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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 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, Mr. Lewis, Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Morin, Hon. Richard Nerysoo, Mr. Ningark, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Whitford, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

--Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Richard Nerysoo): Orders of the day for Thursday, July 4, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 93-91(1): Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Affairs Ministers' Conference

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, in his opening statement to the Annual Premiers' Conference in Winnipeg last year, Government Leader Patterson encouraged the premiers to reconvene a conference of provincial and territorial aboriginal affairs Ministers which had been originally scheduled for Quebec City in October of 1990 but had been cancelled as a result of the failure of the Meech Lake Accord.

In part, the Government Leader's recommendation was prompted by our desire to establish a formal and ongoing intergovernmental dialogue with the provinces and Yukon on issues such as aboriginal self-government, reform of federal claims policy, amending the Indian Act, delivery of health, education, justice and housing programs by and for aboriginal Canadians, and economic development initiatives for native entrepreneurs. The Government Leader offered to host the aboriginal affairs Ministers and any meetings of officials required to prepare for the conference.

This initiative is also in response to charges that the deteriorating state of relations between native Canadians and governments at all levels was related to the near absence of meaningful discussion and consultation. Mr. Patterson made specific mention in his remarks for the need to establish a constructive and ongoing dialogue with aboriginal leaders and that a Ministers' conference must have this crucial issue on its agenda.

Mr. Speaker, we were most pleased when the premiers announced in their conference communique that it will be important for governments to continue to address issues respecting aboriginal Canadians. Moreover, we were encouraged by their recommendation that the federal government should take the lead role in reconvening an aboriginal affairs Ministers' conference because of its overall constitutional responsibility for native Canadians.

Immediately following the premiers' conference, the Government Leader wrote to the Prime Minister and Minister Siddon encouraging them to respond positively to the premiers' recommendation and reconfirming this government's offer to host preparatory meetings for officials and the Ministers' conference. Later on in the year I wrote to Minister Siddon restating our government's position and encouraging the federal government to initiate the intergovernmental dialogue on aboriginal rights issues. I also encouraged my provincial and territorial counterparts to express their support to Minister Siddon for this initiative.

In late January of this year, Minister Siddon informed Mr. Patterson that the federal government is not prepared to convene a conference of Ministers to discuss aboriginal issues in the foreseeable future. Given this response, I wrote to my provincial and territorial counterparts recommending that we proceed without the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report today that agreement has been reached to convene a conference of provincial and territorial aboriginal affairs Ministers in Toronto. I am also pleased to report that our government will be hosting a meeting of senior officials in Yellowknife on July 9 and 10 to prepare for the conference. A date for the conference is yet to be determined.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I realize that convening meetings of officials and conferences of Ministers cannot be expected to resolve all of the outstanding issues facing aboriginal Canadians, nor should it be perceived that these are the only, or most appropriate, forums for responding to the numerous challenges that governments must continue to address with full and meaningful participation by aboriginal Canadians and their leaders. Nevertheless, we must use all avenues and opportunities available to establish and maintain a high and effective profile for aboriginal issues on the national agenda.

Equally important, we must establish a forum where national, provincial and territorial aboriginal leaders can meet and dialogue with responsible Ministers and officials from the various levels of government.

This is what has been missing, Mr. Speaker, since the collapse of constitutional talks on aboriginal rights matters in 1987. We witnessed the consequences of this unfortunate condition last summer when aboriginal Canadians took dramatic and unprecedented steps to bring national attention to their grievances and aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, the initiative I have outlined is a constructive contribution. It will develop the creative environment and stimulate the political will that is required to restart the process of addressing outstanding aboriginal issues across this country.

Your government, Mr. Speaker, is proud to have played a modest but effective role in beginning this process. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 94-91(1): Aboriginal Summer Student Program

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, an area of concern to both the Department of Justice and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is aboriginal policing. To encourage more native Northerners to join the police force, the RCMP implemented the aboriginal summer student program, a program jointly funded by my department, the Department of Social Services and the Department of Education. This program is now in its fourth year.

I would like to inform the House that this year, 18 students, nine men and nine women, from across the Northwest Territories, will be employed for the summer with the RCMP.

There will be two students in Fort Smith, Hay River and Iqaluit, and one student each in Fort Simpson, Rae-Edzo, Yellowknife, Fort Good Hope, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort McPherson, Coppermine, Spence Bay, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, and Pond Inlet. I am pleased to say that this reflects a higher percentage of students from isolated communities than in previous summers.

The aboriginal summer student program provides the participants with the opportunity to experience the policing role and to decide if it is a career option for them. I wish the students success, and I hope that, as in past years, the program will lead some of them to apply to join the RCMP as regular members.

Many young men and women in the Northwest Territories are following in the footsteps of their fathers in becoming members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Constable Jim Akavak is currently stationed with the Iqaluit detachment, while his father Sandy is a special constable at the Lake Harbour detachment. Constable Merle Carpenter is currently stationed with the Musical Ride in Ottawa and is expected to travel internationally for the next several years. His father Frank is retired from the force and now lives in Inuvik.

With the implementation of the RCMP summer student program in the Northwest Territories, more families will continue the tradition of the Akavaks and Carpenters in making the RCMP "a family affair". Thank you very much.

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

Ministers' Statement 95-91(1): Report Of The Traditional Knowledge Working Group

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that at the appropriate time today, I will be tabling the report from the traditional knowledge working group.

In October 1989, my department was directed to co-ordinate the efforts of a working group on traditional knowledge. The working group consisted of representatives from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Metis Heritage Association, the Dene Cultural Institute, the Inuit Cultural Institute and the GNWT. The committee was advised and directed by elders on how the current lack of recognition of traditional knowledge affects both the young and the old and how it could be used more effectively. Preserving traditional knowledge has become an urgent matter.

Traditional knowledge is reflected in language, spirituality, social organization, values, institutions and laws. The report focusses on the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge in program development, policy and legislation.

At this time, I would like to thank the members of the committee for their work. I would also like to express my appreciation to the elders who advised the members and helped them to better understand how the traditional knowledge of the aboriginal people of the NWT can be maintained. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ministers' Statement 96-91(1): Victims' Assistance Committee Annual Report

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour, at the appropriate time today, of tabling the second annual report of the victims' assistance committee for the fiscal year 1990-1991, as required by the Victims of Crime Act.

The total receipts of federal and territorial victim fine surcharges for 1990-91 was \$120,478.04. The victims' assistance committee report, which I am tabling today, shows the grants totalling \$117,463.63, which I approved for funding.

Last year the committee recommended to me 27 applications from non-government organizations and individuals. Funds were disbursed in four main categories: approximately \$60,000 for training and educational activities, \$30,000 for research, \$14,000 for direct service delivery, and another \$14,000 for public information and awareness programs.

I am pleased to inform this House that at a time when governments are restraining spending on human resource programs, the victims' assistance fund is providing a vital and desperately needed link for community-based initiatives in victim assistance.

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 the Department of Justice is developing to support victims of crime. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 97-91(1): Student Summer Employment

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, providing work experience for our northern high school and post-secondary students is an important factor in achieving our goal of a qualified, representative public service. I am pleased to give the following progress report on our student summer employment program.

With recent improvements in the recruitment strategy, we have hired more northern students than ever before. This year, the Department of Personnel's human resource planning officers contacted every department to outline what students were available. They also encouraged departments to view the employment of students as an opportunity to train their future employees.

So far this year, 318 of our northern students have been offered work in various departments and agencies. This means that 45 per cent of northern students registered with the GNWT have been given positions.

Mr. Speaker, this government makes a major financial contribution to the education of many northern students. The summer student employment program supplements this support by providing meaningful work experience designed to prepare students for public service jobs.

However, summer student employment is only one of our initiatives aimed at employing northern students. Many government departments are actively involved in student employment through programs such as the affirmative action business development training program in Economic Development and Tourism, the engineering access program in Public Works and Transportation, the school community counsellor training program in Education, and the community health representatives training program and the access and special pre-medical studies program in Health.

Our future depends on building a qualified northern work force. The students employed through the student summer employment program and the students trained through these specific initiatives will be the core of that work force. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 98-91(1): Appointments To The Status Of Women Council Of The Northwest Territories

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: On behalf of the Minister responsible for Status of Women, Mrs. Jeannie Marie-Jewell, she is very pleased to announce two new members to the Status of Women Council of the NWT. The new appointees are Sharon Sawchuk and Reanna Erasmus, both of Yellowknife. These two appointments bring the Status of Women Council to the full complement of nine members.

Sharon Sawchuk is the executive director of the YWCA in Yellowknife. She has an extensive and wide-ranging background in dealing with issues of particular interest and concern to women in the areas of family violence, child care and gender bias.

Reanna Erasmus is married with two children and a member of the Yellowknife Dene Band. Reanna has served on the national action committee on the Status of Women for the past two years. She also has extensive background and interest in violence against women, in child care, housing and equality in the workplace and in the justice system.

Mrs. Marie-Jewell wishes these new members well in their challenging mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Baffin Central.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Attempted Suicide, Pangnirtung

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in my community there was an attempted suicide. A 14-year-old boy shot himself. Mr. Speaker, he did not die, even though he shot himself. Right now he is in Iqaluit hospital in good condition. I am happy, along with the rest of my colleagues, that he did not die even though he shot himself and he is now in the hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

Member's Statement On Water Quality, Norman Wells

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the Members' attention to the little bottles of water that I had passed around to the MLAs today. This is water taken from the tap in a government office in Norman Wells on June 24.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Drink it.

---Laughter

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: We should have an ambulance on stand-by. The village of Norman Wells, you may not know, draws water from a creek that is in the vicinity of the community. The community wishes to get some support so

that they can get some additional capital dollars and in the future move to using the Mackenzie River as their source of water. This is just a mild sample of the kind of water that this community has to put up with during late April, all of May, and a good part of June. In a country that has the majority of fresh water in the world there is no reason why we should expect our citizens and our communities to be subjected to such poor quality of water.

I would want all the MLAs to be aware of it because it is something that you did not have the pleasure of enjoying when you came to the fall session in Norman Wells a couple of years ago.

I would not let my children drink it; I would not let anybody drink it, really. This is what the community does, and I think they are the kind of community that is very independent and does not like to ask for government assistance. In fact, maybe they are more inclined to think that the government is not interested in helping at all.

But as an MLA I do not think we should ask communities to put up with this type of water quality. I would ask you if you are all re-elected, which I expect you will be, to help this community with acquiring good, clean water from the Mackenzie River as a source. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On GNWT's Record Management System

MR. LEWIS: I have been puzzling, Mr. Speaker, over the last few days as to why there seems to be so much opposition to having an Access to Information Act dealt with in this Assembly; and although I must confess I am a sound sleeper, in the middle of the night last night I woke up, and suddenly I had a fit of inspiration that maybe the problem is that the government has so much information stored in so many buildings over the city that it is almost impossible to get at. I know I asked a question in this Assembly during the winter to the Minister responsible for Government Services to see if in fact there was a proper record management system so that all this information we collect so quickly over a long period of time is made accessible in some place, so if somebody wants to know something, within 24 hours you have the answer to the question.

I did a little bit of research while it was fresh in my mind this morning. I tried to check up to see if in fact there was any way in which some departments were trying to organize their information so that it could be readily accessible. I found that Workers' Compensation had done a little bit, MACA had done a little bit, Health were thinking about it, DPW were thinking about it, Economic Development were thinking about it. Mr. Speaker, perhaps this is the reason why this government is very obsessed with keeping all our information secret. They want to keep it secret but they just do not know where it is. They just do not know where all this stuff is. It is just too difficult to access it.

I would be very interested to hear any plans, when I get to question period, that this government may have to organize its records in such a way they could be easily accessible so we do not have to wait for one whole year, such as Mr. Morin has done, to get a simple answer to a question that was asked in February 1990 and that still has not been answered. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Members' statements. The

honourable Member for Deh Cho.

Member's Statement On Access To Information Act

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to make a statement with regard to the Access to Information Act. Mr. Speaker, during the last six months I have done a bit of research into why we should have an Access to Information Act. There seems to be a reluctance in this House for Members to deal with the act itself, and they have tried different tactics to try and kill this bill itself. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make it public right now that I do not intend to let this bill die before the conclusion of this session, and Members that feel this bill is not worth considering, whether they give it their support or not, are going to be wrong in doing so. I will continue to pressure this Assembly to deal with it. Whether you like it or not, you have to express that opinion in public. I will not allow it to die. Thank you.

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

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question O602-91(1): Training For Community By-Law Officers

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I have two returns, the first asked by Mr. Ningark yesterday regarding the training for community by-law officers. This matter was the subject of a resolution from the last NWTAM, NWT Association of Municipalities, annual meeting, and our response in a letter of March 21, 1991, to NWTAM President, Pat McMahon, confirmed that funding for municipal corporations from MACA is unconditional and that municipal councils have the choice of funding training for all of their employees, including by-law officers.

As well, I noted in my reply that Arctic College has established a general basic enforcement program to meet the needs of all organizations involved in enforcing laws and has indicated its willingness to develop and deliver a special section, targeted specifically towards municipal by-law officers. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has sponsored regional training courses in specific aspects of municipal by-law enforcement and will continue to do so as required.

Further Return To Question O604-91(1): Location Of Fisheries Plant, Pangnirtung

I have a reply to a question asked by Mr. Kilabuk on July 3, 1991, regarding the location of fisheries plant at Pangnirtung. As I mentioned yesterday, this is a matter that I would expect could be and would be dealt with by the mayor and the hamlet council without the involvement of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. I have checked with our regional office, and they are not aware of any issue regarding the location of the fisheries plant in Pangnirtung. I would encourage anyone with concerns regarding the site to bring them to the attention of the hamlet council, which has the authority for planning and zoning under the Planning Act. Thank you.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three actually, two on behalf of Mr. Wray and one to a question asked by Mr. Pedersen on July 3, 1991, on approval of disposing of capital assets, which I will answer first.

Return To Question O592-91(1): Approval To Dispose Of Capital Assets

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: In response to the question, the Financial Management Board does have the authority to dispose of capital assets without the consent of the Legislative Assembly. Section 65(1) of the Financial Administration Act states that where the Financial Management Board determines that public property is surplus to the requirements of the government, or that disposal is in the best interests of the government, the board may authorize the disposal of the property. In addition, under the authority and accountability section of the GNWT's disposal policy, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is responsible for the disposal of land, and the Department of Public Works is responsible for the disposal of buildings.

Return To Question O606-91(1): Use Of Helmets On Four-Wheel All-Terrain Vehicles

If I may continue, Mr. Speaker, a return on Mr. Wray's behalf to Mr. Arlooktoo's question of July 3, 1991, on the use of helmets on four-wheel all-terrain vehicles. Yesterday, the Member for Baffin South asked whether or not municipal governments had the authority to determine the use of safety helmets on four-wheel all-terrain vehicles in their communities. I took the question on notice for the Minister of Transportation.

Under the territorial All-Terrain Vehicles Act, as amended by this Legislature on April 1, 1989, the use of helmets on all-terrain vehicles, like seat belts, is mandatory throughout the Northwest Territories. The relevant section of the All-Terrain Vehicles Act is section 9.13 which reads: "No person shall operate or ride on a special all-terrain vehicle on a highway unless (a) the person is wearing a prescribed helmet; and (b) the helmet is securely fastened by a chin strap."

The special all-terrain vehicle helmet regulations, pursuant to the act, go on to define a prescribed helmet as a CSA-or-DOT approved safety helmet, labelled and identified as such. The All-Terrain Vehicles Act is territorial legislation and municipal by-laws may not contravene territorial statutes.

So Mr. Speaker, the answer to the Member's question, anyone in the Northwest Territories who wants to ride on an all-terrain vehicle must wear a proper safety helmet, and municipal governments at the community level may not make local by-laws that change this safety requirement. Thank you.

I have one more about Broughton Island, but maybe I will wait until tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O616-91(1): Possible Appointment Of Chief Justice

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 11, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lewis asked a question of Mr. Ballantyne with regard to whether or not we might be able to have a chief justice. The Minister has taken the question as notice. I understand now that you have an additional position to make it four judges. I am wondering whether or not there are any plans to designate one of the judges as chief justice.

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

Return To Question O616-91(1): Possible Appointment Of Chief Justice

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you very much. Actually, I was looking for that. I had that response. I was going to try and give it today, but it is not on my desk. I will try and give it now. I was correct, I think, in my response to the honourable Member that in order to have the chief justice position there would have to be changes to our legislation and also there would have to be changes to the federal legislation. There would also have to be an order-in-council in order to allow for the extra salary that you have for a chief justice. My intention at this particular time is to wait until the new Supreme Court judge is appointed by the Attorney General of Canada and then at the next session of this Legislative Assembly, the next government will deal with the issue as to whether or not it makes sense to have a chief justice of the Supreme Court here in the Northwest Territories.

