



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

9th Session

10th Assembly

HANSARD
Official Report

DAY 13

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1987

Pages 440 to 462

Speaker: The Honourable Donald M. Stewart, M.L.A.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Mr. Nerysoo, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. T'Seleie

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Would the House come to order, please? I am having a great deal of trouble to get the birthday boy to sit down so I can wish him happy birthday. Happy birthday, Mr. Ballantyne.

---Applause

AN HON. MEMBER: Speech, speech!

AN HON. MEMBER: How old is he?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the day for Friday, February 27th. Item 2 and one half on your agenda, Ministers' statements. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Butters.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 12-87(1): Property Tax Increase

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Executive Council has agreed to increase property taxes by 10 per cent for the 1987 year in taxation areas outside the tax-based municipalities. These taxes are collected by the Government of the Northwest Territories in all locations outside the eight tax-based municipalities of Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, Iqaluit, Norman Wells, Pine Point and Yellowknife. Based on the most recent property assessments, this increase will generate an additional \$230,000 in revenue in 1987. Tax rates in these locations have not increased since 1967 when property taxes were first imposed. As a result, these taxes are much lower than they are in those municipalities which set and collect their own taxes.

I am also announcing today that in the seven municipalities of Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, Iqaluit, Norman Wells and Pine Point, the school levy set by the Northwest Territories government will be increased by 10 per cent for 1987. These rates have also not been increased since 1967 and are much lower than in Yellowknife, where the rates are set by the two school boards to cover expenses. We expect this measure to generate an additional \$150,000 in 1987.

Over the past 20 years a property tax system has developed, whereby the assessed values in different communities have been altered by applying local modifiers to the value of improvements.

Different communities have been assessed in different years, which has also led to differences in assessed values between communities. Because of these differences in assessments, it is not possible to compare property taxes in the various communities across the Northwest Territories. As a result of its examination of assessments and taxes, the Executive Council has requested the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs to review its method of assessing property values in various communities, to ensure that the burden of property taxation is fairly spread across all residents.

Before I sit down I would indicate to the honourable Member for Slave River that the communities affected have been notified, by telephone, of the increase to the education mill rate tax and I will be expecting that we would have discussion of taxation with regard to municipalities when the Finance budget comes up and we can respond to questions at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Butters. Item 2, Ministers' statements. This appears to conclude Ministers' statements for today. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Pudluk.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Ministers' Absence From House

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to state that we, the elected Members, have a lot of responsibilities. Also we have elected our eight Executive Council Members and if they are not going to be in attendance at the Assembly or if they are going to be away, I think they should notify us in advance. For instance, Gordon Wray stated that he was going to be away. That was good. But for those Ministers who leave without notifying the Members first, we would like to know for what reason they are going to be leaving. Sometimes it does not make the House run very well when they leave without notifying the Members. I feel that from now on the Ministers should notify us when they are going to be away because we elected them and we would like to know why they are going to be away and for how long. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Members' statements. That appears to conclude Members' statements for today.

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Richard.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 083-87(1): Action Plan Based On 1984 Torrance Report

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services and it concerns the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council. Last October, Mr. Speaker, a motion was passed in this Assembly calling on the government to act on a 1984 report which addressed then many shortcomings of the current direction and mandate and performance of the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council. That motion passed in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, requested the government to act on the report and bring in a plan of action to present to this Assembly during this session. Can the Minister indicate what he has done to act on the 1984 Torrance report?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 083-87(1): Action Plan Based On 1984 Torrance Report

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The ADCC people and NNADAP people from Health and Welfare Canada, as well as officials from my department are working on that and I expect to have a report and a plan from them to table in the House before the session ends. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are taking the question as notice. Mr. Richard.

Supplementary To Question 083-87(1): Action Plan Based On 1984 Torrance Report

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I heard the Minister say that he would be reporting to this Assembly this session. In that context, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Is the Minister aware that the shortcomings of the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council -- the lack of regular meetings, the lack of attendance by members of the council, the lack of continuity of the membership of the

council -- that these shortcomings continue to this very day as were pointed out in the 1984 Torrance report? Is the Minister aware that these things have been happening since 1984 and particularly since October of last year?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 083-87(1): Action Plan Based On 1984 Torrance Report

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is one of my concerns and that is why I brought it to the caucus because ADCC was originally established by this Assembly. I want to do something about attendance. I looked at the make-up and was advised that I was unable to make appointments to that association. It is structured so that the organizations that participate pick their people and there is lack of continuity. The people from different organizations change and do not come to meetings. Some of the people on the board have conflict of interest situations because they work for projects and at the same time are determining how much the project is going to make. There are difficulties with it and that is why I brought it to caucus for some direction and I appreciate that the Assembly has made a motion to give us direction because that ADCC was established by the Assembly. Also, Mr. Speaker, I did not take that question as notice; I said that I expect a report to be available to me with an action plan that I can hopefully table in this House before the session ends. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you and I note that you did not take the question as notice Mr. Richard.

Supplementary To Question 083-87(1): Action Plan Based On 1984 Torrance Report

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, we are now into the fourth week of this sitting of this session and I do not think any of us know when the session is going to end, whether it is this month or the month of May or June. Can the Minister be more specific as to when he is going to present a plan of action for the consideration of the Members of the Assembly in terms of a calendar date? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 083-87(1): Action Plan Based On 1984 Torrance Report

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I cannot give a specific date at this time but I hope to do so it before the session adjourns. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. That concludes this item for today. Item 6, written questions. Mr. Angottitauruq.

ITEM 6: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question W18-87(1): Meat Handling And Butchering Course

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: I have a short written question this morning, regarding a meat handling and butchering course and it reads: The Natilikmiot communities are struggling to be more economically self-sufficient as in other areas of the Northwest Territories. We feel if we had a good knowledge of meat handling, specifically in butchering, it would benefit the communities. Would the Minister of Education look into the matter of funding and means to have a good course for each settlement in Natilikmiot? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. Written questions. Mr. Nerysoo.

Question W19-87(1): Details Regarding Musk-Ox Program Developments Limited

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister responsible for Social Services provide this House with the answers to the following questions? 1) Where, in Yellowknife, is the office of Musk-ox Program Developments Limited located? 2) How many residents of the NWT are employed in this office? 3) How many NWT residents, including native people, are employed by Musk-ox Program Developments Limited in all their present contracts? 4) What specific training programs are offered to the employees of Musk-ox Program Developments Limited?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Written questions. That appears to conclude written questions for today.

Item 7, returns to written questions. I understand there are no returns today.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 11, tabling of documents.

Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills.

Item 14, motions.

