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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Ms Cournoyea, Mr. Curley, Mr. Erkloo, Mr. Gargan, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Paniloo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. Red Pedersen, Hon. Ludy 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 Tuesday, June 9. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 61-87(1): Arctic Public Legal Education And Information Society

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the public legal education program in the Northwest Territories will continue for another year as a result of a joint funding effort by the territorial and federal Justice departments. I have just recently signed an agreement with the federal Minister of Justice, the Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn. As a result of the terms of this agreement, the federal government will be contributing \$70,000 and the Government of the Northwest Territories will contribute \$52,000 for the 1987-88 fiscal year toward the annual operating expenses of the society.

Arctic PLEI is a non-profit organization set up in December 1985, to explain the law and legal system to northerners. Arctic PLEI has undertaken several projects to educate northerners about the law. This summer two law students will travel to several NWT communities to hold public legal education seminars on everyday topics such as common-law relationships, divorce, spousal assault, wills and impaired driving. The students also will explain the criminal justice system and court procedures.

Among the organization's other projects are a videotaped puppet show designed to teach children the moral and legal consequences of stealing. The show, produced in Yellowknife with northern puppeteers, has been translated into the native languages and will be distributed to elementary schools in the NWT this fall. Arctic PLEI will also produce two mock trial kits for use in junior high and high schools.

The organization works closely with lawyers, courtworkers and police to produce materials of everyday interest to the public. Arctic PLEI ran the popular and successful "Brown Bag Law Series" at the Yellowknife public library last fall and winter. Arctic PLEI also plans to produce six television commercials on consumer law which will explain contracts, labour standards and employment, real estate and wills. Public education of the law is of vital importance and I support the fine work being done in this area by Arctic PLEI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Mr. Pedersen.

Minister's Statement 62-87(1): "Only One Earth" Forum

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Three weeks ago I had the pleasure of participating in the "Only One Earth" forum, held in New York City at the Rene Dubos Centre for Human Environments. The forum was sanctioned by UNEP, the United Nations Environment Program. This forum brought over 100 international authorities together to discuss conservation and development trends and to propose practical steps for the world community to address critical issues.

During the forum I spoke of conservation and development in the NWT, emphasizing that long-term economic health will be intimately bound to the health of the natural environment. I explained our need to build a stable and balanced economy which can withstand external pressures caused by changes in the prices of minerals, oil or furs. I also outlined the work our department is doing to develop an NWT conservation strategy as a primary tool in promoting sustainable development.

Mr. Speaker, following a discussion of conservation strategies in other parts of the world, our workshop prepared several recommendations, submitted jointly by the Yukon's Minister of Renewable Resources, the Hon. David Porter; Mr. Fin Lynge, director of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference's Environmental Commission, representing Greenland; and myself, representing the NWT. Four of these recommendations applied directly to the Northwest Territories. These were unanimously agreed to and are as follows in summary form, Mr. Speaker:

- 1) Nature conservation and management practices should take into account not only the information and policies developed in academia and government, but also traditional knowledge, values and current management practices to be found among the actual users of the natural environment.
- 2) Development policies, projects and legislation influencing traditional hunting and fishing areas used by indigenous people shall be planned and implemented together with those people and without adversely affecting their food procurement possibilities.
- 3) Dominant societies shall take prime responsibility in promoting, through legislative or other measures, the development of markets for products originating from aboriginal subsistence economies.
- 4) Military installations and activities should be located so as to avoid negative effects on civilian populations, particularly in terms of interference with traditional land uses, as well as impacts on important ecosystems.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that our government must develop strategies to manage natural resources, renewable and non-renewable, so that they yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations, while maintaining the potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations. The NWT conservation strategy being developed by my department will help provide such direction and identify specific actions which promote the integration of environmental and economic goals. Mr. Speaker, we expect the first phase of this work to be completed over the summer, resulting in a conservation policy to be submitted for formal approval. And, Mr. Speaker, during the coffee break I will distribute the complete text of the resolutions to Members' desks. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Mr. Pedersen.

Minister's Statement 63-87(1): Bison Management Plan For The Mackenzie Wood Bison Herd, Northwest Territories

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one further today. The Mackenzie wood bison herd is the largest free roaming herd of wood bison in the world and is rapidly expanding, both in numbers and in range. Since the release of the draft management plan in 1983, we have solicited and received input from concerned citizens and scientists from the Northwest Territories and across Canada. The input from the people of Fort Providence, who have the best opportunity to derive benefits from the herd, has been especially important in the development of this plan.

This document will provide guidelines for the management of the Mackenzie wood bison herd for the next 10 years. However, it must be recognized that the environment is always changing and the management of this herd must be responsive to these changes.

What will not change, Mr. Speaker, are the management goals for the herd, which are: 1) To maintain a viable, free-ranging herd of wood bison. Since this is the major wild herd of wood bison in the world, this population must first and foremost be maintained in a healthy and productive state. This goal will supersede all other goals. 2) To utilize the herd to increase the distribution and numbers of wood bison by encouraging continued natural expansion of the range of the herd and by providing animals for transplant to other suitable habitat locations in the Northwest Territories and other areas of Canada. 3) To plan for the best utilization, by residents of the Northwest Territories, of animals surplus to the first two goals.

The management plan outlines a number of objectives and strategies for achieving these goals. In order to carry out the recommendations of this plan, we have hired a bison ecologist and have established a research facility on the Mackenzie bison range. A number of research and monitoring programs are under way at this time. The plan recognizes and makes provisions for enhancing the tourism potential of this herd. Discussions with interested parties and the tourism and parks division of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism are under way. As per the second goal, we are currently evaluating other areas in the Northwest Territories which could potentially support viable wood bison populations.

Mr. Speaker, included in this document are plans for initiating an annual harvest. The initial harvest will be 20 bulls in the fall and winter of 1987. The available tags will be divided between general hunting licence holders and resident hunters, with GHLS receiving 16 of the initial 20 tags and residents receiving the remaining four tags. The resident tags will be allocated through a limited entry draw. Future harvest will depend upon the condition of the herd and the requirements for bison to transplant into new ranges.

Mr. Speaker, persons interested in obtaining a copy of the bison management plan may do so by contacting the Department of Renewable Resources. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two statements, Mr. Speaker. The first is respecting the funding for the Northern Heritage Society.

Minister's Statement 64-87(1): Funding For Northern Heritage Society

On March 11th, a motion was passed by this Assembly that the Executive Council consider providing emergency funding to the Northern Heritage Society this year and that it consider providing ongoing core funding for future years. Also, the Departments of Culture and Communications and Education and the Science Institute were to examine ways to provide ongoing assistance.

The Department of Education has made a commitment to provide \$200 per week per student in the form of salary subsidies for each week the students are training on the job and has agreed to provide \$7800 for field school curriculum development. The Executive Council has also decided to double the amount provided to the society through the Executive grants and contributions fund, to a total of \$30,000.

As a result, the Government of the Northwest Territories will provide the Northern Heritage Society with up to \$47,000 this year. The exact amount will depend on how many students work at the field camp and the actual length of the field camp. The Departments of Culture and Communications, and Education and the Science Institute will continue to examine ways of providing ongoing funding for this worth-while project.

Minister's Statement 65-87(1): Pangnirtung Gets Grade 12

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to announce that this fall Pangnirtung will offer a complete high school program, allowing students to finish grade 12 in their home community. Approval, funding and teachers for the addition of grade 12 to Pangnirtung was announced in March and already a dozen students have registered. It is expected enrolment will reach 15 to 16 students by the time school opens in August.

While there are now two regional high schools in the Eastern Arctic, the Gordon Robertson Education Centre in Iqaluit and Keewatin Education Centre in Rankin Inlet, also adding grade 12 this year, Pangnirtung is the first community school in the East to offer a full kindergarten to grade 12 program. In fact, it is currently the only community school in the Eastern Arctic to extend programming past the grade 10 level, as well as being the only school in the NWT to offer kindergarten to grade 12 under a single school administration.

The school will offer both the advanced and general academic programs at the grade 12 level, as well as a concentration in business education that may be taken by advanced or general level students.

Mr. Speaker, educational gains in Pangnirtung have been substantial as a result of the extension of grades in the community. The better students have not gone away to school, but rather have remained in town to serve as educational role models. Attendance and attitude have improved throughout the entire school and community interest in and support of education has increased.

The community education council in Pangnirtung requested the addition of grade 12 only six months ago. Their strong support for the program is an indication of the priority the entire community places on education. Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

Minister's Statement 66-87(1): Committee On Law Reform

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to the House on the activities of the Committee on Law Reform. This committee has been extremely active since its formation and has tackled with enthusiasm its mandate to seek solutions to the legal problems facing this jurisdiction that recognize the cultural uniqueness of the Northwest Territories. The committee has completed its first working paper, in which it examines the recent amendment to the Jury Act, permitting unilingual aboriginal persons to sit as jurors. This working paper explores the legal and constitutional validity of the amendment, as well as possible methods of implementation.

In the committee's letter to me, which is within the report, the law reform committee stated, and I quote: "As is evident in our report, the aim of the amendment is indeed salutary. The implementation, however, is not without difficulty. We are entirely aware there is no universal accord on this question. Difficulties notwithstanding, it is our opinion that the amendment is meritorious and should be implemented."

It is the intention of the law reform committee to widely circulate the working paper to the public in the hope of attracting comments and criticism. The committee will then prepare its final report on this subject.

The committee has also made substantial progress on its next project, aimed at thorough reform of the mechanics' lien legislation of the Northwest Territories. A great deal of research material has been gathered and submissions have been sought from a wide range of interested parties.

The committee is also actively considering a number of other subjects for further study. Among them are: a study of cultural norms in remote communities and their implications for the justice system; the use of community elders as resource persons in the criminal justice system; new land titles legislation; modern personal property security legislation; family law in the Territories and this would include such topics as division of matrimonial property, custom adoptions, "common-law" relationships and enforcement of support and custody orders; a study of the circuit court in the changing North -- are any modifications desirable; new companies legislation; and an improved system of criminal injuries compensation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give my assurance that the Committee on Law Reform will receive the fullest co-operation from the legislative draftspeople in my department in turning their proposals into statutory form.

The government will continue its efforts to ensure that the people of the Northwest Territories have a legal system that is in keeping with their needs, aspirations and cultures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. That appears to conclude this item for today. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Curley.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Vote On Meech Lake Accord In House Of Commons

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make a short statement because of what I heard this morning. I did not like what I heard this morning. The Mulroney government has now closed off the NWT priorities. I would like to read this in English a bit. Thank you. (Translation ends)

The Mulroney government has denied the restoration of democratic rights of the people of the Northwest Territories by defeating a minority motion yesterday in the House of Commons. The government was asked to delete Meech Lake accord clauses which required unanimity amongst 10 provinces for the creation of new provinces in Canada. The highest institution in the land, the Parliament of Canada, was given an opportunity to bring justice and restore democratic rights to the people of the Northwest Territories and Yukon but the majority chose to strike down forever the aspirations of our people. This is not only disappointing, it is shameful for Canada, which is known by foreign countries to oppose laws that are oppressive to its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this Legislature must stand up for its people. Equality amongst Canadians, given to them through the Charter of Rights, is great. Equality amongst provinces and a special status for Quebec is great. But the discrimination incorporated in the Meech Lake accord toward territorial governments and their citizens is not tolerable.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the MP for the Western Arctic for standing up for the people of the Northwest Territories, the Liberal Party and the NDP for recognizing that minority rights are important and it is time that most Canadians understand what is at stake in this part of the North. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

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

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. Sibbeston.

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, this is a response to Question W41-87(1), asked by Mr. Paniloo on June 1st concerning soapstone for three Baffin communities.

The soapstone assistance policy provides a subsidy for a portion of the costs to transport carving materials in the most economical way into a community. Agencies from Lake Harbour or any other community interested in retrieving soapstone are encouraged to apply to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism for assistance available under this policy.

Mr. Speaker, I can add that I have asked my department officials in Iqaluit to co-operate with the communities and help them as much as possible to ensure a good supply of soapstone.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. To keep the record straight, when we get to returns to written questions we will have that entered at that point. It was not an oral question. Are there any returns to oral questions? Item 5, oral questions. Mrs. Lawrence.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 0228-87(1): Funding For Upgrading Classes In The Communities

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for Education. At the last sitting, on 17th March, I made a motion regarding upgrading classes. There was no funding in the community for anyone who is under the level of grade eight. I would like to know what happened and what action has been taken regarding this problem that we are facing in the community and I would like to know exactly what is happening up to now. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0228-87(1): Funding For Upgrading Classes In The Communities

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the House that I have been working on this problem since the motion was made from the Legislative Assembly. Immediately following our last session, I wrote another letter to the Hon. Benoit Bouchard, the Canadian Minister of Employment and Immigration about this very serious concern in the Northwest Territories. I am pleased to report that I believe we have made some progress toward addressing this issue.

Firstly, the employment enhancement initiative which I signed yesterday with Mr. Bouchard has made \$1.5 million worth of new money available to all regions in the Northwest Territories to allow for innovative projects to provide training for people who are on welfare and want to break the cycle of welfare dependency and get training so that they can obtain jobs. I discussed with Mr. Bouchard yesterday, and it has been built into the agreement, that we will have flexibility with that agreement to provide low level upgrading where it can be linked to improving the chances for employment for welfare recipients. Communities will, from here on, be able to apply to their local Education representative or Economic Development representative or Social Services representative, to obtain some access to that funding. Especially the communities where welfare rates are high and where people want to work and want to break out of welfare, will be eligible for this program. So I would urge the Member, all Members, whose constituents have expressed this concern to consider an application under the employment enhancement program. We are trying to make it as simple and painless as possible. We are looking for community projects that will benefit groups of people.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I have urged on Mr. Bouchard and his staff in the Northwest Territories that the money CEIC spends in the Northwest Territories under what is called the Canadian job strategy should be reprofiled wherever possible to provide low level upgrading. Last year the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission spent \$550,000 for ESL, English as a second languages, language training and programs for low level upgrading. There were 11 courses at the community level upgrading from grades one to seven.

Our assessment is, after having worked with CEIC, that in fact with the assistance of our staff, local education authorities and community organizations can prepare proposals which will use the Canadian job strategy and we will expect that we actually exceed the amount of money expended last year on low level upgrading.

So to the Member I would say, the communities that you represent will also be assisted by our officials to make application for projects under the Canadian job strategy to have this kind of training. It must now lead to employment or be designed to lead to employment and, therefore, it will be a little different than the previous courses, which were offered without so much attention to the potential for job creation. However, we are confident that through these two initiatives, we can actually get just as much low level upgrading taking place in the Northwest Territories, if not more, than last year. My officials are available to assist communities that have this desire. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. T'Seleie.

