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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Angottitauruq, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Ms Cournoyea, Hon. Tagak Curley, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. Red Pedersen, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. T'Seleie, Mr. Wah-Shee, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Friday, March 6, 1987. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 27-87(1): 1987 Canada Winter Games, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to the House on my trip, February 26 to March 1, to Sydney, Nova Scotia as this government's representative to the official closing ceremonies of the 1987 Canada Winter Games. During my time at the games I was able to watch many of our athletes in their competitions and to speak with them and their coaches. Without exception, our athletes spoke of their positive experiences, both in their competition and in the many other activities in which they were able to take part. I would like to convey to the Members that my experiences were similarly positive and I am convinced our involvement in the Canada Games has lasting value for our athletes and makes a significant contribution to sport development in the Northwest Territories.

Our NWT team numbered just over 100 athletes, coaches and officials from 18 different communities. During the first week we had teams in male and female curling, male and female volleyball, and wrestling. In the second week of competition we were represented by competitors in speedskating, male basketball, hockey, cross-country skiing and badminton.

Members should know that our total costs for the 1987 Canada Games were less than \$75,000 or approximately \$750 per athlete. Most of these funds, approximately \$60,000, were spent here in the NWT selecting and training our athletes and many more than those who actually made the teams were able to benefit from the training opportunities. The Government of Canada, through Fitness and Amateur Sport, paid the cost of travel for our team to Nova Scotia and the organizing committee provided food, accommodation and travel for our team while at the games. I just wanted Members to be aware that our costs are quite modest and, in my opinion, produced many benefits.

While our teams did not win any medals at the Canada Games, many personal best performances were achieved by our athletes. I was pleased that all of our teams were well prepared and competitive with the smaller provinces such as Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues will join me in congratulating our athletes for their fine performance and for being worthy ambassadors of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. That appears to conclude Ministers' statements for today.

Item 3, Members' statements.

Item 4, returns to oral questions.

Item 5, oral questions.

Item 6, written questions.

Item 7, returns to written questions.

Item 8, replies to Opening Address.

Item 9, petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Angottitauruq.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling a telegram that was written to me by the chairman of the housing association in Gjoa Haven. I will briefly explain it. It is regarding a shortage of low rental housing and it seems in the community that government staff are always taking away the houses for public housing. When I table it, it will be on the Members' desks and it will explain itself. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Angottitauruq. 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. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1-87(1), Appropriation Act, 1987-88; Bill 7-87(1), Education Act; Bill 6-87(1), Criminal Injuries Compensation Act; and Bill 2-87(1), Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act, with Mr. Erkloo in the chair.

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): The committee will come to order. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, before the committee proceeds with the general questions on the Government Services budget, I would like to make a reference to a concern raised yesterday afternoon by the honourable Member for Slave River, Mr. McCallum, relative to inaccuracies or omissions or errors appearing in the budget document. I apologize for not being in the House when he raised that point and I would agree with him that where there are changes to the document to be made, that those changes would be tabled by the department as the department's budget comes before the committee. I would indicate also that the budget document as presented was approved by all the departments that appear before this committee. In fact, the secretariat for which I have responsibility had the different departments signed off by the deputy ministers indicating that the figures and the material contained in the document are approved and are approved by the department. So the changes in information that occur in the document would have taken place between the time the document was printed and the time Members examine it. But I would agree that in future we will provide the Member with any errata during the time the consideration of the document occurs. I apologize for the omissions.

Department Of Government Services

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. We are on the Department of Government Services. Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister. For the record, could you introduce your witnesses again at this time?

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is deputy minister of Government Services, Mr. John Quirke; to my left is Mr. Henry Dragon, chief of finance of the department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Qujannamiik. General comments. Are there any general comments? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were in the standing committee on finance, one of the things I raised at the time was the whole problem, or one of the concerns I had was in this whole business of computer services and technical support, systems support centre. I noted that in this year there is a considerable increase of applications for development of systems that this department receives from client departments and the number of systems that are put into place by various departments over what they had last year. The general increase is that there is over half a million dollars involved with applications for this coming year and the actual technical support that was being given to various departments has increased over \$700,000.

In addition to that, there is an increase of seven PYs involved here, that we know of, unless there are changes to those figures. We found out that the Department of Government Services simply responds to the requests of various departments and if a department wants to start a new system or systems for itself, the request is made, the application is made, and the Department of Government Services then has to take on individuals to do this. For example, in the applications in total from 1985-86 to this year, the number of people involved in Department of Government Services has risen from 33 PYs to 42. That may not be a very large increase but it is significant because, Mr. Chairman, there does not seem to be any curtailment of the number of people that are hired by the department to do the work because it is not in a position to do so.

At that time the Minister indicated that he recognized what the problem was and that he was going to go back to his colleagues on the Executive Council and present the concern that was raised because he thought the concern was a legitimate one. To paraphrase his words, he felt that it is something that the Executive Council and the FMB should talk about and maybe come back with a reply. Now, I am not sure whether the reply was given to the chairman of the standing committee on finance or not. I wonder if the Minister would comment on this whole problem of the development of systems support, the application for new ones and the growth in this whole thing. I wonder if the Minister could comment on that now and what reaction he was able to get from his colleagues on the Executive Council.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Electronic Data Processing Requirements Of Departments

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is quite right in the fact that there is a tremendous demand put on Government Services with respect to the electronic data processing requirements of all the departments. Obviously, it is reflected through the growth in person years, with our charge-back services, and so on. I have undertaken to communicate the concerns of the standing committee on finance to all the Ministers, the fact that there has to be -- I think the time has arrived that we do have a more adequate review process in the whole of the government. The growth of these requirements in the government has been, during the last two years, tremendous because of the various increases on other departments, particularly the large departments, social departments, as well as the additional devolution of the federal programs to GNWT, such as the young offenders program and so on. So I have communicated that to the Ministers, that in due course we would be coming forward, after getting the various plans from the departments and incorporating them, then have the FMB and the Executive Council formally have at least a more adequate system in place so that we would be able to adequately control the departmental

requirements. Obviously, that process has not been completed yet. Hopefully, I think shortly after the budget review, we will begin to put in place the adequate planning process and review process so that they will be more reflected in our overall budgetary planning for the coming year. So that communication has gone to the Ministers. I know my deputy is in touch with other deputy ministers and he can comment on his part, if he wishes to. Thank you.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's reply. I guess the concern I have is, where does the control come into play? Does the Minister know of any kind of development within the Executive Council as to how this can be controlled, or is there a check and balance on the number of applications? Does the individual department have to go through a process wherein these applications for these support systems have to pass through a committee, the FMB, or something? What is being developed? Or is he able to tell us if anything is being developed that could provide this kind of check or balance? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Electronic Processing Requirements Have Increased Tremendously

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Obviously the Department of Government Services do not have any policy control over the department requirements because we are mainly a service department. But the demands put on Government Services are normally passed on, as we receive the departmental requirement, to the FMB. But the departments themselves normally request. If it is an additional expenditure, they are responsible to put their case before the FMB and from then on Government Services responds. It is because of those that we are now attempting to formalize the mechanisms so there will be an adequate way of keeping track of the growth requirement, the expenditure and the equipment requirement. But in the past, the technological requirements of this government, electronic processing requirements, have increased tremendously. A tremendous demand has been put on Government Services. But it is up to my colleagues in the FMB and Executive Council to formalize this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the question would be more properly addressed to Mr. Butters when he comes up with Finance or FMB, because I recognize that you are a client department, you simply respond to requests or applications from other departments. I will pass on it for now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to find out from the Minister whether the cost of Expo is reflected in any of the main or capital estimates, because I cannot find it anywhere. It concluded only in October, I believe, and this fiscal year ends in March. I thought maybe there would be something in here that reflects the amount of money we went into deficit with the operation of Expo, because I certainly do not find it either in Government Services or in Economic Development and Tourism.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

Expo '86 Costs Not In Department Of Government Services

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All Expo figures are mainly reflected in my other department's report. If you look at Tabled Document 23-87(1), the financial report I tabled, I think you will be able to see some of the figures there. But we are not responsible through this department. There were some impacts on this government, particularly the mailing of various promotional documents produced by Economic Development and Tourism. Government Services is responsible mainly for paying postage on all government publications. So our contribution was minimal in that regard. It is not reflected in the estimates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether it is appropriate at this time to raise this issue, but I recall two years ago we made a substantial contribution toward Expo. It was supported by this Assembly. I just wanted to find out the end result of this. Certainly, when moneys were

allocated for the Expo pavilion, it was reflected in the main estimates of these documents. But now that Expo is over, I do not see anything that was spent and the amount of money we did get back, if we did get anything back. Are we in fact in a deficit and it is not showing?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think if the Member could wait for the next two days, he will be able to see some of the figures that are reflected in the Expo report. I would just like to show him -- if he reads this particular document, he will see some of the financial report. But that is under Economic Development and Tourism. Government Services does not have any policy responsibility for Expo '86 figures and our estimates that we are dealing with today have no bearing on the project.