Item 15, first reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. Bill 2-87(1), Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act. Mr. Pedersen.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 2-87(1): Advisory Council On The Status Of Women Act

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Pine Point, that Bill 2-87(1), An Act to Amend the Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act to allow for the appointment of substitute members of the advisory council for a term of three years; and to provide for the appointment of two vice-presidents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To the principle of the bill. Question is being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 2-87(1) has had second reading. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 1-87(1), Boundary and Constitutional Agreement for the Implementation of Division of the Northwest Territories between the Western Constitutional Forum and the Nunavut Constitutional Forum; Bill 1-87(1), Appropriation Act, 1987-88; Bill 7-87(1), Education Act; Bill 6-87(1), Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, with Mr. Gargan in the chair.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER TABLED DOCUMENT 1-87(1), BOUNDARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIVISION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES BETWEEN THE WESTERN CONSTITUTIONAL FORUM AND THE NUNAVUT CONSTITUTIONAL FORUM; BILL 1-87(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1987-88

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): The committee will now come to order.

Tabled Document 1-87(1)

We are dealing with Tabled Document 1-87(1). Ms Cournoyea.

Motion To Defer Discussion Of Tabled Document 1-87(1)

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, because of the particular topic that is on the table and the issues that have to be weighed and some of the questions that have come forward in yesterday's discussion, because I believe this question is a very important question on the division of the Northwest Territories, I move that we defer further discussion until Thursday, March 5th.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Ms Cournoyea, can we have a copy of your motion? The motion reads that we move that we defer discussion on Tabled Document 1-87(1) to March 5th, Thursday. Ms Cournoyea, your motion is in order.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, we all have been weighing for the last three or four weeks, the arguments and the issues around this very important topic. My understanding is that, in the next few days, there will be meetings with other organizations in Yellowknife taking place that will determine the boundary between the TFN and the Dene/Metis and as well I would like to take the opportunity to weigh some of the questions that have been given to me from certain Members, by reading the transcripts once again so that we can move ahead and deal with the question that we wish to put to our constituencies. I do not wish to just speak off the cuff on this issue because it is a very important issue particularly to the area and the people that I represent and I am sure that the issue is equally important to other individuals who represent various constituencies throughout the Northwest Territories. In order to weigh the arguments and think about the issues, I believe a number of days are important for me and I am sure that, because of the magnitude of our decision, the number of days that I suggest that we defer this item is not a long time. It will not take away from the question of placing a plebiscite before people at the earliest possible convenience. So, Mr. Chairman, the request and motion to defer is just to contemplate and look at the arguments. As well I would like to give others, who are not in this Assembly, the opportunity to perhaps come to us with decisions that may be made in the next five days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Ms Cournoyea. Mr. Erkloo, to the motion to defer.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say that I am in support of the mover of the motion. This is very important and there are some Members who are not here to discuss this, especially the people from the Keewatin Region. Members from the Keewatin Region are not here today and I always believe that we should give other people some opportunity to speak whether we agree with them or not. I think that we should give other people some opportunity to speak on this. If there was to be a motion to accept the boundary agreement, some will be opposed to it. I think there will be a lot of us who will be speaking on it. I think that we should give an opportunity to the Keewatin Region representatives because I myself have to talk about them and I would hate to talk about them behind their backs. I am sure that we have a lot of things to say about this issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you. Mr. MacQuarrie, to the motion to defer.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, I think I can support the motion, Mr. Chairman. I see that it would also give Members a chance during the week to discuss the ongoing process, what kind of motion can be formulated to deal with the agreement and I think that that would be a welcome opportunity, so I think I can support the motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Pudluk, to the motion to defer.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a Member of the NCF, I am in support of the motion to defer. Perhaps when we start dealing with this again the Keewatin people will be here and the Member for Aivilik will be here to discuss this, because they are opposing the boundary agreement. Perhaps if they still oppose it, they should discuss the Keewatin Region being a member of the Western Arctic and the Inuvialuit coming into the Nunavut region. I think maybe that is the only way that they could be happy. I am very happy to defer this issue. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion To Defer Discussion Of Tabled Document 1-87(1), Carried

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

---Carried

Thank you. We will go now to Bill 1-87(1), Appropriation Act, 1987-88, with Mr. Butters.

Bill 1-87(1), Appropriation Act, 1987-88

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, to indicate that the order provided on the reverse of the agenda is now incorrect and in view of the fact that Mr. Wray is absent in Ottawa to speak with Mr. Crosbie, to fill that vacancy I would suggest the Department of Renewable Resources, the third item, be moved up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Does the committee agree then that we move on to Renewable Resources?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Renewable Resources

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister, your opening remarks.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I have the indulgence of the committee to move to the witness table? I will bring my witnesses in and make my opening remarks.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to request that we take a 10 or 15 minute adjournment.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We will take a 10 minute recess.

---SHORT RECESS

Mr. Pedersen, for the record would you introduce your witnesses, please?

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee. On my immediate left is Mr. Jim Bourque, the deputy minister of Renewable Resources, and to my right is Mr. David Brackett, the assistant deputy minister of Renewable Resources.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Would you like to start with your opening address?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. RED PEDERSEN: It is my pleasure to report to you today on the activities of the Department of Renewable Resources and to introduce our 1987-88 departmental budget. We have been busy and much has been accomplished since I spoke to you in my budget address a year ago. The goal of the Department of Renewable Resources is to maintain the diversity and ensure the long-term productivity of renewable resources while ensuring that the quality of the environment is maintained.

As you are well aware, the Northwest Territories economy is tied directly to our natural resources. Over the past year, with the downturn in the oil and gas industry, the importance of the renewable resource sector has become even more evident. In any balanced northern development scenario the stabilizing influence of the renewable resource sector must be recognized. The wise management of the renewable resource sector is crucial to the future success of our northern economy, physical health, the achievement of self-sufficiency in food and fibre, and to the spiritual and cultural aspirations of northern residents. We must recognize the critical

importance of the renewable resource base; our wildlife, our fish and marine mammals, our forests, our land and water resources, and the need to maintain a healthy, high quality natural environment.

The budget of the department is allocated to reflect this importance. The total operating budget of the Department of Renewable Resources for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1987, was approximately \$14.8 million. For the coming year the department is requesting \$15.9 million to carry out its mandate and work toward its goals in renewable resource development, wildlife management, environmental protection and conservation education. Approximately 50 per cent of the increase in this year's budget is attributed to the four per cent price factor increase. The remaining increase has been allocated primarily to priority wildlife management programs such as the North Baffin caribou study, which has \$65,000 allocated to it, furbearer management and research programs, \$50,000, and bison studies in parts of the Mackenzie Valley have \$220,000 allocated. All of these programs will enable the department to develop a better understanding of specific wildlife resources. That understanding will, in turn, enable us to deal effectively with pressures on these resources in the future. The end result of these management and research programs should be the enhancement of the renewable resource economy in the NWT.

Proposed increases to both the field services and pollution control divisions reflect the cost of improving program delivery in the Eastern Arctic. The cost of enhancing the level of trapper incentive grants also contributes to an increase in the field services budget. Increases in that program are particularly important at a time when the trapping and fur industry is under attack by southern animal rights groups. Our increased support and recognition of trapping in the NWT will help ensure its rightful place in our economy.