Question 0229-87(1): Review Of Dust Control Problem, Fort Good Hope

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Last Wednesday I asked the Minister a question on dust control in the community of Fort Good Hope and I would like to know whether or not the Minister has had a chance to review that problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0229-87(1): Review Of Dust Control Problem, Fort Good Hope

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I explained last week, the funding for a community dust program is priority money and I have a very specific and a very limited budget. At present my officials are looking to see if within the allocated program for this year there are some projects which are not going ahead or some projects which are not going to cost as much as we thought they were, to see if, in fact, there is money available to do the work in Good Hope. We have not as yet determined if funding is available, so I do not have anything further to report to the Member at present. As soon as we do, then I will get hold of him.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Then you are going to undertake to keep in contact with the honourable Member and give him a reply as soon as it is available. Oral questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 0230-87(1): Funding For Proposed Visit Of The Pope

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, the question is directed to the Leader of the Government in regard to the Pope's visit. In the documentation that is before us at this sitting of the Legislative Assembly there is no indication that this government has proposed a budget toward the Pope's visit or pending visit. As this Legislative Assembly would be closed down after this session, is it the intention of the Leader of the Government to propose additional funding for the Pope's visit?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibbeston.

Return To Question 0230-87(1): Funding For Proposed Visit Of The Pope

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I will first deal with the possibility of the Pope coming to the North. All indications are that he will be coming to the North on September 20th. We are expecting an official announcement very shortly on that.

As to whether our government will spend any money on that, I think it is recognized that our government spent a considerable amount of money making preparations for the last visit. A lot of the infrastructure is in place and was in part paid for by our government. As of this moment we do not have any proposal. We have not had any requests for additional funding related to the Pope's visit. In the event that a request is made from the community or the organization that will be dealing with the Pope's visit, the Executive Council will consider it. So at this time I cannot say definitely that our government would respond but if the request is made, like all requests that come forward from various parts of the North and for various activities, we will consider the request. As to the outcome, that I cannot say at this moment.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms Cournoyea.

Supplementary To Question 0230-87(1): Funding For Proposed Visit Of The Pope

MS COURNOYEA: Given that the Leader, Mr. Speaker, seems to indicate that momentarily he will be hearing if the Pope will be coming to the North; given that this Legislative Assembly or this government has already spent approximately one million dollars on the last visit, would it be possible for the Executive to deal with that situation knowing that they will be receiving requests and to give to this Legislative Assembly what they anticipate is affordable within this present government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 0230-87(1): Funding For Proposed Visit Of The Pope

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, the Member has asked me a very difficult question, wondering what the response of the Executive will be, to requests made. All I can say is that I simply cannot indicate what the Executive Council will do. I can tell the Member that I am personally supportive of our government being of whatever assistance we can, to be sure that the event goes off very well. In the past, the government has contributed capital funds and we have also contributed manpower to make sure that everything ran smoothly. I, as the MLA for the area, am personally supportive of it and I would personally support a reasonable request made. That is my own private opinion and I can tell the Member that when the request comes I will take it before the Executive Council and have a decision made. That is the best I can do. I cannot anticipate what the Executive Council will say.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 0231-87(1): Lower Gas Prices Requested

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Government Services. In the Inuit communities and over here, the gas is very expensive and the territorial government I think every year is increasing the taxes. As you probably know the gas is very much used in the communities for hunting and others. I wanted to ask if you have considered lowering the price of the gas in the future? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0231-87(1): Lower Gas Prices Requested

HON. LUDY PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I myself am also a hunter and trapper and I realize the gas is very expensive. For example, in Pond Inlet, gas is 60 cents a litre. In the co-ops, RCMP and the housing maintenance, they will charge 62 cents. The hunters and trappers are given a subsidy from the hunters and trappers association. They are given a subsidy but comparing these prices to the other communities, 60 cents a litre is not that far from the price in the other communities. For example in Yellowknife, it is 59 cents a litre and in Iqaluit it is 61 cents a litre. I do not think the prices will go up for a while, but I think I will find out more about this in October after the NTCL renew their contract. But I would like to tell the Member for Amittuq, regarding the subsidy, that I do not think we will be subsidizing the gas price because it is already subsidized. In the communities they do not charge or pay for the freight. If they were to charge for the freight, they would be paying seven cents extra per litre. Going back to the subsidy, I think you are already given a subsidy up where you come from and I think the price is all right for today. It might seem very expensive but we have not thought about any more subsidies or adding any more subsidies to it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Oral questions. Mr. Erklou.

Supplementary To Question 0231-87(1): Lower Gas Prices Requested

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) I just want a supplementary to my question. First of all I would like to thank the honourable Minister for the information. Hunters and trappers are charged 60 cents a litre and the companies and others will be charged 62 cents a litre. However, the agent who sells gas may charge the same to everybody in some communities. Perhaps if your department could look into this and give all the information to communities as to who is supposed to pay how much. Two cents a litre might not seem very much but if you add them all up, it could come to a great amount of money. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have anything to add, Mr. Pudluk?

Further Return To Question 0231-87(1): Lower Gas Prices Requested

HON. LUDY PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try and get in touch with my department and have the information sent to the communities. I will gather the information and compare prices in different communities. I am not sure how Resolute Bay and Sanikiluaq would be but I will try and include them in the list. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Ms Cournoyea.

Question 0232-87(1): Effect Of Limit On Federal Indian Education Program

MS COURNOYEA: Mr. Speaker, following the federal announcement from the Minister of Indian Affairs three weeks ago, I have a question to the Minister of Education. In regard to Mr. McKnight's announcement that there will be a ceiling on Indian education funding, has that any effect on the delivery of the Northwest Territories Indian education program through our government?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0232-87(1): Effect Of Limit On Federal Indian Education Program

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can tell the honourable Member that the Northwest Territories, perhaps fortunately, offers its own post-secondary assistance program to native people in the Northwest Territories. That program was broadly modelled on the federal program but it goes beyond the federal program in that assistance is made available for post-secondary education to basically non-status people in the Northwest Territories, including non-status Indians and Metis.

So, Mr. Speaker, our aboriginal students are not dependent on the federal program and the caps announced recently by Mr. McKnight will not affect Northwest Territories students. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 0233-87(1): Use Of Calm Air HS-748 In Keewatin

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask this question of the Minister of Government Services. I have not seen this myself, personally, but in Keewatin I hear that perhaps in the summertime, the larger Calm Air HS-748 that is used in communities will not be used. I would like to ask the Minister if this is true. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0233-87(1): Use Of Calm Air HS-748 In Keewatin

HON. LUDY PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for his question regarding the Calm Air HS-748. It was used in the Keewatin area to some communities but the 748 plane had to be upgraded and they started using the DC-3 to the other communities. But the 748 has already been fixed and Calm Air is still using the DC-3 to the communities because the 748 is used in the South. I wrote to the company of Calm Air and asked if the 748 would be used again in the communities. If you would like some more information on this particular letter I am talking about, or if you would like a copy of it, I could make it available to you. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Supplementary To Question 0233-87(1): Use Of Calm Air HS-748 In Keewatin

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your information. I think most of the NWT people know this winter and in the summertime, the services will be increasing because of tourism and we hear there will be more tourists in the communities. If there are going to be more tourists and if we are going to use the DC-3 to the communities, that is different from the other plane that was used.

So, could the Minister write to the Canadian Transport Commission requesting this of Calm Air? Perhaps, I think the licence might have to change and I believe it also has a route protection. If the NWT government will continue to use the DC-3, I think the Minister has to write to the Canadian Transport Commission regarding this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 0233-87(1): Use Of Calm Air HS-748 In Keewatin

HON. LUDY PUDLUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for the question. I think you will be in support of this for the Keewatin and I realize that the DC-3 is not a very good plane to travel around with. I will try and write to the Canadian Transport Commission and request it on behalf of the Keewatin. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. That was one way of getting around the item that was dropped from the agenda the other day. Oral questions. Mr. McCallum.

Question 0234-87(1): Management Plan For Mackenzie Wood Bison Herd

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question of the Minister of Renewable Resources, Mr. Pedersen. It is in regard to his statement today regarding the Mackenzie wood bison herd. In the statement, the Minister indicated that one of the main goals would be to keep this herd as a viable free-ranging herd of wood bison, in a healthy and productive state.

I wonder if the Minister can indicate to me whether there have been discussions taking place with the federal government, with the Wood Buffalo National Park, about trying to do something about the ranging of the Wood Buffalo National Park hybrid herd. That, of course, is disease-ridden and the Minister knows, of course, that if those animals get very close there is the possibility of the transfer into this healthy Mackenzie wood bison group of tuberculosis. There has been some talk about getting rid of the Wood Buffalo National Park hybrid and replacing it with some animals from the Mackenzie wood bison herd. Could the Minister indicate to me whether in fact there have been discussions taken with federal officials on this possibility?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0234-87(1): Management Plan For Mackenzie Wood Bison Herd

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Speaker, I can indicate to the honourable Member that there have been discussions at the biologist level. There have been no discussions at a political level about this yet. I can also indicate to the Member that we are, indeed, concerned and monitoring constantly and very closely that there is no interchange between the two herds. The Member is absolutely right. The hybrid herd in Wood Buffalo National Park is riddled with disease and the purebred herd in the Providence area is disease free. So, we are extremely concerned about this and we are doing continual tests.

The hunt that will be carried out this year will be carried out accompanied by renewable resource officers so biological data can be taken from every animal killed. We have taken tuberculosis and brucellosis tests both from animals that died naturally and from live animals let go again and, as of the last tests which are very recent, the herd is disease free. We are, however, aware of this and monitoring constantly and very closely. As I said in the beginning, talks have been going on at the biologist level, not at the ministerial level as of this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. McCallum.

Supplementary To Question 0234-87(1): Management Plan For Mackenzie Wood Bison Herd

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a supplementary. The Minister has indicated that there have been talks between the bison management groups or the biologists in order to carry out the recommendations of the plan. I suspect this plan is a furtherance of the draft management plan that was developed two or three years ago. I will preface my first question, Mr. Speaker, if I may, by asking the Minister if it is possible to have this plan tabled in the House now that he has an updated one.

The Minister has indicated that he has hired a bison ecologist and I expect that that is the person who is carrying on negotiations with the other group. Could the Minister indicate to me whether this person was a resident of the Territories? Or was it somebody from outside? How many people involved with this whole management plan are graduates or people who are involved with the renewable resources program at Thebacha Campus? I expect that that is the best place to get them; they would be more involved with that area. Can the Minister indicate to me from where this person would be hired and does he plan to hire people from this educational program to be involved with this whole management plan?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 0234-87(1): Management Plan For Mackenzie Wood Bison Herd

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can indicate to the Member that it is the plan of our department and my personal instructions to the department that we should, whenever possible, hire graduates from the renewable resources technicians program that Education provides at Thebacha Campus and which we certainly support. These are people for technicians' positions. I do not have the information for the Member but I will undertake to get it, as to who was hired as the bison ecologist. On the document, Mr. Speaker, I do not today have sufficient copies available for tabling. I will distribute a copy to each Member during the coffee break this afternoon and I will table it tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McCallum.

Supplementary To Question 0234-87(1): Management Plan For Mackenzie Wood Bison Herd

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a further supplementary. According to the Minister's statement, the initial harvest of surplus animals, in this case 20 bulls, will begin this fall and winter and there has been a distribution of 16 for GHs, general hunting licence holders, and four tags for resident hunters. Could the Minister indicate to me, for these four resident hunters or 16 GHs, will the lottery, as it were, that will be performed, be done within a certain area of the Territories or throughout the area? As the Minister can well imagine, four resident hunters' tags are not going to go very far. For that matter neither will 16 GHs in the area, whether it is going to be in the Fort Providence area or whether it is going to be south of the lake or throughout the Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 0234-87(1): Management Plan For Mackenzie Wood Bison Herd

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My information is that the resident hunters' tags will be throughout the Territories. The 16 GHL tags will be allocated based on recommendations from Fort Providence hunters and trappers association and the Fort Rae Dene Band council. The department certainly realizes that 20 is not a great number. However, it was not a great number when we first allowed hunting of musk-ox in various communities. As the population increases though, so will the quotas, in order to keep the population of animals healthy. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the availability of these licences this year, although very limited in number, will be welcomed by both the GHL holders and the resident hunters as a unique opportunity. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McCallum.

Supplementary To Question 0234-87(1): Management Plan For Mackenzie Wood Bison Herd

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a final supplementary, I can appreciate the GHL holders in and around the Fort Rae and Fort Providence area would be more than pleased with this. They would like to have more of them. I commend the Minister for ensuring that the GHLs of those two communities in and around that area are going to be able to take advantage of these 16 tags but I fail to understand why the Minister then will open the remaining four throughout the total Territories. If you can restrict the GHLs to that particular area, why cannot you restrict the four resident hunters' tags in that area? I wonder if the Minister would indicate to me whether he would take that under advisement and rather than having these four resident tags open throughout the Territories, maybe he would then, even if the management group would say otherwise, use his office to restrict those to that area around south of the lake. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Mr. Speaker, the information I just gave to the honourable Member before was based on what I read out of the management plan in front of me. The allocation of future quotas will be influenced by the renewable resource management advisory board which will be set up. It does not specifically say who would be eligible for the resident hunters' quota of four animals. I will take it under advisement. If I could, perhaps, I would retract the previous answer and come back with a definite answer tomorrow instead. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I wonder if that works in all types and all matters. You keep the bison herd healthy; you shoot them. That sounds like a rather peculiar manner of keeping everybody healthy.

---Laughter

No, that is just a comment.

AN HON. MEMBER: ...you will never even get a cold then.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: I was just wondering about open quotas. Oral questions. Mr. Richard.

Question 0235-87(1): Additional Resources For Committee On Law Reform

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. It concerns the short, factual statement made by the Minister this afternoon on the work of the Committee on Law Reform. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Committee on Law Reform and the Minister, in particular, for the expressed intention of considering further subjects for further study. This list that the Minister provided in his statement this afternoon is laudable and it contains, Mr. Speaker, a number of topics that I understood over the years were under consideration within the department. Some of these topics, Mr. Speaker, would take six to eight months to study, each item.

My question to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, is, given the intention of the Committee on Law Reform now to do some of this research work on the outdated legislation, will the Minister be providing additional financial resources and human resources to the Committee on Law Reform in order that

they might accomplish this task? Each of the members of the Committee on Law Reform are active in something else and unless they are going to resign their other positions, they are not going to be able to touch any of these topics. Will the Minister be giving some financial resources and human resources to the committee in order that they might carry out this task? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0235-87(1): Additional Resources For Committee On Law Reform

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Presently I am in the process of attempting to negotiate with the federal government for some extra money for law reform. They are quite positive and quite sympathetic. Hopefully, in the next couple of months we will be able to get other sources of money from the federal government.

