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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 1987

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Arlooktoo, Hon. Tom Butters, Hon. Michael Ballantyne, Mr. Curley, Mr. Erkloo, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. MacQuarrie, Mr. McCallum, Hon. Bruce McLaughlin, Mr. Nerysoo, Hon. Dennis Patterson, Hon. Red Pedersen, Hon. Ludy Pudluk, Mr. Richard, Hon. Nick Sibbeston, Hon. Don Stewart, Mr. T'Seleie, Hon. Gordon Wray

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Don Stewart): Orders of the day for Monday, June 15. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Ballantyne.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 74-87(1): Second Annual Occupational Health And Safety Week

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members of this Assembly that from June 15th to the 20th, northerners will observe the Second Annual Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week sponsored by the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering. This week is designed to promote good safety habits and attitudes on the job.

Safety week is being actively promoted in the Northwest Territories, co-ordinated by the safety division and mining inspection services of the Department of Justice and the Workers' Compensation Board. These agencies are involved on a year-round basis in preventing work-related accidents. Extensive publicity has been generated through radio, television and the printed media. In addition, information packages have been distributed to every community in the Northwest Territories and to employer groups and unions.

My department views the Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week as an opportunity to bring to everyone's attention the importance of health and safety in the workplace. Accordingly, the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board and I have jointly issued a proclamation announcing Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Week in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would like at this time to recognize in the chamber his worship Mayor Michael Lenton and Mrs. Lenton of Pine Point. Welcome to Yellowknife.

---Applause

Ministers' statements. This appears to conclude this matter for today. Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Erkloo.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Students Graduating In Ottawa

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This weekend I was in Ottawa with my family. The students that are going to school through Tungavik Federation of Nunavut had graduated from their courses. There were about seven students and we were very happy to see that they had

graduated from their courses. There were some students from my constituency and I am happy to say that there were two students from my community. My son had asked me to come down because he was graduating. I think we should be proud of our students that graduate and we should support them. I just wanted to bring this up. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. Members' statements. That appears to conclude Members' statements for today. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Mr. McLaughlin.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 0254-87(1): Emergency Medical Evacuation Services To The Keewatin

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral Question 0254-87(1), asked by Mr. Curley on June 12, 1987 regarding emergency medical evacuation services to the Keewatin. Mr. Curley inquired as to whether or not I would support a coroner's inquest or inquiry into the death of Donavin Akeralik, who was born prematurely in Rankin Inlet and died while being evacuated to Winnipeg.

One of the principles upon which the new Coroner's Act is based is that decisions as to whether or not inquests or inquiries will be held should be made independently by coroners without undue political influence. Therefore, it would not be appropriate for me to express support or lack of support for an inquest in the Donavin Akeralik case. However, I wish to assure the Member for Aivilik that, should an inquest or inquiry be called by the chief coroner, I and my staff in the Department of Health will co-operate fully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, oral questions. Mr. Curley.

ITEM 5: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 0258-87(1): Special ARDA And DRIE Program Funding

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question of the Minister of Economic Development. The Minister stated last Thursday, June 11th, the Special ARDA meeting which was planned for June 9th was cancelled. Therefore, the Minister assured me that the meeting would now go ahead in about two weeks. In his statement, the Minister indicated to the House that there was the possibility that the DRIE program would continue. I believe that the House and the business community require a little bit more assurance that the funding will be there after the meetings have occurred. It is fine for the federal government to indicate that the meetings would go ahead, but if there are no funds available, what is the point of having a meeting? I would like to ask the Minister if he has any further indication that there are funds available so that these meetings will not be just a waste of time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0258-87(1): Special ARDA And DRIE Program Funding

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I do not have any further details than what I provided last Thursday. I can still confirm that my officials advise me that the meeting that had been scheduled for Special ARDA is proceeding within the next two weeks. With respect to the funding that will be made available, as I indicated last Thursday, most of the funding that would have been available to our government is still going to be available. There is a slight reduction in the money that will be available for Special ARDA. Apart from that, the funding under the EDA will still essentially be as had been provided for until the freeze was announced.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Supplementary To Question 0258-87(1): Special ARDA And DRIE Program Funding

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister also did not indicate in his statement that the project applications would be funded on a priority basis. I would like to ask the Minister what criteria DRIE will be using when evaluating and considering a priority list on projects. Would he agree with many of the Eastern Arctic applicants who do not have alternate modes of transportation and can only take advantage of the construction season if the funding is approved, and projects

would go ahead on the basis that they are now considered and approved? If not, there will be a one-year delay. So, would that constitute in this matter a priority, where there are no alternate modes of transportation? Would that be one of the factors when considering a department's recommendation?

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

Further Return To Question 0258-87(1): Special ARDA And DRIE Program Funding

HON. NICK SIBBESTON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can reconfirm what I had stated earlier. The applications that are from areas of the North that require sealift will be given special consideration and the federal government indicated in the meeting with our officials that they, too, recognize that projects for the Arctic, the sealift communities, would receive priority.

