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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 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 Friday, July 5, 1991. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 99-91(1): Gender Equality Paper

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today I will be tabling the discussion paper which has been prepared by Katherine Peterson, special adviser on gender equality. The purpose of the paper is to identify the issues which are being reviewed by the special adviser and to invite comment on them. I am tabling the paper so that Members of the Legislative Assembly and members of the public may read the paper and put their comments forward.

The work of the special adviser this year will have an important impact on the future shape of the justice system in the NWT. She has already met with many of those involved in the justice system and has held community meetings in Yellowknife and in communities south of the lake. Further community workshops will be held this autumn in the other regions of the Northwest Territories. She is hearing directly from community members about how the justice system has affected them.

In June the special adviser attended the Symposium on Women, Equality and the Administration of Justice in Vancouver, along with myself and representatives of my department. This was the first meeting of its kind in Canada; an opportunity for selected representatives of the judiciary, the legal community, and community advocates to engage in serious discussion about gender equality in the justice system.

The special adviser has identified some general issues through the consultations she has had so far. When she visits communities, people want to talk about the justice system as a whole, not necessarily making the technical distinctions about divisions of responsibility and so on that government officials are used to. Victims express confusion and fear about the court process. The courtroom is sometimes described as a place where confrontation is the focus, and where procedures and terminology are difficult to understand. Questions are asked about who speaks for aboriginal women, and who is qualified to tell the courts about cultural issues. It has been suggested that there is a need for education at the elementary school level about cycles of violence, since violent behaviour that ends up being dealt with by the courts may stem from patterns learned at a young age.

All of these things are related to the general issue of gender equality, but they are also tied to broader social and cultural issues. When the time comes for the special adviser to formulate her recommendations, she will work with the advisory committee on aboriginal justice in attempting to come to terms with these issues.

Gender equality issues will once again be discussed on the national stage when Ministers of Justice from across the country meet in Yellowknife in September. At that time the federal/provincial/territorial working group on gender equality will be reporting on its first year's work. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 100-91(1): Mine Safety Bill

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling the proposed new mine safety bill. This bill will be used to focus consultation among the Department of Safety and Public Services, the Mine Occupational Health and Safety Board, workers, unions, mining companies and industry associations. This bill, along with the proposed mining regulations, is being sent to all these groups for their review.

In tabling this proposed bill prior to its distribution, I want to emphasize that this document will be used as a basis for discussion by all interested parties and Members of this Assembly for them to comment on and to recommend changes. All participants will be asked to submit their comments to the department. All recommendations will be noted and given serious consideration. This will result in a mine safety bill being presented to the Legislative Assembly for its review at the February 1992 session.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention some of the proposed changes up for discussion: 1) enhancement of the administrative functioning and powers of mine occupational health and safety committees; 2) clarification of such matters as the definitions of "serious injury" and "dangerous occurrence" to permit the mine occupational health and safety committees to operate better; 3) clarification of the powers of inspectors; 4) improvements in the manner that regulatory powers respecting safety and health are exercised; and 5) increasing the penalties for offenses under the act.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to say that we welcome the comments and suggestions of all interested parties in this proposed legislation and we encourage all those affected to participate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

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

Ministers' Statement 101-91(1): Aboriginal Justice Paper

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today, I will be tabling a discussion paper on aboriginal justice. This paper has been prepared within the Department of Justice to generate discussion about future directions for justice in the Northwest Territories. Members of the aboriginal justice advisory committee have provided advice on the content of the paper as well.

The aboriginal justice paper raises questions and identifies issues which must be debated. It outlines a broad range of possible options for making the justice system more responsive to aboriginal people. Rather than stating the changes that should be made, it presents issues to be discussed so that solutions can be found with the involvement of aboriginal communities.

Aboriginal people must be involved in choosing the form which the justice system is to take in the future. This paper suggests ways in which communities can take a greater role in the justice system and invites comments on the types of reform which are desired.

At the western judicial conference, which was held in Yellowknife recently, aboriginal justice issues were an important part of the agenda. Aboriginal persons from the NWT, including elders, attended the conference and helped give the judges a better understanding of the issues.

The Hon. Margaret Joe, Minister of Justice for the Yukon, will be hosting a national conference in Whitehorse in September, where Ministers of Justice from across the country will have the opportunity to discuss aboriginal justice with aboriginal leaders. This is the first conference of its kind which has ever been held in Canada, and I look forward to this important opportunity to share ideas.

In tabling the discussion paper on aboriginal justice today, I am asking for comments from Members of this Assembly, and from the public, about the directions which the justice system should take in the future.

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

Ministers' Statement 102-91(1): NWT Scout Council Leadership Training

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for youth, I am pleased to announce on behalf of my cabinet colleagues a financial initiative in support of leadership training for the scouting programs of the Northwest Territories.

Last October, the Northwest Territories Scout Council approached the Government Leader to request his written support, on behalf of the government, for the scout council's funding proposals to Canadian corporations doing business in the NWT. The scout council is planning a major leadership training program aimed at increasing the successful scouting programs of the North. In recognition of the important programs provided by scouting, Mr. Patterson has been providing this government's support at every opportunity.

Nine months later we have received confirmation that the scout council has been most successful. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday we received written confirmation that the Financial Concept Group of Yellowknife and NCE Income Resource Corporation of Toronto will co-operate in a joint initiative to contribute \$25,000 for scout leadership training programs in 1991-92. Further, the companies are committed to working with the scout council to manage a major fund-raising benefit for NWT scouting during the coming year in order to develop a long-term income base for scout leadership training in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the goal that the scout council, Financial Concept and NCE are working jointly to achieve is the training of more aboriginal leaders for scouting. They have recognized that the best and most productive youth programs for aboriginal youth are operated by aboriginal leaders. They are committed to the development of strong role models for

our youth.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that the vast majority of our colleagues in this Legislative Assembly are past participants in the scouting and guiding movements. This reflects the fact that both scouting and guiding strive to develop future leaders. In fact, you may already know that our Government Leader reached the highest level in scouting, Queen's Scout. There is no question that scouting and guiding have contributed to the personal development of many Northerners.

Mr. Speaker, it is rewarding to recognize that two corporations with a strong sense of community responsibility, headquartered in southern Canada and conducting business in the NWT, have taken this opportunity to contribute back to the development of our northern youth and our future. I commend their joint efforts with the NWT Scout Council. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

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

Ministers' Statement 103-91(1): Interim Water Agreement

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the GNWT and the Alberta government have agreed to work toward development of an interim agreement dealing specifically with pulp mill effluent. We see an interim agreement on water quality as a mechanism to protect the environment by working co-operatively with our upstream neighbour.

Such an agreement will contain measures dealing with protecting the aquatic environment of the NWT from contaminants produced by Alberta pulp mills. The agreement will be negotiated under the Western Accord on environmental co-operation signed recently by all the western provinces and territories.

Mr. Bob Overvold, principal secretary to the Government Leader, and Mr. Bob McLeod, assistant deputy minister of the Department of Renewable Resources, have been appointed as negotiators for our government. They recently met with their Alberta counterparts to discuss the negotiating process, time frame and agreement format.

Mr. Speaker, territorial residents must be able to drink the water and eat the fish or wildlife without fear of adverse health effects. This is the philosophy upon which the GNWT intends to develop its negotiating position.

This agreement is only an interim measure until a full and comprehensive transboundary water agreement can be negotiated between Alberta and the NWT. A comprehensive agreement will deal with the cumulative impacts of all upstream developments including agriculture, forestry practices, tar sands and hydroelectric generation. However, pulp mill effluent is our immediate concern at this time.

Contaminants from existing and proposed pulp mill developments have the potential to adversely affect the aquatic environment of the NWT. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the GNWT has not changed from the basic position it presented at the ALPAC environmental assessment hearings. The three main elements of our government's position continue to be: 1) zero discharge of persistent toxic chlorinated organic compounds into the aquatic environment of the NWT; 2) the need to put in place comprehensive environmental monitoring programs for transboundary water; and 3) the need to conclude transboundary water negotiations.

I would also like to point out that as a result of the efforts of this government, and the many NWT residents, including the Dene Nation and the Metis Association, who participated at the ALPAC hearings, progress has been made to reduce contaminant loadings from both proposed and existing mills. In addition, the GNWT has had discussions with the NWT coalition against pulp mill pollution. Our government has agreed to provide some financial assistance to the coalition to aid them in pursuing their goals.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the GNWT takes this issue very seriously and we are doing everything within our means to protect residents from adverse impacts as a result of pulp mill developments. Thank you.

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

Ministers' Statement 104-91(1): Update On National And International Trade Issues

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to provide Members with an update on some national and international trade issues and to review their relationship to programs and policies of this government as well as to the economy of the NWT.

Currently there are four areas of trade initiatives: the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; the bilateral free trade agreement between Canada and the United States; the trilateral talks between the United States, Mexico and Canada, known as the North American Free Trade Agreement; and the discussions over the reduction of barriers to interprovincial trade in Canada. The Government of the NWT is represented and plays an active role in all committees involving these trade initiatives, each of which can have significant effects on the Northwest Territories.

The main objective of the general agreement on tariffs and trade is to liberalize and strengthen global trade. Although much of the current Uruguay round has been taken up with the issue of agricultural subsidies, some issues under discussion have a direct bearing on the NWT, such as: 1) the elimination of trade restrictions on products made from seals and other fur bearing species; 2) the elimination or reduction in tariffs on exports of NWT fish, lumber and agricultural products; 3) the reduction in tariffs on a wide variety of imports for domestic, commercial and industrial use in the NWT; 4) the establishment of new rules for defining government subsidies which can be subject to countervailing duties.

The issue of defining subsidies and countervail has yet to be resolved within the context of the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement also. In these discussions the Government of the NWT is emphasizing that Canada must not deal away the ability of governments at all levels to use their resources for establishing a viable economic base and trained work force in less developed regions of this country. We are also trying to obtain an exemption from the United States Marine Mammal Protection Act to open up United States markets to seal, polar bear and whalebone products.

If, under the terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Mexican government allows foreign investment in their nationalized oil and gas industry, there could be increased competition for oil and gas investment funds on the international market which could divert exploration and development dollars from the Beaufort Sea. We are monitoring this situation closely.

Finally, barriers to interprovincial trade within Canada have been established over the years to provide preferences to

locally based producers, suppliers, and labour, with the objective of ensuring that benefits remain in a particular province or region. The Government of the NWT is a signatory to a procurement agreement which would, in five years, provide cross-country access to all goods purchased by provincial government departments under contracts valued at over \$25,000. I am glad to say that the Government of the NWT was able to negotiate an exemption from most of the provisions of this agreement in recognition of the fact that we are a developing economy and that we need to maintain some degree of protection in this area.

I am tabling additional information on this question in the form of a detailed review prepared by the deputy minister of intergovernmental affairs, who acts as our government's adviser on these issues. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Ministers' statements. Prior to proceeding to the next item of business, I wish to draw the attention of honourable Members to visitors in our gallery. There are 20 4-H members from central and southern Alberta and they are on an Alberta-NWT agricultural development tour.

---Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Medical Patient Search Program

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s many seriously ill Inuit were taken from their homeland for medical treatment in southern Canada, in some cases only to expire in far away hospitals. It has been tragic to note that in many families an entire generation has grown up without knowing when or how parents or grandparents died, and without knowing whether their earthly remains rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, it would be wrong of me to leave this place of assembly without acknowledging my thanks to the Minister of Health, the Hon. Nellie Cournoyea, for the excellent work she and her department carried out with the medical patient search program. This initiative allowed descendants of displaced Inuit to secure details surrounding the death of their loved ones and to discover where they had been laid to rest.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the formal program is now complete, but I am happy to note that arrangements can be made by the Department of Health to help other families who wish to come forward. I also believe some outstanding issues may remain with respect to aiding certain families seeking compensation and ensuring that commemorative monuments are erected at cemeteries where Inuit are buried. I hope that the Minister of Health will accept the gratitude of many Belcher Island families for her special effort in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Proposed Access To Information Act

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past several days there has been much discussion in this House regarding the proposed Access to Information Act and the implications of its passage to the Northwest Territories and the government as a whole. I would like to make several brief

points regarding this issue.

During our discussions the point has been raised, in particular by the Government Leader, that we have not undertaken enough studies regarding the effects of similar legislation on the operation of government in other jurisdictions. I would dispute this assumption, Mr. Speaker. There have been studies upon studies regarding the impact of access-to-information legislation in other jurisdictions. Most suggest that there is a "feeling out" or implementation period for the first couple of years until the bureaucracy understands its obligations.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know of any substantial legislation that does not have such an impact after it is introduced. Legislation such as the Agricultural Products Marketing Act or victims of crime legislation have an impact on the way the bureaucracy operates.

I remember when the seat belt legislation was passed, there was a grace period when people were warned about failure to wear a seat belt. Eventually this period passed and this legislation was fully enforced. Personally, I know the effect of this legislation because I now wear my seat belt.

After the initial implementation period, access-to-information legislation becomes part of the day-to-day operation of government. Often it is seen as a measure of the effectiveness of a bureaucracy to see how quickly they can implement the procedures for access. As is often noted by this government, we have an extremely hard-working and efficient bureaucracy. I, for one, have confidence that our bureaucracy could easily deal with the implementation of this legislation.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I would note that I know of no Access to Information Act that has been rescinded, because the implications government are simply too onerous.

Mr. Speaker, I have put the Government Leader on my priority list to view the access to information results. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement On Economic Initiatives

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, social and political evolution comes about due to a thriving economy, a low rate of unemployment, and a government that is responsible to the person on the street. Mr. Speaker, that is what I said in 1978 in Yellowknife in the Interpreter newsletter. That was my view then, and it remains my view now. I believe, Mr. Speaker, the only way people can expect to see a strong North is through a diversified economy.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. ERNERK: As a former Executive Member responsible for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in 1976, I have not changed my mind on this issue. I think the only way we can see any real progress is through sound economic development. Mr. Speaker, the Keewatin is well known for being political, and we have always shown a determination to succeed because we had the ability to think ahead. To this end, we have seen a steady rise in small businesses, providing us with a dramatic increase in goods and services in the last few years. We will continue supporting programs within the GNWT that foster small business development. We will have to focus on the needs of small communities like ours to assist them in identifying opportunities.

I want to see government cause a major small community economic planning exercise to take place. This exercise is to systematically examine each small community's economic possibilities and identify business and industries which could be developed. Rather than stopping at that point, I want to see an aggressive program put in place whereby the opportunities which are judged to be viable are developed. Where opportunities can be seized and developed by the private sector, so it should be.

My support, Mr. Speaker, for tourism began in 1976 when, as the Minister of Economic Development, I spoke in favour of tourism as a major growth industry that had unlimited potential in the North. Throughout the years, I have gone on record as giving my full support to tourism development, and I have supported training in hospitality, high school development and tourism programs.

In 1986 I repeated my support on record to our zone association, Travel Keewatin, in their attempts to raise public awareness of these potential benefits. I want to see ongoing programs that allow Travel Keewatin to carry out their marketing initiatives, trade and travel shows, guide training and development of tourism infrastructure. Tourism provides employment for many and must be supported. Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of economics. Thank you very much.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Role Of Ajauqtit

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The ordinary Members had their final meeting of the 11th Assembly this morning, and I would like to express my appreciation to all ordinary Members who have taken part in what we call ajauqtit. Ajauqtit is not really a vicious group of people that plot every morning to decide how to make life difficult and unpleasant for the people that perform the executive function. What we have done is to simply meet everyday so that we knew exactly what each person's individual concerns were. We have examined areas where we can co-operate to get things done that matter to enough Members, and instead of using the word "opposition" we have just simply used the word "ajauqtit", which means "to push". Sometimes it has been a gentle push and sometimes it has been more of a shove.

I am sure that the Government Leader has not had too many sleepless nights simply because ajauqtit exists, because we are not a vicious bunch of people and we have held no personal grudges. We do not act in an irresponsible way like we see some oppositions in southern Canada do who oppose everything.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. LEWIS: We have not opposed everything. In fact, we have supported the government as much as we possibly are able to do so, and I think that as part of the need to have a government where there is a system of checks and balances -- I think that the Government Leader would agree to this -- that unless you have something that is always looking at you and examining what you do, then I think you have bad government. I think the last four years have given us fairly good government.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. LEWIS: I would like to express my thanks to all ordinary Members, but also to the cabinet, who performed the executive function, I think, in a competent fashion for the last

four years. Thank you.

--Applause

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

Member's Statement On Praise For Legislative Assembly Research Staff

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we wind down the business of the 11th Assembly, I, too, want to take an opportunity to pay compliments to Mr. Downe and his staff of the Legislative Assembly research section. Mr. Speaker, we ordinary Members do not always have the money and the staff and the time to truly examine and research important and complicated issues that come to our attention from our constituents. The government, on the other hand, has not exactly an unlimited amount of resources, but they certainly have the bureaucracy which can rally to their support and give the Minister all of the background information on questions and issues that we ordinary Members put forward to them. Now this was not always available to us, and lately, since the staff in the Legislative Assembly research section has been expanded and its mandate changed somewhat to accommodate the needs of the ordinary Members, our performance, at least my performance, certainly has been enhanced by their efforts to dig into matters and give us this information.