Presently, the law reform committee, with the budget approved by this Legislative Assembly, have enough resources to take them through this fiscal year. They have hired a researcher. We hope that, with the extra money which we may get from the federal government, they will have adequate resources to continue their work.

The honourable Member is right. Many of the areas where the law reform committee has expressed interest will take a lot of comprehensive work. I look at this particular committee, this year, as essentially the beginning and I expect that the committee's work will build credibility into the process and in ensuing years the government and the Legislative Assembly will recognize the importance of their task and will be prepared to give to the committee, adequate resources to do their job. This fiscal year obviously there will be some limitations on what the committee can do, but we feel the committee will be able to carry out its mandate this year with the resources we have already allocated to them and with the possibility of other resources coming from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Oral questions. Mr. Erkloo.

Question 0236-87(1): Extension Of Airstrip, Pond Inlet

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Arctic airports. I tabled Document 64-87(1) on May 28th, 1987 and these were letters to me written on March 23, 1987 from the hamlet of Pond Inlet to extend the airstrip in Pond Inlet by 2000 feet. You probably have seen the letters of support that they received from the RCMP and the other individuals. Maybe perhaps you could indicate to me how you will respond to this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0236-87(1): Extension Of Airstrip, Pond Inlet

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The response that will be forthcoming to Pond Inlet will be that Transport Canada has recently decreed that all capital expenditures on airports must meet two criteria: That is, they either must decrease the O and M expenditures of the airport, or they must increase the revenue. Since the lengthening of any airstrip in the Northwest Territories does not meet either of those two categories, then the answer will be simply that it is not possible to extend the runway; that no money is available.

The Member should understand that all capital moneys for airport construction and improvement in the Northwest Territories come from the federal government. It is a federal government program and Transport Canada is mandated under federal legislation. We do not have any money for that. There are 11 communities that do not have airports. There are at least another half dozen which have airports in a serious condition and there are at least another three or four whose airstrips need to be lengthened, all of whom are of a much greater priority than Pond Inlet. So the chances of an extension in Pond Inlet in the foreseeable future, in my guess would be practically nil. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Richard.

Question 0237-87(1): Status Report On NCPC Negotiations

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat, regarding the NCPC issue. Mr. Speaker, it appears that this Assembly is going to be sitting for perhaps another seven or eight or nine days. Is the Minister intending to provide a report to the Assembly prior to the conclusion of our session, because it may be, Mr. Speaker, that we will not be meeting again for some time? I understood we were going to get an update on the status of those negotiations with the federal government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0237-87(1): Status Report On NCPC Negotiations

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Mr. Gargan.

Question 0238-87(1): Harvesting Of Musk-Ox And Polar Bear

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Renewable Resources, concerning the harvesting of musk-ox and polar bear. I would like to ask the Minister regarding the amount of musk-ox and polar bear that has been harvested in the North, how much has actually been designated for general hunting licence holders and how much of it is actually designated for resident hunters, in those two areas?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question is being taken as notice. Oral questions. Oral questions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Wah-Shee): Item 6, written questions. I thought for a moment Mr. MacQuarrie had a written question.

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. Ballantyne.

ITEM 11: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table Tabled Document 76-87(1): Committee on Law Reform, An Act to Amend the Jury Act Working Paper No. 1, 1987.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 11, tabling of documents. Mr. Ballantyne.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 77-87(1). In accordance with section 39 of the Interpretation Act, I wish to report to the House on the orders, rules and regulations made pursuant to the acts of the Northwest Territories. I am therefore tabling the following documents: Tabled Document 77-87(1): Numbers 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Volume VIII of Part I of the Northwest Territories Gazette; two Extraordinary Editions and Numbers 1 and 2 of Volume VIII of Part II of the Northwest Territories Gazette; and indices of all regulations, statutory instruments and non-statutory instruments made pursuant to the acts of the Northwest Territories, for the period of 1st of February, 1987 to 30th April, 1987. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Sibbeston.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 31-87(1): Dissolution Of The 10th Legislative Assembly

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice that on Friday, June 12, 1987, I shall move the following motion: That the Legislative Assembly request the Governor in Council to dissolve the 10th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories on August 17, 1987, to permit a general election on October 5, 1987.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. T'Seleie.

Notice Of Motion 32-87(1): Appointments To The NWT Housing Corporation Board Of Directors

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on June 11, 1987, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation that Philip Nukapiak, Simonie Alainga, Carroll Bennett, Gerry Cheezie and Steve Brooks be reappointed to the board of directors of the NWT Housing Corporation; and further, that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation that Charlie Barnaby be appointed to the board of directors of the NWT Housing Corporation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 12, notices of motion.

Item 13, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 14, motions. Motion 27-87(1), Northern Economic Agency. Mr. Curley.

ITEM 14: MOTIONS

Motion 27-87(1): Northern Economic Agency

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has decided to freeze, review, and may cripple the economy of the NWT because of their inaction to conclude economic development agreements with the Government of the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that this Legislative Assembly urge the Government of Canada to renew its vital share of the financial contribution required to stimulate and develop the economy of the NWT, including EDA, Special ARDA and NEDP;

AND FURTHER, that this Assembly recommend to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism that he propose and negotiate with the Government of Canada a fresh economic development policy for the NWT, and consider forming a northern economic agency, similar to one established for Atlantic Canada.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Curley, your motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

MR. CURLEY: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will affect the whole NWT, especially the NWT government and the banks that provide for loans for business. If they were to handle this on their own, after the small business sector have become viable I think that the federal government should not stall the funding. The assistance is greatly needed in the NWT. The Canadian government have assisted in other provinces and if they are going to stall the funding for the NWT -- we do not have any highways and this is very dangerous, to stall the funding assistance from the federal government. I would like to seek support for this motion because the Special ARDA was a great help for the small business sector. The EDA also helped in the tourism area and it has developed the tourism area. There have been plans implemented. This has a major impact. If this motion is passed I think that we would encourage the business sector and those who would like to pursue having their own business. So I would like to get your support. (Translation ends)

I would like all the MLAs to support this motion because I think the time has come for the Northwest Territories to call the federal government and indicate to them that enough is enough. The time has come that the Northwest Territories be given its share of support. Politically I

think we have been denied the rights to participate in the democratic institutions within the federal government and now I think economically we cannot afford to lose support from the federal government. The group of 10, the gentlemen's club, have tremendous access to the Prime Minister, who speaks about his share of ability to listen to Canadians and so on, but I think by denying the rights of the people of the Northwest Territories, and particularly to freeze the very important financial contributions to the NWT, is a real blow, perhaps the lowest point of the federal government's treatment of the people of the North.

The federal government has contributed significantly to the economy of the Northwest Territories and that has inspired the freedom and the spirit of free enterprise throughout the North. Small communities attempting to create a small business, whether it be a sawmill in Fort Resolution; whether it be a fish plant in Rankin Inlet; or a small business establishment in the Eastern Arctic be it a small motel or hotel, it is important for the federal government to continue those support programs, particularly Special ARDA. Special ARDA may be in a bit of a danger because I believe that the department, DRIE, is now revamping and perhaps will be finding a new creature toward the development of the economy. I think in a short time the department, DRIE, will likely be dismantled, but I believe the federal government has the responsibility to continue the support program.

The tourism industry depends on it. The tourism industry has developed strategies toward long-term development of the tourism industry. The projections show that there will be an increase of tourism in the Northwest Territories during this coming year and in the future. We cannot afford to slow down. The federal government has to recognize that the North is perhaps the one region, compared to the Atlantic, that requires much support from the federal government. GNWT's share of the various business grants and support programs and loan programs are not enough to really put a dent into the severe economic requirements of this territory. We need vital support. We need support to the transportation. We have only limited modes of transportation in this part of the North.

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

I am impressed to hear the Prime Minister's bold initiatives in Atlantic Canada. I see that the Prime Minister has released directly from his office, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency announcement. This particular release was on June 6th, 1987. One part of the statement is: "At a meeting today with the premiers of the four Atlantic provinces, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced details of new Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. The announcement included a federal commitment of \$1.5 billion over five years, new money, to the region." I think it is a shame, when they are doing all these kinds of positive announcements, that they choose to announce that all funding programs shall be frozen until the federal government Minister of the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion has an opportunity to review them. I think these reviews have been going on long enough.

In a statement in the newspaper report that I have from the Edmonton Journal last week and also another announcement, an aid program for the West, aired this month, a Member of Parliament says, "A long promised package of federal economic initiatives for Western Canada will be unveiled later this month, Progressive Conservative MP, Doug Lewis says." Mr. Speaker, I applaud the MP from the regions with the positive announcements. I think the time has come that MLAs stand up and speak for the people of the North since we do not seem to be getting our share of representation in the House of Commons. We must stand up for the business people. We must develop the economy of the Northwest Territories.

There is also some indication, as far as the House of Commons is concerned, that DRIE may be overspending in some regions. Industry Minister, Michel Cote, did acknowledge that on Thursday of last week, his department had already exceeded its regional development budget for this year. It had become unclear how much the agency will be able to hand out in loans and grants until next year. That may have caused the federal department and his officials, to cast a blow on the Northwest Territories because they have run out of their commitments, because of their support to Quebec and other areas, and the Northwest Territories had to be a sacrificial lamb.

I do not think we ought to accept that, I think we ought to stand up and let the federal government know that we are still part of Canada and we need some economic infusion to develop our resources and to keep the spirit of free enterprise alive in the Northwest Territories. The public sector alone is not able to handle the requirements of the Territories. So, I am proposing, through the motion that we at least support the initiatives of the Minister and his officials to conclude the

negotiations because the program contents have been concluded. And now it is a matter of renewing that agreement and continuing to develop the North because the shipping season depends on these agreements being activated. We do not have an alternate source of transportation. Many of the construction materials, building supplies, must come through the sealift, which will be happening within a month or two for some parts of the regions in the North. If they miss those deadlines then many of the projects will be deferred for a number of years and will be a tremendous blow to some parts of the regions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote one announcement from the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce sent to Mr. Bill McKnight and it states, "The recent announcements to suspend any future funding in EDA, Special ARDA and NEDP until 1989, along with the Prime Minister's recent announcement to create an Atlantic development fund, frankly, smells of funding manipulation."

Mr. Speaker, I think it is unfortunate that our business people must come to this kind of thinking. As a result of the funding allocations of DRIE being shifted from one area to another region, no wonder the business people are beginning to think that there is some manipulation with our share of federal requirements. So, I am urging all the Members of this House to support the motion because we are not part of the group of 10 and we do not have a large group of MPs in the House of Commons and we can only stand up for the businesses and interests of the people of the North. So, I urge you to support the motion. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Richard, do you wish to speak to the motion at this time?

Participation Of Northerners In Economic Development In Jeopardy

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to second Mr. Curley's motion and I hope that all Members will support the motion in order that the message might be sent to the federal government about this decision that we heard of just a few days ago.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to speak in any detail about the federal decision without knowing what that decision was. There appears to be some confusion now coming from Ottawa as to what exactly was decided, if anything. But we do know that if there is indeed a freeze on the funding of these programs that Mr. Curley has mentioned, that many projects under way in the Northwest Territories, and planned, will be in serious jeopardy. There has been a much wider participation by northerners in economic development in recent years, particularly a wider participation by native northerners. This, Mr. Speaker, in my view, is one of the more encouraging developments in the Northwest Territories in recent years and a lot of this, quite frankly, is due to the leadership provided by Mr. Curley as Minister of that portfolio in recent years. This wider participation by northerners, particularly native northerners, in the economic prospects of our Territories will also be jeopardized if there is any such freeze on the programs, EDA, Special ARDA and NEDP. If it happens, Mr. Speaker, this will be a backward step for our Territories after the progress in the recent past.

It is ironic, Mr. Speaker, that within 24 or 48 hours of this message that our government officials received about the freeze of these programs that are so vital to the developing economy in the Northwest Territories -- and accompanying that message, I understand the apparent reason is that they have run out of funding -- that the Prime Minister of this country holds a press conference in Atlantic Canada with four premiers by his side announcing the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. It appears that the Government of Canada, the same Government of Canada, has gone to some length to create a series of programs there, under the mandate of this new agency. I believe the objective of the agency is to develop and implement programs contributing to the long-term economic development of Atlantic Canada; that this was done at the same time that the same sort of funding was cut off or frozen as it affects the Northwest Territories. I do not know if the Prime Minister is snowing the people of Atlantic Canada but part and parcel of that announcement was that that agency would receive \$200 million a year in funding. Now if the money has run out, the money that would cause the freezing of these programs in the Northwest Territories, where is the money coming from to assist economic development, small business and medium sized business throughout Atlantic Canada?

The North Overlooked Again

It is also ironic, Mr. Speaker, that one year ago the same federal government created an action force to deal with the downturn in the economy of the Northwest Territories, and as someone was pointing out in this Assembly just the other day, what has happened to that initiative? If anything, in this announcement last week, they are reversing their intentions. When we heard, in this Assembly, of this message a few days ago, Mr. Speaker, one or more Members indicated that perhaps we should have a new election or an earlier election in the Territories. I say, Mr. Speaker, we should have a federal election...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RICHARD: ...so that the people of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, in particular, can give a message to the federal politicians how we feel about these decisions that have been coming in recent weeks. We have heard rumours in recent days, Mr. Speaker, that perhaps this did not happen, perhaps there was not a freeze put on; perhaps it was a mistake by the bureaucrats in Ottawa. It does not matter, Mr. Speaker, whether it was a mistake or whether it was intentional, the point is, clearly when you put it beside the great big press conference in St. John's, Newfoundland over the weekend, we were overlooked, once again; we were forgotten about; we were ignored. I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that Members support this motion of Mr. Curley's and that if and when it is passed that the Minister of Economic Development convey this Assembly's motion to the federal ministers. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to let you know that I will be in support of the motion because I believe it is a good motion. The people in Baffin area who have their own businesses are just starting out in the smaller communities. They are not given much help or will not be given much help if they put a freeze on different loans or grants. I believe we have to help the smaller businesses in the communities especially today.

Regarding Special ARDA, some of the Special ARDA is widely used for the ski-doo's and outboard motors and that was very helpful, but it seems like there is going to be a freeze on these certain grants. We heard about the freeze and we were not given very much notice before they put the freeze on the Special ARDA and certain grants. We hear that they are going to be putting a lot of money toward military use in the High Arctic. Those of us who are Inuit in the communities, or in the North, are not military men. It seems like we are just used as toy soldiers or it does not seem that we are very meaningful. We are in favour of something that might help the North financially. Because of these reasons I will be in favour of the motion and I know the others will also be in favour of the motion. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Wray.