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

Question 0259-87(1): Pay Level Of Social Services Employees

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Social Services. I had asked the Minister of Personnel about the low pay of the social workers and he had answered me that the NWT employees are getting higher pay than the southern employees but I think you and I know that the social workers do not get very much pay. For instance, they have different duties. They deal with the young offenders and there are probation officers and they deal with spousal assault. I would like to ask if you have considered for the future if there would be independent evaluation on the pay of the employees. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0259-87(1): Pay Level Of Social Services Employees

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Personnel is correct in saying that social workers in the Northwest Territories are paid more than social workers are in southern Canada, but the fact is that social workers in southern Canada usually are hired in job descriptions where they deal with a specific issue, whereas in the NWT there is usually only one social worker in a community and they have to deal with the full range of social problems from giving out social assistance to spousal assault, child abuse and other problems in the communities.

I have recently requested my officials to approach the Department of Personnel to re-evaluate the jobs of the social workers who are basically on the line in the communities providing services, because when most of those social workers who are still with us were hired and when social workers' job descriptions were last reviewed, the primary job they had in the community was to give out social assistance. But now with spousal assault, child abuse and other problems like that, the Young Offenders Act, and all the forms and legal duties or obligations before the court that is impending upon a social worker because of the Young Offenders Act, these people now have a very different job than it was before.

We are losing social workers because of the pressure that is on them. In fact, a lot of them switch over to being executive field liaison officers because the salary is higher. In fact, we have even lost some social workers to janitor jobs in schools. So there is a serious problem with paying the front line social workers in accordance with the duties that they have in today's society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 0259-87(1): Pay Level Of Social Services Employees

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) I have a supplementary question. You are true in that you say that the social workers usually try to look for other jobs if they want to get higher pay. They are starting to get more duties. So, I would like to ask if you could set up an independent committee to study the pay or their duties. The reason I am asking is because the Minister of Personnel had said that they have good pay and he was saying that he was a little bit leery of getting a study. Would it be possible to get an independent committee to do a study on this? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 0259-87(1): Pay Level Of Social Services Employees

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My department has basically submitted information to the Department of Personnel outlining what the duties are of social workers in today's society and how they have changed dramatically in the last decade.

I think what normally happens is that a committee is made up of representatives from the Department of Personnel, the Department of Social Services and, I also believe, representatives of the Public Service Alliance who are also involved in discussions and decisions as to what the actual rate of pay should be. Those recommendations are then made to the Minister. So, I believe there is basically an independent review which goes on right now and I do believe it involves both the employer, the government, and the employees' representative, the union. That is all I know about it. For any further information, you will have to direct a question to the Minister of Personnel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 0260-87(1): Classification Of Social Services Employees

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my last question. You said that you already have representatives that are looking into the duties and salaries of the social services employees. Maybe one of the Ministers can indicate to me when this process or when these discussions are going to conclude and what kind of time frame we can expect for an increase in pay for the job done by the social workers. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 0260-87(1): Classification Of Social Services Employees

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm to the Member that a review of the classification for social workers has been undertaken. The process as the Minister outlined is that Social Services tell us that the job description of the position has changed; they tell us what other duties the social workers now have that they did not have to start with and then a classification review is initiated. This is now under way. It should be completed within the next month or two, Mr. Speaker. I do not wish to indicate at this time, even to the extent that there will be an increase, because the review has to be totally independent and should not be influenced by anything I might say as to the salary scale at this stage. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mrs. Lawrence.

Question 0261-87(1): Housing In Home Communities For Returning Pine Point Employees

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mahsi cho. (Translation) In Pine Point some people say they would like to go back where they had come from. I would like to know if the Minister could help them out. Maybe to help them start off with housing, maybe some HAP units or some similar housing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0261-87(1): Housing In Home Communities For Returning Pine Point Employees

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: We are aware of the problem and my department is working with Gordon Wray's department looking at the possibility of physically moving or relocating houses that Mrs. Lawrence is talking about, to Fort Resolution, or some interim solution whereby people can stay in those houses until we work out alternate arrangements. So we are working together to see if we can come up with a solution to the problem posed by Mrs. Lawrence.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Supplementary or a new question, Mrs. Lawrence? Supplementary.

Supplementary To Question 0261-87(1): Housing In Home Communities For Returning Pine Point Employees

MRS. LAWRENCE: Does that mean, then, that the Minister will negotiate with the mine immediately, as you are aware that the mine is closing very soon?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wray is co-ordinating the government's approach toward Pine Point. I think this question dealing with the mine, is something that Mr. Wray is responsible for and perhaps he could respond to this question.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. You wanted to sit that last one out did you Mr. Minister? Mr. Wray.