I think that as we go from two to three judges, keeping in mind we actually have four positions, that it will make increasingly more sense to very seriously consider that option. It is not my intention over the life of this Assembly to try and bring forward legislation. I will, however, pursue it with the federal government to get an understanding of their willingness to proceed with federal legislation if indeed the next government, the next Assembly, decides to proceed this way.

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

Question O617-91(1): Powers To Appoint Chief Justice

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, as most Members are aware, we did pass the Department of Justice Act, which gives the Minister the same kind of authority as a solicitor general or an attorney general. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not that authority also gives him powers to appoint a chief justice judge.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. New question, the honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Return To Question O617-91(1): Powers To Appoint Chief Justice

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, I want to clearly let it be understood that the appointment of Supreme Court judges are clearly and unequivocally the prerogative of the federal Attorney General. That is also true in the provinces. As the Minister of Justice, Attorney General of the Northwest Territories, I do have the responsibility for the appointment of chief judge and judges in the territorial court but not in the Supreme Court.

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

Question O618-91(1): Use Of Safety Helmets On All-Terrain Vehicles Off Highways

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Government Leader. I appreciate the response he gave me earlier concerning the helmets. I have travelled in many different communities, and they seem to have different by-laws. Some people encourage the use of helmets and others do not. This varies from community to community. Because of that, I was confused as to what the status was, and I thank you for the clear information you have passed on to me. From that arises another question concerning highways and the mandatory use of seat belts. We also have restrictions on speed. Even if

you are outside the jurisdiction of the hamlets, are you still supposed to wear helmets? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O618-91(1): Use Of Safety Helmets On All-Terrain Vehicles Off Highways

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, may I first say that the Member's observation that there were different rules in different communities is precisely why the government brought forward an amendment to the All-Terrain Vehicles Act to provide the same rules everywhere. To answer the second part of the Member's question, Mr. Speaker, the requirement for helmets refers to highways, and highways are quite broadly defined. They would include most roads as we know them. However, Mr. Speaker, if I understand what the Member is getting at, I believe that a highway would not include the open countryside, the land off a road such as the sea ice or where people may be using these vehicles at a camp, hunting caribou or the like. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O618-91(1): Use Of Safety Helmets On All-Terrain Vehicles Off Highways

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the information the Government Leader just gave me. The question I would like to ask him now is, because this policy regarding helmets is not up to the communities or the hamlets, when will the communities be informed that this policy does exist? To date they are still not following the same act. When are you going to inform the RCMP or all the communities? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question O618-91(1): Use Of Safety Helmets On All-Terrain Vehicles Off Highways

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, this is the law, and it has been the law since it was passed in this Legislature in the spring of 1989. I will undertake, through the appropriate departments of our government, to make sure that communities are notified of the requirements under the law, and that this matter is brought to the attention of the RCMP as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O619-91(1): Enforcement Of All-Terrain Vehicle Regulations In Communities With No RCMP

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the comments of my colleague regarding the question that he just asked. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice, the RCMP enforce the laws regarding the act on the use of helmets, but who looks after enforcing these acts when there are no RCMP in the communities, if they are going to be using all-terrain vehicles? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Return to Question O619-91(1): Enforcement Of All-Terrain Vehicle Regulations In Communities With No RCMP

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: It is a good question put by the honourable Member. I would suggest that if in

communities that are not serviced by the RCMP there is a problem, perhaps the RCMP when doing patrols could have a community meeting and discuss the problem.

I also think that in communities where there are no RCMP, many times we find that the communities themselves have a stronger fabric and the leadership in the community would talk to individuals about that sort of thing, especially young children. If there is a problem and if the Member would make me aware of the problem, I think the RCMP would be quite open to having community meetings in any community where that problem might exist. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O619-91(1): Enforcement Of All-Terrain Vehicle Regulations In Communities With No RCMP

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If a person who does not wear a helmet is charged, what kind of penalty would he receive?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I must admit I do not have that information close at hand. Perhaps the Law Clerk would be available to give that information to the honourable Member. I will take it as notice. I have no idea.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River.

Question O620-91(1): Water Quality, Norman Wells

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kakfwi has piqued my interest, and my question is to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I wonder if he could update us on what is happening with the Norman Wells water situation and how much it would be to fix that problem.

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

Return To Question O620-91(1): Water Quality, Norman Wells

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I do not have the figures at my fingertips. There are two options. One is expanding the use of the Bosworth Creek situation, which the honourable Member has mentioned, or pulling in the water from the river. I believe it is something in the order of one million dollars versus \$2.5 million. But as the Member indicates, it is a decision that has to be made by the House and approved in capital estimates.

I would indicate also that if you draw water, even from the big river, you are going to get a certain amount of silt. It has to be cleared out. I know that in Inuvik we draw the water from the big river in the wintertime when it is clean and from a lake in the summer. So it is just a matter of determining which is the best way to get your water.

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

Question O621-91(1): Expansion Of Grades With French As First Language

MR. LEWIS: (Translation) First of all, Mr. Chairman, I am

going to speak in French. My question is to Mr. Kakfwi, Minister of Education, and it concerns the expansion of grades to secondary levels for the teaching of French as first language.

Does the GNWT support the expansion of French as a first language program to include the grades seven and eight at the Ecole St. Cyr in Yellowknife, in September of 1991, as was requested by the Francophone parents?

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

Return To Question O621-91(1): Expansion Of Grades With French As First Language

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, some of these questions are like shots from the hip. There is no notice, and so the quality of the response sometimes will reflect that.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: But if you show up in the gallery we will perform for you.

---Laughter

I tell you that as far as extension of grades for French classes, for children to be taught French as a first language, we are looking at the extension of grades here in Yellowknife. As a simple rule, you could say that the Secretary of State is providing funding and as long as they continue to provide funding we will take that very generous funding and use it to extend the grades if need be.

Where we think numbers do not warrant it, because of the way that we have our student/teacher ratio in elementary school and high school -- expecting that we get 100 per cent funding from the Secretary of State we simply would take federal funding, if they agree to fund it, and we will carry out that work on behalf of the federal government. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O621-91(1): Expansion Of Grades With French As First Language

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, since I am going to take exception to the Minister I will do it in English rather than in French. I found the accusation that this is a hurriedly contrived question a denial of the responsibility of the Minister to do what he had agreed to do. The parents of the children who go to Ecole St. Cyr asked for one and a half teachers, with a request that it go to the Secretary of State. My understanding is that only half a teaching position was requested and that is all that was received. It is for that reason that maybe this plan is on hold.

I would like to ask the Minister, why is it that the Department did not ask for the one and a half positions that the parents asked for, instead of the half that he put in writing?

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the Member is talking about in regard to accusation. I was simply making a point that if I have a little bit of notice on questions like this, I will give a good answer, a full answer, well thought out, well phrased; but because, as I say, it is sort of a shot from the hip, no notice, I am not going to start flipping through my briefing book and try to come up with a quick answer. That is the only point I was making. Having

said that, I have to take it as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Just to remind the honourable Members that in answering a question, you should answer so that the response is not a matter of debate, but rather an answer either taking notice or appropriately answering. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Pine Point.

Question O622-91(1): Revenue From Rental Of Firefighting Crews And Equipment

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently we had -- a couple of years ago now -- a presentation or suggestion by Ministers that they wanted to create a forest firefighting fund. When it was before committee I think it was the members on the standing committee on finance who probably asked the impertinent question, "Where is the funding going to come from to establish the fund?" Then we never saw the bill again. I know that when you have years like this where there is rain, we are not spending a lot of money fighting fires. I would like to ask the Minister responsible, what is happening to the revenue that comes in to our government from the rental of crews and equipment to other jurisdictions? Is that going into the government's general revenue or is it being used to establish a firefighting fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question O622-91(1): Revenue From Rental Of Firefighting Crews And Equipment

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department drafted a forest fire suppression reserve fund act, which I was not successful in getting through. I was told that we should wait and see what happens. That was back in 1989. So far the funds that we get from renting equipment to other jurisdictions go to the general revenue of the Northwest Territories.

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

Question O623-91(1): New Federal Gun Control Legislation

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question on the new federal gun legislation to the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, hunters and trappers and people that are subsistence users are unhappy with this new federal legislation and have expressed that on numerous occasions. I would like to ask the Minister if they had any input into the new federal legislation, and whether or not this government has taken any kind of special position with regard to that legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Return To Question O623-91(1): New Federal Gun Control Legislation

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Yes, as Members are aware, there has been considerable controversy about this bill across the country. One school of thought was that the bill was actually not strong enough and that our gun control in Canada should be strengthened. Another school of thought from hunters, trappers and from shooters at clubs, what have you, thought that, in fact, the bill was too restrictive. Both myself directly, and Mr. Allooloo had input into this particular bill.

As you might be aware, the provisions of the new bill, C-17, which was introduced in the House of Commons, include stricter rules for getting firearm acquisition certificates, for a waiting period, safety course and test, parental consent up to age 18, references, et cetera, so there are stronger controls in that area. There is a section on prohibitive weapons and on limitations on cartridge size, and we will go into regulations now. There will be stricter provisions about the storage of weapons and part of this will be defined by regulations. The stricter mandatory firearms prohibitions, 10 years for a first offence, life for a subsequent offence, where there are broad exceptions to that one, especially with people that use firearms for subsistence hunting.

The problem that we have at this point in time, and many people have, is that most of the most important components of the bill will be defined by regulation, and nobody has seen the regulations yet. There is an advisory committee, and we have appointed Mr. James Eetoolook of Spence Bay as the NWT representative on that committee. As I understand it, the Hon. Kim Campbell will be discussing the regulations with the committee.

I can tell you, personally, this is a difficult one for me also. I have some concern about what is happening in the major municipalities, the big cities of this country, especially with the use of handguns and automatic weapons. I think we all have that concern, and I am quite sympathetic for the concerns of many people. The Montreal massacre, I think, was one example of the manifestation of the problem. On the other hand, I recognize, as do people in this Legislative Assembly, that we are a different sort of society here in the Northwest Territories. Many of our people are dependent upon firearms for their subsistence, so we have tried to take a balanced approach. We have made it very clear, both Mr. Allooloo and myself, that there is a concern about restrictions for legitimate users of firearms such as hunters, trappers or people who use them for shooting competitions and what have you. They have listened, I think, to our concerns. We hope that the regulations will reflect the unique nature of the Northwest Territories.

We also hope that they will deal with some of the very serious problems they have in some of the urban communities. It is a difficult bill for the Minister to get through the House. There are two legitimate sides of the bill. What we have tried to do is to explain to the Minister and to her advisers the very real concerns of people in the Northwest Territories who use weapons in their daily living. I hope that answers the honourable Member's question.

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

Supplementary To Question O623-91(1): New Federal Gun Control Legislation

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, the Minister did respond by saying they are trying to take a balanced approach. The new legislation is southern-driven. The reasons for the new federal legislation is basically for that reason. In the event that the Minister does not get what he needs in the regulation, is the Minister prepared to take any kind of position if there is no response to the unique conditions of the North?

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

Further Return To Question O623-91(1): New Federal Gun Control Legislation

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: In quite heated discussion with my colleagues, the attorneys general and Ministers of

Justice across the country, many of them made a very strong case for much stronger gun control. I told them, that I understood their concerns, especially those that have larger urban centres in their provinces, but in return I wanted them to understand our concerns here in the Northwest Territories, with the majority of aboriginal population where the use of weapons is something which is part of life as opposed to a hobby or a luxury. They understood very well our concerns, and I am quite confident that our concerns will be reflected in the new regulations. I will be meeting with the attorneys general here in Yellowknife in September and, hopefully, by that time we will have a better idea of exactly what the new regulations will be. We have made a pretty strong case and got pretty good agreement that our concerns are quite legitimate. Thank you.

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

Question O624-91(1): Request For Government Assistance For Francophones

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I suppose I should be flattered by the gunslinger image that Mr. Kakfwi has created of me. However, since he was not able to answer what I thought was a very simple question, and since he was unprepared to examine his briefing book, which I understand is the purpose of the briefing book -- to be available to give you the information you need. -- I will ask him a very, very simple question. What will the Government of the Northwest Territories do to assist the Francophone parents who must send their children south of the Territories to complete their high school education in French as a first language, because this government and your department does not make this service available in the Northwest Territories? It is a very simple policy question, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get the Minister's response to it.

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

Return To Question O624-91(1): Request For Government Assistance For Francophones

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, one of the actions that certain groups within the Francophone community in the Northwest Territories have undertaken is to take myself, as Minister of Education, to court to basically demand that certain services be guaranteed to them and provided to them, immediately. As far as I know, they are still pondering whether or not they are going to continue with the court action. I would say it is not the atmosphere in which I like to conduct discussions. We have asked if they would consider dropping the court case so we can resume some positive discussions about the kind of service we can realistically provide if, for instance, the federal government stopped providing 100 per cent funding to them. We had have some indication in the past that the federal government is thinking about reducing the level of support that they provide to the Francophone community here in the Northwest Territories. Having said that, I am not really prepared to make statements of assurances on exactly what I am going to do when I am still threatened with a court case.

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

Supplementary To Question O624-91(1): Request For Government Assistance For Francophones

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like us to deal with reality rather than "ifs" and "maybes". What I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, since there are, and I may not have my

figures right, but there are some parents I know who, because we do not provide education in the Northwest Territories in French at the high school level, have been forced to send their children south where that service will be available. Is the Minister prepared to look at some sort of financial assistance to those students since that is the principle we use to provide assistance for university students to go south to university because we do not have a university in the Territories? Since we do not have a French school in the Territories, why does he not extend the same benefit to those children who have to go south for schooling not available in the Territories?

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

Further Return To Question O624-91(1): Request For Government Assistance For Francophones

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I would be prepared to look at any type of suggestion like this. As the Member knows, however, there are substantial financial implications to suggestions like this, as well - meaning as they are intended to be. I would say I would cautiously take the suggestion and look at it and get back to the Member in writing. Thank you.

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

Question O625-91(1): Impact Of New Federal Gun Legislation

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources. Mr. Minister, you are aware that there is proposed federal government legislation in the House of Commons. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not the new federal gun legislation would have an impact on the hunters and trappers and the subsistent users and whether or not there have been any studies done.

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

Return To Question O625-91(1): Impact Of New Federal Gun Legislation

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the federal legislation is still under parliamentary review and my department advises me that we are not going to know the full implications of the impact of the legislation to subsistent hunters throughout the Northwest Territories until we see the regulations. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O625-91(1): Impact Of New Federal Gun Legislation

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, in order to not impact on hunters and trappers, I would hope that the Minister is carrying out research or a study to determine how many people are hunters, how many people are trappers, how many people go out on the land during different times of the year, those types of statistics, so that the Minister is aware that that kind of legislation, perhaps, might affect people who use guns for legitimate reasons.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I am not quite sure that was a question as opposed to a statement. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Further Return To Question O625-91(1): Impact Of New Federal Gun Legislation

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I was not too sure if the question was posed to me, but we have preliminary information on the hunters of the Northwest Territories. We have been working with the Department of Justice to make some changes to the proposed legislation that is before Parliament now. We have the information that the Member is concerned about. Thank you.

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

Question O626-91(1): Protection For NWT Citizens Under Territorial Statutes

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, on March 3, 1991, Mr. Crow asked the Minister of Justice if he could assure the House that the Government of the Northwest Territories was prepared to use territorial statutes to protect the legal rights of its citizens. Mr. Crow, at that time, was concerned about the Hydro-Quebec researchers and was interested in whether the Government of the Northwest Territories would use the Scientists Act to supervise their activities. Mr. Ballantyne gave a most unusual answer. He stated that he would have to know what statutes and what rights before he could make such a commitment. The principle should be that if a territorial statute is in existence, the Minister should not hesitate to use it to protect the legal rights that it provides to Northwest Territories citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly passed a Department of Justice Act to give the Minister of Justice the same authority as a provincial attorney general and solicitor general. You might argue that the people of the Northwest Territories need to be -- Mr. Speaker, the attorney general will...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I would ask the honourable Member to pose the question. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, under the new authority that the Minister now has, can he protect the legal rights of the people in question, especially the people of Sanikiluaq?

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

Return To Question O626-91(1): Protection For NWT Citizens Under Territorial Statutes

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. First of all, I have to say, quite frankly, I disagree with the Member that it was a strange answer. If I do not know exactly what the question is, it is hard for me to give an answer. I could give a general answer that, when appropriate, I will use every effort to protect Northwest Territories residents by using territorial laws. I can say that. I thought that perhaps the honourable Member for Hudson Bay was looking for a more specific response from me. I was not trying to avoid the question, but I was trying to be more helpful than by giving a general response.