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

Compatibility Of Government Computer Systems

MR. MACQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question may be better put later to the Minister of Finance too, I am not sure, but I would like to check it with the Minister who is presently at the table. You mentioned that your department does not have control over the growth in computer service demands from departments. But the question is: Does it have control over the equipment and programs that are used? In other words, do we have a compatible system throughout the NWT? The reason I ask, and unfortunately I have not had a chance to check into it further, so I cannot give you details, but a couple of days ago, a representative of a firm that handles computer services expressed some surprise to have received an invitation to tender for a regional agency, an accounting package, which they said would not even be compatible with the rest of the territorial account system. It would not provide for the proper audit trails, and so on. So the question is: Does your department have a role in that? If people are interested in equipment and programs, are you able to say that it must be compatible with what we have?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, if I gave the impression that there were really no controls or system in place, I think I should correct myself. In terms of the departmental growth requirement, obviously that is up to the department concerned. But as far as the standards and presently the procedures that we have, the Executive Council and FMB certainly did establish a policy to establish a uniformity across the Territories with the kind of computer system that the government should be buying. These are in place and I would like my deputy to explain exactly how it works when the regions and departments are requesting additional equipment. But there is a policy now that tries to ensure that there is uniform equipment across the Territories.

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

Elements That Control The Growth Of Systems

MR. QUIRKE: Mr. Chairman, the amount of control that we exercise -- there is a definite tie-in with one of our elements of an EDP plan, mainly the hardware plan. The ability of the Department of Government Services to deliver all the systems requested by departments is contingent on the answer to the question: Do our machines have the computing capability to deliver those systems? So there is one element of control in the growth of systems work in the government. Plus about one per cent of the budget has been approved through FMB direction -- that EDP planning cannot exceed one per cent of total budget.

Secondly, the hardware plan that we have is Hewlett-Packard. Our main frames operate on the Hewlett-Packard, so all our systems and development was geared to that. In terms of microcomputers, the government has established a standard based on a specific operating system and various microcomputers will fit into that standard, which makes them very compatible throughout the organization.

Now if a local firm received an invitation to bid on a system, I would assume that that system or that request for a proposal is approved by the Department of Government Services because under the contract regulations, only this department can sanction a systems development, even if it is done on behalf of our department. So I would assume that it was released by my department, okayed by my

department, and would be compatible to any of our standards in place. The only place where this would not be true is if we are performing a service for an agency that is not part of the government, like the Baffin Divisional Education Board. We might provide assistance there in their development of software and hardware, but certainly the criterion would not be compatibility with the government system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any more general comments? Mr. Angottitauruq.

Problems With Gjoa Haven Tank Farm

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I will have to make a general comment again about the Gjoa Haven tank farm. The community and hamlet have some concerns about it, especially the people living close to the tank farm. I recall the Minister replied to me one time that there is no safety hazard. Even though the policy states that there is no safety hazard, we, the people living there, sure seem to have a safety problem, especially the ones living close to the tank farm, if the health people say there is no health hazard. The Inuit are known to have a different culture, and they certainly do, and there are times when they keep meat outside in the wintertime and even part of the summertime. For that reason there sure seem to be some health hazards.

The people that live close to that tank farm have complained to me time and time again, that in the summertime the fuel oil sure smells. I do not think the government has recognized that because they have never smelled time and time again that odour of fuel oil mixed with gas. The workers seem to use every safety precaution but it drips in the wintertime during the time that the tank farm is used for supplying the houses and vehicles. And regardless of how neat a person is at the pumps, they do not usually have a rag to wipe the tip of the dispenser. And when it builds up, it builds up on the snow. In the springtime it is right on the path of the kids going to the school. In the springtime some of the kids can step on that and carry it around and take it back home under their soles and on their mukluks. I do not think the government is aware of that. The tank farm is a little too close to the residential area. Even regardless of safety hazards, health hazards and the cleanliness of the workers that do the pumps, I think that tank farm has to be moved somehow. If not the tank farm, the dispenser has to be looked at. Is the Minister waiting for me to become a Minister to move it? Thank you.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, we certainly agree that there is always a possibility of accidents happening with many of our fuel and gasoline services that we carry out in the North. I think the Minister at that time, my colleague Mr. Butters, did communicate that it would be quite expensive to try to relocate the tank farms to another location. I think what is involved in this problem is that the dispenser unit for fuel and gasoline is too close to the road and that is one area of the problem which I think we can attempt to correct if we can find some funds within the department. Obviously, all the capital funds have been allocated to more urgent requirements.

As far as the dispenser unit is concerned, we might be able to do something about that. Maybe if we can find some funds within the department, over \$100,000, we would probably be able to move that dispenser unit to a safer place away from the traffic and away from the route of the school kids and so on, because where the present tank farms are, the surrounding area is relatively close to empty land. I think we can undertake to do something about the dispenser unit so that it is really out of the way of traffic from the local people.

As far as the main tank farm is concerned I think the Minister at that time, Mr. Butters, did communicate that it would be difficult to relocate the whole tank farm to another location. That would be a very expensive proposition. It obviously would be over millions of dollars worth of project. Thank you.

Relocation Of Broughton Island Tank Farm

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

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Broughton Island they have oil tanks which leak and they do not have anything to absorb the oil when it leaks. I know there is going to be some funding available for this particular thing but the oil delivery men in the communities -- they are going to be using this particular thing for gas purposes. Are there going to be some kind

of oil delivery trucks for this purpose in the community? Because when they move the tank to a different section, it is going to be quite far from the settlement. Or is there going to be some particular truck for that kind of purpose, to deliver the oil or gas? I would like to get clarification on this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am going to have John Quirke respond to that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Quirke.

MR. QUIRKE: Mr. Chairman, the main objective of the Broughton Island tank farm construction project to move the tank farm from its present location to its new location is based on the fact that it is too close to the community. The Member is right, some of the tanks are leaking because they are very old. They date back to the early 1960s, late 1950s and that is one of the main reasons we are moving the tank farm.

In terms of its new location and the capability to move the product between the tank farm and the new location, we will have in place the various vehicles to do that type of work so we do not anticipate a problem. But there will be vehicles involved.

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

Report Of Business Incentive Policy Review

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I was not present when the Minister gave his opening remarks and he may have touched on the business incentive policy. But I wonder if the Minister could indicate when it is expected that the report of the review of the business incentive policy is going to be available for Members of the Assembly and the public. In that context, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask if the mandate or scope of the business incentive policy had been widened because in this Assembly in the last few weeks there were some responses by Mr. McLaughlin to Mr. Nerysoo's question about a contract for services in the Department of Social Services, that had been awarded to a Vancouver firm over some local organizations. I believe one of the organizations was the Native Women's Association and I believe that the Minister made a statement that the northern organizations had not been registered under the business incentive policy. It seems ludicrous, Mr. Chairman, that anyone in government would have doubted that the Northwest Territories Native Women's Association was northern. I wonder if this Minister could clarify that it was the business incentive policy that was applied there. Was that the reference that the other Minister was making, that the native women's group did not meet the specs? Or is it yet another northern preference policy that was referred to in that context? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you. In terms of the overall review of the policy, that presently is being carried out right now. The officials in the department have until the end of the spring to complete the first stage of the review, which is really a more scientific review as to whether or not the business incentive policy is of demonstrated benefit to the northern economy, if it is really being a help to the northern contractors, the small business operators. So, all that information is being compiled by the Priorities and Planning Secretariat in the government. I will be pleased to table some of the findings in the spring, when we come back in the spring session. I think it would be helpful to do that. I would certainly undertake to do that.