Further Return To Question 0261-87(1): Housing In Home Communities For Returning Pine Point Employees

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Departments of Public Works and Municipal and Community Affairs is responsible, in conjunction with the municipality of Pine Point and several other government departments, responsible for the down-sizing of the community and looking after just exactly what is going to happen with the infrastructure in that community. We have appointed Mr. Len Griffore, who is the former superintendent of Economic Development in the Keewatin, as a project officer and we are looking at several scenarios with regard to people who are going to be left in Pine Point. One of those is, either utilizing existing GNWT houses or, perhaps, acquiring houses from the mine; looking at physically relocating some of those units to Fort Resolution for the people who may wish to return there. This summer we will probably undertake to move at least one unit, a suitable house, to see what kind of costs and problems we are going to have there and what is entailed with moving those units and, hopefully, we will be able to accommodate any of the former Fort Resolution residents, who wish to return there, in the housing that we can physically take from Pine Point. But, I will keep the Member advised on the status of it and just what is happening and times and stuff like that. Thank you.

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

Question 0262-87(1): Extended Medical Benefits For Seniors

MR. MacQUARRIE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. In the winter session, Mr. Minister, you indicated that officials in your department were looking at the costs of perhaps extending some medical benefits to seniors which they do not receive now. Could I ask, Mr. Minister, where that is at? Are we going to hear sometime soon the announcement of extended medical benefits for seniors in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0262-87(1): Extended Medical Benefits For Seniors

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for advising me last Friday that he was going to ask me this question. The issue has been taken to the Executive Council as an information item, I believe early in May or middle May, at which time the information item showed what the requests were and what costs would be in that matter. In addition to that, the Planning and Priorities Secretariat is presently reviewing the situation and they will be reporting on the matter either at the next Executive Council meeting or the subsequent one, so the Executive can then consider it as an Executive Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 0262-87(1): Extended Medical Benefits For Seniors

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the Minister whether the whole question is up in the air or whether the Minister is determined to have some program of extended medical benefits for seniors and it is just a question of what is affordable at this time? Or is it possible that there will be a decision that there is not going to be any program at all?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 0262-87(1): Extended Medical Benefits For Seniors

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The total cost of the various requests have been analysed by the department for all the several services that seniors requested. Those total costs will be discussed by the Executive and a decision will be made by them at that time as to what we

can do with our existing resources, whether we can do the full request or just part of the request. So I could not at this time give an undertaking in that area as to what we will do, but the Members of the Executive Council will have the full information of what the total package would be if everything that the seniors requested were going to be provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 0262-87(1): Extended Medical Benefits For Seniors

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, the Minister cannot indicate and, of course, he cannot say what the Executive Council will decide eventually. Can I ask the Minister whether he is going into those meetings determined that there will be some program of extended medical benefits for seniors, that he is able to urge on the Executive Council that there be such a program?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Further Return To Question 0262-87(1): Extended Medical Benefits For Seniors

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the Planning and Priorities Secretariat deals with the issue, my department will then be going to the Executive with recommendations as to what we should do in the matter. I can assure the Member that we will be making recommendations to enhance the program in at least some areas. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 0263-87(1): Tabling Of Three Position Papers This Sitting

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, given that the Assembly is going to be only sitting for a few more days, in all likelihood, I want to ask the Minister about some position papers that he was going to table this session. One was a discussion paper on labour standards legislation; another was a draft Land Titles Act; and perhaps a third was the victims of crime discussion paper. Does the Minister intend to table these documents in the next few days? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister.

Return To Question 0263-87(1): Tabling Of Three Position Papers This Sitting

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I intend to table the draft victims' of crime legislation and the draft labour standards legislation tomorrow. We are having some problems with land titles, so I cannot give today an unequivocal positive response to the Member, but for sure two out of three, with some possibility for all three.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. That appears to conclude this matter for today.

Item 6, written questions. Written questions. Item 7, returns to written questions. Returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 7: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Return to written Question W38-87(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo of the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation; return to written Question W39-87(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo of the Minister of Justice; return to written Question W42-87(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo of the Minister of Justice and the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

Return To Question W38-87(1): Negotiations Between Inuvik Housing Association And Employees

Hon. Michael Ballantyne's return to Question W38-87(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on June 1st, 1987, regarding the Inuvik Housing Authority labour dispute:

The employees of the Inuvik Housing Authority began strike action on March 21st, 1987. The strike still continues. The collective agreement between the Inuvik Housing Authority and the Public Service Alliance of Canada expired on March 31st, 1986. Negotiations toward a new agreement proved

unsuccessful. In January, 1987, negotiations broke down completely. The main outstanding issues revolved around contract language. In February, a mediator was sent in by Labour Canada. No agreement was produced. The decision by Labour Canada was not to go to arbitration and the strike began. On May 25th, the negotiating committee of the Inuvik Housing Authority sent a revised proposal to the PSAC. To date there has not been a reply. I have been advised that the authority has asked for the assistance of a conciliator.

Return To Question W39-87(1): Intervention By Minister In Negotiations In Inuvik

Hon. Michael Ballantyne's return to Question W39-87(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on June 1st, 1987, regarding intervention in negotiations in Inuvik:

The Government of the Northwest Territories is responsible for the administration of labour standards law. Labour relations responsibility, on the other hand, has not yet been devolved to the territorial government. The Inuvik Housing Authority and the union representing its employees bargain under the auspices of Part V of the Canada Labour Code. Part V is administered by Labour Canada and the Canada Labour Relations Board. This government does not intend to intervene because it lacks the authority to intervene in labour relations.