Major Impact On Private Sector

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will also be supporting the motion. I think, rather than reiterate what are the obvious points being made, one of the major things that concerns me, Mr. Speaker, is the manner in which it was done. This very on again, off again, scenario where we have bureaucrats announcing one thing and then seemingly Ministers contradicting, and then other Ministers contradicting other Ministers, and then bureaucrats contradicting other Ministers and other bureaucrats. The problem with this whole situation is the fall-out and the fact that there seems to be a lack of recognition that, not only do we exist as a Northwest Territories, but we do have a private sector. I can tell you that in conversations with some of the private sector I have talked to in the last three or four days, they said this very announcement had a major impact on private sector development in the Northwest Territories. When financial institutions, creditors, hear of all these things -- there has been a major problem, I know, in the tourism area, for example, where marketing companies are now calling up and saying, "Well, is it worth our while to worry about next year, about putting together tourism packages?" Financial institutions are calling up businesses and saying, "Well, does this mean that the funding that you were supposed to get is not coming? Should we be pulling back on the commercial lending?" There have been major ramifications felt by the private sector already.

At the best of times, we have a very fragile economy, particularly the private sector economy, and this kind of thing just does not do it any good whatsoever. So all of the efforts that we are making to build a stable private sector economy can be impacted by a statement such as this. Whether it is true or not, is not the point. The point that the statement was made, with apparent lack of regard for private sector and for the economy of the Northwest Territories, perhaps has done damage to the economy anyway, even if the money continues to flow again. The fact is that the damage has been done. I think that if anything, we have to bring home to the federal government that our economy is as fragile as any other economy in the country and that any announcements like this should be done very carefully and take into account the ramifications on the private sector. So I think that we have to be extremely forceful with the federal government to ensure that something like this is never repeated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Patterson.

Bad Timing For Eastern Arctic Communities

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak in support of this motion as well. I would like to say the timing of this mix-up over the federal programs in the North, and I certainly hope it is only a mix-up which will quickly be resolved, could not have been worse as far as the Eastern Arctic communities are concerned.

I am sure Members will appreciate that in the Eastern Arctic we have no roads. We do not even have winter roads, so we are extremely dependent on the annual sealift for bringing materials and supplies at a reasonable price, although it is still exorbitant, into our communities. So, Mr. Speaker, this announcement and this uncertainty has come at the very time when decisions have to be made and orders must be placed in order to make the first boat. In fact, this month the critical deadlines are approaching within days and weeks in Kitikmeot, Baffin, and Keewatin communities.

Mr. Speaker, today, the Special ARDA board, which is a decision making board, was to have met to consider \$1.4 million worth of businesses owned by aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories. I think it is significant, that after having a slow start the Eastern Arctic regions -- and I would like to commend Mr. Curley and Ms. Cournoyea, when they were responsible for Renewable Resources and Economic Development, for having stimulated applications from my region in particular; those communities are starting to take advantage of these programs. In fact, at the Special ARDA meeting which would have taken place today, 19 out of the 30 Special ARDA applications are from the Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot Regions. In fact, I was very impressed to note that there are four projects to be considered from Pangnirtung, totalling \$152,000. I should also mention that there were three very important projects from my constituency which would have been considered at this meeting that would have taken place today but for this uncertainty. A young Inuk who wishes to start a taxi business, and I would like to stress that small business, even one-man, one-taxi, is an extremely important kind of economic development that is taking place in communities in our region. There is a similar application before that Special ARDA board from Pangnirtung for someone who wants to start a taxi business. An outpost camp in my constituency has applied to obtain a majority interest in a tourist lodge, about 85 miles from Iqaluit, which would give them some cash flow and some tourist dollars and some sport hunting dollars, so that they can be self-sufficient on the land. Also somebody wants to start a small store, restaurant, in Apex in my constituency. Mr. Speaker, that meeting was cancelled and I can tell you that it is very alarming to my constituents and the Iqaluit Chamber of Commerce that this uncertainty has come at this particular time.

The same is true of the renewable resource economy. Out of 11 applications in support of HTAs before the Special ARDA board, seven are from Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot. So, Mr. Speaker, the Eastern Arctic has been particularly distressed by this announcement coming at this time with sealift deadlines imminent. If we lose the next few weeks due to a review, we have actually lost 18 months. So, it is more critical for us than anywhere else in the Northwest Territories. I do hope this is all a mix-up. There are indications that bureaucrats may have interfered where Ministers should have been involved and if it is a mix-up, for the sake of the communities that are dependent on the sealift and for the sake of the Eastern Arctic economy in particular, I fervently hope that it is resolved urgently.

New Economic Development Policy Needed

I would like to just briefly address the other aspect of the motion, Mr. Speaker, and that is that a fresh economic development policy for the Northwest Territories be proposed and negotiated with the Government of Canada. I think this is a very good idea. I would like to say I think we should

start off by deciding, in the Northwest Territories, what our economic development priorities are. I think good progress has been made in that direction toward an overall economic development strategy. I think in the tourism area, for example, people involved in that sector have done a very good job of strategic planning but I would like to see an overall economic development strategy. I think that we should take advantage of the economic development conferences that were held in all regions last year. There was strong participation and good ideas emerged. I think the results of these conferences, however, have yet to be assembled and prepared as a coherent long-range strategy and policy for all sectors. So, I welcome the idea of this new approach to the Government of Canada and I also think there is great merit in considering consolidating the present programs. I think it would be very useful to have a one-window approach and avoid the hurdles and hoops and boards and different rules that make it a very confusing matter, especially for native people who are as anxious to get into business as anyone else.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, I think that there should be a special strategy for the Eastern Arctic with its unique economy. Obviously, there should be an emphasis on the renewable resource economy, on the fishery, on tourism. I think we are fortunate. We have enormous opportunities in the Eastern Arctic. I welcome the idea of involving key Ministers of the federal government. I think in addition to these federal programs that we are talking about in relation to the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion, we also need to get together the Ministers responsible for other key departments of the federal government that spend money in the North; the Department of Public Works, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Department of Transport Canada, Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and the Department of National Defence, who I think could direct much more of these new defence initiatives to projects that would really have a significant economic benefit to communities, businesses and people and infrastructure in the Northwest Territories -- perhaps more of a significant benefit than a submarine under the ice. So, Mr. Speaker, I think we need to get these Ministers together.

I think we need to get our own act together, a little better, and I welcome the suggestion of a new economic development policy. I think, for example, that we have yet to really challenge the government to make the provisions of the new equity legislation that was recently passed, which requires local benefits for contracts in excess of \$200,000. I think we have yet to challenge the federal government to make those policies apply to the Northwest Territories. I think that the federal Department of Public Works has yet to even consider how they are going to apply the new equity legislation to construction projects in the Northwest Territories, and we have got to make sure that we take full advantage of those kinds of initiatives which may not have been especially designed for the North, but which darn well should apply to us. So, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to support both aspects of this motion. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mahsi cho. To the motion. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mahsi cho. (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to support Mr. Curley's motion. When it comes time for us to ask for grants, there are never people supporting us. When it comes time for us to ask for a grant and when we apply for it, they always tell us that they are out of funding. We are now getting familiar with all these policies and grants that are available to us, but when it comes time for us to apply for something like that and we want to create some kind of development, they tell us that they are out of funding and that they cannot support us. It seems that the federal government is always in charge of us and they are the ones that make decisions for us. It should not be like that. Again, they have made some kind of a policy stating that there is going to be no more funding allotted to us. So Members here should support this motion, and I will support this motion that has been put on the floor. Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to this motion, I would like to support it. Although I do not have any new things to say, I just want to express my support for this motion. In my constituency, Special ARDA is used for funding to support the businesses in our region in buying capital equipment, like ski-doo's and boats, for projects. I know it is a very useful tool in our area and if they are going to stop the funding for Special ARDA, I would like to support this motion. Although I am not familiar with the use of EDA in our region as such, I think they all should be reinstated again for our region as well as the NWT. All I want to say is that I am going to support this motion to financially help the businesses in the NWT. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ballantyne.

Northwest Territories Very Vulnerable

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise also to support the motion. I will not reiterate or repeat all the very good points that have been put forward but I just wanted to make a couple of points which I think are quite important. We learned in the last couple of weeks, or we should have learned, how vulnerable we really are. I think sometimes we live in a little bit of a dream world in the Northwest Territories. We spend so much time talking with each other and arguing with each other, having our petty squabbles, that we tend to take ourselves much more importantly than southern Canada takes us and the rest of the world takes us.

I think what happened with the Meech Lake, Langevin accord, I think what happened recently with the DRIE funding, really should drive that home to us in the Territories, to recognize that we are only 50,000 people here and we cannot afford the luxury of petty differences among ourselves. We cannot afford an ongoing battle between the eastern part of the Northwest Territories and the western part of the Northwest Territories and we cannot afford an ongoing battle between the small communities and the bigger communities.

I think sometimes that a lot of individuals' own ambition and own feelings have not taken into consideration the major items that are on the federal government's agenda right now. Obviously, we are very low on that agenda. So I agree with Mr. Curley that we have to deal with this particular problem.

I think one major problem that we have had in the Territories is that our political agenda has not been set. Because of the uncertainty of land claims and division, we have not put together an economic strategy. Just one letter from a bureaucrat here in Yellowknife shows us exactly how vulnerable we really are. So I think we have to develop an economic strategy and I think we have to do more than get back the status quo. I think we have to do more than get back to where we were before we received the bad news last week. I think we have to do, as they have obviously been able to do in western Canada and the Maritimes, to come up with a new regime; a regime that does not have so many bureaucratic hurdles for a small business to go through.

It seems that just because we think that temporarily we have lost something, now we remember it so fondly. The reality is there are lots of problems with the existing system. I think with the whole problem with the cutbacks with DRIE, probably the immediate problem can be handled. In fact, I think there are enough indications now that there is some major bureaucratic screw-up at the federal level, that we will probably even salvage all or most of the programs that we had. I think we have to go from there and come up with a new regime for the Northwest Territories, one that reflects our needs more than the existing regime reflected our needs.

I think that this motion is a good one, that we should let people of the North and the federal government know that this government takes very seriously the attitude that the federal government has toward the Northwest Territories; the capricious manner in which they can make an announcement which has little or no ripples in Ottawa, but which can devastate our economy. I think it shows something deeper than that. I think that we all, in the Northwest Territories, have to take a good close look at ourselves and what we are and what we are trying to achieve because I think if we do not, if we continue to live in the little cocoon in which we have lived in in the last 10 years, I think we are going to see events like last week's happening all too regularly. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. I would like to ask Members to specifically address the motion as closely as possible.

---Laughter

Mr. Sibbeston.

Business As Usual At DRIE

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I, of course, will support the motion and I think should the motion pass, we will take the motion as good advice to our government and it certainly will help us in our dealings with the federal government. I will just address the two points in the motion. The first one urges the federal government to renew its vital share of financial contributions. I can tell the Members here that we are actively and vigorously dealing with the federal government, trying to get them to unfreeze the funding that had been provided to the North. I must say that

thus far, although we have had some encouragement, it is not quite certain yet as to what exactly the situation is. I have a copy of a press release here supposedly given by Hon. Michel Cote on June 5th, which announced that DRIE has sufficient funds both to honour commitments contracted in previous years and to undertake new commitments this year. This means that the department's officials will proceed to analyse and make decisions on cases and applications as usual. The headline reads: "Business as usual at DRIE." On reading this, one could get the impression that it is business as usual and nothing has really happened. Yet it is a fact that meetings that were set up to deal with applications for Special ARDA and EDA have been cancelled.

I can tell the Members that I spoke to Mr. McKnight this morning concerning the matter and he told me that the freeze is lifted, as best he could understand. Because I have been attempting to reach Mr. Cote, but to no avail, I have asked Mr. McKnight to ask his colleague, Mr. Cote, to be in touch with me and if this is really the case, to confirm it to me personally. I have not received any new words from Ottawa thus far. Mr. McKnight stated that as far as he could understand, northern programs and native programs have priority and that money is identified for these programs. That is the indication from our Northern Affairs Minister, but I will wait for Mr. Cote. At this very moment our officials, Mr. Braden and Mr. Whittington are meeting with federal DRIE officials. I expect to learn the outcome of those meetings in the next while. We are doing the best we can in trying to deal effectively with the federal government to renew the funding.

On the second part of the motion requesting my department to negotiate a new fresh economic development policy for the NWT with the federal government, I can say that we will pursue this matter vigorously. We, as a government, need to take the lead in this matter. I think the time has come when northerners, when our government, take the lead in all matters affecting the Northwest Territories. We know the situation best. We know the solutions and so we can take the initiative to have a strategy and plan. When we have it, we would take it to the federal government and say that this is the way you should do things in the North. That is what we should do and our department has started that process. I can tell you that since we have hired a new deputy minister of the department, Mr. Braden, who is very familiar with the North and very successful to date in anything he has done, he has begun the process of formulating a new economic development approach and strategy for the North. So the department is beginning that work and eventually when we have it complete, this can serve as the blueprint for economic development in the North.

Western Initiatives Agency Proposed

I am aware that the federal government is proposing to take new approaches with respect to economic development, particularly in the depressed regions of Canada. The announcement with respect to Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency I think is a sign of things to come. I do believe that the federal government is doing away with DRIE and similar agencies and setting up instead regional superagencies. The first one has been announced and that is the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. This agency indicates the approach the federal government will take with respect to regional economic development. There will be emphasis on the delivery of programs at the community level. There is provision for advisory boards from the municipalities, the province, and the private sector. There will be emphasis on small business. There will be more emphasis on regional initiatives and less on universal Canada wide programs. I understand and have heard that the federal government is proposing a similar type of agency in the West to be called Western Initiatives Agency. And I understand that the federal government will eventually announce a similar agency as has been set up in the Atlantic, in the West. In meeting with Mr. Cote, 10 days or so ago in Whitehorse, he expressed some general plans of the federal government with respect to this. I indicated at that early stage that the Northwest Territories should not be lumped in with the western provinces because of our differences. It does seem as if the federal government sees things on a very large regional basis -- the Atlantic, central Canada and the West -- and the Northwest Territories unfortunately falls in with the West. I indicated that we ought not to be put in with the West, but the federal government seems to have plans to set up a western diversification agency.