So on behalf of my colleagues and me, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for making our job much easier. Otherwise it would be a pretty tough row to hoe without their backing, so thank you very much, research people.

--Applause

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

Member's Statement On Thanks To Ajauqtit

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would simply like to rise to thank the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre and the chairman of ajauqtit for his kind remarks about the relationship that his group, his committee of ordinary Members, has had with our government over the last four years. I would point out there was another chairman of ajauqtit who also worked diligently who is now on this side of the House and also should take some of that credit.

Mr. Speaker, although there have been points of strong disagreement, strong points of principle taken and obviously strong concerns expressed by ajauqtit over the last four years, and although they have given us a very hard time at times, and certainly kept cabinet Ministers on their toes, I think it is a credit to us all, in fact, that we have managed to maintain, I would say without exception, an atmosphere of mutual respect and also basic courtesy in meeting the various responsibilities that we have to represent our constituents as best we can.

In that connection I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, in these times of questioning of the political process and perhaps a certain public cynicism toward the political process in this country, I think in that connection, in the manner in which we have shown respect for one another in this House, I think we have actually set a good example and a positive example in this country for other legislatures and for other politicians that they are now starting increasingly to notice and take account of, as reform in the political process is being discussed nationally.

I would like to thank the honourable Member for those kind comments and add my view that we have worked hard and we have worked well together and ajauqtit has helped make for better government.

--Applause

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

Member's Statement On Timing Members' Statements

MR. PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, in the last four years I have noticed that every time when an ordinary Member makes a statement the clock has already started ticking. I noticed on the other side of the House when they make a Member's statement the clock does not move.

--Laughter

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

Member's Statement On Thanks To Colleagues

MR. NINGARK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say thank you to the ordinary Members and to the Hon. Titus Allooloo, who we give a hard time to, also assists us even though he does not agree to our needs. He assists us in ways because he is our Nunavut caucus chairman and he communicates well with the other Ministers. I would also like to thank the honourable Member for Kitikmeot, who has assisted me even though we were not in the House; I would ask for his advice especially when I first became a Member. I would like to thank the honourable Henry Zoe, who assisted me with things. I am not going to name all the individuals. Even though I do not agree with them all the time. I would like to thank Peter Ernerk as a colleague. I grew up with him and he has assisted me with the procedures in the House. I wish to thank all my colleagues.

I was trying to accomplish three things: First of all, I was trying to learn the procedures of the House. The second thing, I was trying to assist my constituents. Thirdly, I want my constituents to be recognized.

Even though we cannot agree all of the time we have to work hard, but we get more understanding for the people from the Nunavut region. It is very clear that we cannot accomplish everything overnight. We, the people of Nunavut, once we have decided -- and I am not trying to be provocative -- we do not like to budge. There is a symbol in this House that relates to Nunavut Members. That is the polar bear skin right in the middle of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I would like to remind honourable Members that statements should refer to one particular item. Members' statements. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return To Question O245-91(1): Study On Effects Of Explosion On Iceberg; And Return To Question O557-91(1): Effects Of Blasting For Iceberg Sculptures

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question asked by Mr. Pudluk on March 6, 1991, and June 28, 1991, with respect to the iceberg carving project.

The status of the proposal by the French to carve replicas of endangered animals on an iceberg in Baffin Bay is being monitored by a federal/territorial committee. The last news we received was that in April the French had requested permission to work out of a village in Greenland. The project was not completed this spring and we do not know if the French will try again next year. We are not aware of any study that will be done to determine the effects of this project on the sea mammals. At this time, Canada is not involved because the project is not within Canadian territory. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O612-91(1): Health Risk Of Soapstone Fibres

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Crow on July 3, 1991, concerning the health risk to soapstone carvers. The Department of Health has received and reviewed a summary of the results of Dr. Green's analysis of carving stone which originates from the Northwest Territories. From his study, Dr. Green concluded that the majority of carving stone samples were free of fibrous materials. Only four out of 31 samples were identified as containing asbestos fibres. The inhalation of asbestos fibres has been associated for a long time with lung diseases, including cancer. The risk of developing lung cancer is increased for people who do smoke.

The Department of Safety and Public Services has a program to educate carvers about the need to use safety equipment to protect themselves from hazards associated with carving. As part of the program, carvers are provided with dust masks and other protective equipment. Carvers who are concerned about the dangers of working with particular types of materials may receive further information by phoning Safety and Public Services at 873-7468.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health is committed in working with these two departments to continue to support any educational materials that can assist carvers in understanding the hazards of the carving industry. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Prior to proceeding with the next item of business, I am honoured today to welcome to the Northwest Territories and to the House the Countess Mountbatten of Burma, Lady Patricia, Colonel-in-Chief of Princess Patricia's Light Infantry.

---Applause

Returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O556-91(1): Status Of Tannery Project, Broughton Island

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: On behalf of Mr. Wray, a reply to Mr. Kilabuk's question on the tannery project in Broughton Island. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism has recently approved a contribution to the Minquuq sewing group to purchase a machine to flesh sealskins in preparation for tanning. With the installation of this equipment in September, the Minquuq sewing group will be able to provide for both fleshing and dry tanning of sealskins in addition to their traditional sewing activities. The Minquuq group has abandoned its effort to establish a wet or chemical tanning process due to uncertainties over the possible harmful effects of some of the chemicals used in the process.

The Minquuq sewing group has also developed an arrangement with Nunasi Corporation for the purchase of fleshed seals from Broughton Island for use in the Amiq fine leather products. Minquuq has also been successful in obtaining an order for traditional Inuit fur garments to be produced by the sewing group for a museum in British Columbia valued at \$9000.

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism has provided more than \$100,000 to Minquuq on top of the initial EDA grant to provide start-up moneys and to assist in hiring a manager. The department is also hiring an economic development officer for Broughton Island who will provide invaluable assistance in the management of the sewing centre.

Despite its early difficulties, this project has succeeded mainly because of the commitment and dedication of the Minquuq sewing group; but without the financial support and advice from the Government of the Northwest Territories and Nunasi Corporation these early problems might have been too difficult to overcome. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O614-91(1): Disruption In Air Service, Rankin Inlet

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: If I may, Mr. Speaker, again on Mr. Wray's behalf, a reply to Mr. Ernerk's question about disruption of air service, Rankin Inlet. Mr. Speaker, the laying and shaping phase of the new base course construction, which is a necessary pre-paving requirement, will be continuing between July and September 9, 1991. As a result, scheduled air services will be disrupted during this period. NWT Air, for example, will continue to depart for Yellowknife at 10:30 p.m.

For your information, the summer of 1992 will be a dormant year in terms of on-runway construction in order to allow for thorough settling of the materials applied this year. Disruptions to normal flight schedules are therefore not anticipated. Actual paving will occur in the summer of 1993. It is, of course, too far ahead to speculate on any resulting flight disruptions. A plan of construction operations, which will involve complete consultation with the air carriers, will be drawn up as we draw closer to that phase. Thank you.

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

Return To Question O600-91(1): Cost Of Student Boarding In Yellowknife

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, this is in response to a question asked by Mr. Pedersen on July 3 in regard to cost of student boarding in Yellowknife. In February, 1991, the average cost of a student in the Akaitcho Hall residence was estimated to be \$17,000 and that estimate was noted in Hansard. On July 2, 1991, in a return to an oral question concerning funding in the Kitikmeot for grade extensions, Yellowknife residence costs for nine students from Cambridge Bay were estimated to be \$79,200.

There is a difference in these two estimates, but that difference can be explained. The estimate of \$79,200 was based on the cost of home boarding nine students in Yellowknife, not the average cost of accommodating students in the Akaitcho Hall residence. If the nine students were being accommodated in the Akaitcho Hall residence, the average per student cost in that residence would be \$17,000. However, the Akaitcho Hall residence is already operating at capacity and cannot accommodate nine additional students. As a result, if nine

students were to be accommodated for the next school year, they would have to be placed in home boarding. An average cost of \$8800 per student was used for home boarding, including \$7500 for the boarding costs and \$1300 for the travel costs, resulting in a total estimate of \$79,200 for nine students. Thank you.

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

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question O633-91(1): Review Of GNWT's Ultimate Removal Policy

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Personnel. The Department of Personnel has an ultimate removal policy for retiring civil servants. Certainly in the last few years, Mr. Speaker, many civil servants, persons that worked for the government, chose not to retire immediately or move south immediately after they retired and it is causing some problems because there is a sunset clause on this ultimate removal benefit. I would like to ask the Minister if the government would consider reviewing its present policy with the intention of removing the sunset clause for ultimate removal benefits.

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

Return To Question O633-91(1): Review Of GNWT's Ultimate Removal Policy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I think the Member is making a good suggestion. Just from an economic point of view, as long as it does not mean additional costs to the government and that it means we keep retired civil servants up here spending all their hard earned money and keep circulating and injecting their money into the northern economy. I think it is a very good suggestion. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O633-91(1): Review Of GNWT's Ultimate Removal Policy

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's answer but I am not sure whether he agreed they were going to do the review. He likes the suggestion, but I would just like to get more of a commitment that they will do this review with the intention of exactly what he said.

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

Further Return To Question O633-91(1): Review Of GNWT's Ultimate Removal Policy

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the Member asked if I would review that part of the policy and I agree to review. Thank you.

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

Question O634-91(1): Tender For Provision Of Staff Accommodation, Iqaluit

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In February or

March, in the beginning of this session that we are in now, there was a tender call for provision of staff accommodation in Iqaluit, some 40 to 50 units, I believe. The Minister advised, in reply to a question that this was a replacement for the Frobisher development housing that we have had up to now. Could the Minister advise me if this tender was awarded and to whom?

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

Return To Question O634-91(1): Tender For Provision Of Staff Accommodation, Iqaluit

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the tenders have been awarded. I would have to get the information because the tenders were awarded to more than three or four companies.

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

Question O635-91(1): Water Quality In NWT

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister responsible for water. Mr. Speaker, you know I am sometimes puzzled by the findings of some scientists, and you have to appreciate where I am coming from. I like good water when I drink, good water. Mr. Speaker, not too long ago there was a report on CBC that indicated that we have the best water in the Northwest Territories and I believe as a matter of fact, in Canada, as a matter of fact within the international community. They also stated, these scientists stated that as a matter of fact the water is sometimes too good. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister responsible for water management is, what is meant by the water being too good? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Return To Question O635-91(1): Water Quality In NWT

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have never heard such a thing that water is too good in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I know that in the Northwest Territories water is the most valuable resource we have and we intend to keep it that way. I do not understand the phrase made by a scientist saying that the water quality is too good for the people. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River.

Question O636-91(1): Name Of Nominee From Dene Nation For Constitutional Commission

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past Wednesday evening, aboriginal leaders, MLAs, Ministers and you, yourself, Mr. Minister, met to discuss the make-up of the commission for constitutional development, namely the inclusion of a woman on that commission, Mr. Speaker. At that time, Mr. Erasmus was unable to give us a decision on behalf of the Dene Nation and he required some time to explore this possibility. Mr. Erasmus agreed to get back to us by 10:00 a.m. this morning, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister responsible for Constitutional Development, Mr. Kakfwi, is, did Mr. Erasmus get back to the Minister this morning?

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

Return To Question O636-91(1): Name Of Nominee From Dene Nation For Constitutional Commission

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, there has been no indication from the Dene Nation National Chief that he has got some direction from the chiefs.

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

Question O637-91(1): Upgrading Of Pangnirtung Airport

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct a question to a Minister but he is not present here so I am going to direct this to the Minister of Transport. We are aware that for five or six years we have identified some funding to upgrade the airstrips. Perhaps before four or five years are up the Pangnirtung airstrip would be upgraded. I want further clarification on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O637-91(1): Upgrading Of Pangnirtung Airport

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure the Member appreciates that the Minister is not here, but I will try to answer his question without taking it on notice. With respect to the relocation of the airport, studies have been undertaken to determine alternate airport locations and their costs.

The problem is that the three alternatives considered to date have a price tag of around \$30 million. I believe the hamlet council in Pangnirtung does understand that our government cannot support the expenditure of \$30 million on an airport relocation, although we understand the problems that exist in Pangnirtung with the community being divided by the airstrip. Nonetheless, we cannot support the expenditure of \$30 million on a relocation, while there are still several communities with no airport at all.

It is not a positive answer, Mr. Speaker, but it is the answer that we have to give in light of fiscal realities.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Honourable Member for Natilikmiot.

Question O638-91(1): Utilizing The Military In The North To Build Roads

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Government Leader. Although I am not in favour of militarization of the North or low flying practices, but since we have the presence of the military, why do we not utilize the military and get them to build a road to existing potential good tourism areas?

For example, Pelly Bay has a plan to build a road some 15 miles out of the community and so does Gjoa Haven and Spence Bay, to accommodate or facilitate hunting, tourism and recreation. I wonder if you could consider the possibility of using the military to build those kinds of roads. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O638-91(1): Utilizing The Military In The North To Build Roads

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish it were in my power to say what could be done, but I can tell the Member that this government fully supports initiatives of the kind he has described. In fact, Mr. Speaker,

a paper I tabled in this House during this session on a policy for military activity in northern Canada, precisely addressed that suggestion, endorsed it, and I am looking forward to meeting with the Minister of National Defence in order to get his response to the paper which has been forwarded to them, so that we can begin ventures of precisely that kind with the co-operation of the military and the support of our government. There are resources, we have community needs and it makes good sense to profit in direct ways from military activity in the North by improving our community infrastructure.

So I fully support the Member's initiative and want to assure him that I will be pursuing it with the Minister of National Defence during the life of this government. Thank you.

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

Question O639-91(1): RCMP Training Centre In The NWT

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. It is in regard to his statement yesterday. We made a recommendation recently that the RCMP should have a training centre in the North and it was passed as a motion some years ago. What has happened to the motion that was passed by this government and what has the government done to put that motion into reality?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Return To Question O639-91(1): RCMP Training Centre In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I recall very well the motion in the House. We very aggressively pursued the result wanted from that motion. We had discussions up to the ministerial level on the possibility of having a training centre in the NWT, but unfortunately because of budget restraints for the RCM Police, the Solicitor General's office, it was put on an indefinite hold. In fact, part of the federal government approach in the last round of the negotiations for the new contract, is to have the contracting jurisdictions pay for Regina.

Unfortunately though we tried very hard. It is not in the cards now and I can tell the Member it will not be until we have concluded this contract. But I think it is still a viable alternative and a viable approach for the RCM Police. It is temporarily stalled and it is something that should be pursued.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Hudson Bay.

Question O640-91(1): Ongoing Assistance In Locating Deceased Relatives In Southern Canada

MR. CROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in my Member's statement I commented on the excellent work carried out by the Department of Health to help Arctic families locate information about loved ones who died during medical treatment in hospitals in southern Canada. My question will be directed to the Minister of Health. Now that the medical patient search project is no longer staffed, what advice could the Minister provide to other families who wish to find details about deceased relatives and are not sure how to receive help from the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Nunakput.

Return To Question O640-91(1): Ongoing Assistance In Locating Deceased Relatives In Southern Canada

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, we do have a

contact person and have assigned that responsibility to one of our existing staff. I can provide the telephone number. However, I believe that because of the special project that it was, I would welcome any MLAs to submit to me the requests for further searches for individuals and I can make sure, from my office, that they will be handled by the particular person that has been assigned to the project. I am certainly open, as the Minister responsible for the Department of Health, and I will also provide the Member with the particular individual's name which we have assigned to continue to aid people in securing information. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O640-91(1): Ongoing Assistance In Locating Deceased Relatives In Southern Canada

MR. CROW: At the Anglican Mission cemetery in Moose Factory and at the Woodlands cemetery in Hamilton, Ontario, would the Minister be willing to add further dignity to the memory of their souls by providing funding for a memorial monument at each site? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nunakput.

Further Return To Question O640-91(1): Ongoing Assistance In Locating Deceased Relatives In Southern Canada

HON. NELLIE COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, on the matter of the people who are related to the records that were produced from the Hamilton Mountain Sanatorium, we did have correspondence with the mayor and also received a quote for building a monument for somewhere around \$25,000 or \$50,000. As well, we continue to try to look at cost sharing with that particular community. On advice from the honourable Member, we will look at the concern raised from relatives of people who are buried at Moose Factory.

Mr. Speaker, although we have ongoing correspondence, we have not come to a conclusion on how we are going to fund it. However, that correspondence and that relationship have developed for us in our commitment to try to give these people further dignity. Thank you.

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

Question O641-91(1): Military Training Centre, Nanisivik

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Government Leader. Recently the military wanted to establish a training centre in the High Arctic. I wonder if the Government Leader has been updated on this project. What is the status on establishing a training centre for the military in the High Arctic? Thank you.

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

Return To Question O641-91(1): Military Training Centre, Nanisivik

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, that proposal is getting soft. I understand that the studies that have been done about the High Arctic training centre, particularly in Nanisivik, about which I think the Member is interested, have shown that there are serious environmental concerns which really have ruled out Nanisivik as an option. Mr. Speaker, I do not have more details than that right now, but I believe that that prospect is now very dim, if not completely off the books.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I believe that general reductions in the defence budget may have resulted in the project of a High Arctic training centre at least being postponed or uncertain. I would say that even the prospects of a centre at an alternative location such as Rae Point, which also had been considered, are probably now reduced. I do not have more detail, Mr. Speaker, but I can tell the Member that it is no longer such a live possibility as it was when it was first announced. Thank you.