Return To Question W42-87(1): Possible Conflict Of Interest For Minister

Hon. Michael Ballantyne's return to Question W42-87(1), asked by Mr. Nerysoo on June 1st, 1987, regarding possible conflict of interest for Minister:

There is no conflict of interest between the labour functions of the Minister of Justice and his duties as Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. The negotiations being carried out between the Inuvik Housing Authority and the union representing its employees are subject to federal rather than territorial labour law. As a result, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Minister have no involvement in them.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 8, replies to the Opening Address. Mr. Wray.

ITEM 8: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS

Hon. Gordon Wray's Reply

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to give for the 10th Assembly my last reply to the Opening Address. This is my last reply of this Assembly and probably for some people in this room it will also be their last reply, depending on what happens in the fall.

It has been an eventful four years for this Assembly with the issues of division, devolution and land claims as well as the major internal reforms that have been carried out by this government. Added on to that are the government's budgetary problems, the Meech Lake accord, the economic blows that have landed on us by the anti-fur trade, by the pull-out or what looked to be a major pull-out in the Beaufort oil and gas and most recently, of course, the announcement by the federal government of even less resources being put into the regional economic moneys. When you combine that, in the last three years we have seen the closure of Tungsten; we have seen the announcement of the closure of Pine Point; and one which has escaped most people's attention but nevertheless is very significant for my constituency, the closure of the Cullaton Lake gold mine.

I think that the last four years have been an extremely difficult time for the government and the Legislature and indeed for the people of the Northwest Territories because once again we seem to be caught by many forces over which we have no control but which so profoundly impact our very lives. The lack of control by our government, particularly over the non-renewable resource sector, mining, oil and gas, has meant that decisions being taken by other governments, by departments of governments, by private sector, over which we have no control but which have impacted nearly all and every one of us, is probably the most frustrating experience because when it comes down to it, we are the ones left to pick up the pieces. Whether it be Pine Point or whether it be in the Beaufort or wherever, we are the ones who end up having to deal with the social problems, the unemployment and all of the problems that go along with it. When you have no control over it but you are forced to deal with those problems, it is an extremely frustrating experience and at times I admit that you can become very angry.

Lack Of Economic Development In Kivallivik

Economically, in my constituency things are just not good. We have the highest unemployment rate and the highest rate of welfare of any constituency in the Northwest Territories. The lack of economic development, the lack of wealth in my constituency is directly attributable to two major reasons. The first one is the extremely high birth rate which means that over half of my constituency is under the age of 18, and the lack of a transportation infrastructure. With so many kids in school, Mr. Speaker, and so many leaving school each year, we would have to create one new job for every existing job every year to keep the unemployment rate at about 10 per cent. At present, the unemployment rate sits at between 45 and 60 per cent. So as you can see, the problem is a horrendous one, given of course that many, if not the majority, of jobs that exist and probably will exist in the future demand a high level of academic skills and unfortunately that is the one thing that we are not producing out of our school system.

I think that education has made great strides in the last three or four years with the development of the Arctic College program and certainly we are now seeing children graduating with at least a general diploma which is something that we did not have before. However, not one native student graduated in the Kitikmeot, Baffin or Keewatin Regions in 1987 with an academic diploma -- not one. This is where our system is breaking down badly. The vast bulk of the jobs in the community, at the regional headquarters or even in headquarters itself are jobs that require an academic education. We cannot get away from it. Whether you are talking teachers, nurses, lawyers, accountants, engineers, architects, policy planners, financial analysts, program officers and many, many more of the vast bulk of jobs that are available through government, the number of native northerners entering these professions is low and unfortunately in most cases non-existent. This is where the North is failing. It is our single biggest failure yet as a society that we have not been able to integrate our own people into those jobs, because these are the people who will drive government. These are the people who will formulate government policy. These are the people who make the money. And we are just not succeeding.

This has a direct impact on employment, obviously, but even more it contributes in a major way to the slow growth in the development of the northern economy. When people do not participate in economic growth and development and are merely passive bystanders, there is no incentive for development. That is why in the Keewatin in the last few years we have made it one of our top priorities to bring and encourage native people to enter into the private sector. The development corporations, Iligiittut, the many small businesses now owned and run by native people in the region have created an atmosphere which is conducive to development. People see that they can participate, people see that they can control it, people see the benefits and feel the benefits and then they want more of it.

There may be complaints from some that our private sector is small and that our membership is limited. However, it is good to remember that really the private sector in the Keewatin is only about six or seven years old. It is very small, it is still in its infancy but given time, given the right incentives, given the right form of government assistance, our private sector will grow.