Largest Portion Of Budget In Field Services

The largest portion of our budget is allocated under the heading of field services; 57 per cent of our budget is directed to provide services in the area of renewable resource development, conservation education, and regulation and enforcement. Financial assistance programs have been established to support the hunting and trapping economy. Education and information programs are a high priority, intended to make northern residents aware of departmental activities and conservation goals.

The next largest portion of our budget is allocated to wildlife management; 20 per cent of our budget is directed toward the implementation of programs designed to assess the status and productivity of wildlife populations. This provides the basis for decisions on the limits of sustainable yields. Efforts are focussed primarily upon caribou, polar bear, gyrfalcon and musk-ox, with secondary projects that deal with wood bison, Dall's sheep and furbearers.

Land use activities are also monitored and wildlife-related concerns are dealt with through participation in the land use licensing process. Support is provided for the participation of northerners in the management of renewable resources such as caribou management boards.

The remaining budget of my department is allocated to pollution control, land use planning, policy and planning and administration. The budget of the pollution control program, just over five per cent, is used to maintain the high standard of environmental quality that the North now enjoys, through programs that monitor and regulate industrial, commercial and municipal activities. Emphasis is placed on controlling spills of petroleum and chemical products, management of hazardous wastes, controlling the use of pesticides, unsightly premises and the administration of dangerous goods regulations.

Mr. Chairman, the budget for land use planning, just under four per cent of our total, allows the co-ordination and management of the Government of the Northwest Territories participation in the joint federal/territorial land use planning program.

The budget allocated to departmental policy and planning functions, again just under four per cent, is used to assist in the analysis of resource management issues confronting the department; to assist in the development of policies and management tools required to guide decisions on the best use of land and resources in the Northwest Territories; to assist in the development of strategies to facilitate the devolution of greater resource management authority to this government; to assist in the co-ordination of the department's role in the assessment and review of resource development projects; and to maintain the department's management information system and evaluation of program effectiveness.

Transfer Of Forest Resources

We have succeeded, Mr. Chairman, in securing a mandate for the transfer of forest resources from the federal government. In conjunction with this transfer, a comprehensive forest policy and appropriate legislation are being prepared. Water management in the NWT is still the responsibility of the federal government. However, the Department of Renewable Resources, on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, is working jointly with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to develop a water resource management policy for the NWT, and to negotiate interjurisdictional water management agreements with our neighbouring provinces and territories.

The Department of Renewable Resources is committed to renewable resource development as a major contributor to the socio-economic stability and prosperity of the Northwest Territories. Greater authority and control of natural resources can improve this government's capabilities in fostering economic development. Ultimately that authority and control will improve the service the Department of Renewable Resources provides to residents of the Northwest Territories. We see increased control and authority as a means of ensuring that our programs truly represent the needs of northerners. Our intention is to enhance the contribution that renewable resources make to the territorial economy and to the cultural heritage and aspirations of northern residents. Our management programs will continue to focus on the enhancement of the economic opportunities provided by the sustainable use of renewable resources in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Chairman, those are my opening remarks and I now put the budget for your consideration.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any general comments? Mr. Richard.

Department's O And M Budget May Have No Fat

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by indicating that this Minister also was very co-operative and presented very valuable information to myself as a Member of the standing committee on finance, during the review of this department in the month of January. I gleaned, Mr. Chairman, that Members of the standing committee on finance generally felt that this department stood out among the others, in that in all likelihood there was no fat in this department, because my impression from Members of the standing committee on finance with respect to other departments without exception -- I should say with the sole exception of this department -- was that the O and M budgets were indeed fat. Mr. Chairman, at the risk of repeating myself I still have the same overall problem with the budget as a whole.

This Department of Renewable Resources is a small part of the budget. It is only some \$16 million, the O and M budget. It proposes a very small increase in PYs. Some Members of our committee did have an overall concern about the proliferation of increases in PYs that are being proposed by this budget. One of the aspects of that, Mr. Chairman, was the proliferation of assistant deputy ministers that are being created virtually every week in this government and I do note, or we were told at least, that this is one department where there is a proposed or already an increase in the number of ADM positions.

Mr. Chairman, the overall budget does put us into a serious deficit position and, worse, puts us into an irreversible trend of deficit budgets with no forethought whatsoever, in my view, of how we or our children are going to get out of these deficits or pay for these deficits in the future. Mr. Chairman, in response to a question posed by one of the Ministers a few weeks ago, I do not know where all of the fat is in the budget. I know where a lot of it is and I intend to answer the Ministers in the coming weeks specifically where some of the fat is. I do not know where the fat is in this department's budget.

AN HON. MEMBER: There is none.

MR. RICHARD: I do not know personally for certain whether there is any fat. I suspect there may not be, in this particular department.

I know with certainty, Mr. Chairman, since we first spoke on this topic a few weeks ago, from my many conversations with other MLAs, members of the public, members of the public service, that there is indeed a lot of fat in the budget. It is fat by at least \$20 million. The front page of the main estimates document indicates that the government is asking us for \$789 million but does

not intend to spend \$19 million of that, which are the projected lapses. I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, what these Ministers are going to do in the coming weeks to help this Assembly in finding where the fat is. I would like to reverse the onus. We do not have the knowledge that the Ministers and the Executive Council have about these budgets, including this Department of Renewable Resources. They are not helping matters at all by refusing to point out where the \$20 million, \$25 million, can be found and I think they should help, Mr. Chairman. Especially when they concede on the front page of the document that there is \$19 million that is not going to be spent. Why, in the name of all that is right, are they asking us for the \$19 million, when they say they are not going to spend it?

Mr. Chairman, at this time I want to make a motion.

Motion to Recommend Revision Of Main Estimates To Reflect Estimated Lapses

I move that this committee recommend that the Executive Council prepare and submit to this committee revised main estimate figures in which the estimated total lapses of \$19,090,000 are deleted from individual department estimates and that the revised main estimate figures be provided to this committee prior to consideration of the next departmental estimates. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not think the motion needs much more explanation than that. If Members would look at page v of the main estimates document, they will see that the government is proposing total expenditures of \$789 million and three entries below that they are estimating that they will not spend \$19,090,000 of that. Members of the Assembly have struggled, both in committee and in private conversations and in this Assembly for the last two or three weeks, as to how we are going to find the \$20 million or \$25 million that will take this budget out of the position where it will put the government into debt for the first time. I am suggesting, Mr. Chairman, in this motion that if the government sitting across from us are conceding from the outset that they are not going to spend \$19 million of the \$789 million, they should not be asking us for that money.