As far as the legislation that was passed here on the role of the attorney general, I want to make it very clear, as I made clear in the House, that does not include responsibility for the Criminal Code of Canada. Until I have and we have that responsibility, I do not have the same authority, responsibilities, or power of a provincial attorney general. As the Member knows, for a number of years we have been negotiating with the federal government in order to take over that responsibility. I think everybody in this House recognizes

the importance and the common sense involved for us to do this. A couple of times we came close, but the present attorney general is again studying the matter. We will continue to endeavour to take over those responsibilities so we can have an integrated justice system here in the Northwest Territories, but until that happens I do not, at this point, have the same authorities and powers as a provincial attorney general; but I have, and I hope the honourable Member will agree, to the best of my ability, using the responsibilities I do have, tried my best to protect the people of the Northwest Territories using our existing legislation.

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

Question O627-91(1): Possible GNWT Challenge To Alberta On Environmental Matters

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I have a concern on the development that is happening with regard to the pulp mills, particularly the ALPAC pulp mill. Mr. Speaker, there were some decisions made with regard to rulings in favour of the pulp mills, but due to the transboundary water agreement, I believe, the government is not prepared to challenge the Alberta government with regard to their proceeding with the development of the pulp mill.

I would like to ask the Minister whether or not this government intends to challenge the Alberta government with regard to the whole issue of the environment.

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

Return To Question O627-91(1): Possible GNWT Challenge To Alberta On Environmental Matters

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I would like to remind the honourable Member that we have, in fact, intervened on two occasions, the Daishowa case and the Oldman River case in Alberta. I think we have taken a very aggressive stand over the past two or three months in co-operation with the coalition here in the Northwest Territories, of environmental groups and aboriginal groups, and we have put together a strategy. An important component of the strategy is encouraging the Alberta government to come up with an interim water agreement. I believe that tomorrow or the next day the Minister of Renewable Resources will be making a statement on that particular issue. Our legal advice is that at this point in time, until the results of the two pending court cases are known, and until the results of our negotiations with Alberta are known, we would be prejudicing our chances for a successful resolution of what we want to achieve by engaging in legal action against ALPAC itself. We have reserved, obviously, that right, that option -- Alberta is aware of that -- that if we are not satisfied with the results of our negotiations there is always that option to proceed in court. Proceeding in court is not necessarily always the best way. It is expensive, the outcome is uncertain and it is time-consuming. In fact, court proceedings often are used as a tactic by large companies and governments to drag the process out.

We think that we have some very definitive objectives in mind. We want clean water here in the Northwest Territories; we want fish that we can eat, and we think, at this point anyhow, that a combination of the two court cases we are engaged in, along with negotiations on an interim water agreement with Alberta and a long-term transboundary water agreement, is the best strategy. If that does not work, then the option of further court action is obviously there. I think we have indicated and proven to everybody that we are not afraid of court action. Thank you.

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

Question O628-91(1): Present Status Re ALPAC Pulp Mill

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, what is the situation with regard to ALPAC right now? Are negotiations still going on or is ALPAC still going ahead with its plan to develop this pulp mill?

MR. SPEAKER: New question. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Return To Question O628-91(1): Present Status Re ALPAC Pulp Mill

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that ALPAC has been given the green light to proceed over the next few years. But I do want to point out that our experts from the Rawson Academy and other places have said to us that although we do have problems with ALPAC, that technology being used by ALPAC is probably the best of all the pulp mills on the basin. In fact, the intervention of this government, the intervention of aboriginal organizations and environmental groups helped to ensure tremendous improvements in the technical process used at the ALPAC mill.

So I think we have had considerable success. We intend to ensure that the cumulative impact, not the impact of one mill, but the cumulative impact of all the mills, is not harmful to people of the NWT. But a simple answer to the Member's question is that my understanding is that there has been the go-ahead for ALPAC over the next few years. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Question O629-91(1): System Of Record Management

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Government Services. Is there a system of record management for the total government so that I, as an ordinary Member, would know where the kind of information I want is placed?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Inuvik.

Return To Question O629-91(1): System Of Record Management

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, Mr. Speaker. I believe the current files are really kept on a departmental basis, and any access to files that Government Services has would be after their use is over. We would keep those files and protect those files that are deemed valuable by the departments or by the archives.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Supplementary. Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Supplementary To Question O629-91(1): System Of Record Management

MR. LEWIS: Has the Minister for Government Services had an opportunity to form any kind of audit, because we are talking about tremendous amounts of information here? Is he aware of any audit that is being done on how this system is working for the collection and storage of information?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Inuvik.

Further Return To Question O629-91(1): System Of Record Management

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O629-91(1): System Of Record Management

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, there is a requirement under the Archives Act that we act responsibly for the storage of all this information, and I believe it may be rather outdated. Will the Minister undertake to examine that act to make sure that we are storing our information to make it available according to modern standards and not, maybe, according to a standard that was established a long time ago, before information technology was available, and that may no longer be a useful piece of legislation?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Inuvik.

Further Return To Question O629-91(1): System Of Record Management

HON. TOM BUTTERS: The short answer is yes, Mr. Speaker. I do believe we are storing our archival materials in accordance with the act, and the department has a system of shrinking the material and putting it on various other records so that they can be obtained quickly. I believe that occurs after the archives staff have gone through the files and stripped from the records those documents that are considered to be historically important.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O630-91(1): Opening Of Health Centre, Chesterfield Inlet

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health. The new health centre in Chesterfield Inlet, we were hoping the opening of it would be in June. Does the Minister know exactly when the new health centre in Chesterfield Inlet will be open?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Nunakput.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I will take that as notice because I am not aware exactly what date has been set for the opening, but I believe it is sometime in August.

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

Question O631-91(1): Attendance Of Minister At Opening Ceremonies, Chesterfield Inlet

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health if she will be coming to Chesterfield Inlet for the opening ceremonies.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Nunakput.

Return To Question O631-91(1): Attendance Of Minister At Opening Ceremonies

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, yes.

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

Question O632-91(1): Review Of Scientists Act

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Government Leader. On a number of occasions the Government Leader indicated he was going to review the Scientists Act and tighten it up so it applies more to today. I know he indicated the review is on. How soon can we expect to see the new Scientists Act?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O632-91(1): Review Of Scientists Act

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, it is correct; I did tell the Member, I think when we met before the break, that the Science Institute of the NWT had, at its last meeting, conducted a fairly detailed review of the acts respecting science in the NWT, and I think there are actually two of them, including the act establishing the Science Institute. Mr. Speaker, I do not yet have formally the results of this review. However, the chairman, Mr. Parker, did inform me that the review conducted by the Science Institute, which is fairly representative of the scientific community and scientific interest in the Territories and in Canada, concluded that our legislation was not seriously lacking and concluded that no major changes were required.

I will get more detail on that and provide it to the Member. But the general conclusion is as I have indicated, that they did feel there were no major flaws in our current legislation as it was reported to me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Oral questions.

Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Honourable Member for High Arctic.

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS**Mr. Pudluk's Reply**

MR. PUDLUK: Do not look at me like that. It is going to be a few minutes.

---Laughter

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address. I would like to thank you for the opportunity, during our meeting in June. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be here. I have been working with the government employees and with the government during these past four years. Sometimes we go through difficult times but other times it is better facing the problems; and even though during the past four years the procedure of the government has improved a lot, the NWT is a big part of the country, and sometimes it seems difficult to deal with it. Even though it is a big part of the country, we are able to get together here at the House to solve problems that we face up north, representing the people of the North.

Division Of NWT

I would like to state briefly, since there have been plans of a division of the NWT and this has been worked on to date, that I have always supported the division of the NWT and I myself was involved in doing that in 1982. I was very involved with that. I have been supportive of this work to divide the NWT, and I know the decision of the boundary is a lot closer to conclusion.

The reason why I have supported this is because we have two

different lifestyles, those of us who live in the timber area and those of us who live in the tundra area. Because our lifestyles are completely different, I have supported this. Our employment, our education is very different between the East and the West. Even in here we always have problems because we have totally different cultures. The new government will be in the planning stages soon, and they will have to be planning ahead so that the new government will not have to plan and we will know exactly what kind of government we will have in the future.

Inflation

I also want to say that in the past five years, or six years, the inflation rate has been increasing in those years; even up to date everything is increasing, the transportation and the goods and services tax; and if it is going to be like that in the future it will be quite difficult for the people and especially for the elders who are over the age of 65 and the ones that cannot work any more. They are already struggling because of the inflation rates.

Separation Of Quebec From Canada

I also wanted to add to what I said earlier about the division of the North. It is quite obvious that we will always be part of Canada. It is obvious that we will always be in Canada and there is no question about it. I am quite concerned about Quebec wanting to separate from Canada. Canada, I feel, has to be a whole country and has to be known as a whole Canada.

The aboriginal people became Canadians and they want Canada to be one whole Canada. (Translation ends)

About the Quebec separation from Canada, there are a number of people living in my constituency who came from Quebec. If Quebec separates from Canada, then a relative in Resolute Bay will have to use their passport to go and see their relative in Quebec, which is not adequate for the aboriginal people. That is the concern I have in my constituency.

Timing Of Ships Into High Arctic

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, we realized at the end of last week, we are having problems regarding the ships, the fact that they are starting to arrive up there a lot sooner than they used to. Some hunters are very concerned about their future and what will happen to it. Will it be like this all the time before the mining companies close down or are we going to have to come up with something better for the hunters' livelihood? They will always depend on hunting because that is their livelihood. That is all they have known from away back.

It seems I do not quite understand any more. Why are the ships starting to arrive in High Arctic as early as May? Why are the freighters from the South carrying our food, our vehicles and our housing material only arriving very late, only when the ice is broken up? Mr. Speaker, as you remember last year the supplies for the community had to be dropped off in another community because of the fact that the ship arrived late and could go no further up because of the ice floe. I believe that there should be something done about these two freighters that come in too early and too soon regarding different freights, especially for the mines also.

Culture And Language

I am also concerned about the cultural aspects in the North. I feel that there has to be something done to help it. I was happy to hear what the Minister had to say regarding culture and communications and trying to retain the language, but

the people who have lived up North for quite some time are aware of what has been happening. In many ways it is difficult to believe what is happening. However, these things will become a reality in the future. That is for certain.

When older people are trying to explain things and pass on their knowledge, we have to listen to them even if parts of those pieces of knowledge are no longer applicable because of our lifestyle changes. There are still many aspects that are still useful in our lifestyles today. The same with the language issues. Today when you travel into the communities as I do, compared to the old days, the language of the Inuit is much less used than it used to be in the olden days. I know for example, using the young people as examples, they speak only English in their households. The Inuktitut curriculum in schools or in their languages has to be more emphasized in school and not just from kindergarten to grade one, not just to that extent. It has to be extended from community education onward. If education is going up to grade eight in communities, then they should have Inuktitut reading and writing being taught in those classrooms up to those grade levels within those schools. If the schools are taught up to grade 10 in English, they should also be teaching in Inuktitut up to those grade levels. That has become obvious today. Our lifestyles, our traditions -- we must not lose them here in our land.

Also to add a little bit, Mr. Speaker, at this time the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut -- from the time they were formed in 1975, there were organizations such as Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, Tungavik Federation, Baffin Region Inuit Association, Keewatin Region Inuit Association. Organizations like that and ourselves as elected members were at odds against one another. In fact, we were so much at odds, we were not progressing anywhere. We were trying to keep an eye on each other and to see what these organizations were doing. It was like we were spying on each other. With this happening in those times, we were not progressing anywhere. We were not getting anything done. Today it is not the same any more. Today these organizations are much more closely based together and I am grateful to see that we can even work together. We can even help each other out. We are not looking at each other's mistakes. Instead we are looking toward working with one another and helping each other. This I really appreciate.

Mr. Speaker, I was going to make my comments short, but I have a few more statements to make. I will keep them brief. I would like to mention that when I was elected in 1975 -- I have been a Member here now for 16 years -- I have seen things since the time of 1975. The government was very different structurally in those days. It was run as a province. The North was run as a province with southern standards. We worked very hard in those days, beginning in 1975, to sway the government to better represent the people of the Territories. We wanted the government to reflect those differences. Say, for example, education. When our students were being taught in those days, they would be brought into schools and immediately transformed into white children. They were given white cultural values. Today it is not like that. Once again this is completely different. I am happy to say, also, in the smaller communities, there was no room for their participation in government decision-making. There were no committees. Eventually they did get committees, but in the Baffin Region, we did not see hamlets in those times. For example, in those 12 Baffin communities, the 13th was one unique place, which was Iqaluit. Now all these communities, the 12 outlying communities, have hamlet status. They can participate. They have their own local governments that they run themselves. They are given budgets to operate and control on their own. They are able to make their own by-laws within their jurisdictions to be used by their people and to govern themselves with. In other issues such as motor

vehicles -- and they are in control of housing. I am very happy to see this. Their roads have been greatly improved, and I am very happy to see this happening.

I have seen these things progress in the 16 years since I was elected. Lastly, I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, even today I am still a young man; I am still able to work. This will be the fifth Assembly that I will plan to run for again, and I hope to be right back here in this seat again in this House where we meet. I hope to represent and work for another four years, because I am still a young man and I am still very fast and agile and my brain is not missing any parts yet. Because of these things, Mr. Speaker, I plan on running again for re-election and if I do get re-elected, I will probably see some of you people back here again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your patience.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Replies to Opening Address. Noticing that another Member will reply, I will take a 15 minute break and we will come back.

---SHORT RECESS

Replies to Opening Address. The honourable Member for Baffin South.

Mr. Arlooktoo's Reply

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will briefly reply to the Opening Address, even though it might not relate to the actual address. I have barely said anything negative for the past 12 years that I have been an MLA. I would like to also express my appreciation for the last four years that I have represented Baffin South, especially to state that I appreciate the government for having got whatever was requested by Cape Dorset, even though the only thing that is taking some time is the cultural centre in Cape Dorset. I would still like to express my appreciation for the fact that Cape Dorset has developed a lot.

Lake Harbour Concerns

There are two communities that I represent in South Baffin, the other one being Lake Harbour, where I have been living for the last 40 years. The town first got established in the 1960s, and there were a lot of people who came to live there from the outpost camps. But in 1967 people moved out because they went to live in Iqaluit instead, to work in Apex, and I felt that the government was neglecting my community and I was not very happy about that.

Due to the fact that it was a smaller community, all the requests that came from Lake Harbour were never approved, or barely approved. The reasons that I ran to be MLA in 1979 have yet not been fulfilled. I regret that part, and for that reason I am not very happy with the government.

In those days we were working towards trying to get a new airport facility, a safer airport strip, so we could feel more comfortable going in and out of Lake Harbour. Even to date, we have not got a reply regarding an airport facility. Even though we have not had very many accidents, that is in part due to the excellent service provided by Bradley Air. Also, Lake Harbour in 1950 was one of the bigger communities in the Baffin area. It had RCMP. It had ministers. It had teachers. That was in the year 1950. Even though it was for one year -- but we also had a nurse, too. We had all these things and, of course, we had the Hudson's Bay.

Communication systems in the 1950s was not that great and so they built a radio station in Lake Harbour, Pangnirtung,

Iqaluit and Cape Dorset. They built this communication system by the Hudson Bay, and this was one of the major accomplishments. Since that time this has not progressed because of the loss of population in that region.

Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize to them that regardless of the size of the population in the communities, they should be looked at on a more equal basis. I have seen hardships on behalf of these two communities that I represent. I am happy, on one hand, that things have been done for them, but on the other hand, there are things that have not been done which I am not happy about.

Creation Of Nunavut

That being said, Mr. Speaker, today we also participate in the creation of Nunavut over in the Baffin East area, and for that too I am happy, because we are participating in the development and we are well informed about things happening. I want to say about Nunavut that we are working hard for it and I hope that people will become more independent. I want to acknowledge that we participate in this process.

Health Care In Baffin

Also Mr. Speaker, I want to iterate something that I really appreciate that has to do with health-related matters. Our patients are often picked up at great cost to the government for their airfare. For that, I appreciate very much the help that we have received in health care in the Baffin Region.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and also at this time, for those of us in the Baffin area, those of us living in the bigger and the smaller communities, we have the same health care system provided through the communities and I am thankful for that, even though our population is not many. In Lake Harbour we have adequate nursing and nursing care and I am very happy about this and I express my appreciation. I would want to see this continued in our future.