Transportation Infrastructure Needed

Probably the largest drawback, not only in my constituency but all over the North, is the lack of a transportation infrastructure. With no highways, winter or summer in my region, with air service sporadic and extremely expensive and with only basic docking facilities, the development of non-renewable resources, tourism, and the renewable resource sector will be minimal at the best for many years to come. The Keewatin, along with the Baffin and the Kitikmeot Regions, has vast potential for development and employment, whether it be in mining or whether it be in oil and gas, whether it be in tourism, but without a transportation infrastructure, the cost of getting the goods in and bringing out the products is so prohibitive that it makes development unfeasible in many cases.

In mining, for example, the Keewatin is one of the regions that has one of the best potentials for mining development in all of the Northwest Territories, particularly around the three communities where my constituents live. But whether it is gold near Eskimo Point and Whale Cove or iron ore or uranium near Baker Lake, those will never be developed unless we have a transportation infrastructure because the deposits are just not economically feasible for a mining company to absorb all of the transportation costs.

Government must be prepared to put money into that type of infrastructure. It must be prepared to build the roads, to build the highways, to build the airports and to build the docks. Because there are some who may say, "Well, why should we spend this money for a mining company?", remember a highway into the Keewatin will not only service a mining company but it will allow our tourism sector to expand. It will allow us to bring people in where right now the only way in for tourists is by air; it is restricted by the high cost of the air travel and, as such, it is only a very small group of people that can be tapped for tourism purposes. Even the development of the renewable resource sector, whether it is the development of commercial harvesting of wild animals, whether it is the development of the by-products of those animals, whether it be in the creation of tourist gifts or whatever, there still has to be a way to get the product out to the market or to bring the market to the product. Either way we need a transportation infrastructure. It cannot work without it.

---Applause

Mining Controlled To Meet Economic Objectives

Mining must be controlled by government so that it meets the economic objective of the government and of the region and of the communities that it impacts. We do not want any more Cullaton Lakes in the Keewatin Region. Those people came in and they ripped out one of the best gold ore bodies that existed in our region. It was our future, and out of that we got 19 jobs over four years. Hardly any business went to our private sector and very few jobs accrued to the people in our communities. Almost all the supplies were brought in from Manitoba by air so the region got nothing out of that mine and yet it lost an extremely valuable ore body that could have been part of its future. That kind of scenario must never be repeated in the North. If mining is to come to the North, it must meet our economic objectives, not the economic objectives of the federal government, nor the economic objectives of the mine. It must meet ours because if it does not then we should not allow development like that to proceed because it does not do us any good whatsoever and all we do is end up losing another resource.

When it comes to tourism, tourism is a vast potential for all of the North. For us in the Keewatin it is even better because we are that much closer to the South than many parts of the Northwest Territories. Tourism is a passive form of development. In fact, it can lend itself to people being able to preserve many of their old ways but, at the same time, make money from it which is probably the best of both worlds. However, once again, tourism needs a transportation infrastructure.

Overall Plan For Transportation Infrastructure In The North

The time has come, Mr. Speaker, for the Government of the Northwest Territories to sit down, it must sit down with the federal government, acknowledging and recognizing its role and the control that it has in the North and develop two things. First of all, there must be an overall development plan for the transportation infrastructure in the North; one that over the next 20 to 40 years will lay out very carefully and very concisely the development of the transportation routes in the North. It will require a lot of money, for example, to extend the Mackenzie highway to Inuvik; to extend the Ingraham Trail to Coppermine and then run a loop over the Arctic Coast and down through the Keewatin into Manitoba; as well as the development of our airports and proper docking facilities. It will cost somewhere in the neighbourhood of one billion dollars. But to me, that money is worth it because we are investing not only in the future of the North, but in the future of Canada.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

HON. GORDON WRAY: One billion dollars may sound like a lot of money, but it is only slightly more than what the federal government is going to spend on building one ship. And I do not think it is too high a price to ask the federal government to pay.

The development of a transportation infrastructure will benefit Canada because it will increase Canadian sovereignty in the North. Canadian sovereignty in the North must mean more than an icebreaker running through the Northwest Passage every once in a while or nuclear subs sailing under our ice every now and again. There must be more to Canadian sovereignty than just that. If the sovereignty of the North depends on that, then I think we are in a lot of trouble. The best and most acceptable way I think for Canadians, in terms of sovereignty in the North, is to have people living there -- which we have -- but have those people living meaningful lives, having jobs,

having communities they can be proud of, having roads, having airports, having docks, providing access to all Canadians into the North. That would do a lot more for sovereignty than any nuclear submarine or icebreaker. We must embark upon that transportation policy now, in the near future, within the next few months.

Economic Plan For Northwest Territories

The second thing that is needed is a very well thought-out, carefully constructed, economic plan for the Northwest Territories. So far this government's and the governments' before it, and the federal government's response to economic development in the North, was hit or miss. Boom or bust. React and overreact. There is no carefully, well laid-out plan of attack. Again, it is something we must do, in conjunction with the federal government, simply because of the controls that they have up here right now. We must very carefully look at our regions; look at the strengths of those regions; look at the assets of those regions and build upon them.