A few days ago the Ministers started by saying, "Tell us where it is fat; point out to us where it is fat." Now, we started earlier this week by trying with Mr. McCallum's motion to point out where the fat was. Then the Executive Council reversed their position. They said, "Don't you dare to force us to delete a specific item. Leave us the flexibility, delete the overall budget if necessary, but leave us the flexibility of finding where best to make the cuts and reductions in the increases." This is what my motion attempts to do, Mr. Chairman. The motion asks these eight wizards across the way to go back to the drawing board and show us where, in the \$789 million that is being proposed, they are not going to spend the \$19 million, and to come back to us with each department's estimates, that will in total reduce the \$789 million by \$19 million.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Before we make any further progress on the budget.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I do not think it is an unreasonable request of the Executive Council. It is admittedly something that the standing committee on finance asked the Executive Council to do through the Minister of Finance on January 23rd of 1987 at the conclusion of three weeks of consideration of the main estimates documents. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Richard. To the motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if a copy of that motion could be provided? I know you read it out again but I would just like to look at it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Okay, we will take a five minute break to circulate this motion.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): The committee will come to order. I think all the Members have a copy of that motion. To the motion.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Point of order.

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

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Richard's motion deals with the entire budget and only indirectly deals with the Department of Renewable Resources. We are now considering the Department of Renewable Resources, we are not in general comments. The debate on the overall global budget is over. So my point of order is that the motion is, therefore, out of order. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): The previous chairman already ruled the motion in order. I presume, Mr. Patterson, that you are challenging the Chair.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest of respect, I am going to have to challenge your ruling.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Erkloo.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 1-87(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1987-88

MR. ERKLOO: There was a motion in committee of the whole and I ruled the motion in order and I was challenged. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I will take time to review the verbatim documents and I will try and get you an answer this morning. We will now go back into committee of the whole to proceed with the business of the House, with Mr. Erkloo in the chair. I will get an answer to you as soon as possible.

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 1-87(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1987-88

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): I will call the committee of the whole back to order. Mr. Pedersen, could you ask your witnesses back to their seats again?

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my witnesses to return.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any general comments on the Department of Renewable Resources? Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My general comment is to deal with the bison herd that is in the Fort Providence sanctuary. Last summer there was some biology work done in the sanctuary with regard to the vegetation that has been used by the herd. Because the growth rate of the bison is increasing, there is some concern over the amount in their habitat area, that there might not be enough to support them if they stay at the rate that they are increasing. I believe that, if I am correct, the herd should be levelling off about now. So even though you harvest about 50 of the herd, you would not be affecting the growth rate. But you have to perhaps leave it at a level of 2000, which is what the area, the habitat, could support, but anything beyond that, I believe, would cause hardship on the particular herd. I also understand that there are other bison from the same herd that have gone across the Mackenzie highway north toward the Horn plateau area. I am not too concerned about that particular herd but it is the herd that is in the sanctuary that I am more concerned with. I understand that there was a study done last year and I would like to ask the Minister or his witness what the results of that study are. Also, again, I do have a concern if the population keeps increasing at their present pace without anything being done, what the result will be, without enough food to sustain the herd.

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

Management Of Bison Herd, Fort Providence

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are very much aware and concerned over the question that the Member raises and you will note from the details of our budget that the bison program is the major single increase in our budget. We have a two PY increase for a bison

ecologist and a technician, both listed under the Fort Smith Region. The Member is correct, the herd is at about the 2000 level. The size of the herd doubles roughly every three years. The best estimate that we have at the moment from our population surveys, reproductive rates, mortality factors and the capability of the habitat to sustain, is that the range that they occupy could support a herd of up to 7000 animals. Mr. Chairman, in addition to these general remarks, seeing that I have brought expert witnesses in, I would like to ask my assistant deputy minister, Mr. Brackett, to give some additional information to the Member. Mr. Brackett.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Brackett.

MR. BRACKETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While the carrying capacity, as we call it, the maximum level of the population that that habitat could sustain, we currently estimate may be in the neighbourhood of 7000 animals, that obviously would be the absolute maximum, that it perhaps could not carry for a long time. As the Member indicated, we too, have a concern that there should be some means of taking advantage of the tremendous resource that we have there. Over the past 20 years that resource has gone from a transplanted herd of approximately 16 animals to something in the neighbourhood of 2000 now. It is a resource that has tremendous potential for development and we are consulting, in great detail, with the communities involved, most particularly Fort Providence, on the way that they wish to see that herd developed. The other portion of the development side of the question though, is that in order to manage the herd intensively, we also need to collect detailed information on the herd and that is one of the reasons why, in this budget, we have the proposal to add those two technical positions to work specifically on collecting that detailed information to allow us to get into intensive management.

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

Application For Special ARDA Grant Turned Down

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For about the last year and a half I have had the opportunity to listen in on discussions with the community regarding that particular herd and they have expressed a lot of interest and look at the tourist potential and the economic potential of that herd. It was done in collaboration with the department in Fort Smith, with Cormack Gates, and the proposal was submitted before Christmas and after Christmas too. It was resubmitted and in both instances, I guess, this proposal was turned down. I do not know the reasons why it was turned down but I would like to ask the Minister what role his department plays with regard to that particular herd, the proposal that was submitted and why it was turned down and whether his department did support in any way, shape or form, the proposals that were submitted.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess we are aware of the proposal submitted. For the information of the honourable Member, I would like to state that our department fully supported the application. We do not decide on the allocation of Special ARDA grants and, offhand, I am not aware of why it was turned down but I will undertake to get that information for the Member on how our department did support the application.

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

MR. GARGAN: Yes, just further, a general comment. I believe the proposal was for \$60,000 or in that neighbourhood and that it was refused on the basis that it was too high. Also, the second time it went around, I believe, one of the reasons again was it was still too high. But the main feature of the proposal that was deleted was with regard to the marketing potential of the particular herd and so even though we do submit another proposal if you do not have a market or you do not know what the market potential is with regard to the herd, there is no sense in submitting a proposal that might make or break the initiative that is being submitted.

No Previous Feasibility Study

The other thing I wanted to mention too is that I have had the opportunity to get copies of Special ARDA submissions and also the small business incentive contributions that have been carried out by this government and perhaps the federal government and a lot of the time when you submit a proposal to Special ARDA or EDA or the small business incentive, these do not gear toward business as such but go into the feasibility studies of such a business and the viability of such a business, the

research into such a business. A lot of it that I have been able to scan through are actually studies that have been carried on and on and on, with no result. Every time there is a potential for economic development it seems to be gearing toward more studies, more evaluation, more research than necessary. The only thing that I am trying to get at is that a lot of these studies are the same studies that might have been carried on in the 1970s. The wood bison proposal that Fort Providence has submitted is unique in the fact that there have been no studies done in that particular area. And certainly because of that uniqueness, I would think that it would be supported by an organization such as Special ARDA, but I do not know why they have not responded positively. I just cannot see the rationale behind it. I am just wondering if the Minister would be able to find out what the rationale is behind it because I know in Special ARDA there are a lot of studies that have been carried on and been carried on without any real results, like getting right down to the business of the results of a study. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fully understand the Member's sense of frustration with the program. The amount applied for in this instance, \$60,000, certainly was not a particularly large amount. It is true that the Special ARDA and other grant or lending programs appear to have a difficult time evaluating, particularly, project submissions based on non-renewable resources. I can, as I did before, undertake to find out for the Member. In the meantime perhaps what I should suggest is that Mr. Gargan raises the matter again under consideration of the budget of Economic Development and Tourism. They are the department that have the greatest impact on the Special ARDA program and also, of course, the other programs available for grants, contributions or loans. Thank you.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps maybe I could also ask the Minister if he might be able to tell me who are the people that are on Special ARDA that decide on proposals. If he cannot tell me now, I am willing to wait.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although it is not within our department I am sure we can provide that. I will undertake to get that for the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any more general comments. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For quite a while we have not had a wildlife officer in Lake Harbour. When a community does not have a wildlife officer, it creates a problem for the people because we do not have anyone to ask about the types of information we like to get. We have been requesting a wildlife officer for quite some time. We thought we were going to get a wildlife officer in our community somewhere in 1987. I would like to know whether they are considering placing a wildlife officer in Lake Harbour in 1987, according to the wishes of the people in Lake Harbour.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Wildlife Officer For Lake Harbour