Mr. Speaker, I make my comments short, and I will be ending my remarks as I work towards my conclusion. As far as the times I have been re-elected, I have been here for almost 12 years now. I have learned a great deal about what the government is trying to do and, through the interpreters, I have been aided a great deal and for that I express my appreciation and my thanks to the communications people because they help me a great deal.

As far as my constituency goes, I will not indicate whether or not I will run again at this time in this House. However, I will indicate on August 29, 1991, or at a later date, whether or not I plan on running again. Thank you very much.

I have been well taken care of in many ways and have been accommodated in every way that I can think of. Even though this is not part of our land, we are treated equally, and we are able to work well together, with equal representation, and I really appreciate that. In 1979 when I was first elected, I expected things to be different in the Dene country, but as it turned out we are all the same; we all want to live and work well together.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, and for those of you who listened, I appreciate your patience. If I should run again, I will let you know as of August 29, or at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions. Petitions.

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

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 122-91(1) entitled "Medical Patient Search Project, Summary - Final Report, April 1991."

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Mr. Ballantyne's behalf I wish to table Tabled Document 123-91(1) entitled "Victims Assistance Committee Annual Report, 1990-91". Thank you.

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

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 124-91(1), which is the June 21st edition of the Credit Union Update containing information about progress that has been made in working towards the establishment of credit unions in the Northwest Territories. I am tabling this because I believe the establishing of banking services is an issue of critical importance for our northern communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 125-91(1), a letter I received yesterday from the honourable secretary, Professor Bates, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Isle of Man Branch, Legislative Buildings, Douglas, Isle of Man, thanking us for our participation in this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 126-91(1), which is the text of an address given by Madame Justice Bertha Wilson, formerly of the Supreme Court of Canada, on the occasion of the Fourth Annual Barbara Betcherman Memorial Lecture at York University. Justice Wilson's speech is entitled, "Will Women Judges Really Make A Difference?" Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittuq.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 127-91(1), entitled, "Report of the Traditional Knowledge Working Group".

MR. SPEAKER: Tabling of documents.

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

ITEM 13: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Notice Of Motion For First Reading Of Bill 52: Income Tax Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, July 8, 1991, I shall move that Bill 52, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 23-91(1), the honourable Member for Inuvik.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 23-91(1): Appointments To The NWT HC Board Of Directors, Carried

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS there is one vacancy on the board of directors of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation;

AND WHEREAS the terms of five members expire on July 15, 1991;

AND WHEREAS the continued functioning of the board of directors requires the filling of the vacant position and those which expire on July 15;

AND WHEREAS the appointments of members of the board of directors are for three years during the pleasure of the Minister;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, that the Legislative Assembly recommends the appointment of Mr. Joe Rabesca to the board of directors for a term of three years;

AND FURTHER, recommends the reappointment to the board of directors of Mr. Philip Nukapiak, Mr. Gerry Cheezie, Mr. Stephen Brooks, Mr. Charlie Barnaby and Mr. Simonie Alainga each for a term of three years.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Just to explain, Mr. Speaker, that the motion does not really meet my intent, but it is required of me by the NWT Housing Act. My intent is to extend the terms of office for a time to give the report on the management of the Housing Corporation, the role of the board of directors, the relationship between the board and the president, and the board and the Minister, to be placed before this Assembly so that it can be discussed by the new government and by the new Minister. What I will do, if this passes, is I will advise the Members that the term will not be for three years, but it will be at the pleasure of the new Minister after the Legislature has considered the report.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Final reply, the honourable Member for Inuvik.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Motion 24-91(1). The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Motion 24-91(1): Additional Sitting Hours, Carried

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the Speaker be authorized to set such additional hours as he deems fit.

MR. SPEAKER: We have a notice of motion that was given with a seconder being the honourable Member for High Arctic. Is the honourable Member changing the seconder to the motion now? Honourable Member for Nunakput.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I did not have the original motion here but the intent was to have the honourable Member for High Arctic second the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member for High Arctic is the seconder. To the motion. To the motion. Honourable Member for High Arctic. Honourable Member for Deh Cho.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, just to get clarification. The mover read all the words of the motion to "until he deems fit".

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Just to remind honourable Members, in terms of debate with regard to the motion, a matter of clarification is not a matter that should be raised. The motion itself should be cleared and no questions should be asked of the mover and seconder. But the Member can speak to the motion. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motion 25-91(1), Territorial Tobacco Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

Motion 25-91(1): Territorial Tobacco Tax Exemption For Senior Citizens

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS according to the 1986 census there are approximately 1465 people over the age of 65 years in the NWT;

AND WHEREAS many of the senior citizens in the NWT live on a low fixed income;

AND WHEREAS as of April 1, 1991 the territorial tobacco tax on a package of 25 cigarettes is \$2.20 and 6.2 cents per gram on loose tobacco products;

AND WHEREAS the amount of tax levied on these tobacco products places undue financial hardship on those senior citizens who use these products;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that the Legislative Assembly request the Executive Council to consider amending the territorial Tobacco Tax Act to exempt NWT senior citizens from paying the territorial tobacco tax.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, my motion basically speaks for itself, but I just wanted to say the tax varies between Yellowknife, where a carton of cigarettes is \$39.04 and GST is \$2.51, you also have a federal tax. The territorial portion is \$6.34 on a carton of cigarettes in Yellowknife. In Snowdrift a carton of cigarettes is \$40.23; Cambridge Bay is \$35.29; Spence Bay is \$36.17 to \$42.25; Inuvik is \$34.79; Rankin Inlet is \$45.26; Iqaluit is \$40.06; Lake Harbour is \$34.23; Resolute Bay is \$41.73. The average for all those is about \$38.50, of which \$7.42 goes to this government as tobacco tax and \$2.52 is for GST.

Mr. Speaker, the intent of the motion is to try to ease seniors who are on fixed income. Those are people that have not retired; they just did not work during their lifetime to get any kind of other retirement benefits. I am talking of people who get the \$100 in the middle of the month to supplement their fixed income. All Canadian citizens are entitled to a little over \$300 pension under the federal act. But also, if anybody does not get any kind of retirement pension and they also get the additional \$300, that gives them a little over \$800 to live on. At the rate the cost of living is going up, senior citizens are experiencing difficulty, and they do enjoy a smoke in their leisure time. So I would like to ask the Members to consider supporting me at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for High Arctic.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to second this motion. I have always been concerned about the well-being of senior citizens, especially in light of the high cost of living, in particular with the implementation of the GST for senior citizens receiving pensions. Right now those people are hurting because of the rising cost of living. I talked many times about how this hurts the older people, including the tobacco tax, which is being raised time and time again.

For the older people who do not smoke or use tobacco, that is fine; however, at the age of 65 or over, during their leisure time they look for things to do, when they get together chatting or whatnot during their leisure time. They do not have much to do with their time, so many of them do use tobacco.

I think sometimes we neglect the senior citizens. We set them aside. We should remember our senior citizens, aged 65 and over. They are the ones that raised us and they are the reason we are here. They made us into being and that is why we are here, and I think we should have more consideration for our senior citizens, with a view to easing their life for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members will recall some three years ago when the Minister of Finance announced increases in tobacco products, there was a lobby that was conducted by some senior people who were very concerned about the imposition of taxes on loose tobacco which you use to roll your own cigarettes. Many of the older people have got into the habit of doing that. It is cheap, and they developed this habit over a long period of time when they were travelling on the land and fishing and so on. We debated this at length at that time, whether in fact there were just a few luxuries left for old people and whether this was going to be the right thing to do for those people who were beyond 65.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Finance was able to

convince Members that although we had sympathy for the group of people who were going to be affected, on low incomes and so on, that the way to approach this was perhaps to phase it in gradually over a period of time. But we accepted the idea that, like everywhere else, we tend to tax -- it is called a "sin tax" -- tobacco and liquor and so on.

So Mr. Gargan looked at this and figured that at least we should provide relief for older people who have not that many years left on the clock and would like to enjoy this habit that they developed over a lifetime, at least protect them from this tax. I am also aware that there are other people who do not have that much money. If you want to use the argument, there are 16-year-olds that do not make any money or very little and would like to smoke and would like to see a lower price. And there are disabled persons who say they should have a lower price because they are on allowances of one kind or another.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we examine this motion, I think we should accept that we have spent a long time discussing taxes on this particular product and we could develop all kinds of arguments as to who should be exempted and so on, including the groups that I have mentioned, although I do not have any sympathy for either of them. I think that this particular move to exempt any type of people from this tax not only would be wrong in principle, but it would be unworkable. I cannot think of any system that we could develop that would make this a workable system, because we would eventually end up probably with some allowance, like every senior would get a ticket that would allow him or her to buy so many ounces of tobacco over a period of time. That is more bureaucracy, and it would be so complicated that both on principle and on the practicality of it, I cannot support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Pine Point.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a former Member of the cabinet who, in conjunction with the former Minister of Education, brought in a healthy lifestyles program, spending almost a million dollars developing programs which included antismoking programs in school, and then implemented a policy of no smoking in the workplace in government buildings, I cannot support in principle any bill which is going to actually encourage people to shorten the time that they have left on the clock, as Mr. Lewis indicated. I also think that the way to approach this, would be to fund a more universal program. Senior citizens who do not smoke also have needs; some of them would maybe prefer to take the taxi more often rather than waiting for the bus here in Yellowknife, for example. They might be addicted to bingo rather than smoking, and they might be addicted to alcohol rather than smoking.

If we start taking up their cause for each individual thing, we will have all sorts of programs to exempt people, and we could not manage it. So I would rather that we work with the Minister of Social Services and the rest of the cabinet to encourage them to continue to consider further increases to help elderly people financially across the board, rather than single out people who have an unhealthy addiction to smoking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember a few years back, when the Minister of Finance was going to introduce a tax on loose tobacco and quite a few Members approached him and it was brought up in the House to bring it in slowly so it would not have such a devastating effect on elders that smoke. The Minister at that time was good enough to hear the concerns of Members and act on those

concerns, and he did hold his part of the bargain and he did do that. So I would rather see a subsidy for seniors for power, water...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Right on.

MR. MORIN: ...rather than a subsidy for tobacco. Being a heavy smoker myself, I know it costs a lot of money, and hopefully one of these days I will be able to quit and hopefully the prices of tobacco will encourage me to quit.

Mr. Speaker, also a lot of the young people look at elders and look at us that do smoke and they pick up that habit from us, so we do not set a very good example, including myself. This is a day of confession.

--Laughter

But with all due respect for my colleague, Mr. Gargan, who I just love to support on most motions, I cannot support him on this one. Mahsi.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will not support the motion. I will support many other initiatives that will help our senior citizens -- fuel, power, rent...

MR. GARGAN: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order, honourable Member for Deh Cho.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Speaker, my motion states very clearly what the intent of the motion is and the Member is not talking to it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Just to remind the honourable Members that they should consider the motion when speaking to the motion and the question before the House. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to get into debate with my honourable friend, Mr. Speaker, but suffice it to say that I will not support the motion that will exempt anybody from a tax on tobacco.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion, the honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To me the motion is not a healthy motion.

--Applause

I know, as one of the smokers, I know the consequences of smoking, and I am not about to support the elders to increase their bad habits, therefore I am not going to support it. Thank you.

--Applause

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had written my short speech, but I will not go into it and just say, just for the record, I will not support the motion.

--Applause

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I believe that in talking about tobacco, cigarettes, we all have tied this to the very extensive and broad concern of cancer rates, and I believe that as responsible people we should not be placing before our elders another encouragement to continue to use tobacco. I believe that it is not giving them a gift, it is just giving them a gift to the grave, so I will not be supporting this motion.

---Applause

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will not belabour the subject. I just want to emphasize one aspect of this motion, the administration. My officials have looked at the possibility of administering this particular type of program and they tell me it would be very, very difficult, if not impossible, to do that. As you know, in these motions -- this is a motion to the government -- we will be abstaining from it. I just want to put on the record that we would have some very difficult problems administering programs such as this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Deh Cho. Final remarks, final reply.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was quite disturbed that some Members are inclined to believe that I am deliberately trying to kill our seniors.

---Laughter

I would like to tell the Members that on numerous occasions, seniors in my constituency have asked me to give them money to buy cigarettes, have asked me to buy loose tobacco, and I always carry cigarettes with me so that whenever they ask I have it with me. But those are not people that are developing a bad habit; those are the people that have the bad habit. I am not encouraging anybody to take a cigarette or any senior citizen over the age of 65 that has not smoked I compliment them on it, because I am sure that at that age, they are not going to be motivated to smoke just because we drop the tax, our tax portion of it. The only reason that I am doing that is that we are also being taxing.

We are also, as you know, as legislators saying that we would like to do things to ease burdens in the communities, but we are also doing the same thing vice versa. We are also causing burdens by taxing people to death, if you want to call it that.

---Laughter

---Applause

So I just want to let the Members know that I have no ill feelings if you abstain, but I would like to get your support.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion 25-91(1), Defeated

MR. SPEAKER: Question. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Motions. Motion 26-91(1), the honourable Member for Deh Cho.

Motion 26-91(1): Old Catholic Church In Fort Providence, Carried

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the motion reads:

WHEREAS the people of the Northwest Territories wish to protect their heritage and history;

AND WHEREAS the old church in Fort Providence is a representation of the heritage and history of the people of Fort Providence;

AND WHEREAS this church is in need of significant renovation and restoration;

AND WHEREAS the Roman Catholic Diocese have indicated their willingness to fund some of the costs of this renovation and restoration;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre, that this Legislative Assembly strongly urges the Minister of Culture and Communications to take the necessary steps to have the old Catholic church in Fort Providence designated as a historic site of the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHER, that this Legislative Assembly recommends that the Minister of Culture and Communications consider committing the necessary funds to restore this historic church to its original state.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion, the honourable Member for Deh Cho. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre. To the motion, the honourable Member for Deh Cho, final reply.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Prior to proceeding to the next item of business, I would just like to draw the attention of honourable Members to our public gallery, to the visitors, people that you will all probably get to know very quickly, for they are participating in this first of, I believe, four training sessions for returning officers and assistant returning officers. The returning officers and assistant returning officers present represent Hay River, Thebatcha, North Slave, Tu Nede, Yellowknife South, Yellowknife North, Yellowknife Centre and Frame Lake. Also present are the election officials from western Canada. They are here in attendance watching us perform today.

--Applause

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

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to first reading of Bill 49, An Act to Amend the Plebiscite Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife North is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with Bill 49. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

First Reading Of Bill 49: Plebiscite Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 49, An Act to Amend the Plebiscite Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 49 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed to first reading of Bill 52, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife North, we cannot proceed with the first reading as the bill is not before the House. First reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 44, Bill 39, Bill 45, Bill 40, Bill 51, Bill 36, Bill 46. With the authority that has been granted to me by the House I will ask that the committee consider the business of the House and report back when it considers the business of the House complete for the day.

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

Bill 44: Access To Information Act

Motion To Defer Bill 44 Restated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): The committee will now come to order. When we concluded yesterday we were dealing with Bill 44, Access to Information Act, and there was a motion on the floor. The motion reads: "I move that consideration of Bill 44, Access to Information Act, be deferred." The motion is in order. To the motion.

MR. GARGAN: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Point of order, Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: The mover of the motion is not in the House or in committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): The mover of the motion already moved the motion yesterday and we were discussing it, so he does not have to be in the House at this time. We already proceeded with the motion yesterday. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: To the motion, Mr. Chairman. The effect of this motion, Mr. Chairman, is to, in fact, kill this bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: No, no one wants to kill anything.

AN HON. MEMBER: To the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Order please. Mr. Lewis has the floor. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Even though it may not be the intention of the motion to kill the bill, the effect of this motion, Mr. Chairman,

in my opinion, would be to kill this bill because we are in the very last session of the 11th Assembly. We have an awful lot of work to do, and when you make a motion to defer something, what you are really saying is that you do not want to deal with it right now but will deal with it later. We may not be around here to deal with it later, Mr. Chairman. In fact, everything I have heard to date has made it quite clear that on Monday we will not have a quorum in this House to deal with anything that has been deferred. Unless we deal with it before Monday, the effect of this particular motion will be to kill this bill. If it is killed, who is going to bring it back to life? We are all dead as of the end of August. We are gone.

AN HON. MEMBER: No, we will come back.

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

MR. LEWIS: I am using that word "dead" in a figurative sense, not in a literal sense. We will be dissolved. When you dissolve something, suddenly it disappears. The point I am trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is that by deferring this item we are putting it off to some indefinite date -- so indefinite, in fact, that it will never be dealt with.