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

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have already asked the Minister of Education about a contract, but I notice that he is not in his chair. I wonder if, in the absence of the Minister of Education, the Government Leader could answer this question.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education is prepared to deal with the question.

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

Question O642-91(1): Timely Layoff Notices To GNWT Akaitcho Hall Staff

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I refer to a tender that appeared in the newspaper to provide catering services at Akaitcho Hall through the private sector. The staff there, six of them, have been told several times that any day they can expect a letter because on September 3, according to this tender document, there will be a new regime in place at Akaitcho Hall. The people have still not received their letters. If, in fact, this new arrangement is to begin on September 3, they should have received their letters on July 3. Today is July 5. I would like to ask the Minister, is it still the intention to give these staff the three months notice that they are required to be given in order that this new regime can begin on September 3?

AN HON. MEMBER: Good question.

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

Return To Question O642-91(1): Timely Layoff Notices To GNWT Akaitcho Hall Staff

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I already answered the question just a few days ago. I had given an assurance that the layoff notices would not be signed by myself until a decision on whether the tenders were acceptable or not was made. I had said that unless the tenders that we receive are acceptable, and in keeping with the objectives of government, it is not going to be more expensive and still in keeping with the objectives we had set, there is no need to sign layoff notices. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O642-91(1): Timely Layoff Notices To GNWT Akaitcho Hall Staff

MR. LEWIS: Okay, Mr. Speaker, since then the new regime, if it, in fact, does come about, is to begin on September 3, and the tender documents require that that service be provided from that date, is the Minister then going to retender now so that anybody interested would know that the service

may be required to begin after that date?

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

Further Return To Question O642-91(1): Timely Layoff Notices To GNWT Akaikcho Hall Staff

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, it means that we may have to keep some people on staff a little longer than is normally necessary. That is what I understand it means. Thank you.

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

Question O643-91(1): Deadline For Submissions Re Mine Safety Legislation

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Safety and Public Services. The Minister made an excellent statement dealing with the mine safety bill and I have a question dealing with the time limit for the submission of comments. This has been a very controversial issue, Mr. Speaker, in the last little while because certain interest groups felt that they were being neglected. The Minister has left the door open and has offered a lot of opportunity for these interest groups to come forward with submissions. But if she is going to deal with this in 1992 in the February session, what is the deadline for the submissions so that there is no confusion, that people know when they must have complied with the request to submit their concerns?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Slave River.

Return To Question O643-91(1): Deadline For Submissions Re Mine Safety Legislation

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A letter was sent to all the unions, interested groups, different mines, asking them to make their views known to the Department of Safety and Public Services by September 30, 1991.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Deh Cho.

Question O644-91(1): Support To Parents Attending Graduations In The South

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. In May of this year I attended a graduation ceremony at the University of Saskatoon. I attended with several people from my constituency. The difficulty was that a lot of parents in the North -- we had five graduates at the university that were of aboriginal descent -- could not afford to go to attend their children's graduation ceremony. I would like to ask the Minister whether in the future he would consider supporting the parents that cannot afford to go to these very important events.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Sahtu.

Return To Question O644-91(1): Support To Parents Attending Graduations In The South

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I am very sympathetic to the request. The Member raised it with me at the time. This is a period of restraint. There is no new money and so I do not think there is any possibility that we could do anything to address this situation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Aivilik.

Question O645-91(1): Construction Of Roads In Keewatin Region

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of the Minister of Transportation I would like to direct this question to the honourable Government Leader. The question has to do with the transportation strategy of the GNWT, building of highways, building of roads, especially in the Keewatin Region. Mr. Speaker, the building of highways, building of roads joining the Keewatin Region to the rest of Canada is good for the people of the Keewatin Region, is good for all of us, is good for the young people in terms of employment opportunities, and it is also good for tourism.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Government Leader is this: When does the government expect to see the beginning of construction of those roads and highways in the Keewatin?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Return To Question O645-91(1): Construction Of Roads In Keewatin Region

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a tough one for me to answer in the Minister's absence. I think we are in the stage of studying all-weather roads in the Keewatin. It is certainly part of the government's transportation strategy, but the honourable Member knows that this is something that will require federal partnership if we are to make it work. I can assure the honourable Member, Mr. Speaker, that I have been working with Mr. Wray to ensure that the transportation strategy is formally presented to the appropriate federal Ministers, so that we can make clear our plan and seek a response.

It is not something we are going to just drop over the next number of months following the prorogation of this Legislature. We are going to continue to pursue it. We know the seeds have to be laid now so that action can be taken by the new government, hopefully in conjunction with the federal government. And I want to assure the honourable Member that it is going to be pursued with vigour. We are enthusiastic about all aspects of the transportation plan and we are going to keep working on it.

As to when construction might occur, I would hope that this would be a priority of the new 12th Assembly and government and that we could see some progress made, beginning with the new government, over a staged plan over a number of years. So that would be the goal, to start work and start implementing the entire transportation strategy in the coming year. But that will depend on the federal government's cooperation, and we are trying to do our best to secure it and lay the ground for the positive decision.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Aivilik, supplementary.

Supplementary To Question O645-91(1): Construction Of Roads In Keewatin Region

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the honourable Government Leader for that answer. It is a good answer. Would the provincial government of Manitoba be involved as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Iqaluit.

Further Return To Question O645-91(1): Construction Of Roads In Keewatin Region

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, it is our belief that if we are to get this transportation strategy off the ground,

we are not only going to have to do our work successfully with the federal government, but we are going to have to persuade, provincial governments to become involved in the plan and to become supportive of it. In that connection I can assure the honourable Member I have already had discussions about the transportation strategy with Premier Filmon. The Government of Manitoba is interested in the mutual benefits of the transportation plan for commerce between Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, alternatives to the rail system. We have talked to federal Ministers who have an interest in the matter, some of whom are from Manitoba.

So Mr. Speaker, the Member is absolutely right. The Government of Manitoba has an interest in it and can help us and I believe will help us lobby the federal government to get it moving. It is also true of the Government of Alberta, in particular, and I will be looking for every opportunity to secure their support as well. That is what we have to do over the next number of months. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Aivilik.

Supplementary To Question O645-91(1): Construction Of Roads In Keewatin Region

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, what is the government's priority, building a highway from Yellowknife or building a road from Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Iqaluit.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wray instructed me very carefully to take all questions on notice and not give replies. I have obviously breached that agreement quite considerably today, out of respect for the fact that Members may want to have answers before they leave. However, Mr. Speaker, the last question the Member has asked is beyond my capacity to answer at this point in time. I think if Mr. Wray were here he would also probably say that there is more work that needs to be done. Such as cost and feasibility studies, before we can answer a question like that about immediate priorities. I have to, with great respect to the Member, take that one as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Question O646-91(1): Government Programs Re Inspection Of Country Meats

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. It deals with the inspections of meat, country food. Given the increase in the country food market in the past few years -- it is becoming a very important element in our northern economy, in the past several years certainly. I am asking the Minister what program does his department have, or this government have, that deals with the inspections of meat such as caribou, musk-ox and bison, that is being sold commercially to restaurants and other places of that nature?

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

Return To Question O646-91 (1): Government Programs Re Inspection Of Country Meats

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, we have limited resources to inspect meats that might be going out of the NWT. We use Agriculture Canada to help us in that particular area. We are looking for EDA assistance that would allow us to find resources to help us area. We know that the need is out there and because of the restraint

that we are feeling throughout the department I am hoping that through the EDA agreements, we will be able to have someone that is capable of inspecting meat that is going on the market. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O646-91(1): Government Programs Re Inspection Of Country Meats

MR. WHITFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a bit concerned because I know that we do export quite a bit of meat like caribou and musk-ox, and we sell meats to restaurants and stores. Is this meat properly inspected to ensure that the public is protected? Do we have an inspection program that looks after commercial sales of meat?

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

Further Return To Question O646-91(1): Government Programs Re Inspection Of Country Meats

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all the meat that is consumed commercially, and also exported, I believe is inspected by Agriculture Canada. We get excellent co-operation from them, for the ones that need to be inspected. Thank you.

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

Question O647-91(1): French Language Instruction

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I asked the Minister of Education some oral questions about instruction in French at the Ecole Allain St-Cyr, and he was, not particularly, in a good mood yesterday, Mr. Speaker. I know he is very tired as we have had long days and so on. I did have a bunch of written stuff today that I may as well proceed with, depending on what kind of answer I get to a very general question.

Now that the Minister has had a good night's rest, could he give me some indication as to what his department is prepared to do in response to the request made by the Francophone parents for the instruction of children in their own language.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Sahtu.

Return To Question O647-91(1): French Language Instruction

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the proposal from the Yellowknife Francophone community for additional money, this year, to extend the grades at their school, to go up to grade seven and eight was presented to the Secretary of State some time ago. The response from the federal government Secretary of State was that neither ourselves or the Yukon government could expect to get any further increases in funding.

We then had some further discussions with them and what we have received so far, is a commitment from the Secretary of State to get an additional \$9000 this year. The additional money will cover the cost of the increased number of students between K to six at their school. However, it does not address their desire to increase and expand their grades to include grades seven and eight.

The projections for additional students in grades seven and

eight are very low. There is really no way that we can, based on the projections which are, grade seven, three students and grade eight, two students, to be enrolled this fall. There is a question of whether these students, since we know them all individually, would actually be there or not, and whether we can argue any more strenuously to the Secretary of State that they should provide the funding, as requested by the Francophone community. The fact is though that we as a department, use the number of, if we can get a projection, at least more than 10 students would enrol in a particular grade level, then that is sufficient for us and would be sufficient for us to consider going back to the Secretary of State to ask that they provide the 100 per cent funding. They have done this in the past so that we can help meet the request of the Francophone parents to have an expansion of at least grades seven and eight. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O647-91(1): French Language Instruction

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In providing educational services we have always used this clause, where numbers warrant, as a guide. Would the Minister then confirm that this guideline of 10, is something that is the official policy of the department, or is it something that has been imposed by the federal government? What exactly is the status of this number 10, that would be required before you could, in fact, get this service?

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

Further Return To Question O647-91(1): French Language Instruction

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, when the communities ask for grade extensions, we look at the basis for supporting such requests, usually as where there are 10 or more students projected to enrol in those grades and to say, "Well there are at least 10 students going to be enrolled in that grade; therefore there is a basis for considering it." That is what we do ourselves. The Member may be aware that in Rainbow Valley for instance, we shut down the kindergarten program there because of the numbers. The projected enrolment was certainly less than 10. We try to be fair to everybody and that is the policy of the Department of Education. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question O647-91(1): French Language Instruction

MR. LEWIS: I would like to ask the Minister, does the federal government have similar guidelines before it provides funding so that this service can be provided for Francophone parents?

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

Further Return To Question O647-91(1): French Language Instruction

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is even a federal Minister of education, so I do not know what their policies are. I do know that their financial restraints...

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I did not refer to a federal department of education; I just referred to the federal government and the various programs that they fund that are, in fact, done through a different department called the Secretary of State.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The matter is not a point of order. It is a point of debate. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: If you want to get technical, Mr. Speaker, but it is actually beyond my capacity to respond since I am not a spokesman for the federal government on what their policies are. Thank you.

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

Question O648-91(1): Preparing Northern Youth For The Future

MR. ERNERK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am directing the question to the Minister of Education. Using all our means in our communities in regard to our youth, I think we should try and help them because they are our future, Mr. Speaker. I know very well they have to be educated in our communities and as well as anywhere in the NWT. They have to have good grades if they want to go into employment in the future. What is the GNWT doing to prepare these students for the future and what they will do after they go through high school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Sahtu.

Return To Question O648-91(1): Preparing Northern Youth For The Future

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I will speak in my native language. Since I became the Minister of Education there have been many changes, but one of the biggest changes that has come about is, we have made the changes in regard to the people from the communities to take care of education for themselves. So we have the educational boards within the communities. We did this so that the students could be better educated, and the things that are important for today, we want the parents, the relatives, to have a say in what they think is important, in what areas their children should be educated and this is the way we are working.

The way it was in the past, we native people, our children were being educated but it seemed like the children were taken away from their homes and were taught by the Euro-society, and we had no say in what our children were being educated in. We had no idea in what areas our children were being educated, and we had no say in what they were being taught. Recently we have decided to make changes in these areas. We native people, we have to support our children in the educational system. Only if we do this, will the children be better educated. Being the children's parents, we have to support them and it is very important that we do this that we all work together in this area. Only with this process, we might have more children that finish their education.

One of the other areas that we are working in monitoring the educational system. The people that are finished their high school -- there are many of them that go on to the southern universities to further their education and we have no idea of how they are progressing when they are down in those universities. A lot of them are out there on their own and some of them are there for maybe a month or two and then they quit. We have made changes in these areas in that we monitor them more closely and if they are having difficulties,

we like to make sure that they are getting the help maybe financially and maybe with their education. This is how we are working and if we do not do this, there could be a lot more people dropping out of these schools. It seems that since we started helping them in these areas there are more students that are going back to continue their education. Some of the people that dropped out in the past are going back to schools, and there are a lot of them that have re-registered to go back to school and we are very pleased to see this.

Yesterday, what I said, I would like to repeat. Our students who are in grades 10, 11, and 12, during the summer months look for employment, and some of the university students, they too when they are done for the summer, come up North and look for employment. They need money, so in the summer they want to make some extra money so they look for employment. There are a lot of things that they need so they have to get the finances to support those areas, so they come back for work. I am pleased to say that a lot of these students have come back, and a lot of them from up north have found employment. We are supporting the youth so that they will be better educated for the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Oral questions. Item 6, written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W16-91(1): Funding For French Instruction, Ecole Allain St-Cyr

MR. LEWIS: My oral questions did not take me very far, Mr. Speaker, so I would like to ask this written question:

- 1) Will the Government of the Northwest Territories provide Ecole Allain St-Cyr with an additional portable, as well as another teacher for the 1991-92 school year as requested by the parents association of Education District No. 1, to enable the children to receive an education in French as a first language program of a quality comparable to that which is made available to other schools in Yellowknife?
- 2) Will the Department of Education grant the same funding for the students at Ecole Allain St-Cyr for September 1991, as is provided for all other students in the NWT?
- 3) Will the government allow the Francophone parents to manage the French as a first language program at Ecole Allain St-Cyr to respect the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the Mahe case in Alberta in March 1990?

Will the Minister provide a reply by July 30 to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly?

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

Question W17-91(1): Information On AIDS

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have tried to be as responsive as I can to my constituents and this concerns AIDS, Mr. Speaker, a written question. Because there is a concern that suddenly this government has lost interest in dealing with this problem, a written question to the Minister of Health.

- 1) What funds beyond that established for staff positions have been allocated to AIDS programs?
- 2) Has the government made long-range funding arrangements for an AIDS program and if so, what are the funding levels?
- 3) What training has been provided for training health care staff in HIV/AIDS testing, treatment and counselling?
- 4) What is the government policy on AIDS with respect to the

protection of employees with AIDS?

- 5) Are there plans to continue the AIDS awareness campaign?
- 6) Does the government intend to include AIDS in the list of diseases covered under extended health benefits?
- 7) Does the GNWT intend to guarantee AIDS patients access to experimental drugs such as DDI and AZT so that they do not have to go south for treatment?

Will the Minister undertake to provide the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly with a response to these questions by August 29?

MR. SPEAKER: Written questions. Written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, return to Question W13-91(1), asked by Mr. McLaughlin to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board concerning Workers' Compensation Board investments; return to Question W14-91(1), asked by Mr. McLaughlin to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board concerning Workers' Compensation Board funds and investments.

Return To Question W13-91(1): Workers' Compensation Board Investments

Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell's return to Question W13-91(1), asked by Mr. McLaughlin on June 26, 1991:

1) Question: What is the Workers' Compensation Board's investment policy regarding northern versus southern investment opportunities?

Response: There is no geographical distinction made in the new investment policy of the Workers' Compensation Board. However, the Workers' Compensation Board has written a letter to each of its investment managers requesting them to consider investment in northern-based entities, be they public or private placements.

2) Question: Is there a limit on northern investments? Are there other restrictions or limitations? Is this a loose understanding or are there formal rules and procedures in place to deal with all investment opportunities in an equitable manner? Could these rules be made available to this Assembly?

Response: There is no geographical limitation, but there are limitations included in the investment policy. The 1989 report of the Workers' Compensation review panel recommended "That the Workers' Compensation Board hire an independent investment manager to conduct a review and critique of their current investment policy and strategy."

This was done by the Coles Group from Vancouver. They strongly recommended the development of a comprehensive investment policy. The new investment policy was completed on February 14, 1991. The development of the new investment policy included the following: Coles Group from Vancouver, consulting actuaries to the Workers' Compensation Board; Bolton Tremblay, investment managers to the WCB; Laketon Investment Management, investment managers to the WCB; Barclay-McConnell, investment managers to the WCB; SEI, security analysts to the WCB; Royal Trust, security custodian to the WCB; Office of the federal Auditor General; GNWT comptroller general's office; GNWT revenue and asset management; legal counsel for the WCB; WCB board of directors.

3) Question: Why was the WCB unable to provide a response to the NWT Power Corporation's debenture proposal?