As for some of the experiences that we have, you know, I am not aware of the particular contract the Member is referring to because it is really out of my jurisdiction. I am not sure whether or not the business incentive policy was actually applied. If it was, then surely that would -- you know, if the Member is correct in saying that if it was applied and the Native Women's Association were registered -- I would question that a bit because any northern company, whether they have registered or not, is not normally just following the book in that line because the northern companies are not hard to define. The onus is mainly put on the southern company who has a front office in the North to prove to the government that they are a northern company. That is the purpose of having them registered with the department of Government Services. But, northern companies really, I think, are normally understood unless different interpretation was given to, you know, legitimate northern company. But I would have to check the information on that other

part because I do not think the business incentive policy was the only factor in that regard. I am sure the service and the criteria have probably more bearing on it than our business incentive guidelines.

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

MR. RICHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, in order to assist me in pursuing this matter with the Minister of Government Services, I am wondering if Mr. McLaughlin is present and could he clarify the response he gave in the last 10 days or so, to Mr. Nerysoo about the Musk-ox Program Development consulting contract. Did he not say that some local organizations who bid on that contract were not given the contract because they were not registered under the northern preference or business incentive policy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I did not say that was the only reason that they were not given the contract. What I said was that one of the factors that is taken into consideration is price and in this case the northern preference policy in pricing was not applied because of the fact that basically everyone considered was not on the list, apparently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We will take a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

I will call the committee back to order. We were on general comments. Order, please. Order! General comments, Mr. Richard.

Northern Companies Registering Under Business Incentive Policy

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, if I could just go back to this business incentive policy again. I understand, it is called BIP within government circles. If we could revisit BIP. I appreciate the Minister of Social Services indicating that the fact of registration within BIP or not was not the deciding factor in the awarding of the Social Services contract to Musk-ox from Vancouver. However, I have located his written response to me of last month when he did state that, among other factors in the awarding of that contract, as his department went through their various rating schedules, they looked to see which of the proponents or applicants for that contract had been registered under the business incentive policy in Mr. Curley's department. The Minister indicated with that particular contract that none of the proponents had, in fact, registered.

Now I understand from that Minister that if all else had been equal in the rating schedule, the northern organization registered under BIP would have got the nod. So if we could just talk hypothetically; if that had happened, and an organization like the Native Women's Association or one of the other local organizations, also a non-profit society, had not got the contract because of their not being registered under the business incentive policy, to me there is something wrong with that. I guess my point is that we have a Societies Act here that non-profit societies register under and I would think that fact in itself, if it is a non-profit organization registered under the Societies Act and they keep up their status by filing their annual return under that legislation, that should be enough to qualify them under the business incentive policy.

I guess I am asking this Minister to respond to how his organization could either communicate the existence of BIP to these groups or perhaps just automatically register them because it does occur to me with this recent example that something is falling beneath the cracks somewhere, between a department like Social Services and the registry maintained by Mr. Curley's department. Is there not some way that we can automatically register non-profit societies under the business incentive policy? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Member's very frank comments on the matter because I think there are some deficiencies in every area of government initiative. Obviously there are many of them here and we did get a tremendous number of appeals and complaints from every level of the business community in the NWT. So this particular one is not at all an exception. I recognize that there are northern companies that are reluctant to prove that they are

northern companies by the mere fact that they have always lived here and they are northern registered companies. But for the purpose of the contract and incentive policy, this was done mainly to ensure that northern companies get a better competitive edge with the southern companies that are competing in the northern economy. That was originally part of the intent, that we do give northern contractors an opportunity to expand and develop. So we do have a problem when the policy is applied as it is written, that it restricts some of the northern companies from getting into a fair game. I think as a result of that the review was initiated.

There has to be a thorough review and we may have to take into consideration that those that are legitimately registered or are 100 per cent northern owned companies may not necessarily have to prove by exercising other things. So I would think that that is something where we are definitely going to have to be a lot more explicit, exactly what are the northern companies. I think as a result of trying to ensure that southern companies are a northern company and they qualify, we have at the same time made it a bit difficult for some of the truly northern companies to prove that they are, because they do not necessarily, as you say, have to prove that they are northern companies but the Societies Act and the fact that they are registered through our own registers in the government prove that they are.

The policy, I think, was written with a view to try to ensure there is some registry in Government Services for those southern companies, that we do want them to prove that they are with the criteria set out in the policy. I would just like to say that I think his comments are legitimate and they are helpful to us, because we are carrying on a review right now and it is something on which I think the guidelines would have to be specifically very clear to those officers that are implementing the policy. They have so far just taken the letter of instruction that is set out in the policy and applied it and it is not always helpful to some of the northern companies, as we see in this case. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklöo): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Richard.

Evaluation Of Performance Measurement System.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, if other Members do not have any general comments, if I could turn to a different matter. There is a reference in the department documents in the main estimates to performance measurement. This is something that some of us in the Assembly have been asking questions about and stressing the importance of for a few years now throughout the entire government -- the need to do a measurement of or evaluation of the effectiveness of various government programs. Personally, I do not think there is nearly enough time or resources spent on performance measurement. Every year, in the short time that I have been reading these documents, I notice a lot of very nice words particularly when departments now list their objectives. They have now clued into what MLAs are going to ask questions about and invariably each department, or each division of each department, lists as an objective that they are going to measure the efficiency and the effectiveness of their programs. I would like to see the results of one of these measures one day -- these evaluations.

Mr. Chairman, when I look to page 10.02, these fine words have now reached the level of, we are going to evaluate the evaluation process. I am impressed by the words but I would like to see some action and some results. It states that one of the objectives of the directorate of this department is to "monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the department's performance measurement system." I would like to ask the Minister, or his officials, to give us some specifics of the department's performance measurement system, firstly. And then I would like to hear about the evaluation of that process. It seems we are into a second level of evaluation here. I have not seen the results of the first one yet. And I am wondering if the Minister or the author of these words could explain, hopefully, that this department is leading the way in value for dollar measurements. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erklöo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good comment. Mr. Chairman, I really do not want to comment on that area because personally I have never really been all that excited about this kind of program put into the whole government because I think we have managers, we have Ministers, we have deputy ministers who can evaluate the performance of their officers and the

overall strategies of the government can be evaluated by the officers in place, and reporting levels are established through the departments. As a result of that, I have not been one who has been enthusiastic about this type of thing being instituted in the government.

Politicians Can Evaluate Performance

On the other hand, the government is subject to all the scientific measurements that have been applied across southern Canada and this kind of thing has caught fire in this institution and therefore it has been practised by at least one department I know. I think your question might be better put to a test to the second department because Social Services have actually initiated that program directly into all their departments. I really do not agree that we should be setting the measurement to measure them and then have another review process to see whether the review that was conducted was really accurately done or not, because I believe the politicians have good signals to gauge this because they are the ones who normally put the government to its toughest tests. I think this kind of performance measurement is the best one, as far as I am concerned.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I disagree with what the Minister says but I admire his honesty. Other Ministers, in recent years, have spewed out, in response to the same kind of question, the same kind of gobbledygook that is in this page that I am referring to. At least this Minister is honest. He is essentially, Mr. Chairman, saying that at least that objective, the third objective listed on page 10.02, is just so much gobbledygook. I agree with him. It is. There is no intent by this department to evaluate its performance measurement system because the performance measurement system does not exist. If it exists, it exists without this Minister's direction or agreement. I am, on this day, going to stress my admiration for this Minister's honesty, I am not going to rub his nose in his statements any further than that, except to ask the Members to question the rest of the good words throughout this document. Thank you.