Motion To Amend Motion To Defer Bill 44

Therefore, I would like to move this amendment. I move to amend the motion by adding the words, "to make it the last item of business in committee of the whole today."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): We will take another five minutes to get the motion translated into Inuktitut. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): The committee will come to order. When we adjourned we adjourned to have an amendment to the motion typed and translated. The motion reads: I move to amend the motion by adding the words "to make it the last item of business in committee of the whole today," and that is to be added after the word "deferred". The amendment is in order. To the amendment. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. By adding this amendment, what we would be doing is to commit this Assembly of honourable people to dealing with this as a piece of government business. We have agreed to extend sitting hours so that we can get our business done. I know the government, and I am being very, very considerate of the government's need to get about five bills out of the way, so I am being a reasonable individual in saying, "I will let you go ahead with your five bills but the last item of business today has to be this particular item." Because all we do by deferring it is to put this item off so that eventually it would die and another group of people, if they wanted to, would be required to bring it back to life in the 12th Assembly if it is to go anywhere. So I am putting Members on the spot to deal with this item as an item of business by this committee of the whole.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): To the amendment. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. ZOE: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Point of order, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Point of order. Just after you made your ruling, I had my hand up to challenge your ruling, but you recognized the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre. I do not know the procedure where the Member is not recognized to challenge your ruling.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Could you state your point of order more clearly, Mr. Zoe?

MR. ZOE: I guess it is Member's privilege. I wanted to challenge your ruling but the Chair recognized another Member.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): I know you all have a lot to say about the chairman, but give me a break and let me deal with one thing at a time. Mr. Zoe.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Point of order, Mr. Chairman. Points of order come first. I am the first Member who said I had a point of order. My point of order is that Mr. Zoe may have had his hand up...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Order please. Mr. Zoe had a point of order. We were discussing that and I would ask Mr. Zoe to be more concise, instead of going on and on. He was moving over to that, and I will recognize again, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I indicated I wanted to challenge your ruling but the Chair did not recognize my hand up and you went directly to the Member for Yellowknife Centre. Because once you start the debate you are not allowed to challenge the ruling.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Mr. Zoe, you could have raised it sooner, prior to the conclusion of Mr. Lewis's speech, but you will have an opportunity to speak if that is what your point of order was.

Chairman's Ruling Challenged

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, my point of order is I am challenging your ruling, before we get into the debate to discuss the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Mr. Zoe are you challenging the Chair?

MR. ZOE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Mr. Zoe, is challenging the Chair. I shall rise and report to the Speaker.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As chairman of the committee of the whole, the decision of the Chair was challenged by the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order. I have considered the matter; I have read the motion; and the amendment is in order.

---Applause

We will return to the business of consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters, with Mr. Whitford in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): General comments to the

amendment. The Chair will recognize firstly Mr. McLaughlin and then Mr. Gargan.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak in favour of this amendment in general because I think it might help to force the Assembly not to defer this into oblivion. It is an attempt to try to have it dealt with today, but if it is put as the last item of business in committee of the whole today I am not so sure we will get there, so I have an amendment to the amendment.

Amendment To Motion To Amend Motion To Defer Bill 44

I never thought I would do this in this House, but I would like to move that the amendment to the motion be amended by replacing the word "last" with the word "fourth".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): For the record, the amendment to the amendment is to delete the word "last" and to add the word "fourth", so it should read: "to make it the fourth item of business in committee of the whole" after the word "deferred".

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Question on the amendment to the amendment. Apparently the amendment to the amendment is in order. There is a call for a question. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members have mostly indicated in principle that they would like to deal with this bill. Members of the cabinet have said that generally they like what is in the bill, but they have some small specific concerns. Most of these can be remedied by amendments when we deal with the bill so that it does not have to be deferred into oblivion. This motion will make sure that the bill is dealt with today. The Member who is sponsoring the bill has had this in the system for over a year now, so I am making this amendment to the amendment in order to make sure that the House lives up to its responsibility to at least let the Member have his day of full debate on this issue in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): To the amendment to the amendment. No more general comments?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Amendment To Motion To Amend Motion To Defer Bill 44, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Question is called. All those in favour of the amendment to the amendment? All those opposed? Abstentions? The Chair recognizes a tied vote, six to six, on this matter. The Chair will break the tie in favour of.

---Carried

Order please. I realize that we all have our opinions. The Chair's opinion is for it. If you do not like it, then you will have to get me out of the chair. I have broken the tie.

We will move on to the motion as amended with the word "last" being deleted and the word "fourth" item of business added, so the motion now reads: I move to amend the motion by adding the words "to make it the fourth item of business in committee of the whole today." To that amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Mr. Gargan had indicated that he wanted to speak on the amendment to the motion. Mr.

Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Mr. Lewis for making that amendment so that it does become an item to be dealt with today. Basically, when Mr. Lewis indicated his reasons why he felt other Members were trying to kill the bill, other Members did indicate their opposition to Mr. Lewis' statement. I would assume that this means other Members do support dealing with this bill, so I would encourage all Members to support it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. General comments to the amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Amend Motion As Amended To Defer Bill 44, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Question has been called. All those in favour of the amendment, as amended? All those opposed to the amendment, as amended? The amendment, as amended, has been defeated.

---Defeated

We are now back to the original motion. To the motion. General comments. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak against this motion. It is obviously an attempt by the Member who made it, and Members who are supporting it, to defer this motion so they would not have to be seen as voting against the Access to Information Act, which most of the general public who have come to understand the principle here, want to see passed.

There are all sorts of reasons why we should not defer this. We should not defer it because of reasons given like Mr. Alloo's that the government might have to give out the locations of nests for endangered species, for example. Because this bill is not going to be...

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Point of privilege, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): The Member for Nunakput on a point of privilege.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, the speaker is imputing motives, accusing the mover of the motion contrary to what the motion says.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): That is not a point of privilege. It may have been a point of order. Maybe it is detracting a bit from the motion, but your rights have not been challenged in any way. Mr. McLaughlin, proceed.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I could make a slight retraction there. I am against this motion going ahead because it will defer this business and it will cause the possibility of this not being dealt with and it will cause a situation where the House will not be seen to be dealing with the issue. It will get deferred, and Members will not have to account for their position on this, as a result of its not ever being dealt with.

There are all sorts of reasons given by people why we should defer this and I would like to refute some of them. For example, I was just getting on to the topic of what Mr. Alloo, as Minister responsible for Renewable Resources --

Mr. Chairman, I am giving reasons why not to defer, which are quite in order, by refuting some of the reasons that were given as reasons that we have to defer it and one of those reasons that was given by the government was because the nesting grounds of endangered species might have to be made public. The remedy for that is to amend the Wildlife Act, which is also before us this session, to give the Minister responsible for Wildlife the authority to make regulations making it illegal to give out the location of endangered species' nesting grounds, calving grounds, whatever.

Other reasons given by Members is that the government is not sure exactly what the procedure should be, even though the Member responsible for this bill has had this bill before the committees of this House for over a year -- now, it was tabled over seven months ago -- and even though their officials have been working with the Member and staff of the special committee on legislation. The Member has made changes to accommodate all the reasons that the government brought up as to why they did not want to see the bill go ahead. He has accommodated all of those things, and still now the government is saying they do not want it. Now they are saying they do not know how to implement it. Well, if they were interested in the first place in implementing it, which they seem to be because their officials were working on it, then they could have consulted provinces.

We have the ability to amend the bill to change the coming into effect date from January 1st to April 1st or June 1st, which will give the government a lot of time to figure out the regime they are going to use to implement it, to consult with other provinces and to make the amendments necessary to make the bill workable.

Secrecy Over Spending Of Government Money

Other reasons given by Members -- and I find it astounding that they have given them -- that they do not want to have people finding out what they did with their expense accounts or what they have done with public money. The main principle behind this whole bill is that the money that this government spends to pay its employees, to construct buildings, to run its programs and to pay the expense accounts of civil servants and Ministers and MLAs when they are conducting public business...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Mr. McLaughlin, you are detracting quite a lot from the motion that is before us. It is a move to defer Bill 44, Access to Information Act. You are speaking quite a bit about the bill itself. Could you stick more to the point?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of this Assembly alluded that one of the reasons why it should be deferred is they do not like the fact that the bill will allow information on what civil servants and Ministers and others do with public money. The whole principle behind the bill is to allow those things to be found out by the general public, who in fact through their taxes, are providing this government with the money it spends.

So I am generally against this motion to defer because what is going to happen is it may not be dealt with today and it may not be dealt with while this House sits, and I think that is a shame. I think we always accommodate the government, and the government does not want to accommodate a private Member who has a bill by at least letting the bill come to the floor and be debated. So I am willing to talk for 10 minutes as often as it takes me this afternoon until we deal with this item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. That is called filibuster. The Chair recognizes Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This motion to defer runs in the face of all the demands that we hear to make this government a bit different from what it is. We have a reputation of being a bunch of people that do things secretly, in the back rooms; we are not up front; we have something to hide. Either you create this image of yourself of being secretive and being unprepared to tell the public what you are doing, using the money that they supply you with to do it, or you are creating the impression that we are so badly organized and the information is so secret that we do not even know where it is.

So if you want to continue to create that impression that either you have so much to hide that you do not want to divulge it because it will be embarrassing, or you want to create and continue to create the impression that we are so badly organized, we really do not know where to put our hands on stuff, it takes us a year or two to find most of it anyway. If you want to continue to create that impression, keep on denying the passage of some kind of Access to Information Act. Because right now we are the only jurisdiction that does not have one.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: British Columbia does not have one.

MR. LEWIS: British Columbia is a perfect example, then.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Order please. Mr. Lewis has the floor.

MR. LEWIS: The Government Leader is so disgusted with what he just said he has left the House, Mr. Chairman.

--Laughter

Okay, with the exception of British Columbia, and British Columbia can always be forgiven, I suppose, because we all call it fantasyland.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Point of order, Mrs. Marie-Jewell.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My point of order is that I would like the Chair to request the Member to be able to speak to the motion that is in front of us, not to speak to the bill itself, which I feel he is doing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mrs. Marie-Jewell. The Chair did request the Member to stick to the motion. Would Mr. Lewis continue? Stick to the motion.

MR. LEWIS: With respect, Mr. Chairman, I find it difficult to talk about something that is being deferred without giving it a name. However, I will try and make an effort. By deferring this item, Mr. Chairman, we in fact are making a farce of this particular final session of the 11th Legislative Assembly, because the two items that we have identified for some time now, that we felt we had to really pass before we went into the 12th Assembly, was something to do with conflict of interest, so we would be absolutely clear what you can and what you cannot do once you become part of this government. Number two, that we would clear the way so that people would know exactly how they would find out what the government that they are about to elect is doing using the money that they gave them to do it.

It is so basic, and I find it incredible that Members who must be aware that this is a huge issue are now prepared to put it all on the line, because by voting, in fact, to defer this motion,

what you are doing is to defeat it. What you are doing is in fact saying to the public, I do not want you to know what we are doing with your money. That is what you are saying, and I find it disgusting. Not just disgusting, I find it to be a shame that we would...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): To the motion, Mr. Lewis, please.

MR. LEWIS: I find it to be a shame that this House would be prepared to defer this motion, this issue, this business, because if we do not do it and find out what all the objections there are to this particular bill, then how can we make it better? We have already spent a year at it trying to improve it, and these people here are prepared to put it on the line what they do not like about this bill. I would be doing the same as Mr. McLaughlin, asking people to face up to the issue, that we have made this an issue for ourselves to resolve, and now at the last minute we just seem to lack a little bit of the courage to deal with it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Lewis. To the motion. General comments. Mr. Ernerk.

Gyrfalcon Habitat Should Be Protected

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson, when the Minister of Renewable Resources was speaking yesterday, I cannot understand what he means with regard to a number of programs that he is doing, especially with, I believe he was talking about gyrfalcon studies, habitats and things like that. I just want to give you an example, Mr. Chairman, as I speak in favour of this motion to be deferred.

I have in front of me the picture I took last year when I was out caribou hunting near Rankin Inlet. It is a small gyrfalcon...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Mr. Ernerk, could you stick to the motion? It is moved to consider deferring the Bill 44.

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Chairperson, I said I would like to give an example why I am in favour of deferring it and I am giving you a reason why. As I said, I can well understand the Minister's concern yesterday when he was talking about habitat of the young gyrfalcons. Mr. Chairman, my point is this: I brought this little gyrfalcon back to the community and gave it to Renewable Resources officers who were kind enough to find a mother for this gyrfalcon. Some hunter knew where the nesting ground was. The mother of this little gyrfalcon was shot last year, so this little gyrfalcon probably grew up or died somewhere along the way.

So my point, Mr. Chairman is this: I am in favour of the motion to defer to study it and review it further. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. I was wrong. It was gyrfalcon rather than peregrine falcon. To the motion. General comments. The Chair recognizes Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to be brief and to the motion. Mr. Chairman, I do not think that consideration of Bill 44 should be deferred. As I stated at the beginning of the debate on the bill, I think that it is a good bill, I think that it is a necessary bill, I think that it is now time we proceed with it and I will be voting against the motion to defer for those reasons. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. You were indeed brief. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Gargan.

Freedom Of Information Bill, 1981

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I just want to refer back, if I may with regard to December 3, 1981 in which Motion 14-81(3) refers to the freedom of information bill which was sponsored by Mrs. Sorensen and seconded by the now Government Leader, Mr. Patterson. I do not wish to read the reasons why Mrs. Sorensen made her remarks, but I would like to perhaps highlight what Mr. Patterson had to say. He says that he was very pleased to be able to support this motion and spoke very briefly to add to what Mrs. Sorensen had stated very well. I too believe that there should be no undue barriers to the public having information about the expenditure of public money. I am pleased to see that she agrees that there are no clear limits on the access to public information and I think maybe this exercise of the preparation of a bill will provide clarification where there appears to be a lack of clarification. At least in some Members' minds at present, at the moment, I agree there is no real method of compelling release although I do believe that a convention does exist and should be clearly understood to exist."

So this, Mr. Chairman, was to direct the government to draft up a bill for discussion, during the next budget session, which would be 1983, I believe. Mr. Chairman, this was the direction that was given over 10 years ago and the government has not acted on that freedom of pure information even that far back. So I am afraid that if this bill gets the support, then I am afraid it will die on the order paper without it being dealt with. So I would like to make an amendment to the motion.

Motion To Amend Motion To Defer Bill 44

Mr. Chairman, I move to amend the motion by adding the words "to Friday, July 5, 1991, as the first item of business in committee of the whole" after the word "deferred".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you. We will take a five minute break to have this typed and translated.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. We have an amendment to the motion and the Chair rules that the amendment to the motion is in order. It reads: I move to amend the motion by adding the words "to Friday, July 5, 1991, as the first item of business in committee of the whole" after the word "deferred". To the amendment to the motion. Mr. Morin.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be in favour of this amendment. Deferring issues kind of reminds me a bit about a thing that happened about a year ago when there was an agreement in principle with the Dene/Metis people and some of those Dene/Metis people wanted to defer because they had major questions about the issue of a land claim. At that time the government really wanted to push, go ahead, sign it, we will work out the differences later. It is workable. If you want something to happen in principle it is workable, you do not have to defer it, you can agree to the principle of it and then work out the differences later.

So I bring that back to this bill. It seems to me like a compromise by Members so you can get on with the business, to compromise and accept the principle of the bill and vote on it and make any changes that you need to make now and bring the effective date in at a later date if you agree with the principle. But go ahead with it, do not defer it longer than Friday, July 5th. Because basically if we defer it any longer then we are not going to get at it and we are not going to do our jobs as Members of this Assembly.

My understanding is that the general public want it. I know of a situation where people have asked for information and have not got it. So if there are problems with it, we can work that out later, but let us not defer our work to the 12th Assembly if we do not have to do it. Let us try to do our work. We are here to do it and let us not defer it any later than Friday, tomorrow. Because a lot of Members are talking about going home. A lot of Members have other things to do. So if we just go ahead with it, not defer it any longer than Friday and you can work the differences out.

If people are worried about gyrfalcons or whatever, the Wildlife Act can be changed. That is straightforward. If cabinet Ministers are worried about their expense accounts, they should not be because that should be open to the public now, you should not need this. The same as our accounts, MLAs accounts, it should be public information. It is public money. So those are the two major concerns that I heard, beside the press getting a hold of something and using it against you. But if you cannot justify everything you do, then do not do it. It is as simple as that. I will encourage Members to vote on this and vote in favour of it to deal with it tomorrow, July 5th. But if you put it off, then you are not doing your job, it is as simple as that. It is here, it is ready to be dealt with, so let us do it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Mr. Lewis.