Response: At the time the NWT Power Corporation submitted its proposal, the WCB had not finalized its new investment policy. The board's new policy is comprehensive and provides the WCB with a basis for measuring performance of the professional investment managers. The board does not consider itself to be a professional investment manager and in future all such proposals will be handled by their professional investment managers. They will negotiate the terms, structure, rate and securities with the borrowing entity. Such decisions will be made by investment specialists and be at arms length from the agencies involved which is essential, recognizing the fiduciary responsibility of the board.

4) Question: If the responsibility for this decision was made by a subcommittee of the board, who are the voting members of the committee and who was in attendance when the matter was dealt with?

Response: The decision for the particular issue was not the concern. The process that should be followed in the handling of non-marketable or private placements was the concern which confronted the board of directors.

Recommendation 76 of the 1989 ministerial review panel report was "That the Minister responsible for the WCB obtain a legal opinion on recovering the losses to the accident fund." This was a concern raised for a number of reasons but one key issue was the low 1987 investment returns realized by the board. Because of this recommendation, it is essential that directors only involve themselves on issues for which they have the expertise, otherwise they may be held liable. They do not consider themselves to be professional investment managers and therefore a process must be set up to assure all the stakeholders that the directors recognize their fiduciary responsibility.

5) Question: And finally, who is the investment broker used by the board? Were they involved in the decision, and what percentage of the fund does the investment broker currently manage for the board in southern Canada?

Response: The investment broker that reviewed the NWT Power Corporation's proposal was Bolton Tremblay. They advised the board that the interest rate should be 130 to 135 basis points above the rate paid Canada long-term bonds. Bolton Tremblay is one of three investment brokers for the WCB and is the only one which has purchased GNWT and NWT Power Corporation bonds in the past. The brokers for the board are: Bolton Tremblay, 44 per cent; Laketon Investment Management, 44 per cent; Barclay-McConnell, 12 per cent. Barclay-McConnell was appointed late 1988.

The NWT Power Corporation suggested a rate of 120 to 125 basis points above Canada long-term bonds. The WCB did acquire one million dollars of the issue through Bolton Tremblay at the market rate of 135 basis points above Canada long-term bonds.

Return To Question W14-91(1): Workers' Compensation Board Funds And Investments

Hon. Jeannie Marie-Jewell's return to Question W14-91(1), asked by Mr. McLaughlin on June 28, 1991:

1) Question: What is the detailed list of 100 per cent WCB investments presently utilizing WCB funds?

Response: The list is extensive and attached is a summary of the May 31, 1991 report from the WCB's security custodian.

2) Question: Which financial organizations presently place investments for the board?

Response: Bolton Tremblay, Laketon Investment Management and Barclay-McConnell

3) Question: What was the total amount of fees and

commissions earned by these organizations in the 1990 or 1990-91 fiscal year?

Response: Total fees and commissions paid to the investment managers in 1990 was \$203,888.20.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Returns to written questions. Item 8, replies to Opening Address. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Mr. Ballantyne's Reply

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first reply to the Opening Address that I have given this term, but because it is the last session in the life of this Legislative Assembly, I thought I would like to reflect upon the past four years and perhaps put on the record some of my observations and concerns for the future of the Northwest Territories. I thought I would deal with my reply with as much dispatch as possible, and deal with a number of categories.

Finance

One is in the area of finance, for which I have been Minister for the past four years. I think the whole area of finance for this government, and for future governments, is going to be an area of more and more significance. We have gone through a period in the Northwest Territories of unrivalled expansion as far as our government programs and as far as government personnel are concerned. We have been very fortunate over the past 15 years. What has happened is that the realities of modern government have caught up with us, and the day of unlimited financial resources is over.

What we have tried to do in the past four years is to try to change both the public perception of government's capacity and the understanding of MLAs and of senior civil servants as to what we could expect in the future and how we can deal with a future where money is going to be, I think, of such tremendous significance to all of us. What we managed to do over the past four years is cut government growth from an average of eight per cent per year to somewhere around one per cent a year, and that is the beginning.

I think we have begun down the road of more efficiency. I think everybody here, and everybody in our government, recognizes that we have a long way to go. We have a very difficult region in the country to administer, a huge area, many cultures, many languages, very formidable challenges. I think, though, if we are not careful, our government, which I think is a fine government and a fine civil service, will fall into the same trap of southern governments and southern bureaucracies where we will become captive to our own policies and procedures and become too rigid. I have a lot of confidence in this civil service in the Northwest Territories, that with proper direction and political support we can, in my mind, improve significantly the way that we do business here in the Northwest Territories. I think, with the proper leadership, there will be solid support in the civil service to look at new and innovative approaches to the whole business of government.

Tax Increases

One thing that we have tried to do as a philosophy over the last four years is try to minimize tax increases because, as all of us know, the tax burden presently on Northerners, because of higher costs and higher salaries, puts them in higher tax categories. There is only so much tax burden that Northerners can take before it becomes very counter-productive. There is no point in trying to over-tax one segment of your society if, in fact, you kill that section of your society by doing it. We

have tried over the last four years to maintain a balanced approach with minimized tax increases; we have tried very hard to aim toward a balanced budget. I think we were reasonably successful over the four years to do that, because we all see what happens in southern Canada. Almost every province now has a huge debt load. Forty-two cents on every dollar of the federal government is used to pay off interest on the debt. I, for one, think it would be very foolish of this government in the future to go down that particular track. We have to look at innovative ways to make our government more efficient.

We have to recognize that we do not have the resources for a lot more growth in our government. There are very legitimate demands at the community level for more control, whether you call it self-government or you call it prime public body, the bottom line is that communities want more control over their own affairs. I think that if this government is to maintain credibility, I think we have to move faster along that particular path.

I think that with the faults of this government -- I am the first to acknowledge that there have been faults, there have been mistakes -- we have left a pretty sound base for the next government to take up the torch. As you know, we have instituted a project review, looking at the whole operation of our northern government. I hope that that report will be ready as soon as the next government takes office, which I am sure will provide a blueprint for the next government, some of the things that they can do, and if they do it right away, we hope to be able to avoid the very drastic steps that provincial and federal governments have taken in the South of cutting of programs and massive layoffs. I think if we are innovative, if we have some courage at the very beginning, we could really minimize up here the damage that will be done to programs and the people, because there will be less money in the future.

Formula Financing Agreement

We still have a formula financing agreement that at the end of this year will have another three years to run, so it gives us a pretty good base. It gives us more certainty than our provincial counterparts. We have been cut, but so has everyone else across the country. I think everyone has to recognize that there will be less money in the future than we have been used to.

Constitutional Development

Another area that I have been fairly involved in over the last six years is the constitutional area. Many people in the country are getting very tired of dealing with the constitutional issues. We in the NWT cannot afford to be other than vigilant. As a very weak and vulnerable area of the country, unless we are consistently aggressive, unless we consistently make our voice heard at every opportunity, we could be gobbled up in any new constitutional deal that may come down over the next two or three years. So I hope that the next government will follow the example of this government and Legislative Assembly, and I hope that there is a special committee of the Assembly who will carry the message of the NWT forward strongly. I think we have been quite successful in getting our issues on the national agenda.

So I really hope that we are not lulled into a false sense of security, because the reality is that with 55,000 people we have very little economic strength; we have very little political strength; and unless we work together here in the NWT and unless we can speak with one voice consistently, firmly, strongly, we could be left behind very easily.

When we look at the issue of land claims in the Territories, of

division, of devolution, there has been a lot of criticism in this House of the government's approach. But I think we all have to recognize that the issues are very complex. Nobody has the perfect approach to deal with the issues. The issues are not going to go away. I think we all have a responsibility to try to bring the various issues together and try to deal with them as a total package. My fear in the long term is that if there is not a unified approach to constitutional development in the NWT and how we relate to the rest of Canada, we very well can become balkanized, with little regions doing their own thing, balkanized, weak and irrelevant. I think that is something that we all should seriously contemplate, though it may seem in the immediate interest of a region or a community to go their own way, ultimately when you are dealing with the forces in this country, around the world, the smaller your unit, the more vulnerable you are and the less impact you have.

So whatever we do up here, whether we divide, whether we go down the path of self-government, I think we should devise mechanisms where we can work together for common objectives. Because separated, isolated, all of us will be very weak, very dependent on Ottawa, very dependent on the changing times in Canada and in the world.

Justice

The third area I would like to talk about is the area of justice. Now for me it has been a tremendous privilege to serve as Minister of Justice for this government for the past six years, to represent Members of this Legislative Assembly and to deal with the extremely complex issue of justice that we deal with here on a local, territorial, national and international level.

We have had a number of meetings with delegations from Russia, who are very interested in our system of justice. Just now, after many, many years, they are looking at ways to incorporate some of our ideas, our philosophies, some of our concepts of justice into their system. As you know, they have just come out of a long dark period where there was no justice as we know it. For me it was very useful to keep the problems we have in some perspective.

I have been down to the Navajo Reserve and I have talked to a number of aboriginal leaders, and there are many good things that we could learn from the experience of the Navajo Reserve, but there are also many areas that we can learn where to avoid problems. There is no magic solution when you deal with an issue such as justice.

I think the way that I can put it best in perspective with is that justice at the community level is really the answer. Whether we are talking about an "independent" system of justice for aboriginal people, whether we are talking about including aboriginal people in the present system, I think all those options have to be explored. I think that aboriginal people in the NWT, in co-operation with non-native people, have to look at what best mix of the options will serve their communities. It seems to me that even now there is enough flexibility in the system whereby at the community level we can, I think, reflect better than we have those values at the community level.

I think we have made some headway but obviously we have a long way to go, and it is going to take everybody being involved in it. I hope everyone reads those papers that I tabled today on both gender equality and on aboriginal people in the justice system.

Victims Of Crime

One area that is of extreme importance to me and to many people here is the whole area of victims of crime. It has been many people's strongly held conviction that over the years

victims of crime have been one area of the justice system who have been really left out. There have always been significant rights for the accused, significant rights for somebody convicted of a crime, but in many ways a victim of a crime was really left outside the system, was a forgotten person in the system.

I think we have made it a priority over the past two or three years to try to deal with the whole area of victims of crime. We were the second jurisdiction in the country to implement victims of crime legislation, and the surcharge on fines goes to a victim fund. We were able to convince the federal government that any federal fines would also go into our fund. Right now the whole area of victims is a priority for this government, and I really hope that the next Legislative Assembly and the next government continue to make victims a priority.

The use of victim impact statements that we are starting with right now, I hope will be a positive message that we indeed care very much about victims. We have a booklet out by Diana Barr, who has been hired by my department this year and was shared with Social Services and my department last year, called "Kids in Court", which is to help children understand the process of courts, whether they are witnesses or victims. I hope to be able to announce, in co-operation with Don Avison, the director of Justice Canada here in the Northwest Territories, within the next two or three weeks, a joint program between federal Canada and us where we have a victim co-ordinator in Yellowknife and Iqaluit at the crown office and development crown office, which will be another major step along the way to support victims of crime.

Legal Interpreter Training Program

One initiative that I was quite proud of, and we have talked about it here many times, is the Jury Act amendment. We are still the only jurisdiction in Canada that allows a unilingual aboriginal person to sit on a jury. We in this Legislative Assembly should all be proud of that piece of legislation. From that, the legal interpreter training program which we have heard many times now is the program which is the envy of many areas of the world. The justice of the peace program is one in which we have taken some tremendous strides over the past few years. I really think that when we are talking about a community justice, that the potential for justice of the peace in the justice system is absolutely incredible. I think more and more we can see local people being involved in the delivery of justice by the better use of justices of the peace.

All in all, the Justice portfolio for me has been a portfolio that has formidable challenges. I have been very fortunate to have such able staff to help me over the past six years, and I really want to thank all the Members for their support to me as Minister of Justice over the past six years.

When I look to the future and I see the tremendous potential of the Northwest Territories, I feel very optimistic. I feel very heartened. I feel that in fact we have a tremendous future, but there are a few clouds looming as I look into the future. I would like to make the point now quite strongly that for me one of the biggest weaknesses we have in the Northwest Territories is how often we are so fragmented and divided and how often 55,000 people can fight amongst themselves and how often we lose some perspective. We are only 55,000 people in a world of some six billion people. We are only 55,000 out of a country of some 26 million people. I think sometimes we do lose perspective. The most important perception that I think people across the Northwest Territories should adopt is that if we are divided, if we are fighting amongst ourselves all the time, if the different groups, whether they are regional groups, whether they are aboriginal groups and government, whether they are the Legislative Assembly

and government, whatever, east, west, big communities, small communities, we will have very little chance of achieving what we are capable of if it continues. I hope the thrust of the next Legislative Assembly, whether or not there is Nunavut, it does not matter, to see what we can do, to work together to achieve the Northwest Territories that we all aspire for.

Appreciation Of Staff

I would like to say a few words to thank the many capable officials who over the past four years have helped me so much: my executive assistant, John Stephenson, who has been with me for six years; Tanis Stirling, who has been with me for a number years and is now working for the gender equality review; Sharron Morrow, who is my secretary; in Justice, Geoff Bickert, who has been just a tremendous asset to this government and to this Legislative Assembly. I think all of you know the work he has put into the Official Languages Act, the Jury Act, the many progressive pieces of legislation and policies that have come forward to this government and this Legislative Assembly. I think we all owe Mr. Bickert a tremendous amount of thanks.

Jeff Gilmour, my assistant deputy minister, and all the directors with a special thanks to Bernie Funston, who has worked so closely with me on the constitutional matters with the Government Leader, with the Cabinet, with our legislative constitutional committee. Bernie Funston is now recognized as one of the top constitutional lawyers in the country, and we should be very proud of what he has done.

I would like to give a special thank you here to Miles Pepper. I think many times we take for granted the miracle that Mr. Pepper has performed over the past two years as we mould into the requirement for translation into French. There were many days when I did not think it would be possible to get through the volume of legislation that we have had to get through. It was a tremendously formidable task to get it through even in English, but to translate it into French, into Inuktitut -- it has been absolutely incredible, and none of us should take for granted the work of the legislation division of our government. They have done just a fine job.

In Finance, Eric Nielsen did a fantastic job in negotiating with me the formula financing agreement. Jim Nelson, who keeps the cheques being delivered and who keeps the business of government going. We all know Lew Voytilla. He has worked with all of us for many years in putting together budgets, and I cannot think of any person in the Northwest Territories who has a better understanding of our government and how all the parts work than Lew Voytilla. I have been very well served in legislation house planning committee, the committee I chair in cabinet by Kevin O'Keefe and Carolyn McCabe. Kevin has done just a tremendous job for me and for us and our cabinet committee, as he did for the Legislative Assembly when he worked in the Legislative Assembly.

To David Hamilton, whom I have known for many years, since he was a municipal administrator. David is another one who makes the difficult look easy. To David and his staff; to Marie Coe and the people who work for Hansard; the interpreters; the Pages; the Sergeant-at-Arms, Harry Finnis, who has done a tremendous job for us and kept us safe in the House for many years. I think we owe all of these people a tremendous vote of thanks.

I would like to put on the record here -- because from time to time there is criticism of our civil service in the House and outside of the House -- I would like to put on the record here and I would say that I am probably a little bit biased because my father was a senior civil servant here in the Northwest Territories from 1968 to 1972. He was the first director of Economic Development, but I think we have the best civil

service in the country...

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think that the people who have worked over the years for this civil service deserve tremendous credit. There are very few areas in the country that are as difficult to administer as this area, as the Northwest Territories, and I say by and large they have done a magnificent job. They will continue to do a magnificent job. I think all of us owe the civil servants from right across the Territories a huge debt of gratitude. I know every Member of this House will share those sentiments with me.

Constituency Concerns

If I could, before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, mention a few constituency items I would like to put on the record. Something that has been brought up many times, I know that the Ingraham Trail is still in my constituency and those people who have houses and cottages on Ingraham Trail would very much like to have titled lots. I think it makes sense. We have been waiting for land claims, but I hope some sort of arrangement can be worked out with those people. They want certainty.

Detah and Rainbow Valley, are interested in some of the self-government initiatives we have been talking about. They would very much like to take over social services and housing. Being very close to Yellowknife, I think there is a tremendous opportunity for our government and for the people of Rainbow Valley and Detah to take over those responsibilities.

There have been a number of controversies in my constituency over the last year. Trail's End trailer court and Bartam trailer court -- my feelings about those trailer courts are well known. I have defended their right to exist for many years as mayor, and as MLA I continue to do that.

There is a problem with water rates and with taxes here in this town. I think the same lesson that we are learning as a territorial government is that we have to curtail some of our expenses; we have to prioritize better. I think it is a lesson that all municipalities have to learn, and many of them have. I hope here in my city that there will be, I hope, a better balance in these areas in the future.

