday, April 18th.

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: Tabled Document 22-91(1); Bill 3 and Bill 26; Committee Report 6-91(1); Bills 30, 31, 6 and 37

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., Thursday, April 18th, 1991.

---ADJOURNMENT

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