We will certainly have our work cut out for us to persuade the federal government that we are different from the West. This motion will give our government the mandate to press the federal government to make special provisions for the North. We, in the North, are unique. We have a completely different country and a different environment from the West. Our seasons are much harsher, the people are different, the stage of development and also the infrastructure for economic development in the North is very different. For all of these reasons, I believe we can tell the federal government why they should treat the North differently. As the Minister

responsible for the next few months, I will use this motion wherever possible in my dealings with the federal government. I know it most certainly will help in our arguments that we will be making with the federal government. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I support the motion and I am sure, every other Member in this House will support the motion. I would just like to indicate that I am optimistic that the announcement of last week will, in time, appear to be a minor hiccup and it will be quickly ironed out by the Government Leader. I appreciate the concern of the mover of this motion, since the economic initiatives referred to herein have been put together by him and the staff that worked under him over many months of negotiations and discussions. I am sure those initiatives will be maintained and that direction continued. Also to add and compliment the Government Leader on his wisdom in keeping the economic development portfolio, because in this time of crisis -- if it is a crisis -- he is able to address the question not only as Minister responsible for Economic Development, but also that the Government Leader of this government. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Pedersen.

Uncertainty In The Minds Of Northerners

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too, would like to rise to support the motion. In the short term I agree particularly with the second paragraph. And in the longer term with the last paragraph of the motion. Mr. Speaker, previous speakers have just mentioned that this might be a minor hiccup. I think if it is, and I certainly hope it is, it still illustrates to me the vulnerability that we have in the Northwest Territories. There can be no doubt that the confidence that the money market has in the NWT is weakened by an announcement such as this, whoever might have been responsible for it. It gives rise to a great deal of uncertainty in the minds of people who are wishing to develop economically, particularly those who have applications in front of the boards that were to be heard, I believe, today.

Mr. Speaker, I would welcome a move toward a one-window approach. I think it is, as others have said, confusing for individuals to apply to many different agencies for funding. I think it is necessary for us, based on the information that our government has obtained through economic development conferences, through our own economic development officers' comments, comments from this House to the government, recommendations such as those contained in the report on the Scandinavian tour from the Business Council of the NWT, based on all this information, all of which pertains to the specific conditions that exist in the Northwest Territories, that we come up with an overall and long-term economic strategy. I would like to say that for the eastern communities, of course, it has been a devastating announcement. And as I said before, even though the freeze may be off, it has done a lot of damage to the eastern business community.

Also, I would like to say for the hunters and trappers, whom I represent on the Executive Council through the Department of Renewable Resources, that if these programs indeed were to be removed from us, it would virtually wipe out all the developmental funding that we use with the department. Over the last EDA agreement, there has been more than \$6.6 million go into the natural resources subagreement and under Special ARDA, some \$6.9 million in the agreement from 1984 to 1987. It is very, very significant in the total moneys allocated to renewable resources.

Mr. Speaker, if there has been an unfreezing, as the Government Leader called it, and we have been advised so by Mr. McKnight, I would like to think that some of the vigorous questioning by Members to this government since the announcement was first made and the actions subsequently taken by the government, had something to do with this change of mind on the part of the Ottawa Ministers. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question has been called. Mr. Curley, do you wish to wind up the debate?

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very short. I think it is only appropriate that I make short remarks to the last part of the motion which asks the government to negotiate and establish a fresh new economic policy.

The motion is a general one, Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned but I think this Assembly is of the view and the majority is of the view that the action force is out of the question. The initiatives through those programs are not forthcoming and proposed meetings have been cancelled. So I, as a Member of the House, do not believe that anything will come out of the action force that was created to deal with economic problems of the North. So from that perspective, there must be a new approach to deal with the economic situation of the North. Obviously it is going to take time to create one, but I think a step toward that should be appropriate, in view of the fact that federal government is moving toward a regional development approach rather than having one central Minister deal with all the regional development financial assistance. So, I am calling for all Members to support the motion. Thank you.

Motion 27-87(1), Carried

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. That concludes the debate on the motion. I will now, at this time, ask for a vote. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Let the record show that the vote was unanimous in favour and the motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

That concludes item 14, motions. Item 15, first reading of bills. Mr. Butters. Could you turn on your mike, Mr. Butters?

ITEM 15: FIRST READING OF BILLS

First Reading Of Bill 38-87(1): Write-Off Of Assets And Debts Act, 1987-88

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, that Bill 38-87(1), An Act Respecting the Write-off of Assets and Debts for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1988, be read for the first time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 38-87(1) has had first reading. Mr. Pudluk.

First Reading Of Bill 28-87(1): Motor Vehicles Act

HON. LUDY PUDLUK: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik, that Bill 28-87(1), An Act Respecting Motor Vehicles, be read for the first time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 28-87(1) has had first reading. Mr. Butters.

First Reading Of Bill 35-87(1): Workers' Compensation Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member from Kivallivik, that Bill 35-87(1), An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the first time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 35-87(1) has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 16, second reading of bills. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 16: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Second Reading Of Bill 18-87(1): Property Assessment And Taxation Act

HON. GORDON WRAY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that Bill 18-87(1), An Act Respecting the Assessment of Property and the Levying and Collection of Property Tax in the Northwest Territories, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to revise and consolidate all of the provisions dealing with the assessment of property and the levying and collection of property tax at present contained in the Municipal Act and the Taxation Act; and to make consequential amendments to the Condominium Act, the Education Act, the Home Owners' Property Tax Rebate Act and the Senior Citizens Land Tax Relief Act.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

Bill 18-87(1) has had second reading. Second reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 20-87(1): Revolving Funds Act

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for High Arctic, that Bill 20-87(1), An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to amend the Revolving Funds Act to establish a petroleum products stabilization fund to be used to stabilize the prices of petroleum products.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Bill 20-87(1) has had second reading. Second reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 36-87(1): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1986-87

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kitikmeot West, that Bill 36-87(1), An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1987, be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to make supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1987.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, rare as it may seem, I speak against the principle of the bill. The vast majority of the appropriation figures in the schedule to Bill 36-87(1) are unnecessary. All of these moneys, totalling some \$10 million, have lapsed, in fact, by the provisions of the Financial Administration Act. I believe the Minister of Finance or someone indicated to the standing committee on finance, while this bill was being discussed in the committee, that it was unnecessary to come and reduce these figures in this Assembly and I have some difficulty, then, in approving the bill. I can only understand, from the explanation that was given, Mr. Speaker, that this is simply doctoring figures. Maybe doctoring is a harsh word, but I am not an accountant -- fixing up the figures after the fact. March 31st, 1987 was a few months ago. As I understand it, if we pass this bill and artificially reduce these figures after the fact, the financial statements or the territorial accounts that will be produced four, five or six months from now will look better because we have fixed up the figures after the fact.

I contrast that, Mr. Speaker, to the situation when we were discussing the budget in February of this year, when this government projected that in the current fiscal year there would be lapses totalling round figures of \$20 million and some of us in this Assembly attempted to have the proposed budget reduced by the estimated lapse amount and yet the government opposed that. Here, when the last fiscal year is all over on the calendar, the government has figured out that they did not spend \$10 million or more.

Unspent Moneys Lapsed

The Financial Administration Act, whether it is the old one or the new one, provides that those moneys lapsed that are unspent. I see no reason why we are being asked to approve the reduction of these figures. I can see it in a supplementary bill, Mr. Speaker, as an information item. Members of the finance committee and the public accounts committee have in recent years been asking for more information to be provided in these supplementary bills but this is not, as I understand, an information item and it is unnecessary. When one reads the preamble to the bill and it states, "Whereas it appears by message by the Commissioner and from the estimates accompanying the message that the amount set out in the schedule to this act are required", and it goes on to say, "reduce certain amounts previously appropriated", I say, no, it is not required. The Financial Administration Act that many officials, as Mr. Butters said yesterday, worked on for many years provides for lapses of unspent funds and I say the preamble is not correct. It is not required and if anything, this detail about the unspent funds should be provided by way of information only and not under the operative parts of the bill. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to speak against the bill. As my colleague has said, it indicates that it looks as though the government is giving up a considerable amount of money, in excess of \$300,000, and would require an additional expenditure of \$100,000 for Government Services to assist in the covering of the offset of a loss to the petroleum products revolving fund of \$100,000. We have been in session for some time; this \$100,000 is the only part that is required of this bill and perhaps it could better have been done and had been noted before that it would have been included in the previous one. I want to simply, again, reiterate that the whole process of putting in lapsed money, which we will find out when we come to Bill 37-87(1), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, for 1987-88, that these exact same amounts are in, then, for this coming year. According to the present regulations, as my colleague has indicated, it is not necessary. A considerable amount of money goes out in expense to produce the document that was not necessary in the first place. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Do I hear question? Mr. Butters, to the principle of the bill.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1986-87, will be before the House to remove over \$10 million of appropriation authority from the 1986-87 fiscal year. This reduced appropriation requirement reflects a significant change in our year end projection for 1986-87 from that contained in the 1987-88 main estimates. However, you will recall that in late March I advised this House and Members of the Assembly that such an adjustment was anticipated due to delays in completion of a number of capital projects. The financial results for 1986-87 are close to being finalized and indications are that we will be very close to breaking even for the

year. This means that the \$15 million to \$16 million deficit originally anticipated for 1986-87 will not occur and our accumulated surplus will remain close to the \$60 million level at which we started 1986-87.

Accumulated Surplus As Of March 31, 1988

This also means that, should we realize the annual deficit budgeted for 1987-88 operations, we will still have an accumulated surplus rather than a deficit as of March 31st, 1988. You will recall we spent some time discussing this subject during the budget session. Supplementary Appropriation No. 5 is comprised of \$10.3 million in negative supplementary appropriation adjustments that are associated with delays in completing specific capital projects. And \$100,000 positive supplementary request to cover the loss on the operations of the POL revolving fund for 1986-87.

Although the \$10.3 million of appropriation authority for the capital projects will not be required in 1986-87, it will be required in 1987-88 to complete these projects. 1987-88 Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 seeks to obtain this renewed authority. I do not anticipate that this carryover of capital appropriation authority will increase the originally projected deficit for 1987-88. It is already clear that some of the planned capital projects for 1987-88 will not proceed on schedule and I am projecting that a substantial amount of capital appropriation authority related to uncompleted projects will lapse at the end of 1987-88. If it were possible at this time to determine exactly which projects would not be completed in 1987-88, I would not need to advance capital carryover requests in the 1987-88 Supplementary No. 2. Because tendering and site preparation are still under way for a large number of projects and because it is impossible to anticipate all the supplier delays, weather conditions and other factors that will affect specific projects over the course of the year, we cannot yet identify specific projects that will not be completed.

In the meantime, in accordance with the Financial Administration Act, the government requires appropriation authority to complete 1986-87 projects. The introduction of negative supplementary appropriations for 1986-87 relative to these capital carryovers is not strictly required under the Financial Administration Act. I could have simply let the 1986-87 appropriation authority lapse. However, by bringing forward these appropriation adjustments, the government is providing to the Legislative Assembly early disclosure of the specific projects that have not been completed and is ensuring Members can track the funding for these projects between the two fiscal years.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker...

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order, Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, the Minister introduced the motion and then you allowed him to close it. It is my understanding that now you call for the question. We are not going to get into this harangue that went on before. This was a motion that was made for second reading of this particular bill. For every Member on this side or outside the government to get up and say something to speak to the principle, then to have the Minister get up and rebut everyone -- that is not the way the rules say. The rules say the mover of this motion is the Minister, you call for comments to it and you called upon the Minister of Finance now to say something in rebuttal. If you allow the Minister of Education now to speak on it, I suggest, sir, that that is out of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In regard to your point of order, Mr. McCallum, you are correct in your point of order and I appreciate your bringing the matter to my attention and to the House. The Minister introduced the motion and he merely introduced the motion to the House, but he did not get the opportunity to speak to it. However, according to the rules, the mover has closed the debate on this second reading of bills; therefore, I shall call for a vote at this time. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 36-87(1) has had second reading. Second reading of bills. Mr. Butters.

Second Reading Of Bill 37-87(1): Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1987-88

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 37-87(1), An Act Respecting Supplementary Appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1988, be read for second time. The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to make supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Minister, do you wish to speak to the principle of the bill at the beginning?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To the principle of the bill. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this particular bill is a supplementary appropriation. A second such one that we will have among many, or that this House will have. Perhaps I should say the next House will have, among many. It is a second supplementary to a bill of appropriation that came before this House for approximately \$800 million. This particular bill now adds to that amount. It is a second one. The first supplementary, Mr. Speaker, dealt with funding for the young offenders.

Now, we come in and find that, in direct contrast to what the Minister of Finance told in a reply to a question in this House of a colleague of mine, that there will be no more supplementaries for the year 1987-88, that there was not anything left for it. What we have here now, not only an additional amount carried over, as it were, from last year of approximately \$10 million -- according to supplementary bill No. 5 of 1986-87 of \$10,305,000 -- but we have an additional amount. We have an amount of pretty nearly \$18 million in this appropriation. In terms of the total voted both in O and M and in capital -- and in addition to that, sir, since we have begun this particular debate on the budget, there are 10 instances of special warrants that were signed during the recess or the break that we took back in March until now when we started this particular session, to carry on from the original session -- the session was not prorogued, but in this particular session, even though the House was not sitting, there is an additional amount of over \$1.5 million in special warrants. That is \$1.5 million only in capital; there is an additional \$16 million in O and M on special warrants.

Total Appropriation For 1987-88 Now Increased

So we are asked now, with the addition of this particular budget, not only to pass or to agree to a budget of \$800 million or just under it. Now, we have a total appropriation for 1987-88 -- because of the main appropriation, because of the first supplementary, and because, now, of a second one -- of \$831.5 million. Now if the passage of the main appropriations left a sour taste in the mouths of certain people, I cannot believe that this is not going to leave some sour taste because they just upped the ante by about \$34 million. I hear the Minister saying that we are going to be in a position, now that things are a lot rosier than they are -- if they were not rosier when we were talking about the \$800 million or just under, how can they be even rosier by adding \$10 million that they had from us last year and now increasing that by \$24 million more; the \$17.5 million in special warrants and the seven other million so that now we have a total budget for this government, in 1987-88, of \$831,581,100. We are in the particular area of economic gloom and doom.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: (Inaudible comment)

MR. McCALLUM: You will get your chance. If you want to speak, you will get your chance later. If you want to speak, make sure you get up before the other guy cuts you off, though.

This particular budget, Mr. Speaker, is something that a number of Members did not agree with. I suggest to other Members that are here now, by increasing it even more, if you did not like it the first time around, then I am sure in all good conscience, that you do not like it now. Because we are sitting here adding over \$35 million more since this budget was given to us in March. Government has added over \$35 million more. Where is it going, who is getting the benefit of it? Your guess is as good as mine. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just wondering if the people have read their briefing notes. The purpose of supplementary estimates No. 2 does not increase the spending of the government. In fact, the bottom line is that there is some \$50,000 saving to the government. There is no...