Military In The North

There has been a lot of criticism of the military, and again I am probably biased because my father served in the Armed Forces for 29 years and is presently Colonel Commandant of the Canadian Corps of Engineering. But I, for one, think Canada should be very proud of their Armed Forces. I think we have among the most dedicated, most skilled Armed Forces in the world. They have done a tremendous job for us internationally. They have a tremendous reputation. They have been very helpful here in search and rescue. They have been very helpful in many areas in the NWT, and though some people may have some differences with some government policies, whether it is a cruise missile or low-level flights, I do not think criticism should be directed against the Canadian Armed Forces.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: They take their direction from the Minister of Defence and the cabinet. So I just want to put on the record that I, for one, am extremely proud of our Armed Forces. They do a great job, and I really hope that the federal government does not decimate their capacities so much that they become irrelevant.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you, sir. I would like to thank my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly who have shown the confidence to put me on the Executive. I tried my best to serve you to the best of my ability and I have enjoyed very, very much my dealings with the various committees of the Legislative Assembly: Mr. Lewis and ajauqtit, and Mr. Pollard in the finance committee, who I probably had the closest relationship with. We had a lot of tough issues, and money either tends to bring you together or put you apart; and Mr. Ernerk with the legislation committee.

To me it has been a very productive four years. I would like to thank the Government Leader, who gave me these portfolios. They have been challenging; they have been interesting; and I hope I have been able to contribute. To my cabinet colleagues, although we have had some interesting times, we have had some difficult times, we have managed to stick together and, I think, to the best of our ability provide the best direction that we were able to do. It is something, that we stayed together so long with some of the differences that we have had. By and large I think everybody was motivated individually and collectively to do their best to make the Northwest Territories a little bit better place to live.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Replies to Opening Address. Since there are more speakers, I will take a 15 minute break.

--SHORT RECESS

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Gargan): The House will come back to order. We are on Items 8, replies to Opening Address. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark's Reply

MR. NINGARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am from the Natilikmiot region that is known for its little people. I am one of those little people so, therefore, I will make a short...

--Laughter

...reply, and use the language of little people. (Translation) I wish to thank all my colleagues, all the Members. It has been a pleasure to work with you and when I was a new member, you were able to assist me in the House with the procedures and also as a chairman. (Translation ends) My honeymoon as a chairperson of the committee of the whole was a short one. I enjoyed every moment of it.

Assistance For Hunters

(Translation) First of all, the hunters in our communities are going through hard times, and I know for a fact that you have tried to help them. The Ministers themselves have tried to assist the hunters, mainly the Inuit and the Dene people and even some white people. We have been affected by the low cost of sealskins and carvings. The reason that the prices are so low, is because of the Greenpeace organization. Maybe we can bring Greenpeace to the smaller communities and take them out hunting on the land and then they could see first hand and maybe they could understand better. That is what my people have been talking about.

If the hunters were provided more money, it would be better, because the farmers, when they go through hard times, also the oil and mining companies, are assisted by the federal government and maybe from the GNWT also, because they are trying to make a living. The same way with hunting, for the people of the NWT. For some of the people that is their livelihood.

We also know that there is a shortage of housing and we are aware that if there are too many people in a unit with lack of space, that it is very hard to keep a house clean and once it is not clean it is not very good for the health. When there are too many people in one unit, then people worry. If there are too many people our school children, when they bring homework home, cannot always complete their homework. Shortage of housing creates a lot of problems.

Education

As for my family we do not want to send our children away, and a lot of times they do not want to leave their community if they are in grades 11 or 12. We do not want our language to be forgotten by our children, whereas if they stayed home and attended school then they would be able to keep their language. If a child does not speak Inuktitut, the bond is not there like before because the language is very important to understand each other. I fully support having high schools in the smaller communities. If some parents would like to send their children out of the community for school, that is fine.

The Environment

Economic development is not only looking for jobs, it also includes hunting and the environment. If we look after our environment, then we will develop better. The environment is part of our life too, and if we look after the environment and keep it clean and learn what is needed to go out on the land, then we will not forget our culture.

Sometimes we hear that the Inuit do not grow anything but live on the land. I do not think that we could live on the things that grow on the land. That is why we have to keep our environment clean, because the wildlife eat the things that grow.

Transportation

When we go to meetings, a lot of times we have to go through Montreal, Toronto and Edmonton to attend a meeting in Yellowknife. We stay overnight in some areas. We have to give more support to the communities and the regions that they should have more direct flights without having to stay overnight. I am sure it would be better as it is very tiring flying for a long time and we cannot accomplish as much if we are too tired to attend a meeting.

If we want to be leaders, first of all we have to do that in our houses, to our children and to our wives. I think that within the family there is some kind of government system. If we want to be leaders, we have to start it in our homes. If we want to be leaders, we should listen to the concerns of our constituents and we have to try to treat everyone equally whether they be a women's group or businesses or HTAs. If they require our assistance then we should try and teach them equally. (Translation ends)

Mr. Speaker, I was campaigning about three years ago. In every community that I went to -- Spence Bay, Gjoa Haven and Pelly Bay -- my platform was, "I am not here to divide men from women; I am not here to divide young people from the elders; I am not here to divide the families; I am not here to divide Inuit people from the white people, or Inuit people from the Dene people. The reason I am here is to unite people in the Territories."

---Applause

If one chose to be a leader, first of all one has to have the quality of leadership. First of all, one has to be able to listen and one has to obey the rules and regulations of the House. The leadership, Mr. Speaker, begins at home. The

government begins at home within the household. If one is unable to keep the family together within the household, then one should think again before running for this office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Mr. Kilabuk's Reply

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been here about four years and I have never made a reply to the Opening Address. I am very happy to now give a reply since this is our last session. Some of the work that we have done in our four years has gone through, but there are still some things that have not gone through, and I hope that the next Assembly will push for the important items. We want to encourage the government to proceed with the things that we have done.

In my constituency there are a lot of projects that have gone through with the assistance of the government. Even though the capital projects cost a lot of money, the things that our constituents request are very important to the communities. If our constituents cannot do things themselves, then they go through their MLAs, and so we give work to the government. Sometimes they let things go through.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to say "Thank you" for being appointed to the standing committee on finance, the standing committee on legislation, and the Management and Services Board. I was on four different committees, and I was happy to be on those committees. The other Members assisted me and I am sure, in some ways, I assisted someone too when I was serving on those committees. I was on the Management and Services Board for four years. The Members of the next Assembly will be better organized and they will have their own Assembly building. The Management and Services Board worked very hard on this and we tried to satisfy everybody's needs. I am sure a lot of people will remember from the 1987 election that the building will be going up.

The elected Members give support to the government, and that is why we were elected. They are listening to us more and they even ask for more information now from us as to what our needs are. In the past they were kind of hesitant, but now they are more open. For the long-time Members in the Assembly we have witnessed this and within the four years, even though we went through some hard times with our families, we lost our friends or loved ones, but we have been able to stay in the Assembly. I wish to say that I am very grateful that I was able to stay for my full term of four years as an MLA even though I lost a child.

If we have recommendations for the government, these are given consideration by the different departments, Renewable Resources, Health, Justice, Education, Social Services and the Government Leader. They all have different responsibilities that were assigned to them by us according to the needs of our people and ourselves and the recommendations that we have made. A lot of projects have gone through even though it is not a very easy task and it is not that cheap, either. I wish to thank the different departments.

Lack Of Aboriginal People At Higher Levels Of Government

I am also aware that the last four years have been very hard but we have been successful in getting some of the projects through. I think they have worked very well and we request what we want from the government. Being involved in the

different committees, especially with ajuauqtit, has improved our meetings; but up to now I am still unhappy that the government offices do not have too many aboriginal people at the higher levels of government, regional directors or superintendents within the government offices, particularly in Yellowknife. I am very happy that there are some aboriginal people who are employed within the government system. However in the future I would expect to see more aboriginal people in higher positions. I am going to push for this. This has been on my mind for a long time and this is something I have always worked for. I know for a fact that the white people within the government system will not always be here to give us direction in the future. I feel very strongly about setting up a leadership program for the northern people, and I am going to keep pushing for this for the rest of my life. As long as I am able to help, I will try and help in this area.

Another thing I have been unhappy about, Mr. Speaker, when we have dignitaries coming from southern Canada they always talk about the good things that happen in the North. I have been thinking about this quite a lot lately. Those of us who are aboriginal people often have some negative things that have to be looked at. Perhaps this will be the case again in the future. I know the government always has to have positive attitudes toward working with the things that can improve in our lives.

Mr. Speaker, we are working for our future, those of us who are elected. Right now we are preparing our children and the younger generation to take over in the future. We want them to live a good life, to be well prepared and have the strength to take on the tasks we will leave behind for them. I urge the government to keep supporting this area as we prepare to get self-government. I know for a fact that they will keep supporting this. I am urging them not to have the feeling that if we were to get self-government that they will be kicked out of political life, because I know for a fact that they will not be. I am very happy about stating these words, and if we were to get Nunavut self-government going, our unity will be there and we will be very proud to be part of Canada, although we will have a self-governed Nunavut territory.

Banking Facilities In The North

Arctic Co-operatives have been stating that there is not enough banking facilities in the North and they are working toward improving this situation. They just do not know how to go about getting banking facilities. Perhaps if the co-operatives were to set up banking facilities I am sure the hamlet councils or even individuals would be able to utilize these facilities. This can become a very important part of financial management.

I appreciate the fact that the government does not think of us as just ordinary Inuit Members. Even though Joe Arlooktoo and I are unilingual, they treat us equally and they treat us as well, as they treat the others. When we have our requests they do not just put them aside; they look into the request that we pursue from the government. I really appreciate that fact, and I particularly want to thank the interpreters because they have been our tools. We do not know how to write in English or speak English. I really appreciate their being there to help us with our requests.

I also wish to thank our lawyers because they always help us when we have problems; and when we want to look into something, they work hard and they do everything to try to make us understand what the law is all about. We often talk to them if we need something to be looked into, and they do not hesitate to do these things. I appreciate them for their considerations.

I also wish to thank the Speakers of the House, particularly

our Deputy Speaker and both Speakers, who are aboriginal people. I am very happy to see this.

When we come here from our communities we are treated hospitably. I particularly would like to thank the Pages, who have been a great deal of help to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. I appreciate their efforts and their having interest.

There have been a lot of students within the NWT as well as Canada who have come here to visit the Legislative Assembly. I am grateful that they have come up here and they know our way of life as aboriginal people in the NWT. I am sure they have learned a lot from what we have been saying and trying to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The person I really appreciate a lot is one of the Pages here, a small little boy. He is one of the persons I am really grateful for.

I think this will be my final comment. If we are to see each other again in the future, whether we will be re-elected or not – I cannot say for sure whether I will be running again for the next election. I will let you know around August 26th.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item 8, replies to Opening Address. Mr. Crow.

Mr. Crow's Reply

MR. CROW: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot decide whether I should speak in Inuktitut or English, so I will be speaking in Inuktitut. I am very happy that I am able to speak two languages.

Although I am blind, Mr. Speaker, I have never made a reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address. I was first elected in 1987, and I came here as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in November. However, I wanted to stand up to reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address when he opened the Assembly. Since I have been a Member of the Assembly I have also been a Member of the committees.

I have heard so many different things, and there are so many different languages that we work with, at this 11th session. This Assembly was opened February 13, 1991, and it is still open today. During those days we have heard many different issues. Some do not make a lot of sense to me and even to my constituents. They do not really have anything to do with us.

When I was trying to run as an MLA in March of 1975, at the time I was asked to run for election to become a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the NWT, I was sort of hesitant to do that. However, I agreed to run. When you are blind it is kind of hard, and I knew that back then in Sanikiluaq where I come from.

In regard to the Government of the NWT and the Government of Canada, the only way we can attend these meetings is through elections. We were informed that the Belcher Islands had to be included in the Northwest Territories in 1968. The local committees and organizations such as the Co-op committees were informed in the community. I am well aware of this because I used to be an interpreter for them. However, our previous leaders did not utilize the committees or groups because in 1968 when they were first asked to elect their political leaders, they had no idea what they were being asked to do in terms of voting. The only way they could elect a leader was to get together and discuss and try to decide who they wanted to represent them.

In 1968 I did not run for election as I was only an interpreter. The following year, in 1969, I was asked to run for election. The people of my community were asking me why I was not

running for election to be their leader. I had to tell them why, and then after that I told them I would try and run, although I am blind. Using the English language as well as my mother tongue, I was able to try and convince myself that I could help the local people there. Having that in mind, I have been in the political life for 22 years. I have been trying to help my people. We have been trying to do what the people of our community have requested us to do in regard to trying to get some things from the government.

During the early 1970s the people of Belcher Islands were finally put into one region. That was the only way the government would be able to help us, if we were to get into one community. We could have housing, schools and the white man's things. If we wanted those things, we would have to be incorporated into one settlement, we were told at that time by the government in 1960 and early 1970s. So now we have one community and there are so many people in one community in Sanikiluaq.

Problems With Being A Blind MLA

When this new community was created, I became involved with meetings and conferences within the community, and I appreciate the fact that I have been entrusted by my people to represent them in these areas. It has been hard and difficult at times because when you are blind, you cannot see what is going on and you have to read paper and do paper work. You have to put everything on braille and you cannot read anything in Inuktitut in braille, only in English.

I am very proud of this one blind person whose name was Louis Braille who created a braille system when he went blind so he could help the other blind people in the world. He was concerned about the fact that they could not read as well as other normal people could, so he thought of getting a system going in braille and I really appreciate what he had done.

When I turned 15 I entered into a school for blind people, when I turned blind, and I was taught in braille at that time, so I could be able to read in braille. At that time, Mr. Speaker, I had asked the Minister of Health at the time about the people who had to be treated for TB and were sent down south. I was one of those people that were sent down south in a sanatorium in Moose Factory and in Hamilton, when I was just going blind. However, when I was in Hamilton in 1958, when I was just recovering from tuberculosis, I was approached by a white person and I had no idea what he was talking about in English because I did not know how to speak English or understand English at the time. He informed me at that time that I would be going to a school when I got out of the hospital. I was at the age of 15 then and I remember thinking, how, when I am blind, can I attend school? Now I know, particularly, that people who work hard, although they have disabilities they have the strength and courage to go ahead with whatever they want to do. They were explaining to me how they would take care of me and how they would teach me to use braille. I am very grateful, too. At that time my father, although he loved me a great deal, wanted me to attend this particular school and he let me go. I appreciate the fact that he thought that this would be helpful to me in the future.

When I first attended school the people around me spoke only in English and although I wanted to speak Inuktitut and use my mother tongue, I could not do that because I had to learn to use the braille system and it was always in English. For those of us who are blind or have some kind of disability, we are able to keep up with what is going on in this world although sometimes it is very hard. When you are a human being there are a lot of things that make it hard to get by. However, if you have the determination to do what you want to do and achieve what you want to achieve, you can do it.

There is always a way of doing things.

Prior to 1973 in southern Canada, when I attended the school for blind people, I used to hear that the blind people could get dogs to help them. When I heard about that I thought about getting one myself. So in 1972 or 1973, when I moved back to Sanikiluaq, and we were all in one community then, and when I became one of the local councillors and had to go and attend a meeting, I used to depend on my local fellow Inuit. They would hold my hand and take me to the meetings that I had to attend. However, I was informed in 1972 that there are dogs that have been trained to help blind people, and they asked me if I wanted to get a dog like that. A government official said, "Yes, he will try it." So I had to go to Toronto and they told me that these kinds of dogs were trained to help blind people. He told me at the time that the dog may not be able to survive in the North as we had cold winters. The person who approached me in Sanikiluaq was determined to get a dog and he kept saying, "How are we going to find out if he can survive or not if we do not try it?" That is what we said to that person. So following that meeting I ended up with a dog, and I had to go to the United States in New Jersey. I had to go down there to get a trained dog. I think I was there for about a month to try and get used to having a dog with me.

When you are a human being there are always things that try to get you down and there are so many obstacles that you have to get over, especially when you are blind. Mr. Speaker, at times we have to have faith within ourselves. When I got that dog, although I had doubts whether he would be a good dog to me, I tried it anyway.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can tell a short story too about this dog I had. I had the dog for about four years, and he went with me everywhere I went in Sanikiluaq. When you have to go through new experiences that you have not gone through, you have doubts. But once you are actually going through them, there is nothing that can hold you back when you have determination to achieve something.

I want to tell this to the youth and to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, that I am very grateful that I have a spouse to help me. I have been married for 15 years and she has taken very good care of me. I have two daughters that are both adopted. We adopted our older girl from Baker Lake and she just turned five on July 2. Our younger daughter is already two years old.

Importance Of Education To Young Aboriginal People

We see how fast the years go by, and I really want to tell the younger generation to attend school. If there is any kind of schooling available, please go to school and get your education. We want good working people around us. Perhaps if I had gone to school when I was around five or six I would have learned a lot more. I have been learning in the years that I have been an MLA. In particular, we have to learn about the government laws, and sometimes I wish I could be a lawyer, Mr. Speaker, so that I would be able to translate the laws and pass them on to my fellow people. This is something that I have always wanted, and I have envied people that can translate laws.

I am particularly concerned about the aboriginal people of the North, namely the Inuit and the Dene, and would encourage them to attend school and to do their best to achieve grade 12. After high school, you can enter university, and I am encouraging you to do so, and take advantage of the education that is readily available to you. We have to think of what kind of lives we are going to be leading in the future. We have to consider these areas. I am very happy and proud to be a Canadian because we have freedom in Canada. We

can do anything we want to do in Canada.

I have gone through hard times during the 48 years of my life, because when you are blind you get depressed and you have all kinds of things in your mind, but I am sure we have all gone through these hard times, especially when you have doubts and low self-esteem.