---Applause

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Member does not always agree with me, and I do not want him to convince the other Members in the House that he and I always share the same views, same principles. I made one comment, but he may have other reasons which I do not know anything about. But I think in time they will likely come out. So I do not think the Member should hold the view that he shares my views 100 per cent on that matter, because there are systems in the government and there are performances of the department that are being monitored and we may have different points of view on how they should be conducted. But I think I should at least give him the benefit of the doubt today that he shares some of my views at least. Thank you.

Directorate, Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any more general comments? Capital estimates, page 7.09. Department of Government Services, detail of capital. Directorate, equipment acquisition, headquarters, total headquarters, \$15,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total equipment acquisition, \$15,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total directorate, \$15,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Office Services And Administration

Buildings And Works, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Office services and administration, buildings and works, headquarters, \$53,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total buildings and works, \$53,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Equipment acquisition, headquarters, total headquarters, \$1,330,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total equipment acquisition, \$1,330,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Office Services And Administration, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total office services and administration, \$1,383,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Systems And Computer Services, Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Systems and computer services, equipment acquisition, headquarters, total headquarters, \$1,575,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total equipment acquisition, \$1,575,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Systems And Computer Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total systems and computer services, \$1,575,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Supply Services

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Supply services, equipment acquisition, headquarters, total headquarters, \$20,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Fort Smith, total Fort Smith, \$3000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Inuvik, total Inuvik, \$3000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Baffin, total Baffin, \$3000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Kitikmeot, total Kitikmeot, \$2000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total equipment acquisition, \$31,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Supply Services, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total supply services, \$31,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Petroleum Products

Buildings And Works, Fort Smith, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Petroleum products, buildings and works, Fort Smith, \$51,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Inuvik, total Inuvik, \$343,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Baffin, total Baffin, \$3,235,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Keewatin, total Keewatin, \$1,988,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Buildings And Works, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total buildings and works, \$5,617,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Headquarters, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Equipment acquisition, headquarters. Total headquarters, \$50,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Inuvik, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total Inuvik, \$48,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Baffin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Baffin, total Baffin, \$193,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Keewatin, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Keewatin, total Keewatin, \$48,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Kitikmeot, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Kitikmeot, total Kitikmeot, \$133,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Equipment Acquisition, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total equipment acquisition, \$472,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Petroleum Products, Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total petroleum products, \$6,089,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Total Capital, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): The next item is capital recoveries. Any questions? We will go back to page 7.07. Total capital expenditures, \$9,093,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Does the committee agree that the capital estimates are concluded? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Directorate, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We will now go to the main estimates on page 10.08, directorate. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, although I gave the Minister full marks for his honesty, I do hope he is going to do something about the people who authored the list of objectives, because he clearly does not agree with whoever wrote those words on behalf of his department. In seriousness, Mr. Chairman, I am one who still believes that performance measurement is something that we must do in each department of the government, particularly in the context of the earlier discussion last month prior to the closure motion on the overall deficit position. We are going to have fewer dollars in the future to spend on the programs and services of government, so we have got to start analysing whether we are spending the available dollars in an effective fashion. Although the Minister may personally feel that this particular objective is so much gobbledygook, I would like to see the department in fact carry out that objective.

Motion To Recommend That Department Of Government Services Report To Assembly On Performance Measurement System, Carried

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion to that effect. I would move that this committee recommend that the Department of Government Services present to the Legislative Assembly a report on the results of its evaluation of the effectiveness of the department's performance measurement system prior to December 31, 1987. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Can we have a copy of your motion, Mr. Richard? Your motion is in order. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, Mr. Chairman, I have already stated what I wanted to, on this objective. I think it is a very worth-while objective of the government and I would not like it relegated to the status of gobbledygook. I think the department should carry out the objectives and my motion would simply seek some proof that they are carrying out the objective. I do not think it is unreasonable to ask the department to show the Legislature proof that they have carried out that objective by seven or eight months from now. I would ask Members to support the intent of the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): To the motion. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: I would like, obviously, to speak in favour of the motion. It is one of the recommendations that we talked about at our public accounts meetings over the past few years. This kind of auditing is being done in other jurisdictions. In fact, I believe as far as this government is concerned, the Department of Social Services a couple of years ago was involved with the same kind of evaluation and performance measurement. And I had expected that this particular system of evaluating the effectiveness of a department would have been carried over into other government departments. When we deal with the Auditor General and our public accounts later in the year, in April or May, this is one of the areas that we will be talking about with the Auditor General and with the government departments. So I think it is worth while; we have to know how effective a department is in carrying out its responsibilities, even more so with what we are dealing with in this total budget. So I, too, would ask other Members of this committee to respond positively to the recommendation. Thank you.

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

---Carried

Directorate, Total O And M, Agreed

Directorate, total O and M, \$1,891,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Office Services And Administration, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Office services and administration, total O and M, \$1,251,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Systems And Computer Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Systems and computer services, total O and M, \$1,697,000. Agreed? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this particular activity I note that the department is going to increase its PYs here -- I should not say totally increase it, but there is a growth factor under the management of the computer services. There is a secretarial/clerical position and I do not want to be too negative on it, but it seems to me that we are talking here on this particular position in the vicinity of \$50,000 for this position. I do not think that includes other O and M; I think we are talking salary here. As I understand it, it is a secretarial/clerical position and perhaps I could have clarification from the Minister why this is classified at such a high level.

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

MR. QUIRKE: Mr. Chairman, the position is clerical in nature. The salary is geared toward, I believe, a clerk III level, housing allowance, benefits, the price factor for next year under the collective agreement, which I think is three per cent, is in there. I believe the \$50,000 figure would represent the true value of that salary once all those factors are considered.

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

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It still seems to me to be a fairly high salary level because there are other costs that would be involved with this position as well. I guess we come down to the facts again, Mr. Chairman, the cost of adding PYs to this government -- each one. In the standing committee on finance talking to this particular department, we were given certain particular costs based on a formula. As I recall the formula or the figure that was being quoted at the time, we are talking \$3000 for furnishings in an office, we are talking a formula rate of \$1200 a year for telephones. We are not talking about the cost of the space. Again to make the point with the Executive, every time they add people to this government, it is a considerable expense. The position may very well have the responsibilities that require this kind of classification, but if it is for a secretarial/clerical position and I do not want to put secretaries or clerks down, but I still consider that to be a fairly substantial salary if you add the other costs that are involved with this.

Time To Say, "No" To Taking On More Government Servants

Again to make the point I say, with the government, somewhere along the line, somebody has got to start saying, "No," to taking on more people into the service of the government. I would hope that somewhere along the line there will be somebody within the government who will say, "No," to taking on more people, as I said back a few weeks, with an already fat administration. If we cannot get the government to do it then I think it is going to be the responsibility of the Members of this House to do that, either by recommending or directing a reduction in the total O and M budget of this government. That is where it is.

It was pointed out before or earlier in the day in this whole business of taking people on in the electronic data programs, system support centre. There does not seem to be very much of a check on the number of people that are involved in here. It may very well be, Mr. Chairman, that a lot of these systems are necessary to better the financial responsibility exercised by the total government, to put in these electronic systems the data that is necessary. But again it goes back to the motion that was just carried. We have got to find out what we are getting; value for money. The performance appraisals of a department, including the total personnel of that department, we have to get some feedback on these; the evaluation of what people are doing, and how well the departments are carrying out their mandate, as they express it to us. It is the only way that we can keep any kind of control or balance of government that is going into a year's debt in such a manner as this government is at this present time.

I just want to make the point, Mr. Chairman, that I believe that it is instances like this where the difficulty arises, that it costs a lot of money to take people on to work in the government. I am not convinced and I hope others are not, that it is necessary to have that level of an administration. Thank you.

Systems And Computer Services, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Systems and computer services, total O and M, \$1,697,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Supply Services, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Supply services, total O and M, \$3,360,000. Agreed? Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: We are on supply services?

MR. McCALLUM: Yes.