Definition Of "Defer"

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I found it very difficult to deal with a motion that uses the word "defer". "Defer" means to put off, to procrastinate, to leave something undone, to wait for some other time, to put off until tomorrow because you do not feel like doing it today. So even the whole concept of deferring reminds me of people that just simply cannot handle something. They cannot make decisions. They cannot face up to facts. They cannot face up to reality. They want to put it off. It is so difficult a position, that we do not want to face up to it. So although this again puts it off, at least maybe I can confess that perhaps I made a mistake earlier on by asking that we defer this item until the last item in committee of the whole today, because I appreciate that the real reason why people did not want to deal with it as the final item today was that we would be very tired.

The Speaker has already been given the authority to extend hours and perhaps Members would not support that particular amendment to the motion to defer it until late tonight simply because they would be very, very tired and would not give this particular bill all the attention that it deserves. With some reluctance, Mr. Chairman, I am going to support the amendment to this motion so that we could, in fact, deal with this as the first item -- not the last but as the first item -- when we will be fresh and prepared to give it the benefit of all our vigour when we go into committee of the whole.

I am reminded, Mr. Chairman, that probably in many of the debates that take place in assemblies across the country, especially where they have party politics, you cannot move anybody. They cannot be changed because they are bound by discipline, the party tells you what to do, or somebody tells you what to do and you have to do it; but in our House we are different. We are individual people that have brains of our own, to do our own thinking, to go the way we want to, and I would like to think -- I am probably wrong -- that perhaps people can be moved by argument in favour of doing something. Not simply to make up your mind and say, "I do not want to hear anything else about it, I have made up my mind, do not make me think about it."

What I am suggesting, Mr. Chairman, is that by deferring this

until tomorrow -- although again it is putting it off, deferring it, procrastinating -- at least it gives us all one more night of sleep to think about all the things we have been discussing today, to mull it over in our minds, so that we can give this particular bill some careful thought and consideration, instead of just killing it and sending it off into oblivion.

It is for those reasons, Mr. Chairman, that, although I am reluctant to even use the word "defer" in my vocabulary because it creates all those connotations of not being able to do something, not being able to solve something, to put it off -- it is one of the terrible indictments of governments that they put things off, they give it to a committee or they put it out to some commission or whatever instead of facing up to a responsibility. Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that the most important function that we perform in any Legislative Assembly is the passing of laws. That is why we are here, to pass laws, and by deferring this perhaps we will seriously think tonight about this particular bill, and by deferring it we will reflect on the fact that that is why we come here. Our major job is to make good laws for the people that we represent. It is for that reason that I am urging Members to, in fact, support this motion to deal with this particular item as the first order of business tomorrow in committee of the whole when we are all fresh, vigorous and have really reflected on why we come here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Lewis. I have next on my list, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the amendment, I would like to speak in favour of it because it does have the effect of causing this to be dealt with tomorrow and we will be here tomorrow. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee indicated to Mr. Gargan on June 24th that Members would be interested in seeing the bill introduced before the Legislative Assembly. So basically the official response and actions by the standing committee on legislation, was an interest to see this topic dealt with. It was not referred and recommended to the House because there were some Members who had concerns about it, but at least on June 24th they indicated that they were interested in seeing the matter debated in the House and introduced for debate.

Private Member's Bills Should Be Treated The Same As Government Bills

My reason for wanting to support this amendment, Mr. Chairman, is that I want the item debated. It is very important that a Private Member's Bill is before this House. The debate is the important thing and the deferral we are trying to prevent here would take that away. So by supporting this amendment, Members are going to be able to treat the private bill by Mr. Gargan in the same fashion that the government bills are treated. Government bills are always debated when the government wants to proceed with them. They get amended. We give the Ministers a bad time during the debate. Mr. Gargan has worked for a long time on this and he has not even had a chance to debate the issues in the House. Sometimes I know that the government withdraws bills, but in most cases they proceed with them and we get our chances to amend them. At least we have to say why we are against it, even though it may pass. We can get it on the record what we thought was wrong with it or we can make amendments. So I think that Mr. Gargan and Members who want to debate this bill have a right to do that and this right is going to be taken away from them if we defer it in such a fashion it may never be dealt with. So I am supporting this amendment to make sure the Member's bill is dealt with.

I would be very interested in hearing the reasons why the majority of the cabinet is against this. Do they want a clause in there that will amend the bill so that it cannot look back on

past years? Is that the reason? I would like to know why they wanted it changed and if they want it changed why can they not introduce amendments. They have a big battery of lawyers. So I would like to see this amendment to the motion passed so we can debate this tomorrow and I have great expectations of seeing some wonderful amendments coming from the cabinet Members to make this a much more workable bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, by virtue of second reading of this bill, the Members have accepted the principle.

--Applause

So I would ask the Members -- the motion is straightforward, if you do accept the principle of this bill then give me a definite date on when we could deal with it. We could deal with it as the first item of business on Friday. I am even willing to go further by requesting that we could deal with it on the weekend if we are going to sit on the weekend. I could even go further to suggest that I could deal with it on Monday if we were to sit on Monday. I would encourage the Members to support this amendment based on the fact that you did accept the principle of the bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): To the amendment to the motion. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, you know this is developing into a filibuster and I think that, that should not be the intent. What we should do is make it very clear to all Members that if they are going to defer this motion or this issue, so that it is never going to be dealt with by this Assembly, what they are in fact doing, is defeating a very important bill. That is what they are doing. That is the way it will be seen, that we do not want it. And yet we have agreed that we do want it because, as Mr. Gargan has pointed out, we have already given it second reading. Where we agree in principle that this is the kind of stuff that we should have. It is only some of the details that we have problems with. To me, it is incredible that legislators are not prepared to deal with the details of the bill. I would be quite happy to listen to whatever further objections people may have and I think that we are being, quite frankly, irresponsible by not facing up to our responsibilities to examine an important piece of legislation.

However, I am not going to try and extend this until midnight, it would be quite easy to do it, Mr. Chairman, as we all know, it has happened before in this House many times. I think that we have made the point that we want to make, that Members who are trying to kill this bill -- I will be asking for a recorded vote once we get to this whole business of deferral -- and the public will know that those people, who in fact vote to defer this into "nothing land", will in fact be killing it. That will be public knowledge, that you do not want it.

So for that reason, Mr. Chairman, although I will continue to support this particular motion, to make this a first item of business tomorrow, I am quite prepared to deal with this issue tomorrow. If it is defeated, in fact, this main motion when it comes into this House, I will be asking for a recorded vote and whoever, in fact, votes to defer it, what they will be doing is in fact killing this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Lewis. General comments to the amendment to the motion. Mr. Ningark.

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason that I am not going to be supporting the amendment to the amendment is that it does not make practical sense to pass such a bill, especially when we are leaving the House.

However, it makes political sense to pass the bill because we are going to look good after this during the election. In that sense, I am not going to be supporting the amendment to the amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. General comments on the amendment to the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Amend Motion To Defer Bill 44, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Question has been called. All those in favour of the amendment to the motion, all those in favour? No this is the amendment to the motion; that is to specifically defer it to Friday, July 5, 1991. One, two, three, four, five, six. Against? The motion has been defeated. The amendment to the motion has been defeated.

--Defeated

Thank you. So we are back to the main motion and I will read it so that everyone is clear: "Mr. Chairman, I move that consideration of Bill 44, Access to Information Act, be deferred." There are no amendments attached. General comments. To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, in speaking to the motion to defer, I would like to just remind all Members, especially Members who are not in the cabinet, that here we have a Private Member's Bill being deferred in a manner which is really trying to prevent debate from actually happening on this matter. Any private Member should be aware that this is the type of conduct that is not very often taken against the government. It very seldom happens. We like to debate with the government in here and try to point out the problems with their bills, and that is why we would like the government Members who are against this bill to do what we do. We would like the government to stand up and give their reasons why this is no good, and we would like to see it happen tomorrow. I can understand, because of some of the second readings that were given today, that there is some very important government legislation that the government might want to deal with first thing tomorrow.

Motion To Amend Motion To Defer Bill 44

So in order to allow the government to do that, Mr. Chairman, I will move to amend the motion by adding the words "to Friday, July 5, 1991, as the second item of business in committee of the whole" after the word "deferred".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. We have a motion to amend the motion, which I shall read for you: I move to amend the motion by adding the words "to Friday, July 5, 1991, as the second item of business in committee of the whole" after the word "deferred". The amendment is in order. To the amendment. The Chair recognizes Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, in making this amendment to the motion, I am trying to achieve assurance that this item and this topic is going to be debated in the House. It is obvious from the way Members are voting here that there is a slim chance...

MR. GARGAN: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Mr. Gargan, point of order.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, can I get a copy of the amendment to the motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): The Chair will call for a short break so that we can get Mr. Gargan a copy of the amendment to the motion.

—SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. We have an amendment to the motion which reads: I move to amend the motion by adding the words "to Friday, July 5, 1991, as the second item of business in the committee of the whole" after the word "deferred". To the amendment. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment that Mr. McLaughlin moved because I would like to see that this bill be dealt with at some point in time during the life of this Assembly and before we prorogue. Once there is prorogation and the Commissioner assents to bills, I would like to see whether Bill 44 is either assented to or rejected. But as a matter of process I request the courtesy of the Members to give me the opportunity to hear from the Members on why they do not wish to deal with this bill. That would give me a clear signal on whether or not there are areas where changes could be made or whether or not they do not support the bill in whole or in part. Which sections seem to be the difficulty? What can they not accept?

The reason I support this amendment is so at least I am not left out in limbo with no reasons on why it cannot be dealt with. I encourage other Members to support it so at least I have the benefit of the doubt.

Motion To Amend Motion To Defer Bill 44, Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): To the amendment. Question has been called. All those in favour of the amendment to the motion? Opposed, if any? The amendment to the motion is defeated.

---Defeated

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Point of order, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems that by the amendments that have been moved so far today and will undoubtedly be moved again, in my opinion we are demeaning the Legislature and illustrating how the rules in a consensus House can be abused to no one's benefit. Mr. Chairman, what I would ask is firstly...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Mr. Patterson, are you getting to your point of order?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: My point of order, Mr. Chairman, is if the main motion is passed to defer the item, will the bill surface again tomorrow morning in committee of the whole and not in fact be dissolved or sent into oblivion as other Members have said? Will it not surface again tomorrow if the motion is carried?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. It is not the practice of the Chair to interpret what the intent of that is, but as I understand it, if the motion is passed, the item will still remain on the order paper, as a number one item. To the motion. To the motion. We have Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you. Since I moved this motion, I never spoke.

—Laughter

Mr. Chairman, now I would like to speak a few words anyway.

Some Members seem to be really concerned about this deferring of Bill 44. It is not indicated to be killed, it is just deferred. A lot of other Members seem concerned the bill not ever coming up again. Some of the Members are concerned about this 11th Assembly is the last session before the election. I am not worried. If I do not get elected next election I can talk to my MLA and bring this back up to the House. I cannot see any problem to defer this Bill 44. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. To the motion, Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that this is the last time I will speak on this. I want to state, first of all Mr. Chairman, as the Government House Leader said, that cabinet has discussed this matter and feel that since it is really fundamental to every MLA's privileges, it will be considered a free vote and we are speaking here in this debate as MLAs. In that capacity I would like to make a few comments, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, I would like to congratulate Mr. Gargan for his usual thorough research going back to 1981 and quoting my eloquent remarks, at that time when I was a very new and inexperienced Member.

---Laughter

Mr. Chairman, I have learned a lot since then and I have come a long way since then and I have changed my views. I want to say, Mr. Chairman, as I said the other day, I am in favour of open government and I do not like, with the greatest of respect to Mr. Lewis, I do not like being painted as one who is for secrecy and cover-ups. I believe we already have a very open government and as I said yesterday, our MLAs are already very privileged and powerful in this House and in committee.

I would also state, as MLA for Iqaluit, that I do not believe this is an issue in my constituency. It may very well be an issue in Yellowknife and in Deh Cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): To the motion, Mr. Patterson, please. The key word here is to "defer", not about the bill.

Experience Of Other Jurisdictions Should Be Looked At

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Okay, Mr. Chairman. I will say again because it has been suggested that Members of cabinet who have spoken on this have not given reasons -- I will just say again very briefly -- I think before we pass a bill like this, we should examine the experience of other jurisdictions. Yes, other jurisdictions have freedom of information and access to information bills, but from what I hear, and I asked the Member yesterday in the witness table if he had done work to examine the experience of other jurisdictions, and I received no answer. Yes, he has the bills, we saw the bills from the other jurisdictions; but how have they worked, Mr. Chairman? From what I have heard, even people and governments that supported those bills when they were passed, have found out that things have not turned out the way they had hoped. In fact, Mr. Chairman, the experience, as I understand it, of most jurisdictions -- and I think we need to look into it more -- is that freedom...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Mr. Patterson, I am afraid I am going to have to ask you to stick to the motion. The motion is to defer this, not about the bill. We are not talking about the bill at this point, and the Chair interprets what you are saying as being a little more off the track than a deferral.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I will try to explain the

relevance, Mr. Chairman. The bill should be deferred because we need to understand how it might actually work by examining the experiences of other jurisdictions. This committee has not had any of that evidence before it. What I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that the experience of other jurisdictions, from what I know, is that it has been a disaster and a nightmare. Freedom of information has not achieved the honourable objectives that Members have talked about. I also still have not received answers to some fundamental questions that should concern every Member that I asked yesterday. How will this bill affect the privileges of MLAs in a consensus system? The other bills have been put in place in party systems. Has anyone examined how this bill affects the privileges of MLAs in a consensus government? Mr. Chairman, I think until we have that further information we have good work, it is a useful starting point; but I am not satisfied that we have a perfect model or the best model yet, and that is why I am in favour of deferring it. Not because I am trying to hide something or I am afraid about my expense account or anything else; I want to see how it has worked elsewhere before I am satisfied it is going to work in our unique consensus system of government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The matter before is on trying to defer this. It is just ridiculous to hear Members say they want to defer this because they want to fine tune it. All sorts of government bills come to the floor of this House that need fine tuning that are not perfect, or at least ordinary Members think they are not perfect, but they get a chance to debate and they get a chance to make their motions. The government gets a chance to persuade Members so that they can get the majority of Members to support their bills. All the Member is asking for is the same thing.

It has also been suggested that the January 1 coming into effect date does not have to hold. You could change the January 1 coming into effect date to July 1, 1992, and that would give the government six more months to do a study and fine tune the bill.

The reasons being given to defer the bill just do not hold enough water when you consider what we have done in the past. We have made major amendments to bills right on the floor of the House here, and there is no reason why we cannot make major and significant changes now. The government has had this piece of legislation in their hands for over a year now, their officials have met with Mr. Gargan's lawyers, with the staff of the standing committee on legislation, and have fine tuned the bill to the satisfaction of what the government considered to be its problems at the time. Now we see the government, and I say the government because it seems like only one Member of the Executive Council, Mr. Ballantyne, is in favour of this piece of legislation being debated. I would just like to see the other Members of the House, including the Members of the Executive Council, give this topic debate in the House. I would like to hear what they think is wrong. I would like to hear the exact clauses and the exact words that they would like to see corrected. That is all I am asking for. That is all Mr. Gargan is asking for.

I am becoming inconfident that the bill will pass, given the resentment that the majority of Members have, they are doing a deferral message here to try to prevent debate on this. That is what is actually happening. They are saying it needs fine tuning but they do not want to tell us where it needs fine tuning. They say there are minor imperfections. They do not want to tell us where the minor imperfections are.

So I think that this motion to defer should be defeated because we have the opportunity to discuss and debate the issues, just like we do with all other bills and if it is defeated, it is defeated, but at least we will discuss the topic and allow everybody to give their opinions on why the wording should stay the same or why the wording should change. Mr. Chairman, I would still like to try to persuade Members to at least abstain and give the Member for Deh Cho the chance to see his item debated before the House, just like the government gets the chance to see all their bills debated before this House.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

Exposing Locations Of Endangered Species, A Frivolous Argument

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, on several occasions Members have concerned themselves with why this bill should be deferred. Examples were given for reasons not to support the bill. One of the things that comes to mind is that there are people who have concerns about the location of gyrfalcons due to this act. People who want to locate gyrfalcons could go to the federal act, and the federal act is a lot looser than this act.

I tell Members that now because all the locations of endangered species are in the federal hands anyway. So whether we like it or not -- I know we have a concern about it -- if that is a concern, the person who wants to get that information and does not get it here can get it from the federal government. I can guarantee Members that if you look at the federal act, it is a lot more open and you could get a lot more information. Even Greenpeace could get that information one way or another. So I find that to be a frivolous argument.

The other thing is that I look at Mr. Patterson's statement he made 12 years ago on deferring the freedom of information bill. I am young now -- well, quite young.