Perhaps when I became an MLA I finally understood what you have had to go through in life. When we are experiencing hardship in life, we tend to kneel to the One that created us. I want to state this to our future generation and future MLAs. When we become an MLA we have to turn to our God, our Creator and Saviour, and we have to walk in faith a lot of times. Mr. Speaker, it is not a difficult thing to kneel down. We do not have to be too proud to do that. We have to put more faith in our Creator during hardship. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say this because I understand it a lot more now than I used to.

Thinking of the future MLAs, I think it is true that excessive drinking also destroys life and that is a great barrier to what you can achieve in life. If you drink in excess, you create a lot of problems. It is a big problem. Not only alcohol but also drugs. I feel personally that we should set these substances aside once in a while if we want to have a better life.

When you are an MLA you have to have your head clear in order to deal with your responsibilities. I think you are all aware of this. As MLAs I think we have all drunk at one time or another, but it has been something that could hold you back in a lot of areas. I am concerned about the MLAs because they have a huge responsibility and they have to have a clear head. We do not have to use it all the time. It is not necessary to use it. But take your responsibilities seriously.

I am very sincerely thankful for our staff. They always assist us when we need help, especially David Hamilton. I would like to thank the staff; they have to deal with all the paperwork that goes with a meeting, and I am very thankful that we can get all the issues on paper. Even though I live very far away in Sanikiluaq -- I used to be very discouraged trying to travel, but there are a lot of really good-hearted people out there who are willing to help. I think I also have to return my gratitude, especially when I have been travelling back and forth the past four years to the Assembly, I really thank the people that were able to assist me, especially travelling on planes, and the flight attendants. They take their jobs seriously in looking after me, too.

Mr. Speaker, this is my response. I am especially thinking about our youth too. I do not want our youth to be neglected in any way but to take advantage of education so they can get good jobs, the numerous jobs that they can get. I really wanted to say this, Mr. Speaker. I am going to conclude now. I really am thankful for the other MLAs as well, also the Legislative Assembly staff. They have helped me a lot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to conclude for now.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I wish to advise the House, under authority given to the Speaker by Motion 24-91(1), I hereby order the sitting hours are extended for today until such time as a motion of adjournment is adopted.

---Applause

Replies to Opening Address. The honourable Member for Inuvik.

--Applause

Mr. Butters' Reply

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Save your applause for later. I may not deserve any. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not avail myself of this opportunity to thank all those in whose debt I find myself.

I will not be speaking about the remarkable progress the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the Northwest Territories has made toward responsible and representative government in the last 20 years. My colleague for High Arctic, Mr. Pudluk, noted this quantum leap in the northern democratic process yesterday. I would only add that we both can recall when every line of our budget and every clause in our legislation was closely scrutinized by DIAND officials and amended in accordance with their Minister's direction.

Neither do I intend to highlight our collective accomplishments in consensus government over the years nor detail the tasks that await the consideration of the 12th Assembly and government.

I will mercifully ignore the severe fiscal management challenges and restraints that will be required of our successors. We have witnessed the passage of the seven fat cattle. It is a leaner and meaner breed that looms out of future mists.

The 12th Assembly and those Members chosen to govern will be well advised to heed and implement many of the observations and recommendations that will be laid before them as a result of the comprehensive base review currently being developed under Lew Voytilla's guidance for the honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Ballantyne.

I will not be speaking of the urgent need of NWT households for more affordable housing and the regrettably decreasing number of national housing dollars available to satisfy that need.

Neither will I be speaking of the increasingly difficult fiscal position municipalities and hamlets are finding themselves in because the grants and contributions received from our government are not keeping up with the cost of living index.

Economic Downturn In Inuvik And Other Western Arctic Communities

I had considered speaking at length on the grievous economic downturn being experienced by Inuvik and other Western Arctic communities. Every setback has its positive aspects. Adversity can draw people together and encourage them to seek new opportunities for economic and personal growth and determination through remembering old strengths and community values. However, I should note that I still believe, as I have for many years, as a representative for Inuvik, that the ability of the regional economies to maintain their present levels or to realize any significant growth is very much dependent on the fortunes of the oil and gas industry.

The prospect presented by the expansion and development of our tourism potential and the successful settlement of the Gwich'in regional land claim, although significant, will not be enough to make up for the losses that will certainly be experienced should current hydrocarbon inactivity continue.

Seasonal tourism and the land claim moneys are not substitutes for the region's former, second largest employer. The major hurdles to achieving the desired result of continued and growing industry presence and activity will continue to be 1) the economics of price and demand, a factor we have no

control over; 2) the failure of a comprehensive Dene/Metis land claim settlement; 3) the environmental risks and concerns associated with drilling and pipeline construction; and 4) the regulatory maze we are creating for project review and approval.

While there is very little we can do as individuals to influence these processes, there is one step all the people and the government in the North can take to encourage sustained petroleum industry interest, and that one step is the clear and unmistakable declaration that we desire and support the continued and future development of our region's hydrocarbon resources and potential.

Expressions Of Gratitude

Finally, my thanks, my expressions of gratitude that I indicated at the outset. To my wife and family for their forbearance and patience, since having a politician in a family is a sore cross to bear.

To my constituents for their support, advice and encouragement over the years and for the understanding, and, I hope, forgiveness of those whose problems and concerns I have not been able to address.

To my fellow MLAs for their guidance, their constructive criticism and suggestions, and their vigilant representation on behalf of their respective constituents. I welcome and treasure the courteous and kind remarks made this morning by the chairman of *ajauqit*, the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Lewis.

To my executive colleagues, a relationship that has often been characterized as the musk-ox syndrome, I appreciate and value the support of each and every one of you, even though many of you are not here at the moment.

---Laughter

But most of all I thank you for your comments frankly and fairly offered.

To you Mr. Speaker, my thanks for your ever thoughtful counsel and, your welcome sense of humour. You are truly the most equal of all equals.

And, to our Commissioner, Dan Norris, I wish to thank the Commissioner for his companionship on trips that we have made together throughout the Territories and also for his reports on his visits to the communities and his comments on the concerns that have been brought to his attention. He is truly a worthy successor to John Parker and Stuart Hodgson.

To David Hamilton and his excellent staff. As legislatures go, we are undoubtedly the best served of all and any others. Efficient and superlative service does not just happen. It begins with outstanding leadership and is rounded out by loyal and dedicated staff.

I thank also our Sergeant-at-Arms and our Pages. He has instructed them well and wisely, which instruction has resulted in their excellent service and constant vigilance to our needs.

Thanks also to our interpreters, without whom this Assembly could not function nor communicate one with another. Your services have been invaluable. Your presence reminds us daily of the linguistic and cultural richness and complexity of this wonderful and beautiful land.

To Marie Coe and her attentive staff, my thanks for ensuring that our thoughts, if not memorable, then at least are not forgotten. Your professionalism is appreciated.

To the fourth estate, a symbiotic appendage to every Assembly. My thanks for your constant and critical scrutiny and for projecting and communicating our intentions and objectives, even when our syntax is grammatically wanting.

Thanks to Members of the Government Leader's staff, Louise Vertes, Kevin O'Keefe and Caroline McCabe for their assistance, behind the scenes and across the ropes, in keeping my House business in process and in order.

I wish also to publicly witness to the efficiency and dedication of my departmental staff whose advice, even when I have not been guided by it, has been appreciated and valued. Al Menard, deputy minister of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, and his assistant deputies, Vern Christensen and Dennis Adams and their staffs. Similar thanks and comments I also extend to Jake Heron, president of the NWT Housing Corporation; Lee Horn, deputy minister of Government Services and his predecessors who worked ably for me in a similar capacity, Don Johnston and John Quirke and their respective staffs.

Finally, but by no means lowest on my list, are those individuals who have worked in my Executive office during the past three years of my membership on the Executive Council. My thanks and gratitude to Dorothy Morrison, June Balsillie, Tracy Babiuk, Mae Jean Mah, Millie Burns and my executive assistant who formerly served Members of this House, Denise Bergeron. Working for a politician is not an easy task. We are demanding, impatient, quick to complain and often slow to recognize and reward achievement and dedication. For my omissions and oversights, I ask your forgiveness. For your loyalty, support and professional competence, please accept my grateful thanks and high regard.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions. Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 10: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

CR 7-91(1): Report Of The Special Committee On Constitutional Reform

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The special committee on constitutional reform last reported to the House on March 15, 1991. The special committee is pleased to submit this report of its activities since its last report. Several developments in relation to national constitutional issues are summarized below. In addition this report details the presentation made by your special committee to the Senate and House of Commons special joint committee on the process for amending the Constitution of Canada. It provides draft principles for the consideration of the Legislative Assembly of the NWT in respect of the ongoing constitutional reform process in Canada.

Recent Developments

Discussions on national constitutional reform revolve around three main issues: the process of reform, which includes the amending formulas, public participation, territorial participation and aboriginal participation; the substance of reform, which includes division of powers, aboriginal self-government, Senate reform, Quebec's distinctiveness and the status of the Territories in the federation; as to the timing of reform, recent developments indicate that the federal government and other provinces will have to respond to the timetable established in part by Quebec and in part by the next federal elections.

There have been a number of major issues. I will not go into details. There has been a Commission on the Political and Constitutional Future of Quebec, the Belanger-Campeau Commission; the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples; the Special Committee of Parliament on National Unity, the details, the appendixes, which explain the terms of reference of some of the activities of these committees, are in a report; the fourth, report, which we were directly involved in, was the Report on the Amending Formula, the Beaudoin-Edwards committee.

Report On Amending Formula, Beaudoin-Edwards Committee

On June 6, 1991, the special joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons released its report entitled "The Process For Amending the Constitution of Canada". Your committee made two presentations to the Beaudoin-Edwards committee, one on March 19, 1991, in Yellowknife and the other on May 1, 1991, in Ottawa. Appendix C contains the March 19 presentation and Appendix D contains the May 1 presentation.

Your committee is very pleased to report that virtually all of the recommendations put to the Beaudoin-Edwards committee were adopted in its report, in particular the following items with regard to aboriginal peoples: that any amendments to the Constitution of Canada directly affecting the aboriginal peoples require the consent of the aboriginal peoples of Canada; that representatives of the aboriginal people of Canada be invited to participate in all future constitutional conferences; that the Constitution of Canada provide for a process of biennial constitutional conferences to address the rights of aboriginal peoples.

Where it regards the Northwest Territories specifically: that the extension of existing provinces into the Territories require the consent of the Legislature of any territory and any province affected, and the Parliament of Canada; that the creation of new provinces in the Territories require only the consent of the Legislature of any territory affected and the Parliament of Canada -- the special joint committee added a proviso that the amending procedure be reviewed when new provinces were created; that the territorial governments be invited to participate in all future constitutional conferences.

These recommendations are significant because they recognize the need to address outstanding aboriginal issues and the need for participation by aboriginal peoples and territories in matters that directly affect them.

Appendix E contains a summary of all the recommendations of the Beaudoin-Edwards committee.

Citizens' Forum Of Canada's Future, Spicer Commission

The Citizens' Forum on Canada's Future, the Spicer Commission; the Government Leader has made available to Members of the House the contents of that particular commission. Suffice to say that there were, we think, very positive recommendations and observations about the participation of aboriginal people in the Canadian Confederation and the importance of the North in the Canadian Confederation. There are, again, more details in the report and Appendix F contains the findings and suggestions of the Spicer Commission report.

Analysis

The range of approaches to the constitutional reform process and the myriad of substantive changes being put forward by individuals, political parties, business associations, citizens coalitions, provincial governments and so on are too

numerous to list here.

Process

In general, the central issue surrounding the process is the manner and degree of public participation in the reform process. Advocates of a constituent assembly approach want elected and private citizens to work together to prepare principles for a new constitution. These principles would then possibly be referred to Parliament and provincial legislatures for further consideration in drafting into a constituent constitutional document. Some proponents of a constituent assembly also want any new constitution to be put before the Canadian public in a referendum.

Opponents of a constituent assembly see this process as too divisive and difficult to control. The federal government has, at least to date, rejected the idea of a constituent assembly in favour of a parliamentary committee which is described elsewhere in this report. This committee would be charged with conducting wide-ranging hearings, but its mandate is not to design a new constitution. Instead, the committee will comment on the federal government's proposal for a renewed federation.

In addition, the central issue in relation to the process is whether or not the amending formulas should be changed, and if so, how any new formulas should differ from the current formulas.

Substance

The central issues surrounding the nature of a renewed federation appear to be: 1) decentralization versus a strong federal government; and 2) equality of the provinces versus a symmetrical federalism. There are numerous other issues which also fall into this category such as the distinctiveness of Quebec, Senate reform, aboriginal self-government, minority languages, equal application of the Charter of Rights, the "notwithstanding" clause, provincial vetoes, the status of territories, constitutional conferences, other federal institutions such as the Supreme Court of Canada, and so on.

The federal government and several provincial governments appear to be proceeding on the assumption that decentralization is necessary, or at least that the current division of powers between Parliament and the provinces must be reformed. Small provinces such as Manitoba and Newfoundland are opposed to a radical change in the division of powers which would lead to a decentralized Canada and the anticipated erosion of national standards and national programs, and we in the Territories have the same fears of that. As I have said before, we are still evolving as a jurisdiction.

The recent Beaudoin-Edwards report and Spicer Commission report have pointed out that the provinces have always been treated differently under the Canadian constitution. Further asymmetry among provinces can be anticipated as a central issue of upcoming negotiations.

Timing

Timing is very important. With the Special Joint Committee of Parliament on National Unity reporting by February 28, 1992 the stage will be set to push forward negotiations with Quebec in the spring of 1992. Quebec's recent legislation calls for a referendum in June 1992 or October 1992, but the legislation also requires that before Quebec will consider proposals for renewed federalism, the proposals must be formally binding on the federal government and other provincial governments. This seems to imply that Parliament and other provincial legislatures would have to pass resolutions supporting

constitutional amendments before Quebec will consider the proposals. This would be a very awkward process without Quebec being involved in the drafting of any such constitutional amendments.

The timing issue will continue to overshadow discussion on substantive issues. In addition, the Quebec legislation creates uncertainties of process that will need to be addressed in particular, the provision which requires reform proposals be "formally binding in the Government of Canada and other provinces".

Recommendations

Your committee recommends for consideration and discussion by Members of this, and the 12th Assembly, the draft principles contained in Appendix G to guide ongoing discussions on national constitutional issues.

Before I make a motion, I would like to express my gratitude to members of the committee and of the staff, especially Doug Schauerte for the tremendous amount of work and dedication and support that they have put into this committee. The committee has worked very hard. I must say of all the committees that I have been involved with since I have been in the Legislative Assembly, this committee has been to me the most co-operative and productive of all of them. I really want to thank the Members of the committee for their tremendous enthusiastic participation, the wisdom they have shown and the manner in which we collectively have been able to arrive at decisions.

I would like to give a special thanks to Geoff Bickert and to Bernie Funston who provided excellent constitutional advice to the committee throughout our discussions. The mandate of this committee, as Members know, will continue until the end of August. The committee has more work to do and I would expect that those of us who survive the next election, those Members of the committee, will make sure that a report will be made to the next Legislative Assembly and the next government as to what has transpired between now and the time the Assembly reconvenes in November, probably.

Motion To Receive CR 7-91(1), Report Of The Special Committee On Constitutional Reform, Carried

With that, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Natilikmiot, that the report of the special committee on constitutional reform be received and adopted.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 128-91(1), Department of Personnel, 1990 Annual Report.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I thought it was the

end of tabling documents and I was going to ask for unanimous consent to return to Item 9.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table Tabled Document 129-91(1), A Proposed Bill, Mine Safety Act. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to table five documents. I wish to table Tabled Document 130-91(1), Gender Equality in the Justice System, a discussion paper in English and Inuktitut; I would like to table Tabled Document 131-91(1), Aboriginal Justice in the Northwest Territories, a discussion paper; Tabled Document 132-91(1), Update on National and International Trade Issues; Tabled Document 133-91(1), Remarks of the Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Minister Of Justice for the NWT at the Western Workshop, Yellowknife, a judicial education conference sponsored by the Western Judicial Education Centre, June 28, 1991; Tabled Document 134-91(1), RCMP Contract Extension. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 135-91(1), a letter to myself dated June 27, 1991, from Andre Tanto, Keewatin Regional Director for NWT Co-op Business Development Funds, in which he states that a co-op should be given consideration by the government for POL contracts in the NWT.

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

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Tabled Document 136-91(1), a letter to Mr. Paul Quassa from the Hon. Tom Siddon. It is basically on the boundary issue, July 4, 1991. I would also like to table Tabled Document 137-91(1), a press release from TFN and the federal government on July 5, 1991, on the boundary issue; Tabled Document 138-91(1), a letter to Mr. Quassa from the Dene Nation, June 28, 1991 on the same issue, the boundary; Tabled Document 139-91(1), a letter to Mr. Bill Erasmus from Mr. Paul Quassa, June 27, 1991. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to return to Item 9 on the agenda.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 9, petitions. Are there any nays? There are no nays, proceed.