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to advise that according to the wishes of the people in Lake Harbour, as communicated to us by the honourable Member from Lake Harbour, there will be an officer placed in Lake Harbour during 1987. The increase in our budget for this position is on page 12.12 under field services. There is a total person year increase of one and that is the officer for Lake Harbour.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask the Minister on which page of the budget is the contribution to the bison management board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase in the budget for the bison program is under wildlife management on page 12.11. There is a total PY increase of three at the bottom of the page. One is for the bison ecologist and the other is for the bison technician.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: When the Minister referred to the bison management board, is he referring to the bison management board that was created in 1985, or is he specifically referring to the small little board Fort Providence has for submitting the proposal for the economic potential of that herd?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, there is a bison management committee in Fort Providence. I do not recall referring to it earlier, but this would be the committee.

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

MR. GARGAN: So you are referring to the bison management board that was created in 1985 then?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I must admit I am not aware of what date or year it was created but it is the bison management committee in Fort Providence anyhow.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: The other question I wanted to ask is with regard to this bison management board that was established some years back. What is the role of that particular board as far as bison management goes? What is their mandate or role? Because I know it was established but I am not sure now whether the small bison committee in Fort Providence has ever been able to get into contact with them, and I am just kind of curious. Does that particular board have an influence on the wood bison in the Fort Providence sanctuary?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I am just not aware, nor are any of my officials, of a bison management board. Except for the bison management committee in Fort Providence, I am not aware of any bison management board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any more general comments. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure whether you are involved in this job. In my community the sealskin price is very low and there is no way of making any wages from anything else. There are fish sold, but only in the community and they cannot export them. My question is: Pangnirtung has a lot of arctic char and lake trout and other kinds of fish and they could be sold to make money. I just wonder whether you have any money set aside in the budget to contribute to the beginning of the selling of fish in the community. You are not from Fisheries and Oceans but I just wondered if you had any money available. Thank you.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have funding for this in our budget or mandate, but I would like to advise the Member that our field officer is working with the people in Mr. Paniloo's constituency who are interested in setting up this project. Our field officer is working with them preparing submissions for a project and for funding through Economic Development where there is some money available for such projects.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Paniloo.

Community Funding For Reduction In Polar Bear Quota

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question. In 1970 we had a polar bear quota of 45. After the polar bear survey was done they said there were not enough polar bear for an increase in Broughton Island and Clyde River area and they decreased our quota in my constituency. I have heard something to this effect but I do not know where this information came

from. After they decreased the polar bear quota the communities were told that they would be given some funding because they took some of their quota for polar bear away. I would like to know if, when Renewable Resources decrease the polar bear quota of the community, are they given some funding to help them? There are some people in my community who said that they were going to be getting a boat or a longliner with the assistance of the government. I have asked about this in my community. I have asked the person in my community how he was going to get some assistance and he told me that after they decreased the polar bear quota that he was going to be given some funding to assist him in purchasing a boat. I am not aware of this kind of assistance and I would like to get some more information on this kind of assistance program. For instance, if a community's quota is reduced by one polar bear, I would like to know how they get some money to replace the quota they have removed from the community. Who gives them funding or who gives them a contribution? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question that the Member refers to is, as he says, in 1970. It goes quite some time back, certainly from before I received the responsibility for the department. In order to give the Member the best possible answer, going some time back, I will ask Mr. Brackett, initially, to answer the question and provide some information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Brackett.

MR. BRACKETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we do the best that we can and it is our intention in every case where we set a quota to do so on the best available biological information. When we completed the study in the area of Clyde and Broughton in the last couple of years, it became evident to us that a reduction in the quota in those two communities would be advisable. Rather than doing so, though, simply by imposing a change in the regulations, there was extensive consultation with the two communities and, in fact, an agreement was developed between the two communities and the Department of Renewable Resources. Under that agreement, the communities agreed to voluntarily reduce their take of polar bear by a total of 42 bears per year between the two communities.

Agreement With Department Is Not Exchange Of Quotas For Cash

The department recognized, as the Member said, that economic opportunities in those two communities are very limited, particularly with the reduction in the price for sealskins and we agreed to assist with some economic alternatives in the communities. One of the projects that was identified very early on was the purchase of a longliner in the community. There have been discussions of other projects, such as assistance and additional work on other wildlife studies in the area, some of which are in our department and others which, for instance, include the whales beneath the ice study of bowhead whales in Isabella Bay. The agreement that we have with the community does provide for some economic offset to the impact of reducing the quota voluntarily but we do not have a program that is a straight exchange between quotas and cash. We feel that the people of the North support us in wanting to manage wildlife in a way that it is available for the future. When quotas must be imposed to do that, then we will help whenever possible to help offset the impact of lower quotas but it is not a straight exchange of quota for cash. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some general comments on wildlife management. I am a little bit concerned about my area around Snowdrift. Just what kind of monitor are they using to monitor land use activities to ensure that the effects of resource development do not threaten the long-term productivity of wildlife? How do they determine that inventory for key species and just how do they manage that? I do not see too many officers going into that area and that was brought to my attention as well. What kind of action or what is the department doing in that area?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will pass this to Mr. Bourque, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Bourque.

MR. BOURQUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As to land use activities, how we pick the species that we are going to work on, that we are going to put our attention to, is we pick the species that are, what we call, bread-and-butter species such as caribou. Caribou provide the main source of protein for a large number of people in the Northwest Territories. We have our field crews, biologists and technicians, continually monitor the herds -- the Bathurst herd, for instance, and the Beverly herd -- and that is one way that we are continuing to monitor what is going on as far as herd movement. As for a wildlife officer, we have not had a wildlife officer stationed in Snowdrift. I believe the honourable Member brought this up at the SCOF meeting and we indicated that we will be coming up with a solution to that problem, probably this coming summer. We hope to have a person there at least on a part-time basis, right in Snowdrift, who will be able to monitor land use activities by hunters and assist trappers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: My concern is that there are so many people coming into that area. Last summer when some of the people went to some camp there, further back from Reliance -- I forget exactly the name of that lake, and I did write a letter on that -- they found a dead wolf floating by and some ducks were dead, floating along the shore. I was told that it was because some people that were in that area were not watching whatever they were using. They might have been using poison, maybe, to catch animals or whatever. Those are the kinds of activities that I am talking about -- and of course caribou as well, too, but those are the concerns that were brought to me. I know that last summer there were a lot of supplies that went into Reliance for building and that concerns me as well. It might have some effect on the animals in that area. Mahsi cho.