--Laughter

I also may be stupid, ignorant, but I think this is a good piece of legislation, like Mr. Patterson thought at that time when he introduced such an act. Perhaps when I become a Minister I might make a sudden change in my attitude. God help me if I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I realize that the business of this House has to go on. Also I would like to say that I have made my pitch on why I feel such an act should not be deferred. I would request the Members that at least if this motion to defer passes, that they seriously consider dealing with it tomorrow rather than deferring it again by motion, because in the standing orders of business tomorrow would be my bill as the first item of business. I would like to deal with it in that order. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there is an issue of trust involved here. We have tried to be reasonable with Members. We are fully aware that the government has six bills that they would like to deal with tomorrow. We take it as a matter of trust that they have checked out that these bills are good bills and that the homework has been done. We have a process to go through. When we get into committee of the whole, and we have agreed on the principle, then we deal with the details. I am fairly sure that, Mr. Chairman, in dealing with this whole issue of deferral, because that is what you remind us we are dealing with, that would apply to dealing with this act and many other acts that we

may have to deal with tomorrow.

I do not know whether the Borrowing Authorization Act is right for us; whether we should be borrowing \$52 million so that we can then reloan it to municipalities. I just take that on trust, that the committee has done its work and Mr. Ballantyne knows what he is doing. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ballantyne and his staff have worked on this bill. That is why he is supporting the motion. It is for that reason that when we discuss this whole issue of deferral, we are really deferring something on which all the proper processes have in fact been gone through. No different are the government bills. They have gone through all the committee stages. All the research has been done. Government lawyers have been involved as well as private lawyers.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, if we are dealing with the specific principle here of deferral on this particular item, I would like to warn Members in this House that the same issue will likely come up tomorrow when we deal with other bills. If we are not sure that all the proper impacts not been examined with regard to all the other acts the government wants to go through, then we will be asking to defer those too. That is my guess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Lewis. To the motion. I will see if there are any new Members that have not spoken yet. Ms. Cournoyea.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I do not know, Mr. Chairman, whether this is a matter of privilege or a point of order. But it seems to me that the honourable Member was really making threats to other Members by implying that he would hold up bills tomorrow if we did not change the way we were thinking on this bill. I do not know whether that is permissible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Ms. Cournoyea. I think the Member was speaking to the motion, close to the border, but to the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

Defending Every Member's Right To Produce A Bill

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In speaking against this motion to defer, I would like to reiterate that it is not just because I am in favour of this Access to Information Act and its principles that I seconded this bill. I am supporting it and now with the motion to defer and the attitude that is occurring in here, I am also defending every Member's right to produce a bill, to have it dealt with and not have it deferred and thrown out like garbage. This is what is going on here.

What happens when the government brings a bill in and there is something major wrong with it? Nobody has pointed out a major fault with this bill. They have only said there are some minor imperfections. Nobody has pointed out a great major flaw anywhere as a reason given in their efforts to defer this. The Member has worked on this for over a year now. The Member took it to the standing committee on legislation; he has gone through all the hoops and hurdles that government bills go through, and he comes to the House and he wants the matter debated. He deserves the same courtesy that the House extends to government bills, that they get debated. Now we have deferred government bills in the past, and usually when they have been deferred it is because there has been something really significantly wrong with them or they have been deferred because a clause in the bill was not right. There has usually even been the agreement of the Minister responsible for the deferral. But in this case the deferral referred to in the motion is not being supported by the sponsor of the bill who wants the matter debated in the House.

So there is quite a significant difference between this deferral and deferrals we have had in the past where they have been deferred to specific times or deferred for specific reasons or referred back to a committee for a certain thing. This deferral is against the wishes of the main sponsor of the motion; it is against the wishes of a significant number of Members in the House, even though there are only six of us, it appears. But there is a big principle here that individual Members should be able to get an item for debate in committee of the whole and have it dealt with.

As far as I am concerned, if we cannot debate bills because there are minor imperfections, we are setting a new precedent in this House which should be followed immediately after this matter is dealt with and all subsequent bills should be dealt with in the same manner. I am interested if other provinces have been consulted, because that could be reason for deferring all the bills before us. I want to know what happens in other provinces.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Mr. McLaughlin, to the motion of deferral, not what is happening in other provinces.

---Applause

Order please. Mr. McLaughlin, to the motion.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, Members have given, as reasons for deferral of this bill, that other provinces have not been consulted. So this is a new venue that we have entered into as to a reason why a bill should be deferred. That is why I am addressing the issue of the principle just being addressed here. If Private Member's Bills have to be deferred because of minor imperfections, or that other provinces have not been investigated to see how they do it, well obviously we have entered into a new phase of how we deal with bills in this House. We are setting a new precedent and a new way of conducting our business.

So if this bill is deferred for frivolous reasons like minor imperfections and if this bill is being deferred because other provinces have not been investigated and consulted how they deal with it, then the same thing should apply to government bills and I will start applying that as a new principle this afternoon, to government bills. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): To the motion. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I will start off by using the word "deferral" so I will not be reminded of what we are talking about. I have decided to defer my lunch with the delegation from Yakut, which I have already paid \$35 for, because I believe that we are debating a very important principle here. The principle is that we have a private Member who, in fact, has gone through all the processes that need to be gone through in order to bring a piece of legislation to this level. In other words, it is already in committee of the whole, we have already agreed that it is a wonderful thing, but for some reason or other, even though we all agree it is a wonderful thing, we do not want to talk about it.

So for that reason, Mr. Chairman, I would like to remind Members that since Mr. Gargan has pointed out that this issue has been around for such a long time, we can go back even to the days when Mr. Pearson -- I am still talking about deferral, Mr. Chairman, because this issue of deferral has a history in this particular House -- even in the days when Mr. Pearson was a Member, this issue was dealt with and kept on being put off for one reason or another, despite the efforts of people like Mr. Patterson, to make it into a reality.

So Mr. Chairman, although I certainly respect the democratic process, we have already had several votes on this whole

business of whether we want to deal with it or not and it is pretty clear to me from the votes that we have had to date, that it is the same issue that we are talking about even though we change a little detail in these motions to defer, Mr. Chairman. What we are really dealing with is the principle, if you like, of putting this off to some other time to deal with it. Although we may talk about a different day or a different time, the basic impression that we are getting from the way the voting is going is that the majority of people in this House do not want to deal with it.

For that reason, Mr. Chairman, -- this is just my own personal opinion -- I think we should try to bring this to a head as quickly as possible. As I said earlier on, go on at great lengths and think of a dozen ways in which we could drag this on so that it is still a hot issue tomorrow. I would much prefer to see this vote take place and the motion to defer is either determined or not determined before the clock goes far beyond 7:00 o'clock tonight.

So Mr. Chairman, I really heartily support the idea of keeping this alive. I suppose if the wish of the majority of Members, is that they would like to defer it, so be it. They want to defer, we will defer it until tomorrow. But I am pretty sure that after thinking further tonight, the issue will not be dead; it will still be on the order paper and we are still going to have to deal with it tomorrow. That is the problem that I see, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Lewis. To the motion. Mr. Ningark, to the motion.

MR. NINGARK: To the motion, Mr. Chairman. Even if we have to sit until summer to deal with the motion, I will be here. Thank you.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): I have news for you, it is summer. Mr. McLaughlin, to the motion.

Motion To Further Amend Motion To Defer Bill 44, Ruled Out Of Order

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, since it seems that the majority of the Members who are in the cabinet have specific concerns, I would like to amend the motion before us so that after the word "of" I would put in the words, "section 10.(1)(g) of". Put those words in between "of Bill 44", so that the motion, if it was amended, would then read: "I move that consideration of Section 10.(1)(g) of Bill 44, Access to Information Act, be deferred."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. I have reviewed your proposed amendment and I rule that the amendment is out of order as we are not to that clause by clause yet. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Defer Bill 44, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Question has been called. I shall read the motion which you are going to be voting on: "Mr. Chairman, I move that consideration of Bill 44, Access to Information Act, be deferred." Are you ready for the question? All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

MR. LEWIS: I move we report progress, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): The motion is in order and it is

not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed if any? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Would the government indicate which bills would come before the House?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The government is prepared to proceed with Bill 39, Bill 36, Bill 40 and Bill 51, in that order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): The committee will recess for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 39: Certified General Accountants' Association Act

The committee will now come to order. We are dealing with Bill 39, An Act to Amend a Certified General Accountants' Association Act. Mr. Ballantyne, Minister responsible, would you introduce your bill, please?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of the bill is to amend the Certified General Accountants' Association Act to specify that a registrar shall be appointed; to remove the requirement that the Commissioner approve the association's by-laws; to set out the details to be entered by the registrar respecting each member; and that the members may perform audits.

The Certified General Accountants' Association is a self-governing professional organization which is affiliated with a national organization, the Certified General Accountants' Association of Canada. Under the act, a full set of by-laws exist including mandatory professional development requirements and regular peer reviews. As well, each member in private practice is required to carry errors and omissions insurance.

The reason for these proposed amendments is to specify that a registrar must be appointed and outline the details and requirements of the registrar's office. This will protect the public and the general membership in clarifying information available and ensuring that all members are in good standing with the association. Until recently, this function was performed by a sister association in Alberta. With the growth of general membership it has now evolved to the Northwest Territories.

Clarifying the audit provisions of the act is in keeping with development across the country. Within the last two years, similar provisions have been passed in Manitoba and Alberta legislation. In March, the proposed bill was sent to the presidents of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Northwest Territories and the Certified Management Accountants Association for their comments. The presidents replied they had no concerns with the bills.

Removing the requirements that the Commissioner approve the association's by-laws is a trend consistent with that jurisdiction, with all professional bodies that have legislation in place. Being a self-regulating body there is little advantage in requiring the approval of the Commissioner.

I would have to say that this organization has worked very, very hard on this act and take a lot of pride in the progress they have made over the past few years. The fact that they are now running their affairs out of their own office here in the Northwest Territories -- they have really come of age and are

really looking forward to the passage of this particular bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The chairman of the standing committee on legislation will now report.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on legislation reviewed this bill at its pre-session meeting on June 21, 1991. The committee is grateful to Mr. Kakfwi, who presented this bill on behalf of the Minister of Justice and answered the questions of the committee.

This bill would remove the requirement for the Commissioner to approve the by-laws of this professional organization. It would provide for the appointment of a registrar who would keep a register of all members, with pertinent information concerning their professional certification and business. Mr. Chairman, until recently, this function was performed by the Alberta association.

This bill would expand the authority of certified general accountants by allowing them to perform audits. This is similar to a right enjoyed by certified general accountants in other jurisdictions.

Mr. Chairman, the committee had no major concerns with this bill and agreed to recommend it to the Legislative Assembly at its June 21st meeting. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): General comments for Bill 39. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two things I would like the Minister to speak to, if he would, for clarification. I am generally in favour of the bill but there are a couple of matters that I think I would like him to speak to.

There is more than one association of accountants in the Northwest Territories. I wonder if the Minister could explain to us why there is more than one association of accountants. This matter was discussed in the standing committee on legislation itself, but I think it would be of interest to have it discussed here.

The other thing is that I was always of the assumption that any accountant could do an audit. I believe that what has happened here is that these accountants do audits now, and what we are doing by mentioning it in the legislation is just making sure that they have that authority to do audits. I would just like to ask this for the record, so that the debate appears in the public and not just in the standing committee, why are there different accountants' associations and is the accountants' association performing audits now and will they continue to perform audits after this act passes?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The second part of Mr. McLaughlin's observation is correct. Although they have performed audits up until now, this clarifies that particular right to do it so there is really no doubt. On the history of the two associations, as I recall, the Institute of Chartered Accountants organization - I think and I cannot recall exactly how it came about - but they have a different history and originally different requirements. There has been a fairly healthy competition, as I understand it, between this particular organization and that organization - a certain amount of professional rivalry, as it were. As I understand it, now both organizations perform essentially the same function and this

act, in fact, clarifies that equity and equality between those two organizations. As I understand it, today there is not any major significant difference between the functions carried out by either organization.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I guess that is sort of the point I wanted to cover. I do not think it would be constructive to have two dental associations or two medical associations in the Territories. I do not want to hold the House up on this, and I think that it is the degree of qualification, maybe education or something, that differentiates between the two types of association; so if the Minister does not have details today I would be satisfied if he would just make a statement in the House tomorrow, or would answer a question in the House tomorrow as to what the fundamental difference is between the two associations. If he is not able to do it now, I do not want to hold the House up waiting for the answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lew Voytilla is a CGA and Eric Nielsen is a CA, if you want to have an example. I really do not think there is any fundamental difference. The two organizations, historically, evolved in the way many unions did. In other fields there are different organizations. However, to clarify, I will be prepared to respond to an oral question tomorrow and clarify the differences, if any. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments.

AN HON. MEMBER: Clause by clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree we go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 39, An Act to Amend the Certified General Accountants' Association Act, is now ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 36: Borrowing Authorization Act, 1991-92

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Our next bill is Bill 36, Borrowing Authorization Act, 1991-92, with Mr. Ballantyne.

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of the Borrowing Authorization Act, 1991-92, is to authorize the borrowing of a maximum of \$19 million for the current fiscal year. These borrowed funds will be used solely for the purpose of making the loans to municipalities which were authorized by the Assembly in February in the Loan Authorization Act. Should municipalities not require the full \$19 million in loans, the amount to be borrowed will be reduced accordingly.

The results of operations for 1990-91, and the the projected revenues and expenditures for 1991-92 indicate that the government will not have sufficient cash to internally finance these loans. The government therefore requires the authority to borrow these amounts. Present market interest rates are favourable, and the government will pass these favourable rates directly on to the municipalities. Repayments of the debt by the government will be fully funded by municipal payments on the amounts they have borrowed from the government.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The chairman of the standing committee on finance. Mr. Pollard.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on finance has reviewed Bill 36 and recommends it to the House. However, I would ask the Minister of Finance to advise the House how much of the \$19 million the government proposes to borrow. I think it is somewhat less than nine million dollars, the amount required by MACA. It bothers me that the government is being given such a high number when they do not require it. I would like clarification.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: The Member is quite correct. As I understand it, the original estimates which we got from

the municipalities were much higher than they are now, and I understand that the projected amount now is somewhere in the neighbourhood of eight million dollars. I think the committee would be well within their rights if they wanted to lower it.

As I said, we are not intending to lend money foolishly. So anything that is not needed, we definitely will not be lending out. If the committee would like more comfort, we are open.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, what was the maximum amount last year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: It was \$17 million which was lent last year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Was that how much the municipalities borrowed or is that the maximum level of last year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: This is the first year we had to come for this authorization. Prior to this we financed it internally through our cash flow. But because our accumulated surplus is decreasing -- there are other commitments on the money -- that is why we are coming to you this year for this particular authorization.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, I thought we passed the Borrowing Authorization Act last year, which had a maximum amount specified. I recall having a bill passed through the House last year and there was a specific amount. Maybe the Minister can answer that. I would also like to ask what amount of loans we gave out last year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: There is a difference. This is asking for authority for us to borrow the money, and normally every year we ask for the authority to loan the money to municipalities. So this year we are doing both. Normally all we ask for is the authorization to loan the money to the municipalities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: The Minister indicated that the maximum amount that is being proposed in the bill is in excess of what they anticipate to use. Would it not be advisable to lower it and bring forward a motion to that effect? Surely your officials can determine what a reasonable amount is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I have absolute faith in my ability to judge, but the question is, do you? If you do not feel confident with our judgment, then we are prepared to lower it. It is a matter of semantics. We do not intend to borrow any more money than we have to. Obviously, it would be foolish to borrow money on the market that we do not have to borrow.

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

Government Responsible For Unpaid Loans

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister tells us that this is the first year that we have had to do this, and I would ask the Minister, if any of the municipalities default on paying us the money, who is ultimately responsible for the loans that we have incurred on behalf of those municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: We are.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: Mr. Chairman, for the last four years I think most of the Members of this House have been very cognizant of the fact of not getting into a deficit position, deficit spending. We have seen other provinces and the Government of Canada get into that particular foolish routine. But I think this is one more nail in the coffin of our sliding gradually into deficit spending, because we are now going to borrow more money to loan it to municipalities. The Minister admits that ultimately we are responsible for it.

So I would ask the Minister, if we took all the money that we are going to borrow this year and all our assets and weighed them off against our liabilities, are we in a deficit position?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: It is a difficult equation...

---Laughter

...because keeping in mind that we have money that we lent to the Power Corporation but it is still an asset and coming back to us. So if you add up all our debts and all our assets, I would say we are still marginally in a favourable position. But the Member is correct that we are definitely approaching the crunch, and as I said, if Members here are not confident, I am prepared to move a motion and change it from 19 to 10. Would you rather do that? I am open. So, Mr. Chairman could I move a motion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Sorry. Mr. Ningark, general comments.