MR. RICHARD: (Inaudible comment)

HON. GORDON WRAY: ...there may be \$31 million appropriations but there are \$32 million in revenues to the government.

MR. RICHARD: (Inaudible comment)

Increased Appropriations Offset By Revenue Increases

HON. GORDON WRAY: It is all offset and the increase in appropriations is all offset by revenue increases from the federal government. So somebody is not briefing their people very well around here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RICHARD: (Inaudible comment)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. To the principle of the bill.

MR. RICHARD: I am on the side...

HON. GORDON WRAY: Get yourself a new briefing...

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say as well that, with the greatest respect to the honourable Member for Slave River, I think that he is trying to distort this document. It does look, perhaps, very alarming that the Department of Education in supplementary estimate No. 2 has a supp for \$14.4 million. But, Mr. Speaker, this amount is fully offset by transfers from no less than five other departments of this government. The Arctic College has been established as a body corporate. It needs that kind of money to operate. My department is contributing \$14 million to the size of this supplementary estimate, but it is merely a transfer from other departments. The same is happening with a program that is being established to provide training for small business people. It appears to be an increase of \$200,000 in my budget, but the money is coming from the Department of Economic Development.

I am not a sophisticated number cruncher but the honourable Member, it seems to me, is implying that we are overspending, we are spending in a profligate manner. These moneys are offset by transfers. Similarly, we had some problems negotiating the sale of the land from the city of Yellowknife to build a new school for which sod was turned on Friday of last week. So, some \$700,000 has had to be carried over. The honourable Members who voted against the principle of supp No. 2 are now saying that that school was a mistake? And that we should not be holding over some money because we had difficult and complex negotiations with the city of Yellowknife?

MR. RICHARD: You did not have to hold over. It lapsed.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: So, Mr. Speaker, I want to carry over the money for the Frame Lake South school.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I do not know what the Member for Yellowknife South wants, but I hope all Members will support this bill in principle. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To the principle of the bill. Point of privilege. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, just a point of privilege, I guess, to indicate to the Minister of Education that there is not anything in here that shows that you were getting \$14 million, as I read in your book. It says Education is...

HON. TOM BUTTERS: That is not a point of privilege.

MR. McCALLUM: ...Education is \$3.8, that is four million, not \$14 million.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Point of order. That is not a point of privilege.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. McCallum, that was not a point of privilege.

MR. McCALLUM: But it was a point. You know me.

---Laughter

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chair refuses to comment on that. To the principle. Mr. Pedersen.

Bill Approves Forestry Expenditures Offset By Federal Government Transfers

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to urge Members to vote for this bill. Mr. Speaker, this contains, among other things, the approval for the expenditures under the forestry program which are...

MR. McCALLUM: Fort Smith.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: ...which are entirely offset by transfers from the federal government. The expenditures are required from April 1st, when we took over the responsibility for forestry, until June of this year, and were handled through a special warrant. And we deliberately held off for the remainder in response to suggestions by the standing committee on finance and brought it to the Legislature -- the amount needed after the 30th of June -- in the form of a supplementary appropriation contained in these supplementary estimates No. 2. Unless the honourable Member is suggesting that we cease our expenditures and shut down the forestry service after the 30th of June, I would urge Members to support this and vote for this supplementary estimates bill. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question has been called. Mr. Butters, do you wish to conclude the debate?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe, and I hesitate to correct the honourable Member for Slave River, but I do not recollect saying that there would be no more supplementary estimates. I said I thought we could live within the supplementary amount that had been included in the budget for this year. In presenting the 1987-88 main estimates to the standing committee on finance and to the Legislative Assembly, I advised Members that the government had estimated the net supplementary requirement for 1987-88 to be six million dollars. I believe that this estimate still stands. Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 for 1987-88 results in no net cost increase to the government.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. TOM BUTTERS: In fact, Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 generates a small net cost reduction of some \$50,000. The primary purpose of this supplementary appropriation is to establish the appropriation authority for the forestry program transfer. We have received a fully offsetting, base funding increase from the federal government for this program. Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 also includes adjustments related to: 1) the new municipal service subsidy program that, besides generating no net cost increase, will result in a significant cost saving to this government; 2) a number of interdepartmental transfers associated with the establishment of the Arctic College in legislation; 3) some minor cost increases that are offset by the savings resulting from a reduction in the economic development agreement level for 1987-88; and 4) as I advised Members in my introduction to the 1986-87 Supplementary Appropriation No. 5, the appropriation authority required to complete a number of 1986-87 capital projects. Because of concern expressed by several Members during the last Assembly sitting over the 1987-88 supplementary requirements, I have included at the front of the 1987-88 Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 document a summary of the net financial impact of supplementary appropriations this year. I hope that Members will find this summary informative and useful.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 introduces \$35,621,100 of expenditure appropriation authority which is fully offset from a variety of funding sources. The government does not have to draw down any of the 1987-88 supplementary's reserve to finance either of the

supplementary appropriations advanced so far this year. With care and restraint over the balance of 1987-88, I am certain that the government can manage within the net reserve of six million dollars.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Bill 37-87(1) has had second reading. Bill 18-87(1), Bill 20-87(1), Bill 36-87(1) and Bill 37-87(1) are ordered into the committee of the whole for today. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 5-87(1), Cities, Towns and Villages Act; Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts; Bill 12-87(1), Insurance Act; Bill 20-87(1), Revolving Funds Act; Bill 36-87(1), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 5, 1986-87; Bill 18-87(1), Property Assessment Taxation Act; Bill 37-87(1), Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1987-88; 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 12-87(1), INSURANCE ACT

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Committee will come to order. We will have a 15 minute coffee break.

---SHORT RECESS

The committee will come to order. Mr. Butters.

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, if we could continue with the items that are already on the order paper under Item 17 and possibly begin with Bill 12-87(1). I believe the chairman of the standing committee on public accounts is ready to go with the fourth report. Then if we conclude that work, Mr. Chairman, we could move to some of the bills that have been moved into committee of the whole this afternoon.

Bill 12-87(1), Insurance Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Okay, we will deal with Bill 12-87(1), Insurance Act. Mr. Ballantyne, do you have any opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Insurance Act was first enacted in 1975. At that time it was a modern statute comparable to several provincial insurance acts. However, while important changes have been made to provincial insurance acts, our Insurance Act has undergone only three minor amendments in 1975. To ensure that our Insurance Act was kept up to date with respect to provincial changes and the regulation of the insurance industry, the Department of Justice hired an expert consultant in 1984 to review the Insurance Act.

The bill I am submitting to you today incorporates many of the recommendations of the consultant. The bill also transfers many of the powers and duties of the Commissioner to the Minister of Justice. The bill corrects many technical errors located through the act and streamlines several of the provisions respecting the licensing of insurance agents, brokers, salesmen and adjusters. Some of the highlights of the substantive changes made by the bill are the raising of the minimum amount of third party liability coverage required under a motor vehicle liability policy from \$50,000 to \$200,000 and making uninsured, unidentified motorist coverage mandatory. The accident benefits payable under the motor vehicle liability policies for medical, rehabilitation and funeral expenses, death benefits and loss of income payments have also been increased. Under this bill, insurance companies can be required to become members of a compensation association that will compensate policyholders and other eligible claimants if their insurance company becomes insolvent. The bill also allows for variable insurance contracts. These are contracts in which the return to the policyholder varies depending on the return of the premiums invested under the insurance contract.

The substantive changes to the Insurance Act have been reviewed by legal counsel to the Insurance Bureau of Canada. The Insurance Bureau supports the purpose of this bill which is to make the Insurance Act more uniform with provincial insurance acts. This bill also incorporates several suggestions made by the bureau. The bureau estimates that the increase in premiums needed to offset the increases in benefits in motor vehicle liability policies is a maximum of \$25.

This bill will bring our insurance back in line with the insurance statutes of the provinces. It increases third party liability coverage in motor vehicle liability policies. This means better protection for the drivers and pedestrians using our highways. Motor vehicle liability policy will also provide better accident benefits. The bill transfers many of the powers and the duties of the Commissioner to the Minister of Justice. For these reasons I recommend the bill to you. That concludes my opening statement, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. MacQuarrie, do you wish to make a comment?

Comments From Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on legislation over the past several years has taken up the practice of giving bills that are brought to its attention, I think, quite a thorough review. As a result of that, when the bills are brought into the House, I think that Members of this committee of the whole have had reasonable confidence that the major issues that might arise in that bill have been addressed in the standing committee hearings.

Bill Received Too Late For Thorough Review

This bill, however, is an exception to that, Mr. Chairman. There are three bills on the legislative program of the government this time, and they are this Insurance Act, the Motor Vehicles Act and the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, that the government considers are important in its legislative program. These bills have been long in preparation and the government would like to proceed with all of them at this session. And yet in each case, and I will confine my remarks now to the Insurance Act, it was received at a time which was too late for the committee to give the bill wide distribution to individuals or groups that might have concerns with the provisions of the bill. It was too late to do that and, therefore, to receive any input. When the bill was received by myself it was not translated and, therefore, it was simply impossible to embark on a thorough clause by clause review of the bill in the standing committee on legislation.

Rather than not giving it a review at all, the committee Members asked the government to provide an issues summary, which the government did and the committee spent some time discussing those various issues. From time to time I will have commentary on the issues, Mr. Chairman, but I want to make it very clear to Members in committee of the whole that there was not sufficient examination of each of the clauses in the bill so that Members of the committee of the whole should feel comforted that all matters that might be of importance to them have already been addressed. As the chairman of the standing committee on legislation, I cannot give that kind of undertaking, Mr. Chairman. So I would, therefore, advise all Members of this committee to be alert as the bill is being proceeded with. I would ask the chairman to proceed through it very slowly, so that Members who have not had the opportunity to review it previously may be given adequate opportunity to raise issues as they arise in committee of the whole here.

The major matters that were brought to the attention of the committee included, Mr. Chairman, first the fact that this bill increases minimum third party liability limits; that is, in the act it requires policyholders to have a higher coverage of third party liability than the present act does. And it increases the requirement from \$50,000 to \$200,000. It was pointed out to the committee that, while this is a change in the legal requirement, in fact about 90 per cent of present policyholders, on their own, get coverage of \$200,000 or greater. So for many people, this increase in requirement would not necessarily have an impact on them since they are doing it privately already.

Uninsured And Unidentified Motorist Coverage

A second area that was brought to our attention is that there are changes here and these changes revolve around uninsured and unidentified motorist coverage. That is, those circumstances where people while driving motor vehicles become involved in accidents damaging property or injuring people or killing people where either the motorist is not identified because it is a hit-and-run accident or a motorist is identified but does not have any insurance; this bill attempts to address

that problem to some limited degree. The government is not setting up a fund to cover that kind of circumstance. But it is, in this act, providing that coverage of this nature will be made mandatory so that when people who wish to get automobile insurance go to a company in order to get it, they will be required to have a provision in their policy that would mean that they, themselves, are automatically covered. That is, the person who purchased the insurance, if he is injured by an uninsured or unidentified motorist, even while walking, for example. So the insurance company would be compelled to include that provision in the policy. It was noted that the provision in the bill is modelled on a similar provision in Ontario's Insurance Act.

While this would go some way toward providing coverage then, where there are uninsured motorists or unidentified motorists, it certainly does not go the whole way because you could still have circumstances where people, who themselves do not have any automobile coverage, are injured by uninsured motorists or unidentified motorists and there would be no provision for them. Or you could have the purchaser, I guess, of a policy who would be covered because there would be mandatory coverage under this bill, but it would not necessarily apply to members of that person's family, as I understand it anyway, if they were injured by an uninsured motorist or unidentified motorist.

So, there is increased coverage but it still does not cover any situation. Now with that mandatory provision in automobile coverage it seems that there will be a consequent increase in the premiums and I will have more to say about that in a moment because there is a third area in which there are changes in the bill; that is, the bill provides for an increase in automobile accident benefits.

Increase In Automobile Accident Benefits

These benefits deal with the circumstances where an individual is covered by an insurance policy and is involved in an accident for which he is responsible himself, and this would provide for the maximum benefits that would be available on death or injury disability for himself and dependants. Because there are increases in this area as well, again, with the passage of this bill what it would mean is that people purchasing insurance in the Northwest Territories would likely be faced with increased or higher premiums than they had paid in the past. There was some discussion about the amount of the increase that people may face, but perhaps we can get into that when we are going through the bill.

A fourth area in which there is some change is that insurance companies will be required to become members of compensation associations that are designated by the Minister. The purpose of these compensation associations is to ensure that policyholders and other claimants will receive compensation if the company that is insuring them becomes insolvent. So it would be an additional protection for those who purchase insurance. They could have some confidence that their protection is not reliant on the solvency of their own company.

A fifth area where there is significant change has to do with what is called the Canadian Insurance Exchange. The Canadian Insurance Exchange was recently created under Ontario legislation and the exchange allows for the formation of insurance syndicates that are able to undertake large insurance contracts. Under this bill, underwriting members of the exchange that have obtained a licence in Ontario, will be able to obtain an insurer's licence in the Northwest Territories and offer insurance to businesses in the Northwest Territories.

A sixth area of change involved what are called variable insurance contracts. The committee was told that the government's insurance consultant recommended that the Insurance Act be amended to allow for variable insurance contracts. These contracts are usually annuity arrangements in which the amount paid by the insurance company to the beneficiary may vary from payment to payment depending on the investment returns of the premiums used to buy the annuity. A little bit of concern was expressed about this in committee but the government assured committee Members that this was an optional kind of feature of insurance that could be purchased, but that if it were not specifically requested, those purchasing insurance could certainly get the standard type of insurance contract where there is a designated return. It was noted that where someone opted for this variable type contract that there are stringent reporting requirements associated with it.

Licensing Of Insurance Agents And Brokers

A seventh area of change had to do with the licensing requirements for insurance brokers. The committee was told that under the Insurance Act there is an insurance agent's licence and an insurance broker's licence. Under the bill, a person who is operating as a broker with insurance

companies licensed in the Territories, will be required to obtain only an insurance agent's licence. The bill creates a new insurance broker's licence. This licence will be required before a broker can deal with insurance companies that are not licensed in the Northwest Territories. The committee was told that a broker, before placing insurance with an unlicensed insurance company, would be required to obtain a signed statement from his client stating that the client had not obtained insurance in the Territories.

Committee Members wanted to know the difference between the various categories of salesmen, if you like, and were told that in the Northwest Territories there is not a great deal of difference between agents and brokers. The committee was told that, basically, an agent can sell insurance for any number of sponsoring companies, as can a broker, but it was noted that anyone selling insurance in the Northwest Territories, any salesmen in other words, must have a licence whether they are selling one policy or 100 policies.