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

HON. RÈD PEDERSEN: Mr. Bourque, please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Go ahead, Mr. Bourque.

Public Urged To Report Incidents Of Wildlife Abuse

MR. BOURQUE: Mr. Chairman, as you know, the Territories is a very large area and these are the kinds of incidents that we would really encourage the public to assist us on. We have, I think, a fairly efficient enforcement unit but we have not got resources to cover every portion in the North and if we have some indication of abuse of wildlife, particularly in that type of case, we could immediately conduct an investigation and get to the bottom of it. We would urge all the public to report incidents of this type to us.

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

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question. Dave mentioned that the potential for feeding in the bison sanctuary in Fort Providence is 7000. I would like to ask him how he arrived at that figure when in fact no real biological study was done in the sanctuary until last summer, when there were studies done on the growth rate of the vegetation that these animals eat and the amount of area that they feed on in one summer in those areas. I am very curious how he arrived at that 7000 margin when in fact I do not think there were ever any studies done to establish how much the bison could consume in that particular area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Brackett, please. He handled the first part of that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Brackett.

Studies In Fort Providence Bison Sanctuary

MR. BRACKETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Member pointed out, there were some ground studies done in the sanctuary last summer and they did look at such things as the vegetation and the rate of growth and how much the bison used different areas of the ground. We were able, during the previous winter, to map a great deal of the bison habitat using remote sensing techniques. We took information that is gathered by the land satellite and mapped that on the maps of the area that the

bison are using. Then during the summer we went out and sampled various portions of a habitat to get some better information about what exactly was happening on the ground and then we would make a projection for the whole area based on what we know from those samples. It is a technique that has been used a number of times in different jurisdictions around the world. We acknowledge that it is still very much at an experimental stage here in the Northwest Territories and perhaps I should qualify my earlier statements that our best estimate right now is that the maximum carrying capacity would be 7000 animals. That does not mean that that is the population that we would like to see there. As the Member mentioned earlier, a lower population would likely be in a much healthier state and provide for a better herd in that area at a lower level than the maximum carrying capacity.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. Perhaps one other question I would like to ask. How big does the population have to be before they could get disease? What is the level for a healthy population? At what level does it have to be before they could be infested by disease?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would not like to put a precise number onto that question from the Member. Probably at next year's budget time we would be able to do so, once we get some of that data back from the people we propose to put into the field this year, with the increases I mentioned before. I just could not give an exact figure but I will go so far as to say that it certainly will be lower than the figure of 7000 that we mentioned as being the estimated maximum carrying capacity of the range right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. I guess it is appropriate at this time to express a concern to the Minister. It is regarding the wood bison committee that is operating in Fort Providence. Perhaps it would be appropriate at this time to establish a Mackenzie wood bison board that has a specific role and responsibility with regard to that particular herd in Fort Providence. They would be the ones that decide whichever way, shape or form they should be taking with regard to that particular herd with regard to resources from the department itself. I hate to see it not happen at this time and I do not know what directive the new 11th Assembly would be taking with regard to that particular herd. I have expressed concern for the last four years. I have also expressed interest in the development of the economic potential of that herd and I do not know what the new Minister or the 11th Assembly will think with regard to that particular herd. I have a concern about it, so if it is at all possible to establish a particular board that has been recognized by this government, then perhaps I would not be so concerned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Proposed Renewable Resource Management Board Would Manage Bison

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are very much aware of the concern in Fort Providence about the bison. However, Mr. Chairman, the advice I get from my department is that rather than proliferate with a lot of boards for individual species, that we would prefer to include the individual species management under a broader based renewable resource management board in line with the agreement which is being proposed for initialling to the Dene/Metis negotiating group. If this broadly based renewable resource management board is agreed to, we foresee appointments to the board and the board being in operation early in the new fiscal year after the 1st of April. We feel, as I have stated to the committee on earlier occasions, that it is essential that we manage renewable resources as a package and not manage one species separate from another species, because one can replace the other through feeding habits. Or, in fact, we find that it is imperative that we have the opportunity to manage the habitat of the wildlife together with the actual wildlife species. We would prefer to handle the management of the bison under the renewable resource management board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you. The Minister referred to the feeding habits of one species replacing another. I would like to ask the Minister to give me an example of where you would see such a thing, because if you look in the sanctuary, the moose and the buffalo are living side by side but they have two totally different eating habits.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can give the Member the example of Banks Island in the High Arctic where it appears that musk-ox, in fact, are driving caribou from their normal feeding range. The musk-ox herd is increasing dramatically and the caribou are correspondingly going down. There are, of course, other species where this does not apply but I think that just emphasizes a need for an overall renewable resource management policy rather than an individual species one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the Migratory Birds Convention Act and the continuing negotiations to legalize spring hunting, what status is that presently at in the negotiations?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is presently under discussion with the federal government and the federal government is in negotiations with the United States government in an attempt to change the migratory birds regulations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I realize that this topic has been under discussion with the federal and territorial governments and with the United States of America. I guess I hoped that I would get a more specific answer. Just exactly what stage are we at? Are we any further ahead than we were last year or the year before, and are the free trade negotiations doing anything to move this particular issue along much more quickly than it has in the past?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Free Trade Talks Have No Impact On Migratory Birds

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I regret to report to the committee that the negotiations are not progressing very well. They are very slow and we are not making a great deal of headway on it. The free trade talks have no impact on the migratory birds. They do have an impact on other things that concern our department such as the United States ban on importation of marine mammals and the products made from marine mammals, but not on migratory birds.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question concerning the ravens. As an Inuk living in the North, I do not usually favour the frozen meat that has been frozen in the freezer. I usually like to freeze the meat outside. I brought some meat from Iqaluit here to Yellowknife and I was sent some char from Pangnirtung. Sometimes the ravens get into this meat and I also know that the ravens are scavengers and eat garbage from the dumps. I also know they make a lot of mess in Yellowknife. I do not even like to eat the ptarmigan around this area because the ravens scatter the garbage all over the place. I would like to ask if there can be any reductions made in the raven population. They do not have any useful purpose anywhere in the North. They can carry some diseases to some populations of caribou. They are a protected species. I would like to know for what purpose these ravens are protected.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the honourable Member that ravens can be an awful pain in the butt. I keep a residence in Yellowknife right now, as I am sure you all know, and the attitude in Yellowknife is such -- behind my house I have four garbage cans and I guess the ravens got into them and scattered the garbage in the alley. I had the police come to me twice threatening me with court action if I did not do something about it. They did not seem to be in any hurry to punish the ravens for having scattered my garbage. I disagree with the Member to some extent in saying that the ravens are not good for anything. They are scavengers and as scavengers they certainly do serve a useful purpose, as do sea gulls.