Motion To Recommend That Business Incentive Policy Include Provision For Non-Profit Indigenous Organizations, Carried

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I would move that this committee recommend that the business incentive policy be amended to include specific provision for non-profit organizations indigenous to the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Can we have a copy of your motion, Mr. Richard? Your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister seemed to indicate that he would be amenable, during the review of the business incentive policy that is currently being done by his officials, to see if there can be some accommodation made for non-profit organizations who are already registered under the Societies Act. I do not know if the solution is automatic registration or whether it should continue to be initiated by the non-profit organization, which is currently the case, but it just seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that there is something wrong with the process if an organization like the Northwest Territories Native Women's Association had a demerit marked against them because they were not registered. It just makes common sense that they qualify and there should be some process or interchange somehow with these organizations. My motion, Mr. Chairman, would simply ask that the policy make provision for, not just commercial enterprises, but also some provision for non-profit organizations as well. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Supply Services, Total O And M, Agreed

Supply services, total O and M, \$3,360,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Telecommunications, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Telecommunications, total O and M. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this carries on from what I was saying previously. In telecommunications there are a number of various tasks in this activity; three of them. The first one is mail distribution. There is a growth factor here of 19 per cent in this particular small task and they are asking for \$818,000. The reason why the growth factor is there, Mr. Chairman, is that it is based on the postage costs per person year of the government. This task requires an extra \$100,000 this coming year because of the new people coming into the infrastructure. Because of the new people coming on board in government, this department is estimating, according to its formula, that they are going to require \$100,000 more. I am not sure if that is based on the 34 cent stamp or the other costs, but if it is based on the 36 cent stamp, I suggest it is going to be a little bit more than that. As Mr. Quirke indicated to us, when we were talking about this item in the standing committee on finance, not all government mail goes out under 34 or 36 cent stamps. There are other costs. We have an international presence within this government.

In another task in telecommunications, this activity, there is a growth factor of 15 per cent, caused again by the new persons identified that are coming on strength to the government. Based on a formula again per person year, this is what it costs for telephone rentals, installations, etc. I know that NorthwTel just put out a directive saying that those costs are going to rise again dramatically and this estimate was not based on these new rates of NorthwTel. But in here, it is going to cost, Mr. Chairman, to take on these new PYs that have been identified -- and we are told by the government, that it is only 66 of them, 66.3 PYs -- it is going to cost \$204,000 to provide phones and to have phones hooked up. And I suggest that with the new rates, it is going to be even more than that. Somebody can tell me, you know, so what? That works out to, I suggest, \$3000 per person. That is not counting what they are paying for the use of the telephone or the calls.

Growth In Program Departments Does Not Have Balance

As we continue to add people to the government, this is the kind of thing that we are faced with. We get 66 new PYs coming on and in just mail and telephone alone, it is going to cost us over \$300,000. We are not talking salaries, we are not talking other O and M, travel, or other things. I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that that is quite a large figure. Again, I think that something has to be done. There is no sense in my raising it with the Minister here, because he is a service department. He is being asked to do this by other program departments. And as the case is with the electronic data systems, the whole program, there does not seem to be very much of a check and balance on the program departments. It is just, add more people, get them in the proper office, give them the phones, make sure they are always going to be able to travel and everything else. And it just keeps growing like Topsy. I point these out because if I ask the Minister a question he will say, "Well, I am only a service department. I have to provide for other program departments." And when we go to the program departments, "I am only adding one or two PYs. Why are you getting hung up on adding one or two PYs to my total?" But when we put it all together with the total number of 66 new PYs, then it becomes a large figure and again, Mr. Chairman, I think that somebody has got to grab the bull by the horns and do something to arrest this kind of growth in a government that is presenting the budget to such a level of a deficit as it is this year and to such a level of a deficit totally within the government. I cannot raise a question with the Minister, Mr. Chairman, because I know the answer that will come back. I simply want to reiterate what I said in relation to the office services and administration.

Telecommunications, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Telecommunications, \$2,958,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Freight, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Freight, total O and M, \$2,646,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Motor Vehicles, Total O And M

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Motor vehicles. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I have a question under motor vehicles. In smaller communities where they have highways coming in, what is the process for drivers' examinations? Do they have to write a written test or do they just automatically, without writing any test, just go out on the road and have a test for their driver's licence?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Quirke.

MR. QUIRKE: Mr. Chairman, in our smaller communities the procedure is that the RCMP will give a road test to the individual and that is basically it -- a road test. Written tests are not performed by the RCMP so it is just basically a road test in our remote communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman, I am referring to the communities that have highways such as Fort Providence, Fort Resolution and especially with the young people, I am worried about the safety of the public. Are you saying then that the young people can get their learner's permit because nobody is there to give them that test, therefore when they turn 16 they just go on the road and have this test?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Quirke.

MR. QUIRKE: Mr. Chairman, for Fort Resolution -- now I stand to be corrected on this -- because of its proximity to Hay River we have a qualified driver examiner and if he pays that community a visit because of the closeness of that community, the individuals will be subject to both a road and a written test. So, if we are talking about communities around Hay River where it is possible for our driver examiner to get in and the road infrastructure is such, then we will give our people, we will definitely give our people a road and a written test. With respect to a learner's permit in a small, remote community like, for example, Pond Inlet, we would have to research it and get back to the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not quite clear. Are you saying that when somebody turns 16 they have a written test and a road test or do they just qualify to go for a road test and forget about the written test? I am referring to communities that have highways coming in and out.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister or Mr. Quirke.

MR. QUIRKE: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry for taking so long. If you are on the highway system, the communities connected to the NWT highway system, a learner who gets his learner's permit is obliged to have both a road and a written test.

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

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman, I am still not quite clear. They are "obliged" -- what does that mean? Does it mean they have or they do not have to?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Quirke.

MR. QUIRKE: Mr. Chairman, they have to.

Motor Vehicles, Total O And M, Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Motor vehicles, total O and M, \$676,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Petroleum products. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a point of information from the Minister. It is anticipated that the fuel cost is expected to have a 10 per cent increase, as I understand it. Is the 10 per cent figure accurate, given that there is a new federal tax directive that has come out?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister or Mr. Quirke.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, in all due respect, I was asking the question of the Minister. Could I have the Minister respond to it?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Apparently, we do buy the fuel tax free; therefore the 10 per cent figure does apply. It does apply, as stated in the document.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Any further questions on petroleum products? Liquor commission. Any questions? Petroleum products revolving fund. Any questions on that? Liquor Commission revolving fund. Any questions on that? Public stores revolving fund. Questions? Applications development and systems support centre. Mr. McCallum.

Increase In Person Years

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this, on page 10.21 and on page 10.23 -- I refer to both of them because they go together -- on page 10.21, of course, are the applications for the design, development and implementation of these information systems and page 10.23 deals with the maintenance and operation of the equipment and has other associated services, data control, etc. I wonder if I could have from the Minister, because there are an additional seven PYs here for the application and development of the systems and for the technical support -- four in the former and three in the latter -- these seven PYs do not show up as on the strength of the department, as I understand it. The department is asking for an increase of five PYs. Could I get some idea from the Minister or his staff, where does one find these seven PYs in the total of the government? Are they identified from individual departments? In this area, Mr. Chairman, there are required, a system analyst, two programmer analysts, three computer operators and a tape librarian. We identified them here in this department but they are not in the total, as I understand it. They are not in the indeterminate total of the department itself because they are asking for seven PYs but there is only an increase of five that is noted in the total PY on page 10.07. I wonder if I could get that clarified. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think if we go back to page 10.07 on person year summary, at the bottom of the page, if you look at the revolving funds section there, there is an eight per cent change from the previous year. So, I think it would probably be incorporated in that.

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

MR. McCALLUM: And the number of people in this revolving funds area includes POL as well as the systems support centre and whatever other revolving area you have in the department. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

HON. TAGAK CURLEY: Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Applications development and systems support centre. Any more questions on that? Computer services and technical support centre. Any questions? Okay, we will go back to page 10.07. Department of Government Services, total O and M, \$14,479,000. Agreed?

MR. RICHARD: How much?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): \$14,479,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Does the committee agree that the Department of Government Services is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. I want to thank the Minister and his witnesses. Thank you.