If you look at Baffin, there is no point in developing a highway system for Baffin. The costs and the time that it would take are much, much more than this country can afford. However, recognizing that highway development in the Baffin is probably not even in our lifetimes, there is nothing to say that very well constructed airports and very well constructed docks that can take big ships, could not be developed. Because if Baffin's future is in tourism, which I think it is, because Baffin Island is as beautiful as any of the fiords that you will find in Sweden or Denmark or Finland or Norway, we have a product. We just have to learn how to sell it and we have to learn how to prepare for it. In the Keewatin, our future will probably lie in a mix of mining development, transportation development, tourism development and probably the development of a renewable resource sector. There is potential in the Baffin for fishery. Major potential. There is potential in the Kitikmeot, again, for tourism and probably for some renewable and non-renewable resource development. In the Mackenzie Valley and in the West, we have major potential for agriculture, for oil and gas, for mining.

It is amazing to me that as northerners we spent literally tens of millions of dollars a year bringing food into the Northwest Territories when we have the capacity right here to supply almost all our own food needs. South of Yellowknife, from Fort Providence down, the land there is conducive to growing much of the food that we already import and yet we have never taken advantage of it. We continue to hand out welfare so that the people can go to the Bay or go to the co-op and buy imported products from Ontario and Quebec. In the East, in the Keewatin with our vast caribou herds, we spend thousands of dollars buying meat from the Bay. The Bay brings in thousands and tens of thousands of pounds of meat from the South for people to buy at \$12 and \$15 a pound. And yet we have never attempted to develop our very own resources, the caribou and the fish that we have.

I think that there is a vast potential that sits right under our own noses and we just have not learned to take advantage of it. We must be innovative, we must be willing to gamble, we must be willing to take risks. No country was ever built except by people who were willing to take chances.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, that the new government's top priority should be those two very key areas because without them nothing goes. We will only perpetuate the endless cycle of welfare, which in turn is leading us into violence and into the social problems that we see starting to come to light in our communities now. But, I warn you, Mr. Speaker, we are only seeing the tip of the iceberg. The problems are going to get worse before they get better. We have to, now, make a stab at those problems.

Subsidies To Other Parts Of Canada

When I think of our economy and I think of the millions and the hundreds of millions of dollars that the federal government lays out in subsidies to the farmers in the West, where is the same consideration for the trappers in the North, whose livelihood was not killed by subsidies from the European Economic Community being put on grain, but was killed by anti-fur groups from these very same European countries and from southern groups? Where is the same money to the trappers of the North that went to the farmers of the West and to the tobacco farmers in Southern Ontario and to the fishermen in the Atlantic Provinces? Where are the subsidies for the trappers in the North? We never saw them. Not to the same level that everybody else in this country seems to get subsidized.

As a Minister, I stand here and I constantly get requests from people for airstrips, for airports, for larger runways. We have communities that do not even have runways. Four or five years ago I went on a holiday to the Carribean, to an island called Antigua. I got off the plane into this beautiful, new, modern airport, larger than anything that exists in the Northwest Territories. There was a big sign, "This airport was constructed with funds from the Canadian Government through CIDA." They spent millions of dollars and today spend millions of dollars in third world countries building airports and transportation infrastructure but we cannot get one lousy dollar out of the same government for their own country and their own people. To me, there is something wrong. And it is not Mr. Suluk's fault because the Liberals started it all.

---Laughter

MR. RICHARD: It is hard to tell what he is...

HON. GORDON WRAY: The North, in the last five or six years, I think, has looked inwards. We have tended to concentrate all our efforts inwards in trying to solve our own problems and the many myriads of problems that go on in the life of the North. We have, I think, mistakenly forgotten that we still are a part of a large country called Canada and that we still need the support of the South and still need the support of the southern politicians to get anywhere. I think that if anything has been done wrong by the government and by this Legislature, it has been to not keep up and to not generate the interest in southern Canadians as to the North. Because when it comes right down to it, we need them more than they need us at this point in time in our history.

Diversification May Solve Economic Problems

Everybody in the North seems to be looking for the one big solution, that somewhere out of something somebody is going to flash a light bulb and we are going to find a solution to our economic problems. We keep looking for the big answer. Well, I am sorry to say, Mr. Speaker, that there is no big answer. What there is is a whole number of very small answers. Oil and gas development is not the answer for the North. Mining development is not the answer for the North. Tourism is not the answer for the North. The development of our renewable resources is not the answer for the North, but a combination of all of them, perhaps, is the answer for the North. That is what we have got to start doing. We have got to start looking at diversifying our economy.

We cannot wait, and I am sorry to say this, but we cannot wait for land claims, we cannot wait for devolution, we cannot wait for division. We must start now and if we do it properly then land claims and devolution and division can still come and they can still fit themselves into the picture. But we have held the North up for 15 years waiting on these three areas. We cannot do it any longer. Our unemployment is too high, we have too many poor people. Most of the people in our communities, in my constituency, are poor people. I think the average income is about \$8000 a year. That is not a lot of money, particularly when you have families of six and seven and eight and nine children. It is fine for the politicians, the elected or appointed, to stand up and say, "We have to wait on this and we have to wait on that and this cannot happen until that happens." We are all in good paying jobs. We all wear nice clothes, we all have nice houses. We get to travel all over the country, we get to go to meetings. So do the people in the native organizations. We are not living in a community with seven and eight kids in a two bedroom house, having to go to the welfare office every two weeks for our only form of assistance, and it is the majority of the people in my constituency who are having to do that. What I say is that it is not acceptable any longer. Life must go on.