I do not really know what the answer is. We could consider, but I suspect it would not go very far, to put quotas on them. Perhaps a more logical thing would be for us to consider how to protect our meat caches. I agree with the Member. I prefer natural meats to be dried or frozen outside but perhaps we should be looking at some sort of a mesh enclosure to prevent the ravens from getting to our meats. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) A supplementary question. I thought that this can be dangerous to the other species of animals, especially for ptarmigans, where they feed. I wanted to look further into this. Also, the people I represent do not kill the ravens because it is against the law, even though there are some problems arising from the ravens. I also wanted to get a response as to how this kind of problem can be dealt with. I would like to get some funding sometime in the future for these purposes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly agree that ravens and other scavengers can be a problem and I suppose that they could be accused of carrying, if not disease, unpleasant things around. But if they do, it is not the natural things that cause this, it is people's garbage more than the ravens that do the damage. The raven may be the carrier of it and we would prefer from within our department, where we also are responsible for the environment, to try to put some better environmental controls on garbage, rather than to start a process of killing off ravens. So I think perhaps the answer lies in a better and safer disposal of garbage, combined with a more protective storage and handling of our meats. I would be pleased to work with the Member after the session, during the more routine portion of the year, to see if we could come up with some kind of a program that would satisfy his constituency and others, because it is not only in his constituency, of course.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Erkloo.

Hiring Of Natives As Game Management Officers And Assistants

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we all know the government policy to hire more native people in the communities in the Arctic. In your department you have game management officers in most of the communities. You also have game management officer assistants. Those assistants are mostly native people. What I would like to find out is your policy on this. Are you planning on giving the assistants more training so that they can become game management officers in the future, to take more responsibilities, or are you stuck with them? What does the department do when you hire a person and find out that person is not suitable for that particular job and you cannot get rid of him because he is a civil servant? I know that a lot of native assistants are potential game management officers. Also I know that there are younger people who have gone to school and finished their grade 12 in some communities, who are without jobs. I was wondering if the Minister can explain to me what his department policy is in this regard. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the Member states is correct and we recognize that. Our department, in the general overview, has one of the highest percentages of native people working for it, in relationship to the total. We also have a number of native people in very senior positions. Our Keewatin regional superintendent is a native person. We do have native people who have gone through the renewable resource officers program at Arctic College who are employed as field officers. We do, however, have a number of assistant field officers who did not go through that program. We cannot force additional training onto our staff. We are very receptive to and would in all cases, I think, agree to further training of our staff if the staff approaches us. The policy of the Government of the NWT, one of the fundamentals of the policy is that career advancement is initially the responsibility of the employee, to have the desire to get a little bit further.

Training For Those Who Wish To Progress

If any of our assistant officers in the field desire to progress to the, if you can call it, first officer level, it is, in most cases, not difficult to do. We certainly will make the time available and the training available. However, I do submit to the Member that not everyone wants

that. There is a lot of uninteresting work that goes with that, such as submission of all the monthly reports. There is a great deal of paper work and I am aware of a number of officers in our own particular region that have no desire and do not wish to do that. But as I started saying, the percentage of native people within our department is one of the highest in the government. Not really high enough; we recognize that and are working on it. We do have people in senior positions and we would welcome and we desire to have far more. But we do have to temper it with -- we cannot push people that really do not want to go any further.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Erklou.

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fully agree with the Minister that we cannot push the people that do not want to. It seems to me that we need something for game management officers and their assistants, because it seems to me that when you hire a non-native person to go to a settlement, the fact is that he needs assistance because he does not speak the language, he does not know the area, he does not know how to fix his skidoo or outboard motor, he does not know how to fix his komatik, that sort of thing. So he needs assistance. But if we hire someone who is a native person -- I presume he has to speak English right now until we get Nunavut, he has to make reports. So, in my view, we do not need two people. Therefore we have to do all we can to try any kind of training for the assistants. I guess that is not really a question, but I would like to -- as I said before, we cannot force those people to have more training and force them to make reports. What can you do? Thank you.

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate the Member's comments. It is a problem that we are very aware of and very concerned about, too. Our program, our training program, at Arctic College, the Thebacha campus in Fort Smith, has never had a very good subscription level from Inuit people from the Eastern Arctic, in particular. One step we have taken to correct this is to establish the Iqaluit campus and this year there will be an extension of the renewable resource officers' course offered at the Iqaluit campus of Arctic College. It is our hope that we will get a much greater number of Inuit students into this course and we certainly would encourage any of our present staff, in the area which we both might refer to as Nunavut, to take advantage of the course that will be offered, starting this year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Erklou.

Pay Level For Game Guardians

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Translation ends) I would like to ask the Minister, are the people who are called game guardians -- these days, too, my constituency would like help with this one. What I would like to know is are some communities who have game management officers getting more of those game guardians across the Northwest Territories or is there only one in Hall Beach? If we are getting more of those -- I am talking about Hall Beach right now -- the game guardian is getting \$100 a month. Is your department planning to pay those game guardians more money eventually and put them at the game management assistant level? Thank you.

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The game guardian in Hall Beach is not the only game guardian we have. We have a number of others and we are considering placing game guardians in other communities as well. It is, of course, a budget consideration that we use game guardians. As you can see from the budget in front of you, when we come in asking for a PY, it has a certain cost to it which is considerably higher than the \$100 per month mentioned by the honourable Member. I would like to point out that the \$100 a month is a stand-by payment that the game guardian gets regardless of what may be going on. If we ask the game guardian to carry out a specific project, he gets paid additionally, on top of his stand-by pay. He gets paid out of project funding for that specific project as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. General comments. Ms Cournoyea.

Support To Renewable Resource Economy

MS COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the years the Department of Renewable Resources, with, I presume, the support of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, has made some clear statements of intent in terms of support to the renewable resource economy. At a certain

point in time there was a strong suggestion that the policy initiatives would come forward to make compulsory use of northern products for game officers, individuals who are employed generally by other government departments, who work at the community level and generally do purchasing for medicine, heavy parkas. I do not see that very supportive intent being carried out at the departmental level, nor the government's strong initiative to make and put that particular policy or direction in place. I am concerned that we come forward and make statements and profess that we are going to support the renewable resource economy but I do not know how the Department of Renewable Resources can initiate strong measures to force that to happen. I am wondering if the department has taken an assessment on this general policy and why it is not working, and if they have thought out any future direction on how it could be made to work?

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has not done an official overall assessment of it. There has been a great deal of talk between individuals that are concerned about the use of and better economic gains from renewable resources. The department fully supports this stand. A policy which would make it compulsory to use products made from renewable resources may not be as successful as a policy which I, as the Minister responsible, would prefer to pursue. That is a policy of creating products which were, in fact, so desirable and so good that people would buy them voluntarily.