Department Of Social Services

Next is the Department of Social Services. Mr. McLaughlin, do you have an opening statement?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The financial plan prepared by the Department of Social Services for 1987-88 seeks to address a wide range of problems and issues brought to my attention by my colleagues on the Executive Council, MLAs, representatives of local councils and ordinary citizens. The identified needs and priorities include the following: the need to ensure that residents negatively affected by the economic downturn, or otherwise forced to rely on social assistance, are able to receive a more adequate allowance to meet their families' basic needs for food and clothing; the need to assist communities to develop services and organize self-help groups to deal with the general problem of family violence and the more specific issue of spousal assault; the need to provide improved assessment and treatment services for children and youth to support parental efforts to deal with troubled children; the need to support the efforts of youth at the local level to organize self-help and related projects to cope with alcohol and drug abuse and other adjustment problems faced by our young people; the need to support the efforts of extended families and community groups to enable the elderly to receive needed home support and personal care services; the need to provide increased supervisory and specialist support to community based social service workers, and to continue to provide much-needed training to assist staff in coping with increasingly complex service demands related to child sexual abuse, spousal assault, young offenders, suicide prevention, alcohol and drug abuse and other family crises.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the front line social service workers, many of whom are native northerners, for their efforts in working with local residents to resolve difficult social problems.

The increased departmental expenditures in 1987-88 are largely directed at getting additional program and financial resources out to the regional and community level in the form of social assistance payments, improved foster care allowances, alcohol and drug contributions, personal care services for the aged and handicapped, and improved service delivery by regional and community social service delivery staff.

The Department of Social Services 1987-88 main estimates are approximately \$59 million; \$52.7 million in operations and maintenance and \$6.2 million for capital. There are 339.5 indeterminate and 24.3 casual person years associated with the operations and maintenance funding. Revenue for this period is estimated at \$15.9 million for operations and maintenance with the majority of this being related to cost-sharing agreements with the federal government.

In preparing the 1987-88 budget, the department has continued to place a high priority on developing initiatives to expand community involvement in the delivery of social services and to strengthen community service delivery. Toward this end, I will soon be tabling in this Assembly, an information package on devolution, designed to encourage communities to take a more active role in social services delivery. Discussions are presently being undertaken to negotiate with several communities, which have indicated a desire to assume a greater responsibility for participating in or delivering social services programs.

Increases sought in the administration activity are primarily related to addressing service level deficiencies.

The community corrections program will be further decentralized and enhanced by providing alternatives to incarceration in all regions. This will largely be accomplished through the reallocation of existing resources to place specialist support positions in each region.

Review Of Social Assistance Scales And Food Rates

A major review of social assistance scales and food rates was undertaken in 1986-87 resulting in the implementation of scale changes and food rate allowance increases on October 1, 1986. The proposed budget also reflects a second rate increase effective April 1, 1987 and projected volume growth due to the economic downturn.

Full year funding for rate changes in foster care and volume increases in treatment services during 1986-87 are reflected in the 1987-88 main estimates for the department. Increases to foster care per diems and clothing allowances were implemented January 1, 1987. The improved per diem allowances and clothing adjustments are intended to adequately compensate foster parents for the provision of care and supervision to children in care, as a result of neglect or behavioural/emotional problems.

Under the alcohol and drug program, additional funds were budgeted for community organizations attempting to address alcohol and drug issues, with an additional \$200,000 specifically targeted for programs related to youth. Also budgeted in the alcohol and drug area is capital funding to enable project groups utilizing existing community buildings to undertake minor renovations to meet fire and safety standards. This initiative is in response to concerns raised by MLAs and members of the alcohol and drug project boards.

Major capital spending will be in the services to the aged and handicapped program for senior citizens facilities and group homes for handicapped adults. Other capital construction pertains to the completion of the renovations at the Yellowknife Correctional Centre.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I should point out that this budget does not contain any new initiatives to support child day care providers. As you may be aware, the federal government is not expected to announce its initiative in the child care area until at least June of this year. Consequently, I do not know at this point whether it will be possible for the territorial government to seek a grant adjustment from the federal government to provide financial assistance in support of community based child care operators. It should be pointed out, however, that the previously mentioned adjustments in the social assistance food allowances will increase the level of assistance available for low income residents who need assistance with day care expenses, in order to undertake training or employment.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, funding requirements for the young offenders program are not reflected in the 1987-88 main estimates, except for a minor amount of \$241,000 mainly associated with the Yellowknife group home. As I advised the standing committee on finance, the funding for the young offenders program will be voted through the supplementary estimates, number one, for 1987-88. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can have the committee's permission I would like to ask in my deputy minister, Bob Cowcill, and the finance officer, Phyllis Sartor.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. General comments on the Department of Social Services. Mr. McCallum.

PYs For Young Offenders Programs Not Included

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to set it out straight with my favourite topic of person years. In the government's total person year summary in our book, it is indicated, or one can take from it, that the Department of Social Services are giving up 50.5 PYs. That, of course, comes about because of the absence from the main estimates of any person years associated with the Young Offenders Act. It indicates then, Mr. Chairman, that the total number of PYs the government is asking for is down to that number of 66.3 or 5 of whatever it was. But in point of fact, Mr. Chairman, the young offenders will be coming in, in a supplementary. I would like to ask the Minister by deleting those 50.5 PYs, is that the number of PYs that he will be looking for in his department? Or is there a further increase in the number of PYs that the department is asking for?

As I say, in the department itself, it looks like they are cutting down so many person years, but I would like to get some idea as to what really is being asked. Because as you go through the whole department in various activities I think we will find that various activities are asking for additional PYs as well. For example, in the administration services, they are asking for five new PYs, that I understand are going out to the regions with the associated funding. In the family and children's services, there is a big drop from the revised forecast of 124.5 PYs to 60 PYs, which means 64.5 PYs. This is where I believe the young offenders are. So the department is giving up 50.5 PYs, but they are really looking to take on, once the funding comes in, another 64.5 PYs. I should not say "taking on", because the people have not been laid off. They are still involved with the department. In correction services, the department is looking for just under seven PYs. In the aged and handicapped services, they are looking for an additional PY; the same thing in family violence prevention services.

So in all, Mr. Chairman, I think that there is a considerable number of new PYs being requested by the department, but when one looks at the summary of total person year requirements for the government, it looks like the government is not asking for very many. But that figure is skewed by both Social Services and Economic Development and I would like to just get it clarified and substantiated by the Minister that this, in effect, is what will occur; that this department will be asking for a considerable number of PYs in addition to what has been stated in their budget that we have before us on page 15.09. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the federally-initiated new growth industry in the Territories for young offenders will cause us to ask for in excess of, I believe it is 64.5 PYs for young offenders. That will depend on the success of our Treasury Board submission, as well, as to what we actually spend in the end. Our estimates now are 64.5 person years. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. General comments. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in the total budget of the department, again, it indicates that there is very little growth, if any, in the capital side of the budget and in reality very little growth in the O and M part of this department's budget -- from \$50.3 million last year to \$52.7 million this year. Now, in the revised forecast of this department, on page 15.09, in the revised 1986-87 forecast, does that \$50 million include the cost of the young offenders?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the revised, yes; young offenders are included in there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, how much of that \$50,354,000 was dedicated to the young offenders last year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I am not sure. When the Member is asking for last year, does he mean last year 1985-86 or does he mean 1986-87, the current year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I was referring to the \$50,354,000 under the column 1986-87 revised forecast. That is the previous question and this question is related to it. Of the \$50,354,000 in the 1986-87 revised forecast column, how much of that was dedicated to the young offenders program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just slightly over six million dollars, \$6,055,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

Increase Does Not Include Costs For Young Offenders Programs

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, again, as I said, it looks like this department is getting a four per cent increase to its total O and M budget. That is what is there in front of us and I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that that is not really correct because the \$52,780,000 in the 1987-88 main estimates does not include the cost for young offenders. Is that correct, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as the Member will recall when I appeared before the standing committee on finance, I indicated that the department's 1987-88 main estimates reflect a total increase of 4.8 per cent, but also I said the actual increase over 1986-87 revised forecast, discounting the young offenders estimates, is 18.5 per cent. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize and appreciate what the Minister had indicated to us there. I simply want to indicate to committee Members that we are dealing with a document, the main estimates, that is not going to really show what really is being asked here. I suspect that the total O and M money for 1987-88 for this department, including young offenders, will be somewhere about \$60 million -- let me say between \$59 million to \$60 million, rather than the \$52 million that is there because there is not anything there for young offenders. Could I ask the Minister, how many people, how many PYs were associated with the young offenders last year -- by last year, I mean 1986-87?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, through the supplementaries, we had 64 person years, altogether.