That is the future that will envelop the next Legislature but before I go on I would briefly like to return to the past, Mr. Speaker.

Tribute To Jessie Oonark

In the last three years I have unfortunately seen the passing of some people who were very remarkable and very significant in my constituency and, in fact, in the North as a whole. In 1985, Jessie Oonark from Baker Lake died. When she died she took with her a talent that we may never see again in my home community. The versatility of her work, whether it be in cloth or paper or print, whether it was sewing, was remarkable. When you combined it with her use of colours and with what she put into the picture or the wall hanging, her work was in many ways a pictorial or an essay of the changes that have gone through at least in our area of the Keewatin, over the years since Jessie was born and came in off the land. Her early work which was very traditional and very symbolic of the old Inuit ways and the old practices and the old beliefs, over the years took on

the new North, the new transportation, the new communications, the new ways of hunting, Christianity. All of those started to become depicted in her works. Jessie was made an officer of the Order of Canada. She was a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. She travelled extensively all over the world showing her work and really acting as an ambassador for my home community, Baker Lake, and for the Northwest Territories as a whole. Perhaps her greatest legacy is yet to come. She had six daughters and two sons, one of whom you know was the former MLA for my riding, Mr. William Noah. All of them in their own way are becoming and making a name for themselves in the Canadian art world. Maybe Jessie has left a legacy that hundreds of thousands of Canadians will enjoy for years to come.

Appreciation Of Donald Suluk

Another great loss in my constituency is more recent, but has been deeply felt by the community of Eskimo Point and many, many other people outside of the community. There is not enough time, in this sitting, to do justice to the man called Donald Suluk and what he stood for. I could not in a whole afternoon put into the record what this man accomplished and the beliefs that he held. I would say that for those of you who want to know about Donald, the winter edition of the Inuktitut magazine is devoted entirely to Mr. Suluk and to his beliefs and thoughts, over 100 pages on Donald. He was an inummariik, a true Inuk, whose whole life was dedicated to preserving, enhancing and educating people about Inuit ways and beliefs. He travelled all over the world promoting the Inuit culture that he was a part of and loved so much. His last big trip was to Expo last summer, where he entertained thousands with his drum dancing for most of the summer.

Donald in many ways was a philosopher and he spoke for a lot of people and I will read one of his thoughts that is quoted in the Inuktitut magazine. He said, "One thing that seems to be talked about these days is the question of what kinds of hardships our ancestors had to face in trying to survive. We talk as if we want other people's sympathy. Yes, we did go through some hard times then, but it was because we did not have the things that make survival easier. In some ways life is much more difficult now. Mental and physical illness occurs much more often than it did in the past. The biggest difficulty our ancestors faced was a lack of equipment. Our life was simpler then. Nowadays, even when we get what we want, it still does not seem to satisfy the mind."

One thread that ran through Donald's life and one which you will find he talks about in here continuously, one that he would talk to you about in meetings with him, one that he would talk about to you privately, one that he would talk about to you publicly was his concern over the role of elders in our communities. Donald very clearly saw that the diminishment of the role of the elders was one of the major reasons why we are facing so many social problems in the communities; the fact that the younger people would not listen to the older people any more, that they somehow wrote off the older people because they were not used to the modern ways or what they were saying was of a time past. He speaks eloquently about this and he makes a case, and an excellent case, that the role of the elders has been diminished too much and that we must move to bring them back into the mainstream of society. I think perhaps we should be listening to what Donald Suluk tells us and try to begin to bring them back in to play permanent roles in our society. It is no secret that we have a great many social problems in our communities. Perhaps the elders are the ones whom we should be turning to for advice instead of to the experts from the South. Government institutions have in many ways diminished the role and taken over the role of the elders. But an institution cannot replace tradition and wise counsel based on centuries of experience.

One practical suggestion that I know this government has heard and that hopefully will be looked at is in the role of custom adoption, where we should involve the elders in custom adoption. It is no secret that many, if not the majority of child abuse cases involve children who are adopted by custom adoption. That is a sad fact. The recent elders' group who met in Baffin not that long ago seemed to recognize that the reasons in the old days for custom adoption may be different from the reasons nowadays. Hopefully, we can bring the elders back into that process, Mr. Speaker.

Donald died on April 18, 1987. I only wish that I had got to know him better, Mr. Speaker.