It was brought to the committee's attention that agents in the Northwest Territories must either have written qualifying examinations here in the Territories which would be an assurance to clients that they are capable of writing policies knowledgeably or, if they are agents who were not first of all licensed here but who were resident elsewhere, they would have to prove to the Government of the Northwest Territories that they are licensed as agents in another jurisdiction and there they would have been required to write similar examinations. It was noted, as well, that individual salesmen do not necessarily have to take that examination but that they must always work under the supervision of a licensed agent.

The bill, we were told, codifies some of the procedures for obtaining insurance agent's and insurance salesman's licences and clarifies when a person who is not satisfied by the decision of the superintendent of insurance, can appeal the decision to the Minister and when the decision can be appealed beyond that to the courts.

Generally speaking, Mr. Chairman, those were the major areas of change that were brought to the attention of Members of the standing committee on legislation. Members of the committee did not have particular difficulty with the changes that the government is proposing but because we had not been able to do a careful clause by clause review after having received input from people who might be concerned, I am not able to say as the chairman of the committee that this bill is referred to you with the standing committee on legislation's blessing. We simply were not able to make that kind of motion in this case because of the nature of the review and yet, as I say, the changes that were brought to Members' attention did not create a great deal of concern in the minds of Members, as I read it anyway. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. General comments. Mr. Richard.

Gap In Uninsured And Unidentified Motorist Coverage

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I unfortunately have not had an opportunity to do much more than a cursory examination of the bill. I do have a question arising out of one of Mr. MacQuarrie's comments about the mandatory insurance. From one's own insurer, the owner of the motor vehicle is now going to be required to have insurance coverage to protect him from injury or damage caused by an uninsured or unidentified owner or operator. I think that is laudable that we do that. I notice that with the Motor Vehicles Act that we are going to consider later, there was at one time a proposal to put in the act the notion of an unsatisfied judgment fund but those who were working with the legislation, being aware that this was coming into the Insurance Act, withdrew the submission on the unsatisfied judgment fund in the Motor Vehicles Act. There is still a gap there, as Mr. MacQuarrie pointed out, and I am looking for some response from the Minister or his officials. Perhaps my comment or question could be answered after the witnesses come in, Mr. Chairman, but there would still seem to be a gap in that for a pedestrian who is struck and injured by an uninsured and unidentified vehicle, or owner, or operator. In other provinces an individual in that circumstance, I believe, can go against the unsatisfied judgment fund. We have no such fund and even these proposals of changes to the Insurance Act would not cover a pedestrian who was not, himself, the owner of a motor vehicle and, therefore, the holder of an insurance policy. I believe that is the sort of individual who should be given the protection that is given in other jurisdictions by the so-called unsatisfied judgment fund, under vehicles legislation. So, that is one area, Mr. Chairman, that I would ask the Minister and his officials to comment on perhaps by way of introduction. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Mr. Chairman, it might be appropriate if I bring my witnesses in to the witness table right now so we can deal with these questions.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Go ahead. For the record, Mr. Minister, could you introduce your witnesses?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Mr. Richard's and Mr. MacQuarrie's queries are reasonable. When we sat down and tried to work out the provisions of this act, we tried to cover everything in the insurance area and I think that the cases that Mr. Richard is talking about, the unsatisfied judgment fund, properly should be in an act other than the Insurance Act. Perhaps when discussion of the Motor Vehicles Act comes in front of the Assembly, that might be a more appropriate place to deal with it but we did not think that it fit within the parameters of this particular act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. For the record, could the Minister introduce his witnesses, please?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have Mr. Stien Lal, the deputy minister; Giuseppa Bentivegna is the chief of legislation division; Shirley Stevenson is chief of consumer and corporate affairs. Thank you.

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

Cost To Small Community Businesses

MS COURNOYEA: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We did not really go over this bill at the legislation committee meeting. However, the one question that was of concern to me is the amount that would be levied on any individual person going into business, knowing the limitation of some small businesses in communities. We were assured that with the new provisions here it would not really bring any additional costs, or they would be very minimal, to a small business enterprise in a community. But just for the sake of an exercise then, given that an individual owns a 12 to 14 passenger van, works in a small community such as Aklavik and has a school contract to take children to and from school, in regard to the coverage that is required under the Vehicles Act, what would it cost that individual to operate that business?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Apparently, Mr. Chairman, 99 per cent of people are presently covered to this limit or more. There is a school of thought that even this limit itself would not give an operator as much protection as an operator might like. So, I cannot tell you right offhand for somebody running a 16 seat bus, how much extra their premium would be but I would assume that any prudent owner would have at least this much coverage because the consequences if he or she does not, would be quite enormous.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: The question that comes when any legislation is imposed or brought forward is, how much is this going to cost us? Is this going to take us out of the bidding process because of the cost? Perhaps you can take it under advisement, but I would really like to know the specific answer to my question as to the costs, with minimum requirements under this Insurance Act, for such a coverage to operate such a business in a small community.

It is my understanding from the discussion at the legislation committee, that it would not be any more, or there would be a very minimal increase to the previous coverage. Realizing that this coverage is now required, what would that cost be? I cannot translate it in hypothetical terms. Neither can most people. They normally want to know, "Well, what is that cost going to be? Give me an example of what that cost is going to be in comparison to what was required previously."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can get, with some difficulty I think, a ball park figure of the cost that Ms Cournoyea is looking for, what the actual cost would be to an owner of a 16 seater bus would really depend on many variables. It would depend on the number of trips the bus made. It would depend upon the safety record of the driver or drivers. It would depend, I suppose, upon safety conditions in a community.

So, it is difficult to get an exact definitive figure. Our information is, though, that the cost will not be a significant or an increase over what they are paying now. I very much doubt it is going to in any way jeopardize a business.

I understand here, from a letter from the president of the NWTAM that right now the municipalities in the NWT Association of Municipalities fund third party motor vehicle liability insurance to a million dollars per vehicle so the increase to a \$200,000 minimum in the proposed amendments will have no effect on their membership. So for the municipalities with their vehicles, they do not see it as being a big increase. We cannot envision a really big increase to a small business. But if the Member would like, I will try to get a little bit more detailed answer for her. I would be prepared to do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms Cournoyea.

MS COURNOYEA: In dealing with larger municipalities or larger businesses, I would assume that they would have had an opportunity to go over the bill. At a community level, I know there are a lot of variables but there must have been some research or thought given because the question was specifically put to the representatives at the legislation committee and we were told that it would not be significant. But, you know, I have heard those words before; I would like to know what it would cost. You can put some examples of it or situations but I would like to see how this works out in a small community like Aklavik, for example. It does not have paved roads, it does not have all the amenities of some communities. Until such time as we can have that example, I think that it is not good enough to say, "It will not be significant." Thank you.

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

Possibility Of Increased Premiums

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I note that in the last purpose of the bill, I do not think I have any disagreements with the first ones, but the last purpose says, "to make a consequential amendment to the Vehicles Act to raise the minimum insurance coverage to \$200,000 for motor vehicles and, with respect to buses, to \$25,000 per passenger seat or \$500,000, whichever is greater." Perhaps, it would be good to get from the Minister what it was prior to this amendment and then maybe get some figures.

It has been indicated to me by people who own a taxi business, for example, who may have two or three or four cars, that their premiums will be raised considerably. The same thing happens for a local contractor who has a contract with the Department of Education or the local education authority, or however it is determined, that the amendments to this will, in fact, make a considerable change to their premiums. I guess what I am wanting to know is, as my colleague, Ms Cournoyea, has indicated, just what they are. Now, maybe I am talking in the wrong area. I have no difficulty with these amendments to replace the Commissioner, requiring insurance companies to be members of a compensation association, allowing underwriting members of the Canadian Insurance Exchange to obtain licensing and whatnot. Those are fine and there may be other smaller ones that are there, but it is this increase to third party liability that must have some consequence to an individual small business person in a town, who has a bus contract to move children in and out of the schools.

I have a constituent in my constituency who has a contract. Now, it seems to me that what will occur is that with the number of people that he has handling those buses, whatever number he requires to do it, it is my understanding from these kinds of amendments that it will have a dramatic change on what it will cost him in terms of running his business and, therefore, getting a contract because it will increase his premiums. Now, maybe the Minister can indicate to us or get back to us later on this and whether in fact that will come about. But I would like to know, when you make consequential amendments to the Vehicles Act to raise the minimum insurance coverage for motor vehicles and buses to what you are contemplating here, what were they before? What was the

minimum insurance coverage previously? Was it \$200,000 that most people had? What was the minimum amount that you could get? And what was the minimum amount that you could get for an individual passenger seat on a bus and the maximum involved with it? Maybe that would get us started somewhere. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Previously it was \$10,000 a seat and the minimum was \$100,000 for buses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in respect to buses, it was \$10,000 per passenger seat or \$100,000 whichever was greater. Was the minimum coverage for motor vehicles at \$100,000?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: It was \$50,000, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. McCallum.

Increased Coverage Will Mean Increased Costs

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, what has occurred here is to raise the minimum insurance coverage four times. Now, I do not know what it would cost an individual to get the \$50,000 minimum insurance coverage for a vehicle. I do not know what it would cost to get insurance for \$10,000 per seat to a maximum of \$100,000, but again, with regard to a passenger seat, it is now two and a half times greater. And the maximum is five times greater. Now, I do not know what it would cost under the old act to get those but it would seem to me that if it was costing somebody X amount of dollars previously for a particular motor vehicle and you are going to raise it four times, it may not necessarily follow that your premiums are four times as much. I do not know. Obviously it seems to me, Mr. Chairman, there would be some additional cost involved with it.

As I said, I have heard that in some cases it was two, three or four times the amount of the premium that it would be costing this person to run their taxi business. Now, maybe that is an unfair question because the Minister is not in the insurance business. He is there to pass an act to make it conform with other areas. Obviously that is what I would expect, that that is the rationale for this and it may very well be great and the best thing to do and in the best interests of people to do it. I am not going to argue the business of what is an adequate coverage in liability because what I would carry in liability in my house may be altogether different from what he would want to carry in his house. We know that we would want to have some kind of liability -- I do not want to be sued by somebody falling down the front steps or out the back door, because that could happen. I appreciate that one then has to look at the coverage of oneself in terms of it.

Here what we are doing is making it for everybody and I have a concern because I have two businesses in my constituency who have come to me and said that this is what it is going to be. I really did not understand what it was about in the beginning but if there is a change in the minimum insurance coverage then it seems only natural to me, as one being uninformed about it all, that it is going to increase the cost of that.

Now, if I have a young person in business trying to provide a service in school bus contracts, which are done yearly in most instances now, and he would bid on that particular tender, the increased costs are going to make it pretty difficult to get in on those contracts, or it would have some effect on it, I would suggest. So I do not know what I am coming to other than to say, Mr. Chairman, that I have some concern with what this will do to a person in a small business in a community in terms of taking advantage of, a) government contracts or, b) setting up a small taxi business. If each individual's insurance has to correspond to this, how does one get along with it? I do not know how to go about it, but I know that I have had some people raise the concern with me, that it would be very difficult for them with the increase. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I think we have to recognize that the reason that these limits are put in are manifold. Mr. McCallum is right, the increases might seem fairly significant but nothing has changed since 1975. That is some 12 years. In the interim everybody is aware that court judgments have gone up dramatically. Our jurisdiction, even with this, is still I think fairly low and most prudent businessmen would carry more insurance than we are suggesting here as a minimum. Besides the small businessmen who are attempting to get some protection for themselves, we have to keep in mind if they are underinsured and if they for instance had a maximum of \$100,000, and a court found that they had to pay \$250,000, they still have to find the other \$150,000. The judge is not bound by whatever minimums we put in. So on one hand this legislation gives us some protection for that small business because even though there will be a small premium to pay up front to get better protection, we feel that it will be fairly minimal. At the other end of the process, if you do not have it an accident could actually bankrupt a company because they do not have proper insurance.

Legislation To Protect Innocent Persons

On the other hand, and equally as importantly, the reason that this sort of legislation is put in is to protect an innocent person. I think that we have to keep that in mind. Our whole aim here is not only to protect the small businesses, it is to protect an innocent person. If an innocent person is killed or is badly injured; in order to provide compensation for that person's family or provide compensation for rehabilitation, to provide any number of things that a court could order and that morally we, as a society, should agree with; there have to be certain minimums in place. I think it would be very unfair if an innocent person who is walking down the street is run over, because somebody did not have proper coverage, that person would not get adequate compensation to look after either himself or herself or their families.

So there are two sides to this equation and all we are suggesting putting in are very prudent but very minimum standards. I think for anybody who is operating a business, for instance, a bus service, my understanding is that now if you are transporting children on contract with the Department of Education, you would have to have higher minimums than we are proposing here. I think that you would find if you were working for a mine and you were transferring mine workers they would demand higher minimums than you would find here. So we do not feel that there is going to be an unnecessary burden placed on a small company. Any burden that is placed on a small company will be equally placed on small companies who are competing for the same sort of business. Ultimately a lot of that or all of it will be passed on to the consumer but if you are, for instance, bidding for a contract your competitor will have the same costs that you have. So, all in all, looking at all the factors that have been brought forward by Members, we think that we are just suggesting that some prudent, minimum standards apply in insurance coverage.

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

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, a couple of Members have asked the government, or at least one has implied that the government would do well to bring in some sort of indication for committee Members as to what this might mean in the case of a business.

At the standing committee meetings the government did have a figure that it was suggesting would apply not to businesses but to individual operators who were expected to purchase insurance and the government is saying, "Look, you are going to have a higher benefit scale, you are going to have a provision that covers uninsured or unidentified motorists and the minimum liability third party has got to go from \$50,000 to \$100,000." So that meant possible increases but it was already recognized that many motorists had those in their insurance policies already. So, for them it is not going to involve any increase other than the annual outrageous increases that we have all been faced with because of rising insurance costs, not because of better coverage.