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

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to first ask a question. If we are on general comments, I would like to talk about something but first I would like to ask this. The budget for Social Services is increasing and in smaller communities the employees usually work only a few hours and some of them only work in the afternoons and they do not work in the morning. This is a problem in our community. There are a lot of young offenders that have to be dealt with and the spousal assault has to be dealt with and they get an overload of work in some communities and sometimes they have to work overtime at nights without getting overtime pay. I would like to ask, in 1987-88, will this part-time work be continuing? In my community, the social worker does a lot of work to complete what she has to do and in the morning this social worker does not work and so I would like to ask, in 1987 will they still be working just part time? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated in the past, the role of social workers has changed tremendously over the last couple of years, or at least five years, in that a lot more demand is being put on them. Originally, they were primarily giving out social assistance money but now they are having to deal with spousal assault, child abuse and other family violence problems that they did not have to contend with before. This is more stressful on them and a lot more of these types of cases are being reported now and so the caseloads have gone up. We are constantly reviewing those caseloads to try to turn these half-year and part-time positions into full-time positions. I should say that in my last conversation with the regional superintendent of Social Services in the Baffin, she indicated to me that our department had lost employees to a dog catcher or a dog control officer position in one community and to a janitor's position in another community. That and other similar instances have caused me to write to the Minister of Personnel, Mr. Pedersen, to see that the whole issue of the job description of the front line social workers and their salary remuneration should be reconsidered. I realize that it is a problem and I am trying to do something in communities like Broughton Island, for example, which has only a half-time social worker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask you another question. The social services committee in the communities, maybe about five years ago or so, used to go to a meeting in Iqaluit, from each of the Baffin communities. This has been stopped and at the present time they have more jobs to do in the communities, more workload, and I feel that they should be going to those meetings now more than before but they do not go to Iqaluit to meetings any more. My question is, the social services committee from each of the communities wants to see if they can go to meetings again, such as the ones that they had, in this coming year. For these reasons, the social workers that deal with social problems of the people, I think, should be able to get together and have workshops to teach them to do more. I wonder if this is going to be continued, or will you not be able to have it done? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

Funding For Workshops Is Within Budget

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: The department considers regional workshops for the workers themselves, and for the chairman and other members of social service committees in the communities to attend regional workshops, as beneficial and it is usually provided in the budget. But in some years, with budget overruns or other priorities in the region, the workshops have not been held. But it is my intention, as I outlined in my opening remarks, to have a devolution paper available by the time we reconvene in May and I hope to hold workshops in some of the regions concerning that. There are sufficient funds in this year's budget to hold such workshops.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) I have another question. It is still in regard to Social Services. In the smaller communities, there is an increase in the crime among the young people, such as breaking and entering and theft and sniffing gas or glue or whatever else they can get hold of. Communities cannot really do anything about that. The hamlet council has by-laws in regard to things like these. They are allowed to make by-laws on those kinds of things that I am talking about.

I wonder if Social Services could help in the way of funding in regard to taking care of those people with the problems of that kind in the communities. I feel that there could be another position put into the communities. I think there should be funding for a person to teach the young offenders, to keep them out of trouble, especially in the evenings and to help stop them from sniffing glue and other solvents. I wonder if there could be funding available for that purpose. Thank you.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: In this area it is very difficult for two reasons. One is that the Member indicated that we should do something to control young offenders in the communities. Once the individual has been charged as a young offender, in a lot of cases it is beyond the department's ability to take that individual and solve his problems because he is then in the young offenders process and a lot of times that has to go through the court. So then we try to help and rehabilitate that young offender, while he is in the care and custody of the department. But to do the things that the Member is talking about in the community, we could not afford to dedicate a person year to that in every community in the NWT at this time.

Preventive Programs Emphasized

But we are trying to do things which are preventive in nature, such as the \$400,000 that we have dedicated in the budget this year, specifically to the youth alcohol and drug programs. I have increased that total this year by adding another \$200,000 in that area. We still continue to hold forums in each region for youth. I attended one in the Baffin and I know there were youth representatives from the communities in the Member's constituency. Mr. Patterson and I attended those meetings. What we are trying to do there is take some of the leaders of the youth in each community and help them to understand the way that our government and other resources in the community can help youth. So we are putting our emphasis through the school health curriculums we have developed, in conjunction with Mr. Patterson, and through peer group pressure with the leaders of the youth talking to the other youth, to try to prevent situations of drug abuse, in order to make people more aware of themselves and their responsibilities to themselves and the community.

So there are basically two things we are doing. One is trying to prevent this by using youth themselves, by helping the youth leadership to help tackle this program. The other thing is that once the individual, through drug abuse, etc., comes into the young offenders system, to counsel those young offenders while they are held in our open and secure custody facilities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) In the spring of 1986 there was a conference in Iqaluit of the leaders. I was informed by a person from Iqaluit, who was a member of the alcohol and drug committee that they wanted a dog in the airport to search for anything in luggage or things like that. I would like to get some information. Have you heard anything on this or how are you going to proceed with it? That person told me the dog would be searching for drugs or things like that and be at the airport. How are you going to proceed with this or do you have any information on this? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One thing I neglected to mention in my last answer is that there is also the possibility in a community of youth justice committees being formed. Through that process the community itself can develop some programs to divert youth who are getting in trouble, through the young offenders system, and try to deal with them in the community in a way the community thinks is appropriate.

Drug Detection A Federal Responsibility

In the case of having dogs at the airports to control and police the bringing of drugs, etc., into the communities there are two problems. One is a lot of the drugs that are being used, such as glue sniffing and sniffing of gasoline and propane, those are such common substances that it is difficult to police them. On the matter of looking for drugs like marijuana, etc., in luggage at all the airports, that is a federal responsibility, which the RCMP pursue here. So I would have to suggest the Member might want to bring that up under Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are all kinds of problems that arise in the communities and I have mentioned those. Sometimes the mandate of the government is not really directed to the small communities. We know they are trying to solve problems but then there are other problems that arise and they seem to increase, even though some of them are being solved in the small communities. Just last winter, I mentioned to the Minister a few times that there are certain people who should be recognized as counsellors or people who could help other people in the communities. You mentioned they had to have grade eight education for people to be recognized as counsellors who could help other people, like spouses who have marital problems or alcoholic problems, things like that, who could go to those people to be counselled.

Success Of Trained Counsellors

I have a question. You mentioned that there could be counsellors with grade eight education who could have further training. Is there anyone that you know of who has this kind of training? If there is, have you ever heard of how the counsellor is doing after that training? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is the intention, for the North Baffin, to put a supervisor into the area, so this will probably help the social workers in the North Baffin communities to become more aware of some of the opportunities for funding that presently exist. For example, the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council has funds available for projects which you have just described, where a committee of elders could be used to counsel. In another circumstance, under the spousal assault program there is also funding available for a group of community leaders to act as counsellors or helpers or intermediary people in situations like the Member described, especially in disputes in families that may or may not lead to violence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) I would like to thank you for your response. As I mentioned earlier, there are several problems within the communities and also there are committees formed by the federal government and the GNWT to deal with those. Some of these committees cause more problems to the communities, rather than solving them. There are so many committees like alcohol and drug committees and health committees and various committees within the communities and they are separate groups. It should be the other way around. For example, in Pond Inlet, their committees have formed together and are working together. Even though they have been working together there are always problems arising. The reason it does not work is because the ideas come from outside the communities and it should not be that way. In Pond Inlet there is a group that deals with these kinds of problems and they do not have any ties with government or anything like that and they try to solve problems that arise in the community. They have separate groups that do not have any ties with anybody else and they just deal with those individually. There are problems with this for two reasons. The government views them as not being tied to any kind of agency or group, therefore the government may not want to support them. Also, as Inuit people we seem to be in a very confused situation right now. We are confused as to whether we are going to be independent or we are going to be dependent on big father governments. Also some Inuit people are told by someone else that they are doing something wrong or, "You should do it this way or that way." This causes a lot of problems.