ITEM 9: PETITIONS

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table three petitions today. Petition 22-91(1), on behalf of the citizens of Colville Lake. The petition prayer is as follows: "We, the undersigned, ask the Minister of Health to provide the people of Colville Lake the option of travelling to Yellowknife for health services." There are a total of 14 Colville Lake signatures on this petition.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Petition 23-9(1) on behalf of the citizens of Fort Norman. The petition prayer is as follows:

"We, the undersigned, ask the Minister of Health to provide the people of Fort Norman the option of travelling to Yellowknife for health services." There are a total of 174 Fort Norman signatures on this petition.

I wish to table Petition 24-91(1) on behalf of the citizens of Fort Franklin. The petition prayer is as follows: "We, the undersigned residents of Fort Franklin, express our sincere concern and position of achieving our objective of having the present airport facility relocated in the very near future." There are a total of 255 Fort Franklin signatures on this petition. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Petitions. Honourable Member for Baffin Central.

MR. KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table Petition 25-91(1), from the Pangnirtung Inuit Co-op Ltd. regarding the GNWT lease back tender. It has a total of 431 signatures.

MR. SPEAKER: Petitions.

Item 12, notices of motions.

Item 13, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 27-91(1). The honourable Member for Sahtu.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 27-91(1): Terms Of Reference, Commission For Constitutional Development, Moved To Committee Of The Whole

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker:

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Tabled Document 115-91(1), Terms of Reference, Commission for Constitutional Development, be moved to committee of the whole for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the motion that is in front of us, the previous motion that I seconded before the session broke suggested that the composition or the terms of reference was supposed to be discussed by various aboriginal groups. My understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that the aboriginal groups are not in agreement with the terms of reference that are being proposed by the...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Just to remind the honourable Member that the matter before the House is to move the terms of reference into committee, at which time you will debate the details of the tabled document. To the motion, the honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

Western Political Leaders Not In Agreement With Terms Of Reference

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize it is to move

the terms of reference into committee of the whole for discussion, but the point I would like to make, Mr. Speaker, is that on April 18, 1991 there was a motion passed by this Legislature to establish a commission on western constitutional development. Within that motion it suggested that the Executive Council develop, in consultation with the working group of western political leaders, the terms of reference for a Commission on Western Constitutional Development for presentation and adoption during the Eighth session of the 11th Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot support this particular motion at this time because the western political leaders are not in agreement with the terms of reference so I cannot support the motion that is being proposed by the...

MR. SPEAKER: Order. The honourable Member, I have been lenient with you, but the question before us is to move the matter into committee. If you are not prepared to move the matter into committee, then you should indicate that. The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Speaker, maybe I am not getting my point across, but what I am saying is that I cannot support the motion that is being proposed by my colleague from Sahtu at this time because the western political leaders are supposed to, in my view, come to some sort of agreement and that agreement is supposed to be brought forward by the government and is supposed to be brought here and discussed further and passed eventually. But it did not occur in that manner, so I am suggesting that I cannot support the motion to put forward the terms of reference into committee of the whole for discussion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will not support the motion. In no way am I against the principle of a commission, but I understand the process of establishing a commission has been flawed. I understand, by speaking with the Dene Nation and chiefs, that they do not agree to the process, and I represent the majority of aboriginal people. So I cannot speak in favour of this motion.

The whole issue of having a woman on the commission is the problem...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The matter before the honourable Member and the matter before the House is to move the matter of terms of reference and Tabled Document 115-91(1) into committee, not the details of the document. The honourable Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In general I cannot support the motion for the terms of reference to be moved into committee of the whole because it does not have agreement of all the Members that were supposed to establish those terms of reference. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Final remarks. Honourable Member for Sahtu.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understand the direction that was given to each of the leaders that sit on this committee of western leaders that made an

agreement to set up a commission, it was that all of us would, at some time or another, bring the draft terms of reference to our respective boards, or in our case the Assembly here, so that all of you as MLAs would look at the terms of reference and you would have some opportunity to decide and discuss if you liked them or not and any other thing that you had any other opinion about. That is the reason I brought it here. If you do not want to talk about it at all, that is a different matter. But you cannot start talking about it before moving it into committee of the whole. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Tu Nede.

MR. MORIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request a recorded vote, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Tu Nede has requested a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

Motion 27-91 (1), Carried

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Crow, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Allooloo, Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. McLaughlin.

MR. SPEAKER: Against the motion, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Zoe, Mr. Morin, Mr. Gargan.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. All those abstaining, please rise.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Record of the recorded vote. Eleven in the affirmative, three opposition, one abstention. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motion 28-91 (1), the honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

Motion 28-91(1): Adoption Of Statute Roll, Second Volume, Carried

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the statute roll of the second volume of the Supplement to the Revised Statutes of the Northwest Territories, 1988, in the English and French languages was deposited with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on June 28, 1991, pursuant to subsection 8(3) of the Statute Revision Act and subsection 2(3) of The Adoption of the French Version of Statutes and Statutory Instruments Act;

AND WHEREAS the statute roll has been laid before the Legislative Assembly as required by subsection 12(2) of the Statute Revision Act and subsection 3(1) of The Adoption of the French Version of Statutes and Statutory Instruments Act;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that the Legislative Assembly hereby approves the statute roll.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Honourable Member for Yellowknife North. The honourable Member for Iqaluit. Question has been called. All

those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

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: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with Bill 52. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

First Reading Of Bill 52: Income Tax Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 52, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the first time.

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

---Carried

Bill 52 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Honourable Member for Amittuq.

First Reading Of Bill 43: Environmental Protection Act

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 43, An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act, be read for the first time.

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

---Carried

Bill 43 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

First Reading Of Bill 50: Statute Law Amendment (Official Languages) Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 50, Statute Law Amendment (Official Languages) Act, be read for the first time.

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

---Carried

Bill 50 has had first reading. First reading of bills. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

First Reading Of Bill 47: Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 1

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 47, An Act To Amend The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 1, be

read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Iqaluit.

First Reading Of Bill 48: Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 2

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 48, An Act To Amend The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 2, be read for the first time. Thank you.

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

---Carried

First reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed to second reading of Bill 50, Statute Law Amendment (Official Languages) Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member seeking consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 50. Are there any nays? Agreement has been given. Proceed.

Second Reading Of Bill 50: Statute Law Amendment (Official Languages) Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Slave River, that Bill 50, Statute Law Amendment (Official Languages) Act, be read for the second time.

The purpose of the bill Mr. Speaker, is to amend acts that refer to aboriginal languages or the French or English languages and make them consistent with the Official Languages Act. The bill would also make minor amendments to the Official Languages Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 50 has had second reading. Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

Second Reading Of Bill 49: Plebiscite Act

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that Bill 49, An Act To Amend the Plebiscite Act, be read for the second time.

The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Plebiscite Act to repeal references to the Elections Act, 1978 and to substitute references to the Elections Act and provisions respecting the powers of the chief plebiscite officer for prosecution and inquiry; to bring the eligibility requirements of the voter and provisions respecting the

posting of the proclamation closer in line with those of the Elections Act; to repeal and replace provisions respecting the appointment of chief plebiscite officer, the duty chief plebiscite officer and plebiscite officers; to add provisions respecting the revocation of appointments of plebiscite officers; to extend the provisions respecting the preparation of the official list and the establishment of voting divisions; to amend the regulation-making authority and to provide that regulations must be, so far as is possible, consistent with the provision of the Elections Act.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 49 has had second reading.

---Carried

Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek consent to proceed with Bill 47.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with Bill 47. Are there any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Consent has not been given. Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with Bill 48.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with Bill 48. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Second Reading of Bill 48: Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 2

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 48, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2, be read for the second time.

The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act to establish amounts payable to Members of the 12th Legislative Assembly as constituency allowances which amounts would increase annually in relation to any increase in the Consumer Price Index; to fix the salary of the Speaker at the same level as that of a Minister and establish the allowance to which the Speaker is entitled; and to refer to two additional committees of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 48 has had second reading. Second reading of bills. The

honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with Bill 52. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Second Reading Of Bill 52: Income Tax Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 52, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the second time.

The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide for a lower tax rate for eligible corporations and substitution for the small business deduction.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

--Carried

Bill 52 has had second reading. Second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Amittuq.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 43, An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 43. Are there any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: There are two nays. Second reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Consent was denied for second reading of Bill 43. Second reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bills 44, 45, 40, and 46; Tabled Document 115-91(1); Bills 50, 49, 48 and 52, with Mr. Ningark in the chair.

By the authority given to me, I will move the House into committee, and you report back when you have considered the business of the House complete.

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

Bill 44: Access To Information Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): The committee will now come to order. For consideration in committee of the whole at the table is Bill 44. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Proceed, Mr. Lewis.

Motion To Consider Bill 44, Defeated

MR. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee of the whole deal with Bill 44, Access to Information Act.

AN HON. MEMBER: When, tomorrow?

MR. LEWIS: Right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Could I have a copy of the motion, Mr. Lewis? Mr. Lewis, your motion is in order and it reads: I move that the committee of the whole deal with Bill 44, Access to Information Act. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Your motion is defeated, Mr. Lewis.

--Defeated

Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: I would like to ask the committee to consider Bill 44 as the first item of business.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Gargan would like to deal with Bill 44 as the first item of business. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, it is only a suggestion to go with the orders of the day in committee. The first item is Bill 44, and I would like to suggest to the Members that we deal with that first item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): What is the wish of the committee?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): It is not a motion. Does the committee agree with Mr. Gargan that we deal with Bill 44 now as the first item? Mr. Minister.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Chairman, the government wishes to proceed with Bill 40, Public Service Act.

MR. GARGAN: Point of order.

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

MR. GARGAN: My point of order is that I have made a suggestion before the government did, and you have not made any kind of ruling on whether to go ahead with my bill or not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): What is the general consensus of the committee on the request of the honourable Member of Deh Cho to deal with Bill 44 first?

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. McLaughlin, point of order.

MR. McLAUGHLIN: Point of order. You called for an opinion of the Members as to what they wanted to deal with. I was sure that the ayes had it. So the decision has been made. You have to make a ruling on whether the yeses or the noes were in the majority, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): The Chair was of the opinion that the nays were a majority. Mr. Ernerk.

MR. ERNERK: On a point of order. I thought the nays had it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): I know the nays had it. Mr.

Minister. Order please.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government wishes to proceed with the Public Service Act, Bill 40.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 40: Public Service Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): We will be dealing with Bill 40, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act. Mr. Kakwi, will you introduce the bill please?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. STEPHEN KAKWI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the last session I outlined a two-part Personnel administration strategy. Part one dealt with staffing appeals. I am pleased now to introduce this bill to amend the Public Service Act as part two of the strategy.

The bill increases accountability for the administration of Personnel services. It also solves a number of administrative and technical problems. Accountability for the administration of Personnel services is increased through amendments in the bill in the following ways:

- 1) The Financial Management Board rather than cabinet will ratify collective agreements. This is so financial considerations are given priority.
- 2) The Minister of Personnel will report annually on the management and direction of the public service.
- 3) The Commissioner and Executive Council, on recommendation of the Government Leader, will appoint deputy ministers.
- 4) The Minister of Personnel will no longer hear the appeal of a dismissal, as it is redundant for the Minister to dismiss an employee and then hear the appeal of that decision. An arbitrator or the courts will hear the appeal.
- 5) An interim step will be added to collective bargaining. If negotiations break down, the parties will go to mediation before binding arbitration.

Mr. Speaker, this bill now incorporates the changes that were recommended in a motion by the standing committee on legislation to delete the provision for a forced vote on the union membership. The act will also be updated by removing a number of detailed provisions. These details belong in policy, collective agreements, regulations or guidelines. The Public Service Act was written before unions represented government employees. The act had to establish details of benefits and conditions of employment. Policy and collective agreements now do this. For example, there are detailed job classification provisions in the act. However, the system is obsolete and no longer being used. The concept of job classification has been replaced by job evaluation. The issue of job classification or evaluation should be in a regulation, not an act.

Technical changes have also been made in this bill to assist the government's ability to manage. They are as follows.

- 1) Disciplinary suspensions would be reduced from a maximum of six months to 30 days. This is a more reasonable period. Disciplinary suspensions are without pay.
- 2) Suspensions to enable the employee to investigate an allegation of misconduct have been changed. These suspensions are to be with pay. If the investigation shows

that there was no misconduct, the employee will not have been unfairly penalized. Discipline is only taken if the investigation shows that there was misconduct.

3) Suspensions pending criminal charges will no longer be provided for. The employer must do its own investigation if necessary. It cannot wait for the results of a criminal investigation to take action.

4) The test for rejecting employees on probation has been changed from cause to good faith. Good faith is the standard test used by arbitrators.

5) Deputy heads will now be responsible for demoting and suspending their own employees. Employees will have the right to appeal to the Minister.

As well, a number of administrative changes have been made in the bill as follows:

- 1) There is a list of inclusions and exclusions. This defines who is an employee and who is not an employee.
- 2) The term "department head" has been replaced with "deputy head".
- 3) The powers and responsibilities of heads of boards and agencies have been clarified.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that these changes will result in a more efficient and effective public service. Those are my remarks. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Chairman of the standing committee on legislation, do you have any response?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. The standing committee on legislation has considered the proposed Act to Amend the Public Service Act, and I wish to advise you of the results of our review. The bill was dealt with as part of the agenda for public hearings in Hay River on May 13 and in Yellowknife on May 16, 1991. The standing committee was very grateful for all witnesses who appeared throughout, outlining their concerns with both the substance and the wording of the bill. The bill was subsequently considered by the standing committee on legislation during its meeting on June 21, 1991. At that time the committee made a final decision on the furtherance of the bill to the House.

There is a general comment the standing committee on legislation would wish to note: that the amendments proposed with this bill are significant ones. During the committee's June meeting, Members commented on this with the Minister, who agreed that several of the amendments could potentially strengthen the government's management role in dealing with the Public Service. Public input led the standing committee to raise concerns with the Minister about the wording of clauses dealing with the rejection of probationary employees and the designation of the public service by way of a schedule.

Further concerns were raised by the standing committee with respect to amendments to provisions which deal with suspending employees pending the investigation of alleged misconduct or other complaints. While the standing committee felt that these amendments, in general terms, would be likely to be improved, in this part of the bill, Members were somewhat concerned that different measures would exist for the suspension of classroom assistants than for the suspension of teachers covered under the Education Act. The standing committee on legislation urged the Minister to work toward standardizing these provisions so that the same procedures are used for all classroom personnel.

By far, the central focus of the standing committee's review was on provisions that would establish mediation within the

collective bargaining process. Under the provisions of this bill, a new mediation process would be inserted as an intermediate step between negotiation and arbitration. If the government and the union could not agree on certain points of negotiation, they would be able to decide on a person to act as a mediator. If the parties are unable to agree on who to appoint as the mediator, they would be able to ask the Supreme Court to appoint one. The mediator must come up with recommendations within 14 days unless the parties agree on a longer period of time. If the mediator is unable to make a recommendation, or if a recommendation is rejected by one of the bargaining units, then negotiations could proceed to the arbitration stage. Whenever a mediator is appointed, each party would pay its own costs plus 50 per cent of the costs incurred by the mediator.

In the initial wording of the bill as contained in Tabled Document 65-91(1), there were rather unusual provisions to deal with situations in which the mediator's recommendations were rejected by either bargaining unit. Under provisions of the original version of this bill, if union negotiators approved of the mediator's report and the government's negotiation team did not, then the government would have to submit the mediator's recommendations to the Financial Management Board for further review. On the other hand, Mr. Chairperson, if the government negotiators approved of the mediator's report and the union's negotiator rejected it, then the government could have forced the union to hold a membership vote on the recommendations.

As it reviewed this part of the proposed mediation format, the standing committee became increasingly concerned about it. Members were mindful of the fact that the union's negotiators are a duly elected bargaining unit of its membership. The government should not by legislation place itself in a position of being able to circumvent the position taken by the bargaining unit by forcing organized labour to vote on recommendations which have already been rejected by the negotiators. The standing committee at its June meeting passed a motion recommending that the Minister remove these provisions from proposed sections of the bill which deal with the mediation process.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to report that the recommended revisions have now been made. With these revisions, the standing committee on legislation agreed to recommend this bill to the House. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Ernerk. General comments. What is the committee's wish?

AN HON. MEMBER: Clause by clause.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 1. Mr. Whitford.

MR. WHITFORD: There seems to be a noticeable lack of Members here. I cannot vote or speak on this item; I declare a conflict of interest, but I notice there is no one else here to say anything.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. You are just suggesting that you are declaring conflict of interest then?

MR. WHITFORD: I am suggesting that I declare a conflict of interest and I want to leave the Chamber, but if I leave there is nobody else here but the chairman and there are no other Members. I would suggest you ring the bells and summon people in to deal with this matter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): You are recognizing there is no quorum. Mr. Clerk, would you please ring the bell? The Chair recognizes a quorum. Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in his witness?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Could you please introduce your witness?

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the deputy minister of Personnel, Ken Lovely, with me. Thank you.

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

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): Clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 11. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 12. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 13. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 14. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 15. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 16. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 17. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 18. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 19. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 20. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 21. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 22. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 23. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 24. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 25. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 26. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 27. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 28. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 29. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 30. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 31. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 32, Arctic College Act.
 Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Schedule A. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
 ---Agreed
 CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Schedule B. Agreed?
 SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

—Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

—Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 40, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

—Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will take a 15 minute break. Thank you, Mr. Minister and the witness.