A number of projects have been undertaken in this manner. I am leaning on one of these projects right now, Mr. Chairman, the table I am sitting at at the moment is covered with sealskin and it is certainly a very fine product. If it receives the proper marketing, I am sure that people would be delighted to buy products such as this. We are working and working very hard. I would not like to speculate when the policy will be out, but I am sure before this summer there will be a policy out, jointly formulated between our department and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, detailing the plan for getting the maximum utilization and the maximum dollar revenue back to the producer of the renewable resource through new markets, new products on the market and generally a greater involvement in the production of the renewable resource from its raw skin stage to its finished product stage. I expect that we will have such a strategy available before this summer, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Ms Cournoyea.

Government Purchases Of Northern Items

MS COURNOYEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that it would be desirable to have products that people want to buy, but at the same time there are certain items that the government purchases for its staff and a lot of the items that do get purchased are made to size or made to certain specifications. It would seem to me that, as a first step, orders can be placed with people who do produce very wearable garments, mitts. I do not recall anyone being asked or a contract being advertised to supply items that are government purchased.

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

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There certainly is no reason why we cannot do what the Member suggests. I will take it as a good piece of advice and hope at the next session to be able to advise the Member of contracts that we have tendered out for it and items such as she suggests that have been acquired by the department or indeed by the government as a whole.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Chairman, in regard to the transfer of forestry. Over the years there have been a number of suggestions on how forest fires are fought. One is in the priority zone make-up, on where the money would be spent or where the priorities will be made. There was a suggestion that perhaps some of these priority zones could be redefined or a statement made of intent to do so. In the fact that the federal government were the program delivery agency, many of the suggestions were difficult to get across. Now, in the territorial responsibility, is there a suggestion or a direction that these priority zones will be re-evaluated?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Minister.

Transfer Of Responsibility For Forestry Soon To Be Signed

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The transfer of the responsibility for forestry is just about ready to be signed. We expect the signing will be around the 1st of April. The numbers in connection with the transfer still have to go in front of the standing committee on finance and will reach the committee very shortly. There are some conditions imposed on us by the federal government as part of the transfer agreement. One of those conditions, Mr. Chairman, is that we will be tied into the schedule of fire-fighting which the federal government has now for a three year period. This has to do with a financial safeguard which we insisted on having in the transfer agreement, which will allow us, for a three year period, access to the federal Treasury Board for fire suppression funding should the fire season be so bad that we exceed the budgeted amount. The condition that the federal government imposed on us in return for this three year access to federal Treasury Board was, as I said, that we have to abide by the federal government's fire-fighting policies during that three year period. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any further general comments? Mr. Pudluk.

Assistance For Communities To Get Caribou

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one short question. Last year I made a motion, seconded by Mr. Paniloo, that the areas where there are hardly any caribou, say for instance in Resolute Bay and Broughton Island, were to be assisted in getting some caribou. I would like to hear from your department whether this has been actioned yet. Or can you give me some information on that, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in this budget there is a grants and contributions section and this money could be used for organized caribou hunts if applied for through the local HTAs. That way assistance could be provided as the Member suggests.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: (Translation) With regard to the motion that I made, I stress that those communities that I mentioned have to be assisted and also Grise Fiord could not go caribou hunting in their surrounding community. When you have a diet of the same kind of meat all the time it is very tiring for the people. The motion that I made was for those communities to be assisted. And the communities are not always informed, especially Grise Fiord, because you do not have a wildlife officer there and they do not have a liaison officer in the community for wildlife purposes. So, for that reason, although they do not ask for assistance we wanted them to get assisted in the way of providing meat for them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Bourque to supply some information on this please.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Bourque.

Inter-settlement Trade Might Help Communities Get Caribou Meat

MR. BOURQUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under our grants and contributions policy we provide money to every community for land based activities and that includes hunting of caribou. But I suspect that the ultimate answer to this problem would be to be involved in an inter-settlement trade program where the community of Grise Fiord could get caribou from another community. I think in some cases in the Baffin, this is actually happening. I believe in Broughton Island they have used some of the money they get from our department to be involved in inter-settlement trade. So, we will see what is happening but I would suspect that the money is available to be able to hunt.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: That motion was passed and it does not improve anything at all according to your policy, especially for those two communities. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Either Mr. Minister or Mr. Bourque.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I did not get the details of that question. Could the Member repeat it, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Pudluk, could you repeat it? Mr. Pudluk.

MR. PUDLUK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That motion which I seconded and Mr. Paniloo moved passed in the House. It was passed and it did not change any policy, especially for those two communities, yet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, I think what the Member is telling me is that the situation has not improved any for the communities in question. The department does have some options, or I as a Minister of the government, to respond to a motion such as the one referred to. We can make programs available, as we have just mentioned, where the people can take advantage of them if they wish, or we can simply charter a plane and fly meat in. I am not sure what the Member specifically wants me to do as the Minister responsible for this department in this regard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Any further general comments? Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I would like to report progress at this time because I have to go to the doctor and I have some questions to ask the Minister. I would like to report progress at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): There is a motion on the floor to report progress. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? I will rise and report progress. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Erkloo..

REVERT TO ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF TABLED DOCUMENT 1-87(1), BOUNDARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIVISION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES BETWEEN THE WESTERN CONSTITUTIONAL FORUM AND THE NUNAVUT CONSTITUTIONAL FORUM; BILL 1-87(1), APPROPRIATION ACT, 1987-88

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 1-87(1) and wishes to report that Tabled Document 1-87(1) has been deferred to March 5th and, Mr. Speaker, I wish to report progress on Bill 1-87(1).

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members have heard the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

SPEAKER'S RULING

MR. SPEAKER: Now, with regard to the challenge made by Mr. Patterson to Mr. Richard's motion. A motion introduced must relate to the subject under discussion and the subject under discussion when Mr. Richard introduced his motion was the estimates of the Department of Renewable Resources. This type of motion could have been made when the committee was discussing general comments on Bill 1-87(1), Appropriation Act, 1987-88. The committee has moved to the department-by-department consideration of the main estimates; thus motions must relate to that particular department. A motion of this type could, however, be introduced at the beginning of each department's review, requesting the information from that particular department. The information could also be requested activity by activity.

Motion To Recommend Revision Of Main Estimates To Reflect Estimated Lapses, Ruled Out Of Order

Therefore, I must rule that Mr. Richard's motion is out of order. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a joint meeting of the standing committees on legislation and finance on Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. Members who are travelling to Fort Smith today are reminded that there will be a bus outside the building at 2:00 p.m.

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Monday, March 2nd.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Oral Questions
6. Written Questions
7. Returns to Written Questions
8. Replies to Opening Address
9. Petitions
10. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion
13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. Motions
15. First Reading of Bills
16. Second Reading of Bills
17. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bills 1-87(1), 7-87(1), 6-87(1), 2-87(1)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until Monday, March 2nd at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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Published under the Authority of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Northwest Territories