We were given a figure but it turned out that there was a little confusion as to what that meant, whether it was an amount that was spread over everybody who was buying it or that that would be the likely increased cost to those who did not have such coverage now. So, I would ask the Minister to provide that information and perhaps clarify the nature of the increases. Just as to whom it applies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

Clarification Of Projected Costs Of Insurance

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our understanding is that if you are dealing with people who are insuring their own vehicles for instance, that for the total extra coverage that we are talking about right across the board, it will be approximately \$25 a year added premium. I do not have the figure if you are running a bus for instance but I think one could extrapolate -- is it \$400 a year for a premium? That is what I am paying, I think. The extra \$25, is eight per cent or something on top of that. So, we are talking about five to 10 per cent maximum in increased premiums. But \$25 extra for the total coverage is what we are talking about and most people already have it. In fact, 99 per cent of people have most of it already.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, that is the figure that was provided but there did seem to be some confusion at the time as to whether that \$25 would be an average amount that would be probably applied to everybody's insurance bill and that the person that was not covered in this way would have some even higher amount than that or whether, in fact, that \$25 meant an increase for those who do not presently have that kind of coverage and that, in fact, those that do have it will be faced with no increase whatsoever. That was never quite clarified and so I would ask you to clarify that now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: This is from the Insurance Bureau of Canada who gave us these estimates. They actually had estimated a \$25 gross premium for the proposed accident benefits of private passengers, including uninsured motor coverage based on adjustments of costs shown. So that if you had none of these, the most it would probably cost you is \$25. If you, like most people, were already covered by a number of these the cost would be much less. It might be \$10, five dollars.

AN HON. MEMBER: One dollar.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: One dollar, whatever.

AN HON. MEMBER: They might even give you something.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: No, they would never do that. That is one thing we know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Minister, that does clarify. It was noted for the committee and I should have mentioned this in my opening remarks, that of course if this bill is passed at this session that it is impossible to implement provisions because insurance companies must be aware of what is being expected of them and so on. So, when would the provisions of this bill be proclaimed and come into effect, Mr. Minister?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order to let everybody become aware of what we are doing, the intention right now, if it is passed here, is not to proclaim it until January 1st, 1988.

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

Recommendations Reviewed By Insurance Bureau Of Canada

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Minister, it was noted for the committee's benefit that our government had employed or contracted the services of a knowledgeable consultant in the area of insurance but I believe that in the end, after the consultant had made his recommendations, that the government did not entirely just rely on the strength of those recommendations but I believe took the trouble to have the Insurance Bureau of Canada assess the worth of the recommendations. Could the Minister provide some information for this committee with respect to that? Is that Insurance Bureau satisfied that what we are doing here in changing the Insurance Act is desirable and acceptable?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Yes, the original consultant had been the superintendent of insurance for the province of Quebec and he is the person who did the original review. Then we had it reviewed again by the Insurance Bureau of Canada and Mr. Lamontagne Gagnon, with the senior counsel for the Insurance Bureau of Canada, is the one that reviewed the consultant's report and we made some modifications based on that. They have reviewed the bill also.

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

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems there are two meetings that I have to attend tonight. I think we are going to have a cook-out at 7:30 p.m. and there are almost no Members left, so I would like to report progress. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): We do not have a quorum. Could the Sergeant-at-Arms ring the bell?

There is a motion to report progress. This motion is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? Can we have some order in the House, please?

We will take the vote again. All those in favour of reporting progress? Opposed, if any? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Mr. Minister, you may continue. Mr. Richard.

Unsatisfied Judgment Fund

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just further general comments. Getting back to the unsatisfied judgment fund. I appreciate the Minister's response that perhaps my point should be dealt with in the vehicles legislation but I simply mentioned it in the context that those who were crafting the perfect Motor Vehicles Act which we are going to consider later, pointed out that the perfect Motor Vehicles Act would normally have provisions for an unsatisfied judgment fund but we are not going to see it because the Insurance Act is so perfect that we do not need it. I simply would ask that when the Minister is dealing with the Motor Vehicles Act, or whoever the Minister of vehicles is, that we address that. And even if we get a commitment from the other Minister, the Hon. Ludy Pudluk, I guess, that maybe not in this Motor Vehicles Act legislation but later, we bring in provision for an unsatisfied judgment fund. I mean, we have lived with it up until now, since the motor vehicle was invented, I suppose, in this jurisdiction. But that we revisit that, if indeed, there is a gap. I do not know for sure. Maybe the vehicles officials can respond to that. So I will leave that one, Mr. Chairman.

There were two other comments I had. When the Minister indicates that after the consultant did his work, the government ran the bill past the Insurance Bureau of Canada, I would note here that the substantive changes made with the bill have been reviewed by the Insurance Bureau of Canada and several of their suggestions have been implemented. I would ask this question of the Minister, were there important parts of the bill that the Insurance Bureau of Canada disagreed with? I think that is silent.

Mr. Chairman, before I finish, one other point on a separate matter. I think the government, to its credit, is updating the benefits that are in the schedules to the act. But in the introduction it has indicated that it has been some time since this legislation was amended. It occurs to me that since, as in other legislation, things like amending figures or like benefits payments are more easily done by regulation than by amending the act, the government could consider, instead of putting specific dollar amounts in the schedule of the act, providing that that could be done by order in council or Commissioner's regulation, or whatever it is called. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Just to clarify, the second review did not result in any substantial changes. They made some recommendations to us to enhance the clarity of our wording. There was not anything tremendously of substance that was changed from the original consultant's report. In fact, they concurred, as I said, generally with the work of the consultant.

As for putting the details into the act, this has been an ongoing debate here in this Legislature of what we put in acts and what we leave later on for regulations. We, as a government, are I think fairly flexible in something like this. But our thought was that the Legislative Assembly has, in the past, made a fairly strong case that they like to see as much of the substance in the bill, up front. So, that is the reason that we actually put it in the act itself.

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

Commercial Vehicle Operators In Small Communities Penalized

MR. CURLEY: Thank you. A general comment with respect to the Insurance Act before us. I have been wondering during the last year or so about the classes of insurance that are normally provided to motor vehicle operators and to those individuals who are operating a commercial vehicle. They are appropriate, obviously, in places like Yellowknife and highway towns and villages that have a real understanding of exactly what the coverage means. There are classes of insurance available to those operators. In small communities though, in the Eastern Arctic, it has become almost impossible to operate and try to get insurance to cover such commercial vehicles. Commercial vehicles meaning either taxis or vehicles that will be used for transporting passengers. I was given as an example that one operator in a small town was asked to pay \$7000 worth of insurance. This individual, as far as I know, has never had an accident, has never driven on the highway or whatever. So I am wondering whether these classes of insurance that the Commissioner may make regulations about would enable him to give at least some options to operators who have been, I think, penalized by the high rate of insurance available to them as well as the lack of choices.

I appreciate this act may not be an appropriate place but there are individuals that are hurting because of the way in which the insurance system is in the Northwest Territories. It has just completely shut down many of the small operators in isolated communities who are not connected with the highway system. I see that the liability coverage requirement is, in many respects, away out of tune in small communities but it is still the legal requirement for any individual to have a licence before he can even attempt to operate a commercial operation. I wonder if the Minister would be prepared to explain in layman's language exactly what benefit this Insurance Act is to individuals who will continue to have trouble getting appropriate coverage for the type of operation they provide to the public.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think the problems that Mr. Curley is referring to are not going to be totally dealt with in this bill. There are overriding problems that people are facing especially in small communities in getting adequate insurance at a reasonable price. I think the approach to deal with that is not in this legislation which is essentially trying to bring our legislation in line with other jurisdictions and provide a reasonable amount of protection to people who might be injured because of an accident. I think, regarding the very valid and the more general problems that the Member has brought up, we are attempting to deal with them as a government. I know in Mr. Butters' department, regarding the insurance question, as Mr. Curley remembers in Executive Council, we had any number of discussions about what to do with insurance companies and insurance generally. So it is something I think that, as a government and as individual Members, we are going to have to keep working at. This act itself is fairly limited in its application and it is not going to solve all the problems that Mr. Curley refers to.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Bill 12-87(1). Clause 1, agent. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 3, the Canadian Insurance Exchange. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 4, compensation association. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Administration. Clause 6, superintendent. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 7, action against superintendent. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 8, record keeping; inspection of records. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 9, evidence of licence status. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 11, inspection. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 12, access to books. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 13, annual inspection of insurers. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 14, production of books at head office or as superintendent directs. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 15, examination of affairs of an insurer. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 16, expenses of examination. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 17, annual report. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 19. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 20, classes of insurance. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 21. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 22, membership in compensation association. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 23, report on assets and violations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 24, status of accounts receivable and unauthorized investments. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 25, interpretation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 26, prohibition of certain policies. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 27, recovery and disposition of fines. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 28, regulations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 29, renewal. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 30, declaration as to sufficiency of proof. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 31, approval of extensions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 32, misrepresentation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 33. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 34. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 35, minimum liability under policy. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 36, priorities. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 37, minimum limits where separate limits designated. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 38. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 39, defence where more than one contract. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 40, contribution. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 41, defence where coverage under sections 145, 146. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 42, defence where vehicle used in business of carrying passengers. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 43, interpretation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 44, commencement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 45, commencement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 46. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 47, the contract. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 48. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 49, application of incontestability to reinstatement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 50, disentitlement to licence. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 51. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 52, term of licence. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 53, renewal. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 54, regulations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 55, idem. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 56, licences of salesmen. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 57, issue of licence. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 58, form of notice of appointment. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 59, notice of termination of employment. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 60, failure to give notice. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 61, term of licence. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 62, renewal. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 63, for whom salesman may act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 64, offence. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 65, licence to broker. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Page 26, clause 66, dealing with unlicensed insurers. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 67. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 68, regulations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 69, revocation or suspension. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 70, appeal. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 71, limited or conditional licence. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 72. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 73. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 74, amount of tax. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 75. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 76, status of unpaid taxes. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 77, regulations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 78. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Clause 79. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I had a number of comments on this schedule to clause 79. Are you going to go through the schedule paragraph by paragraph, or whatever?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Yes, we are ready to go ahead with the schedules now. We are on pages 31, section B, accident benefits. Mr. Richard.

Amount Of Expenses Recoverable

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, there appears to be a fairly wide change here. I notice even in the heading of this subsection 1, before it read "medical payments and funeral benefits" it now reads "medical, rehabilitation and funeral expenses" and the expenses that are recoverable under the standard policy can be incurred over four years as opposed to the current two years. The maximum limit is \$25,000 per person, up from the current \$2000. I am told, Mr. Chairman, that the counterpart limit in the province of Alberta is \$5000. I am wondering if the Minister could explain the reason. I appreciate that all these figures have to be updated but that is a fairly substantial widening of the coverage. Of course, my concern would be how that is going to affect the premiums and the Minister has addressed that to an extent already.

Services Covered Under Territorial Hospital Insurance Services

The other question I have, though, is the reference here to services covered under the THIS scheme. The answer may be obvious. Surely the THIS board is not going to be able to recover their expenditures. We do have things like medivacs and that sort of thing, where the costs can be horrendous. But surely, nobody would claim against their own insurer on behalf of THIS, would they?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I will answer the first part of the question. The existing benefits and expenses were totally unrealistic. It has not been changed since the mid-70s. The reality is that if ever somebody were seriously hurt or disabled, this would not even begin to cover their costs. The proposed schedule that is in that new legislation we take essentially from Ontario and, in fact, because expenses are higher here, even that might not be quite enough, but we think at least now it is getting realistic. Before, it was totally unrealistic and no one who was ever hurt before could even hope to solve a small percentage of their problems with the schedule we used before. That was the first part of your question.

The second one we are just finding out. My understanding is that a person who is injured would be covered like anybody else under this system for whatever the normal benefits a resident of the Northwest Territories gets. Anything above and beyond that would come out of this particular benefit. Does that answer your question, Mr. Richard? So, we would not actually be recovering from the insurance company coverage that is extended to all residents of the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Section B, accident benefits. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Subsection (1), medical, rehabilitation and funeral expenses. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Subsection (2), death benefits and loss of income payments. Part I, death benefits. Mr. Richard.

Some Benefits Will Decrease

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, it has been pointed out to me that, although the change is a welcome one in that the figures on their face value are increasing for death benefits, in some respects it is a decrease and the example that I have been given, Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence, is this: If I can direct the Minister and his officials to page 31(a), which is the current death benefits, and take, for example, the line, a deceased "18 to 64 years" of age, the combination of that \$5000 figure and paragraph (a) below, and if you had a head of a household who was killed, leaving a wife and four children, by my calculations here the family would receive the \$5000 item. Under paragraph (a) for the four other survivors, they would receive 20 per cent of that amount. That is, \$1000 for each of four children, for a total of \$9000 now; but under (b), this is the part that is not in the bill.

For dependants there is an ongoing weekly payment for two years of one per cent of that total, say \$9000. That is, \$90 a week for two years, and it terminates at two years. That comes to another \$9000 or \$9300 for a total of some \$18,000 if you add in (a) and (b). But in the proposal over on the top of the next page, the family would receive the \$10,000 lump sum plus \$1000 for each of four children for a total of \$14,000, if you see what I mean. The reason that it is decreasing is that you do not provide, and maybe you have a reason for not providing, the ongoing payments for the two years at weekly amounts. I do not know, Mr. Chairman, if that was an oversight, or whether it was deliberate that the only lump sum payment -- if the intention was to increase the total amount that would go to a family who had lost the head of the household, it would appear that, in fact, it is going to be less, unless my arithmetic is wrong or I am missing something.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: \$18,360.

MR. RICHARD: No.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think Mr. Richard has a point. It is less. Okay, the problem is that we dropped (b) off; that is what changed it and the question is, why did we drop (b) off?

AN HON. MEMBER: Good question.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Right. I do not know. It is a good point because the intention was not to create a situation where somebody would get less now than before. Maybe if Mr. Richard would like to make a motion to put (b) back in, then that might solve the problem I think, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I apologize for raising this on a late date. It is a very technical matter. I have just been advised of this possible shortcoming, but I am not certain enough of that shortcoming, Mr. Chairman, to dare make a motion. I would prefer that if the Minister and his officials, particularly, who have spent a lot of time on this bill -- in all likelihood if they could look at it overnight, I would be more comfortable with their coming back in tomorrow and saying that there is no shortcoming and this is the reason why, or there is a shortcoming and they propose a motion.

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, I think that is probably a good idea. I suggest you move progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Gargan): There is a motion on the floor to report progress. All those in favour? Opposed, if any?

---Carried

I will rise now and report progress.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Gargan.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 12-87(1), INSURANCE ACT

MR. GARGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 12-87(1) and wishes to report progress.

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. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Members have heard the report of the chairman of the committee of the whole. Are you agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. For this evening at 6:00 p.m. there will be a Nunavut caucus meeting. At 6:00 p.m., also, there will be a meeting of the special committee on rules, procedures and privileges. Members are reminded of the cookout at Long Lake at 7:30 and tomorrow morning's meeting at 9:30 of the standing committee on finance.

ITEM 20: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Wednesday, June 10th 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: Bill 5-87(1), the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Bills 12-87(1), 18-87(1), 20-87(1), 36-87(1) and 37-87(1)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Orders of the Day

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, June 10th at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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