---SHORT RECESS

Mr. Government House Leader, what is your wish?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government would like to proceed with Statute Law Amendment, Bill 50; Income Tax Act, Bill 52; Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2, Bill 48; Labour Standards Act, No. 2, Bill 13.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will go on to Bill 50 then, Mr. Ballantyne. Does the committee agree to deal with Bill 50? Go ahead then, Mr. Ballantyne. Make your opening remarks.

Bill 50: Statute Law Amendment (Official Languages) Act

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Amendments being proposed in this bill arise from the amendments made to the Official Languages Act in 1990. As Members will recall, in 1990 we replaced the concept of English and French as official languages of the Territories with the concept that the aboriginal languages and English and French were the official languages of the Territories.

Amendments to the acts in this bill, other than the Official Languages Act, are to carry out the intention throughout the statutes. The amendments to the Official Languages Act repeal provisions that are redundant or spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Chairman of the standing committee on legislation, Mr. Ernerk.

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on legislation reviewed this bill at its morning meeting on July 2, 1991. The standing committee on legislation, Mr. Chairperson, is grateful to the Minister of Justice, the Hon. Michael Ballantyne, for his attendance and presentation of the bill.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has already described the purpose and substance of the bill. I wish to advise the committee of the whole that at its July 2, 1991 meeting, the standing committee on legislation agreed to recommend this bill to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. General comments. Are there any general comments? Committee agree that we go clause by clause. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

—Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

—Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 2. 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): Bill as a whole. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 50, Statute Law Amendment (Official Languages) Act, is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that we go to Bill 52, An Act To Amend the Income Tax Act, with Mr. Ballantyne? Go ahead.

Bill 52: Income Tax Act

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the amendment to the Income Tax Act is to eliminate the requirement for corporations paying tax at the NWT small business rate of five per cent to file an additional income tax form. Currently corporations must first calculate a credit, then subtract it from tax payable. Under the amended rules such corporations would calculate the tax directly at a lower rate and would not have to separately calculate a credit. The total tax payable by corporations will not change as a result of this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, as a matter of clarification I would like to thank the House, the Chairpersons of both the finance committee and the legislation committee, for allowing me to proceed with this act on an emergency basis. As you know, in the budget session we lowered the small business tax from eight per cent to five per cent. Small businesses have, in the course of the

last year, made us aware of a problem they had. A major problem they had, a major problem, is because of the taxation procedures; in order to get the benefit of the tax, they had to file an extra income tax form. Because of that, many small businesses were not able to take advantage of the tax. We were informed by Revenue Canada, after we had inquired about it, that if we followed this procedure it would then be possible for small businesses to use the standard income tax form and they would not be required to fill out an additional form. As such, this particular amendment will make it much easier for small businesses to gain the benefit from the tax changes that we have made in the last year. I really do appreciate the House support in allowing me to bring this forward with very little notice. Thank you.

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

Comments From The Standing Committee On Finance

MR. POLLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as a group the standing committee on finance has not seen Bill 52, but I took it upon myself to recommend to the Minister that he bring it directly to the House because I did not see that the standing committee on finance, or any Member of this House, would want to be against something that is going to make it easier for small business people in the Northwest Territories to file tax. So, personally, I recommend it to the House, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree that Bill 52, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, is now ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed.

Bill 48: Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 2

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will now turn to Bill 48. Does the committee agree that we deal with Bill 48, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No 2, with Mrs. Marie-Jewell? Madam Minister, are you ready with your opening statement?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chairman, in my capacity as the Member of the Management and Services Board, I am pleased to present the proposed amendments to the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No.2 which provides three main changes to the act.

The first deals with the setting of the salaries for the Speaker at the same level as that of a Minister. The second deals with setting by schedule the maximum permissible constituency work expenses for the Members of the 12th Legislative Assembly. This amendment reflects the changes to the boundaries of the electoral districts approved by the Assembly. The third change to the act is to permit an annual increase to the constituency expenses based on the consumer price index.

Mr. Chairman, these amendments would come into force upon dissolution of the 11th Assembly and, Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to answer any questions that the Members may have. Those are my remarks, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any general comments from the committee? Mr. Gargan.

Salaries Of Other Presiding Officers Of The House Should Have Been Releved

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, just to get clarification here. I understand in this act the Speaker would receive a salary the same as a Minister's. I have no problem with that. I support that. The only difficulty I have is that in this House there are four presiding officers: the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and two chairmen of committee of the whole. I was wondering why, when this act was introduced, those other officers were not considered.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: My recollection for that particular issue is the fact that the workload is the responsibility of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The role of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly has been enhanced and the workload for the Deputy Speaker and the other two presiding officers of committee of the whole is not as demanding as that of the Speaker.

I certainly hope that the Member is not anticipating that the deputy chairman of committee of the whole and chairmen of other committees be considered to receive the same as a Minister's salary.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, perhaps you might clarify something here. I do not know if I am in conflict. I am the Deputy Speaker and I do not know if I am in conflict or not. I would like a ruling on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): We will get Madam Law Clerk to

clarify the matter.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is not in conflict in discussing this matter, as it involves indemnities that are paid to Members by virtue of their being Members, under the current Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I realize that once this act is passed it does not affect this Assembly, but it does affect the 12th Assembly. Mr. Chairman, in the role of the Speaker, it is no less than those of the Members who are serving as Deputy Speaker or chairman of committee of the whole. There are certain times when those presiding officers have to make the same sacrifices as the Speaker does. At times when there are government functions that the Speaker is not available for, then the Deputy Speaker or chairmen of committee of the whole have to play that role.

So even though it does not seem of interest to other Members, a presiding officer is a presiding officer. I am not suggesting that they get salaries equivalent to a deputy minister, but I am suggesting that they do play an important role, a very important role.

It would seem that by introducing only a section to deal with the Speaker, that the other presiding officers are of less consideration. I just want to say I disagree with that. I am sure when the Management and Services Board considered this, they must have looked at the possibility that it would be raised. I was not going to let this pass without letting the Members know that presiding officers of this Assembly do play an important role. The Speaker plays an important role. Would the Minister agree to make some amendments to it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ningark): Madam Minister.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for overlooking the Deputy Speaker's desire for us to look at a salary increase. But we did just look at the Speaker's role and because of the added responsibilities and enhanced responsibilities, we felt that the position of Speaker has been evolving over the past four years. We felt it was most appropriate for the Speaker to have an increase in salary at this rate.

However, this does not preclude the Members, particularly the Deputy Speaker or the chairmen of committee of the whole, to be able to allow themselves, if the Speaker -- in respect to the the Speaker requesting the Deputy Speaker to act on his behalf outside of the House or when the House was not presiding. He certainly is entitled to a daily indemnity rate, as we know, of \$218, along with his expenses of an additional \$185. So if the Speaker did ask the Deputy Speaker to take responsibility to fulfil his role, he would be entitled to a rate in excess of \$400.

I do not know why he wants us to also look at an additional salary. I am somewhat confused about that, but there is provision in the rules now that allow for these amounts of funding to be given to the Deputy Speaker if the Speaker so desires for him to act on his behalf. Thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, when the Deputy Speaker plays the role in the absence of the Speaker, the indemnities do not change one bit, not one bit. It stays the same. I get my travel expense like any other Member. Although I have changed my role to represent the Speaker, that does not reflect that in any way. I just wanted to let the Members know

-- including if I have to play my role as Speaker in the House too, it does not change any kinds of benefits. It stays the same, just to make that clear.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Madam Minister, do you wish to respond?

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Not in particular, Mr. Chairman. I guess the point is the Deputy Speaker is an individual who is appointed by this Assembly and it would be practice for the Speaker to give and request the Deputy Speaker to fulfil his role if he desired it should be filled on his behalf. Other Members such as the chairman of the committee of the whole or the deputy chairman of the committee of the whole would most likely not be asked to fill the Speaker's role given the daily rate of indemnity. Taking on the responsibility of Deputy Speaker does allow him to be responsible to fulfil the role of Speaker if the Speaker so chose to request that of him.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not argue the point. It is just that in this bill there are two sections, one of them with regard to living allowance for MLA's, which is addressed for 24 Members. We have in this House also four presiding officers, but we are only dealing with one presiding officer. That is the point I am trying to make.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Mr. Gargan. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, is it my understanding, just listening to the Minister and my colleague from Deh Cho, that the indemnity that is being paid to the Deputy Speaker, if he is acting in a capacity as the acting Speaker -- does he get paid at the rate of the Speaker? Is it pro-rated so he gets paid? Say he acts on behalf of the Speaker for a day, would he get paid the equivalent amount as the Speaker?

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, for example, if the Deputy Speaker was requested to fulfil the role of Speaker for a day, the daily rate of indemnity would be allotted to the Deputy Speaker for fulfilling that role if it is requested to fulfil the position for a day's responsibility.

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

Changing Duties Of Speaker

MR. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We discussed this issue at some length just over three years ago when Mr. Pedersen was the Speaker. The decision was made at that time that after he had assumed the chair, this particular job was not really the same as being a Minister. I know that some people felt strongly that it should be, but the majority felt that it was not, and a decision was made that it would be kept at the level we have now. I am interested in hearing about evolution and how things have developed and changed. I would like to ask, precisely what is the difference between the duties that Mr. Nerysoo does now as compared with the duties that Mr. Pedersen did three years ago when we decided we did not want to make a different level or different responsibility type positions? What exactly has happened in this three years to make it different?

MR. ERNERK: Point of order. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, at the time that the Member

refers to, the date the decision was made, the Member had no idea what my role was. I had not started working yet as Speaker.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): I am sorry, that is not a point of order. Mr. Lewis.

MR. LEWIS: Okay, let me try again, Mr. Chairman. In the three or so years since the time when we discussed this, what is the difference between what we do now in this Assembly, what duties are different, for the Speaker, from what they were when we first came into this 11th Assembly? The argument has been made that the reason we are going to change the level of this position is because the job has changed. It has evolved to a state now where we really have to recognize that the Legislative Assembly is like a department of government. Would Mr. Hamilton be like a deputy minister, which is perhaps correct, and the Speaker is like a Minister? Therefore, they should be treated at the same level. What is different now, though, from what it was three or four years ago when the decision was made that we did not need to make this increase? That is my question to the Minister.

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

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: First of all, I believe that three years ago, when we first came into this Legislature, we did not even intend to build a new legislative building, where the Speaker would have to take the full role of ensuring that that building is going to be built. The process of design phase, and everything else, will be under his responsibility. That in itself is a significant enhancement to his responsibilities. In addition to that, there have been administrative responsibilities enhanced in the role of the Legislative Assembly by the Speaker in fulfilling many of the added administrative items that the Assembly has to deal with; but most significantly, I believe what will require a lot of the Speaker's time and is probably taking a lot of the Speaker's time now, is to try to get our building built here in Yellowknife.

Mr. Chairman, I am somewhat concerned. I have seen the significant increase in the role of the Legislative Assembly and the Speaker being brought out to the public, explained in the different communities. I know for a fact that there are many times that I have asked the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, to go and speak to the students, even college students, to explain the role of the Assembly. People are becoming aware, as we all know, and there have been many more demands, I believe, placed on the Speaker's Office than in previous years. With the increasing demands, everyone's role has been enhanced to quite a degree.

I can probably get a list from the Clerk of the Assembly so as to determine exactly what type of responsibilities were not taken before by the Speaker or that have increased over the years. The Management and Services Board felt that this warranted and justified an increase for the Speaker. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further general comments? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for information on how this bill came forward. My question to the Minister would be, has the bill been before the standing committee on legislation and the standing committee on finance? Have they taken a look at the proposed bill since it has financial implications, and I do not know if my colleague from Hay River's committee has seen the bill that is before us, before it was introduced into the House. Could I ask if it has been laid before the standing committees?

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

Financial Implications Of Bill

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I know this bill has not gone to the finance committee in respect to the financial implications. First of all, the financial implications in respect to the constituency indemnity stays basically the same except that as a result of the realignment of the boundaries and the increase of new constituencies, there have been different allotments placed in those new proposed constituencies for the next Legislature.

In respect to the Speaker's salary, when you really think of it, I would suggest that the Speaker's salary would probably get a cutback from what it is currently. Because thinking of the Speaker's salary now, getting a daily indemnity, going to a Minister's salary would probably be a significant drop in the Speaker's salary. So financial implications, I do not know to what degree they will be increased, if any.

It was the Management and Services Board that decided this would go to caucus. Caucus agreed to this bill. It went to caucus twice before it was agreed to, and in my opinion the Member should know that caucus has say over any committee of this House. If caucus decided that this bill should come to the House as it is, we are just following their direction. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Any further comments? Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, in the House rules caucus does not exist, so I do not know what reference the Minister is making. Normally a bill that comes forward usually goes to the standing committee on finance when it has financial implications and normally your committee, Mr. Chairman, the standing committee on legislation, usually reviews the legislation. I asked the Minister if this has been before the two committees that are supposed to look at these types of bills and I assume it has not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): I am sorry, Mr. Zoe, you were not speaking to the bill. Are you ready for clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Clause 3. Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mr. Chairman, in clause 3, subsection 26(1) with the proposed amendments. Could the Law Clerk give me the proper reading now as to how it is going to be spelled out?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Madam Law Clerk.

LAW CLERK (Ms. MacPherson): Clause 3, if adopted, will result in section 26(1) being as follows: "26(1) An indemnity shall be paid to every Member who (a) attends a meeting of the special or standing committee of the Legislative Assembly

of which he is a Member; (b) attends a meeting of the Management and Services Board of which he is a Member; or (c) attends a general meeting for all Members; or (d) performs an assignment given to him by the Legislative Assembly or the Speaker." The current clause (e), which is proposed to be repealed, is "performs duties as Speaker," and then the clause goes on to state that the indemnity should be paid "at the rate of \$190 for each day that the Member so attends or performs or is absent from his place of residence in order to so attend or perform."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you, Madam Law Clerk. Clause 3. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Clause 5. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Clause 6. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Clause 7. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Clause 8. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Clause 9. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Clause 10. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you. Schedule B. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Does the committee agree that Bill 48, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2, is now ready for third reading? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

--Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): Thank you very much. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Ningark.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ernerk): I have a motion on the floor, which is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

--Carried

I will now rise and report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

MR. ERNERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 40, 50, 52 and 48 and wishes to report that Bills 40, 50, 52 and 48 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the chairman of committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder to the motion? The honourable Member for Rae-Lac la Martre. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

--Carried

The honourable Member for Amittuq.

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Mr. Speaker, I wish to seek unanimous consent to go back to Item 2, Ministers' statements.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 2. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

REVERT TO ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Ministers' Statement 105-91(1): Inuit And Dene Land Claims Boundary

HON. TITUS ALLOOLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you honourable colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut and the Government of Canada have agreed on a boundary to separate the Inuit and Dene/Metis land claim settlement area.

--Applause

According to Mr. Paul Quassa, president of the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, the agreement allows land ownership negotiations in the Kitikmeot Region to go ahead as planned beginning July 22, 1991. In addition, it enables the Legislative Assembly to amend the Plebiscite Act to authorize a

Territories-wide plebiscite adopting the land claims boundary to divide the Northwest Territories to create Nunavut.

The agreement, announced today, enables Inuit to gain fee simple title to 230 square miles of land adjacent to Fry Inlet and Contwoyto Lake. This is in addition to the land quantum of 25,495 square miles for the Kitikmeot West region specified in the Nunavut agreement in principle and includes provisions for access to the Dene. The boundary agreement also enables Inuit to negotiate to own land in the Healey Lake region, south and west of the Contwoyto Lake, in addition to the land quantum for the Kitikmeot West region.

Finally, TFN has been assured that the Nunavut final agreement will provide for the co-ordinated management plan for the Thelon Game Sanctuary, within five years, while the land and resource management institutions provided for under the agreement are being established. No boundary changes will be made to the sanctuary during that period. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: The record will note that that was an emergency statement. Item 19, third reading of bills. Honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

ITEM 19: THIRD READING OF BILLS

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent to give third reading to Bill 52. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Third Reading Of Bill 52: Income Tax Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 52, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the third time.

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

---Carried

Bill 52 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to give third reading to Bill 40.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to give third reading to Bill 40. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Third Reading Of Bill 40: Public Service Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife North, that Bill 40, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be read for the third time.

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

---Carried

Bill 40 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The

honourable Member for Slave River.

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for unanimous consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 48.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is being sought to proceed with third reading of Bill 48. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Third Reading Of Bill 48: Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act. No. 2

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit, that Bill 48, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2, be read for the third time.

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

---Carried

Bill 48 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Slave River.

Third Reading Of Bill 34: Labour Standards Act, No. 1

HON. JEANNIE MARIE-JEWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 34, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, No. 1, be read for the third time.

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

---Carried

Bill 34 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife North.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed to third reading of Bill 50, Statute Law Amendment (Official Languages) Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with Bill 50. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Third Reading Of Bill 50: Statute Law Amendment (Official Languages) Act

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 50, Statute Law Amendment (Official Languages) Act, be read for the third time.

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

---Carried

Bill 50 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Item 20, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Orders of the day for Saturday, July 6, 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
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills: Bills 13, 43 and 47
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bills 44, 45, 46; Tabled Document 115-91(1) and Bill 49
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Pursuant to the authority given to the Speaker by Motion 24-91(1), this House stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Saturday, July 6, 1991.

---ADJOURNMENT

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