Volunteer Group In Pond Inlet Trying To Solve Problems.

I, myself, support those individual groups who are trying to solve problems. They are very serious about what they are doing in trying to solve problems that arise in the communities. Since this group that I am talking about is new, they meet in individual homes or in the hamlet office -- it is rent free when they use the office. They do not get an honorarium or anything like that, they are just volunteers. As I mentioned there are quite a few problems in their environment. We do not know for sure if they are going to be successful or not or if they are going to just diminish. But if they were to be successful in what they are trying to do, I would like to ask you to make some funding available in communities for individual groups that are trying to accomplish something. When they meet if they have to pay for office space or leasing or things like that, perhaps your department could make funding available for those groups. For example, if they were to meet in the recreation hall they have to lease those places; they have to pay rent. Would you be able to fund this?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said in my opening remarks, I am interested in having devolution of social services to the communities. What the Member describes is a problem that has been recognized for some years now, in that there are many groups in the community trying to deal with the issues, but they are all isolated from each other, and dealing with one small problem in the overall problem. That makes it difficult to accomplish anything because they do not have enough resources.

Community Services Committee Established By By-Law

So what I am going to be proposing is that, first of all, we do not undermine the established authority of the local hamlet councils. Our government recognizes those existing hamlet councils as taking the lead role for all problems in the community. What I would like to suggest to communities is that we have a community services committee established through a by-law of the hamlet and the hamlet would administer any funds that could be made available to this committee. That would make it possible for the committee to operate without having to go through all the hoops and hurdles of becoming a society; we have a lot of different regulations in Health and Social Services which specify duties for certain committees, like social appeal committees. We could designate this one committee as the lead group to function for our department. This could also include youth justice committees and anything else related to Health or Social Services, or even some of the programs where other departments might think this was a good committee to oversee their activities.

That is something we would like to do and we will have funds available for the establishment of those community service committees in the near future, I hope. In June I hope to be able to have a paper which we can discuss on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Erkloo.

Counselling For Spouse Of The Abused

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Iqaluit there was a transient home built for abused women. This is very good because there is now a place for those women to go because they had no other place to go when they were being abused in the past. This support for abused wives makes it very clear that they are trying to help these women. But looking at the other side, there should be counselling available for the husband also. I know that if someone refuses to get help, you cannot do anything about it. But we should try and find a way of trying to help those people, trying to get those people to accept counselling. Did you ever consider in this area, whether you could be able to help the husband or not? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the compliments that the Member has given out, that we finally have a transition house in Iqaluit, but a lot of the thanks should go to the Minister of Housing, Mr. Ballantyne, whose department took existing plans and modified them so that the facilities could be put up. Instead of having to go to a brand new plan, we were able to take the existing building plans we had and were thus able to move the project ahead a lot faster. The idea is to have a transition house like that only in the major communities in each region. In some of the other communities where we have problems, we would hope to, in the future, establish a safe house which a victim of spousal assault could go to immediately. In the spousal assault program we do have funds available for the counselling of the offending spouse, whether it is a male or a female. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister what are some of the indicators as far as young offenders go? We have a youth program in Fort Providence that has been in existence since last year, but if you look at the stats for break and enter, for example, it went up from nine to 21. Out of that, 40 youth were convicted of a crime of some sort. I would like to ask the Minister what this department is doing when it gets these types of indicators, because I would assume that in the different regions it varies from region to region, from community to community? There must be some heavies in some communities and less in other communities. Maybe one community needs a youth program more than another community does; an ongoing program. I would like to find this out because I am curious about that.

Another thing, too, I find that I did support the proposal that the youth program submitted to your department but the problem I see with that particular program is that it is not geared toward the people that are young offenders. It is more geared to the people that are well-off. Their families could afford things. They could afford to go out and have the luxury of going into a youth program and doing things in the evening. It is the same group of repeat offenders who are not being included in these youth programs. I also am aware that they have -- I do not know what they call it, it is a committee that deals with youth rather than bringing them to court. They appear before this committee and the committee recommends either to send them to an institution or do community service work. Another further step they should take is to tell them to make an effort to get into the youth program because they have a certain little class of people that goes to these things and everybody else is afraid to even join.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I indicated to Mr. Paniloo something similar to this. What you have are two groups of youth. One is younger or have not got into trouble yet. With them, through the school system and through these youth committees which are mostly preventive, we are trying to prevent those children from ever falling into the rut that the young offenders are in. Young offenders are usually already out of school and they have already separated themselves away from the mainstream of the other youth in the community. They are on the sidelines. They are the ones, and I agree with the Member, that continually get into trouble and so we have to deal with them on a one-to-one basis. Usually that requires them to be taken into open or closed custody facilities and to be given professional counselling.

Role Of Youth Justice Committees

There are youth justice committees and I think they are established in nearly 20 communities now. They have a role to play where they can say that a particular youth, who is guilty of doing something wrong in the community, can admit his guilt and turn himself over to that committee. If

it is not a serious offence that committee can usually give him something to do in the community that will help him. But if it is a serious offence, the committee does not have the resources to deal with him in the community. For example, if he has been involved in violent offences and assault then he usually ends up in a closed custody facility where he needs individual counselling. But they have resources available to counsel the in-betweens, for example the child that is normally not in trouble and gets in trouble for the first time; that is a good role for these youth justice committees to play. However, for the youth who are continually in trouble and out of the mainstream of the community, there does not seem to be much help other than professional counselling, which will be required, if we apprehend them under the Child Welfare Act or if they are charged under the young offenders system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Gargan.

MR. GARGAN: Again, with the youth justice committee, I do not really know how effective that particular group is because it is a special breed of people that have to be on that committee. I know for a fact that those people really do not give a damn about the community but are willing to pass judgment on people and, again, I do not know whether it is serving the community any good to have such a group.

One thing though I find, too, is that, again -- I just referred to the break and entering, it went up from nine to 21, from last year to this year, in 1986. One of the main reasons for these break-ins is neglect; one of the main reasons is that there just is not enough food to eat. This is one area where your department seems to be in a little bit of a -- I do not know whether you could call it a conflict, because if you are not giving enough, a youth is committing a crime. That is one area that should be looked at by the department because a social worker in the community must have some indication if this child has been getting into trouble. So go to the house and find out from the parents if they are doing okay, whether they are having enough to eat or whether this child is being neglected; what seems to be the problem. I am sure that a lot of these crimes perhaps could be prevented if the social worker would have some flexibility or some discretion to be able to assist the family. There is a trend in Fort Providence. You get your social assistance on the first Wednesday of the month and that is it. Nothing else comes until the next month. I think the trend is established in the community that if you run out -- it would be interesting, too, to find out -- that most of the crime maybe occurs in the third week of the month. This is one area where I do have some concern; if a youth is getting into trouble time and time again, I am sure there must be reasons for it and if the social worker is doing his job, he should be able to find out what the reasons are and try to eliminate them, whether it is hardship or not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated in the opening remarks and in the standing committee on finance, we have increased the food allowance part of our social assistance in recognition of the fact that the price of food is higher and that people require that. The other thing is that we have to look at each community individually, when we look at forming youth justice committees and what programs they might need there. There are some communities where there are high problems with youth and some communities where there are virtually no problems, so that the department does try to respond differently to the different needs. I cannot really give the Member any more information than that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): Thank you. Are there any further comments?

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wah-Shee): The motion is on the floor for moving progress. It is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair will report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Mr. Wah-Shee.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

MR. WAH-SHEE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1-87(1), Appropriation Act, 1987-88, and wishes to report progress with two motions being adopted and the Department of Government Services being concluded.

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.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, announcements and orders of the day.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the standing committee on legislation on Monday morning at 9:30 a.m.

ITEM 19: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Monday, March 9th at 1:00 p.m.

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: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, March 9th at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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