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, can you give us a clear indication on the word "municipalities"? Are we talking about cities, towns, villages and hamlets? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Tax-based municipalities.

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

MR. McLAUGHLIN: That was part of my question. The other part was going to be that, in the area that Mr. Pollard discussed, about the responsibility if you are not paid, most of these funds would be going as loans toward projects in municipalities, mostly construction, water, sewer, facilities like that which are, in fact, an asset. If a municipality corporation basically folds, goes bankrupt or whatever, and we have to send someone in, then those facilities would become assets of the government. Is that a fact? So if a municipality is unable to pay its debts and has to be put under the management of someone appointed by the Minister responsible for municipal affairs, then those assets in the municipality end up being assets of the government, right?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Well, theoretically, but that is not the way that it normally works. In the few cases that a municipality has run into problems and the government sent in an administrator, -- it is the way that you would deal with a bankrupt company you are trying to bring back to life. So the object of the exercise is not to seize the assets; we have a greater responsibility to make sure that municipality is viable. So our responsibility to do what it takes to make the municipality viable, and that could take management expertise or it may take an infusion of some funds. There have been examples in the past in many municipalities, for instance in land development, where they built too many lots, they were not able to pay the interest on those lots and the government has forgiven sizable amounts of money for municipalities. I see it as a responsibility of a senior level of government to attempt to look after the interest of municipalities.

Having said that, is it also our responsibility to be fairly vigilant, to make sure that really awful things do not happen that often. So MACA reviews the applications, works it through with the municipalities, and if MACA is reasonably satisfied that the requests are legitimate, they will approve it. We have to have a certain amount of trust in our senior municipalities and their government, for those of us who have been mayors. I mean we were very jealous in protecting our independence of municipalities in making those decisions.

So it is like any sort of intergovernmental relationship, with a certain amount of sensitivity and common sense, that these arrangements are carried forward. By and large, it has been a very successful arrangement over the years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. General comments. Mr. Pollard.

MR. POLLARD: So, Mr. Chairman, are we given to understand then that the government will borrow this money and then the proceeds from the interest and principle that they receive from the municipalities will go to pay the interest in a lump sum on the funds that this government has borrowed? Am I correct, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, that is essentially how it works.

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

MR. POLLARD: One last question, Mr. Chairman. The interest rates, will they be the same? Will they be the same as we are paying? Will these be passed on to the municipalities?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: That is the intention, I guess, unless the Legislative Assembly decides to do something different. Our intention is to have the full cost of this borne by the municipality.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Clause 1, application. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Clause 2, authority to borrow. Mr. Minister.

Motion To Amend Bill 36, Clause 2

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, in deference to the committee, I would like to move an amendment that clause 2 of Bill 36 be amended by deleting the amount "\$19,000,000" and substituting "\$10,000,000".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister, may I have a copy of your motion, please? Thank you. Mr. Minister, your motion is out of order. You cannot make a motion that is negative to your statement of purpose. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I would suggest we take a five minute break, Mr. Chairman, and maybe I can find the proper way to do this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): It has already gone through second reading, Mr. Minister. The principle of the bill has already been accepted, and the statement of purpose. Any other amendments in the bill could be changed, but you cannot change the statement of purpose. We will take a five minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. Mr. Minister, I made a terrible mistake here and I want to apologize. Your motion is, in fact, in order. To the motion, Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you very much. You are an honourable man and you did apologize. There are others in this House that should apologize. If I could say, Mr. Chairman, I was also prepared to give to the standing committee on finance my oldest unmarried son until the end of the year if that is what it took. Could I make the motion again, Mr. Chairman, or has it been made?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): I have already made a ruling on the motion. It is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Amend Bill 36, Clause 2, Carried

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

---Carried

---Applause

Clause 2, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 3, agreements. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 4, powers to implement obligations and rights. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 6, delegation to Minister. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Bill as a whole, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 36, Borrowing Authorization Act, 1991-92, is now ready for third reading, as amended? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. We will go now to Bill 40, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Unfortunately, Mr. Kakfwi had to go home. His son was going to be alone and he had to get his son. If we could go on to the next bill, with the committee's concurrence, it would be appreciated.

Bill 51: Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): That would be Bill 51, An Act to Amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act. Madam Minister, do you have an opening statement?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to introduce a bill to amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act, otherwise known as the THIS Act. The amendments we propose will dissolve the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Board and transfer its powers to the Minister, and will increase the number of consecutive terms of office that a member of a board of management may hold.

The Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act was proclaimed in 1959. This act was needed by the federal government as a vehicle for the introduction of a national hospital insurance plan for the Northwest Territories. The THIS Board was a mechanism created to oversee the introduction of the plan to NWT residents. During the 1980s the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Health took over most of the responsibility for health care services from the federal government.

Since then radical changes have occurred in the delivery of health services in the NWT. Amendments were made to the THIS Act in 1986 in preparation for the transfer of health delivery responsibilities in the Baffin Region. These amendments expanded the responsibility of health boards to include the management, control and operation of health facilities, and the delivery of a full range of health care services within their respective administrative regions.

With the final transfer of health service in 1988, the number of

regional hospital and health boards was again increased to provide for citizen participation in most areas of the NWT. The priority task since the transfer has been to assist the new regional boards of management to become well established and fully operational. During this developmental period, some role confusion has been attributed to the existence of two headquarters entities, the department and the THIS Board. THIS Board members have contributed to wise decision-making over the years, but it should be noted that the board's administrative functions have always been carried out by staff members of the Department of Health since the board itself has never had permanent staff.

In recent months various studies and committees, including the public accounts committee and the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions, have questioned the role of the THIS Board and the necessity for its continued existence. After carefully considering the matter, the Government of the Northwest Territories is recommending the dissolution of the THIS Board and the return of its powers to the Minister. The board's functions would then be assumed by the Department of Health. With this change, the Minister will be in a position to deal more directly and comprehensively with hospital and health boards without having to work through two different mechanisms at the same time. As a consequence of dissolving the THIS Board, the Financial Administration Act will require amending to delete reference to the THIS Board.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to the principle of citizenship participation in day-to-day health service management at the regional level. At present, board members are appointed for a maximum of two consecutive terms. We are proposing that this maximum be increased to allow for an optional third term. This would provide an individual who assumes a resigning member's seat mid-term with the opportunity to complete two full terms in office. This option would improve the overall efficiency of boards of management by increasing the continuity of board membership.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, the amendments we propose will simplify the functional relationship between the department and hospital and health boards and confirm the role of the boards as a key structure for citizen participation in the management of the health delivery system. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Madam Minister. Would the chairman of the standing committee on legislation make his opening statement?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is some background to the bill which has come before the House today. The Legislative Assembly's standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions completed a review of selected regional health boards and Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Board prior to the 7th session. The standing committee's report was tabled on October 24th, 1990.

In its report, the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions indicated that certain problems existed within the health care system of the Northwest Territories because of the way the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Board was constituted. Within the current framework, regional health boards have often been faced with blurred lines of authority and a confusing interface of roles and responsibilities between the Department of Health and the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Board.

The standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions also commented that an implicit understanding

between all parties who were involved in the 1987-88 health transfer negotiation process was that this board would be restructured to allow a broader representation of regions and the aboriginal community. This is one of the conditions through which the support of the aboriginal community was obtained.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions concluded that this understanding had not been fulfilled in the current state of the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Board and recommended that: a) either the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Board be eliminated with its responsibilities transferred to the authority of the Minister, or else b) the board be restructured and given proper and necessary resources separate from the department to fulfil its mandate.

Mr. Chairman, the amendments before us today would dissolve the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Board and transfer its authority to the Minister of Health. In the government's response to the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions as contained in Tabled Document 26-91(1), it was pointed out that this would improve cost efficiency and the integration of services.

The government also concluded that this would be the most direct means of defining functional relationships between the department and the regional health boards. Another advantage would be that it would allow the Minister to concentrate on the further development of regional health boards without having to deal with two different mechanisms at the same time.

Mr. Chairman, this bill was reviewed by the standing committee on legislation as part of the agenda for its public hearings on May 15, 1991. No public presentations were received. The bill was subsequently reviewed again on July 2, 1991. The standing committee surveyed aboriginal organizations and each of the regional health boards and hospital management boards for their views of this proposed legislation. There was a wide divergence of opinion. Health and aboriginal organizations were virtually unanimous in the opinion that the current Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Board is not working. Although the majority of viewpoints were supportive of the plan to transfer the board's responsibilities to the authority of the Minister, the standing committee did not note that opposition to this approach exists in some quarters.

There was some concern expressed in both the survey input we received and also during committee discussions that the health system must reflect input from aboriginal organizations or aboriginal people and must involve aboriginal people in the development of standards, policies and financial decisions at the senior level. While the standing committee is aware that there is a healthy representation of aboriginal and community interests at the regional board level, the same perspectives must be brought into decision-making that affects the Northwest Territories as a whole.

Further, Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on legislation was mindful of the fact that if authority for the health system is to lie with the Minister of Health, regional health boards feel strongly that they should have direct access to her for communications and policy input. They did not want to see a process developed where the department is filter between the Minister and the regional health boards.

The standing committee generally supported this perspective as well. The principle that regional boards will be able to access the Minister without having to cross bureaucratic hurdles is in keeping with the government's philosophy of regional autonomy and is in line with the recommendations of

the standing committee on agencies, boards and commissions.

For that reason, Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on legislation agreed on July 3, 1991 to recommend this bill to the House, but also agreed to introduce a motion which requests of the Minister to establish an advisory committee to ensure that there is a direct line of communication for regional boards and aboriginal organizations to the Minister.

That concludes the report of the legislation committee on Bill 51, An Act to Amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could go ahead and make that motion now?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Please proceed with the motion.

Motion That Minister Of Health Establish Territorial Health Advisory Committee

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the Legislative Assembly recommends that the Minister of Health immediately establish a territorial health advisory committee comprised of representatives from aboriginal organizations and the chairpersons of each regional health board in the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. Mr. Ernerk, do you wish to add "immediately" after "Minister of Health"? Also, a copy of your motion is being circulated at this point. For the record the motion that is being distributed does not have the word "immediately". To the motion. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have already commented on the basic reasons that the standing committee wished to advance this motion today. Members felt that an advisory body with representation from aboriginal organizations would assure the appropriate degree of senior level involvement of native representatives from across the Northwest Territories. The presence of regional boards, chairpersons on the Minister's advisory committee would ensure that the health boards have direct access to policy development and fiscal planning, unfettered by the organizational hierarchy in the department of health.

The standing committee believed that the transfer of responsibility from the outdated Territorial Hospital Insurances Services Board to ministerial authority should be conditional on the establishment of such an advisory committee. For that reason, Mr. Chairperson, I would urge all Members of this Legislative Assembly to join with the standing committee on legislation to support the motion. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. To the motion. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just to maybe get clarification. There are a number of health boards in the Northwest Territories but in the Mackenzie region, as defined under the Department of Health, we do not have a health board yet. I am just wondering whether or not the effect of this motion, if accepted, would mean that further motions would be required if the region did establish a health board, there would have to be a motion that could be part of that health advisory committee.

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

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure the honourable Member that the establishment of the

Mackenzie Health Board is in the process of being set up and this motion would not impede that. I would assume that if an advisory committee is set up along these lines, that that organization would be represented. That is just a prerequisite to giving them the same status as any other health board.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion That Minister Of Health Establish Territorial Health Advisory Committee, Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? Motion is carried.

--Carried

Mr. Ernerk, do you have any other comments?

MR. ERNERK: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. General comments on Bill 51. Does the committee agreed to go clause by clause. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Clause 1. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Clause 9. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Clause 10. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Clause 11. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Clause 12. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Clause 13. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Clause 14. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A definition of "subrogated", what does that mean?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Madam Minister, could you respond to that request for definition of "subrogated" under clause 14? Perhaps Madam Law Clerk could give us a definition, please.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The word "subrogated" means that the Minister, in this case, would stand in the shoes of the insured person and would be able to sue as if he or she were the insured person for the purposes of getting money that they have paid out back to the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Clause 14. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Clause 15. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Clause 16. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Clause 17. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Clause 18. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Clause 19. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I realize that under this section when this act comes into effect the THIS Board will cease to exist. I would like to ask the Minister when the territorial health advisory committee board will come into effect. Is it going to be reflected in the act?

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

Involvement Of Aboriginal Groups In Health Advisory Committee

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: No, Mr. Chairman, I think the suggestion is to have an advisory board and we are having some collective meetings with the various health agencies in the Northwest Territories from time to time to seek their advice on matters concerning the delivery of health. I would want to look at the recommendations, deal with the boards and also with the aboriginal organizations, to see just how they would see an advisory board flowing. I do not believe that it is necessary to put that in the act because I believe that it was our intention at the beginning to have such an advisory board. I certainly would want to talk to the aboriginal organizations and the health boards just to see how they feel such an advisory board should be set up and what types of functions they would like to be involved with. We will be proceeding according to the recommendations that are put out in the motion.

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

MR. GARGAN: I realize that this act would give the opportunities for those different health boards to deal directly with the Minister. What I am trying to ask here is, there is a motion that was passed in this committee and it is to establish a territorial health advisory committee comprised of representatives of aboriginal organizations as well as regional health boards. So what I am asking is, when would that advisory committee, comprised of aboriginal people and health boards, be implemented and whether that would be put in the act once that committee has got together to determine their role?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I believe in our discussions with the boards and with the aboriginal groups, although the motion here is to suggest and recommend that a health advisory committee be set up, there is some idea among the aboriginal groups that they would not necessarily like to see their involvement along with the other health boards. So I do not want to predetermine what the aboriginal organizations will be suggesting on this advisory committee, because there is some feeling among the aboriginal groups that the interest of aboriginal status people really should be tracked by an aboriginal advisory group. We have had that discussion, so it may be that they will come forward and say it is not necessary or they would prefer not to be lumped in with the health boards.

So I will be proceeding to talk to these people to see how they feel, that they can be best represented. And we are committed to do that right from transfer. But I would not like

at this time to predetermine just how the aboriginal groups, specifically to their interest of benefits to status people, how they would want that represented. But I am committed to try to move as quickly as we can to see if we can come to some conclusion on how the health boards and the aboriginal organizations working in advisory capacity, how they feel their needs can be met.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Bill 51, clause 19. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I appreciate the Minister's response. I would like to ask for a point of clarification. I realize the motion does say an advisory committee, but it could very well be anything from a health board or the definition could change to health commission or whatever.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Madam Minister.

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: I agree with the Member that in our discussions with the various groups, how they feel that they can best be represented. How far they want to go in terms of setting up a structure. Certainly it can go further than an advisory committee if they feel strongly about specific areas that they feel should be more protected than others. We recognize that and it has been brought to our attention that we have to have that discussion, particularly with the special rights attributed to status native people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): (Translation) Thank you, Madam Minister. We are on Bill 51, clause 19. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): (Translation) Thank you. Clause 20. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 51 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you. Mr. Government House Leader, what is your wish now?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think the House has had a long day, so with House concurrence, I move that we report progress.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

--Carried

The Chair will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

REVERT TO 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: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 36, 39, 44 and 51, and wishes to report progress with three motions being adopted. Bills 39 and 51 are ready for third reading. Bill 36 is ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Is there a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Aivilik. 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

Item 19, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to gain consent to go with third reading of Bill 51.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with third reading. Are there any nays? Proceed.

Third Reading Of Bill 51: Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 51, An Act to Amend the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Act, be read for the third time. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Bill 51 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed to third reading of Bill 39, An Act to Amend the Certified General Accountants' Association Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 39. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Third Reading Of Bill 39: Certified General Accountants' Association Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 39, An Act to Amend the Certified General Accountants' Association Act, be read for the third 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 39 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed to third reading of Bill 36, as amended.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with Bill 36, as amended. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Third Reading Of Bill 36: Borrowing Authorization Act, 1991-92

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 36, as amended, Borrowing Authorization Act, 1991-92, be read for the third 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 36 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Item 20, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, there will be an all-Members meeting with the standing committee on legislation after adjournment this evening; tomorrow, July 5, 1991, at 9:00 a.m., ajauqtit.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Friday, July 5, 1991.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motions
13. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions: Motion 27-91(1) and Motion 28-91(1)

15. First Reading of Bills: Bills 43, 47, 48 and 50

16. Second Reading of Bills: Bill 13 and Bill 49

17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bills 44, 45, 40 and 46

18. Report of Committee of the Whole

19. Third Reading of Bills: Bill 34

20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Friday, July 5, 1991.

—ADJOURNMENT

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