Loss Of Well-Known Northerners In Plane Crash

One other tragic loss in my constituency, and in the region as a whole, was felt this past winter when a plane crash in Rankin Inlet unfortunately took the lives of five people. Those people were well-known in our region and well-known all over the North. Father Didier, whom I first met in Repulse Bay in early 1970s when I was still with the honourable Hudson's Bay Company, was a remarkable man. He had spent most of his life in the North. He was fluent in I do not know how

many languages. His dedication to the people of the North was well-known. I think the mayor of Rankin Inlet in the service in Rankin really said it all when he said, "He was one of our people." No greater honour can be bestowed upon a member of one culture than to be accepted so deeply into the hearts of another culture.

Bishop Robidoux, a man who supported the native people in their quest for self-government, a man who supported the settlement of land claims and the fair treatment of native people, was another victim of that unfortunate incident.

Last but not least Keith Rawlings. Keith was the first entrepreneur in the Keewatin. The first real entrepreneur. He was a hustler. He was a man who knew and had a 10 year jump on everyone on what the future was going to be in terms of economic development in that region. He was a friend to many of us who were in the private sector. As his wife said, "He died doing what he did best." That was flying in the North, buying carvings and buying furs and selling his northern products to the South. Unfortunately, accidents like that are a fact of life in the North and the longer you stay here I guess the more blase you become about it because it happens so often and after a while it does not affect you as much as it used to. But still, when prominent people like this are lost, it is felt.

Health Care In The Keewatin

Going on to another subject, Mr. Speaker, in my constituency and indeed in the Keewatin as a whole, the last two years have seen a lot of press, a lot of TV, a lot of coverage, a lot of pressure by the communities, a lot of questions in this House on the whole subject of health care in the Keewatin. Health care in the Keewatin is not good. This is a little bit milder than some of my earlier statements but I do not know really what else to say about it other than the fact that it is not good. The nurses in the communities are left with minimal resources to do a job that they were never trained to do in the first place, and are given no support and no back-up by the regional office, the zone office in Churchill, Manitoba. That is why we have a 50 per cent vacancy rate in nursing positions in the Keewatin Region. It is because the zone office in Churchill is not doing its job. It is not giving the nurses in the communities the proper support. That is the first reason.

The second reason is that the level of specialized health care is so poor as to make a nurse's job almost impossible. A nurse goes into the community and she is expected to be a midwife. She is expected to be an ophthalmologist. She is expected to be every form of specialist under the sun. She is not trained to do that. She was never meant to be doing that. And the unfortunate and the sad thing is that, because the zone office and because the people who run the system are so far away and cannot be got at, people then go after the nurses because they are visible and they are present. That is the wrong thing to do because it is not the nurses' fault. It is as simple as that.

It is so bad in the Keewatin, Mr. Speaker, that for those of us who live over there -- and I am lucky because I come to Yellowknife, but if I was living over there, I get one opportunity a year to get a pair of glasses. If I happen to be sick that day, if I happen to be out hunting that day, if I happen to be out of town that day or if, as it just so happens, my eye problems are not as bad as the other 70 or 80 people that want to see that eye doctor, if I do not get to see that eye doctor who is only in town for two days to do a community of 1200 people, I have to wait an entire year before I can get glasses again. It is the same thing for all of our specialists. We are lucky if they make one visit and if we are really lucky, we get two visits a year. That is no way to be delivering health care services.

People have been medivaced out of a community to get teeth pulled in Churchill because we have got no dentist; a thousand dollars is being spent on an air fare to go from Coral Harbour to Churchill to get teeth pulled. That is the stupidity of this system that is in place. People are being sent out to Churchill to routinely see specialists for problems that did not exist, or because the specialist was not there in the first place to see if there was a problem, they are forced to pull them into Churchill and hundreds of thousands of dollars in valuable health care money gets wasted in transportation because instead of bringing the specialist north, the rule seems to be, well, let us take the population south. And it does not work that way.

That is the real problem in the Keewatin Region, our lack of specialist care and the lack of support for our nurses. Hopefully, with the new regional health board and with the transfer of health services over to the health board, things will improve. They have to improve because they cannot get much worse.

There is a constant source of irritation which is the fact that the Churchill Health Centre which is in Manitoba, really stays open because of the Keewatin. I do not know the exact numbers but I think between 60 and 80 per cent of its patients are from the Keewatin Region and yet we do not have any control over this health centre. We used to have two members on the board and, I do not know, we may be up to four now but it is a 20-odd health board.

My thoughts in discussing with health board officials and with government officials are that if the Churchill Health Centre and the Government of Manitoba is not prepared to give us a major say in the running of the health centre in Churchill -- and when I say a "major say", I mean a majority of board positions and control over that facility -- then as far as I am concerned there are only two alternatives. We build our own hospital in the Keewatin or we take our patients and we send them to Yellowknife. That to me, is the alternative. And the Churchill Health Centre can close because, unless we get control of that facility, it is not much use to us.

Air Transportation Problems In Keewatin

Regarding air transportation in my region, once again, the sad litany of complaints is starting to roll in. I had thought that Calm Air was cleaning their act up and things were improving but looking at the number of complaints that I know I have on my desk and the phone calls and the telexes that I am getting, I see that really Calm Air has not improved. What has happened, Mr. Speaker, is that CAI, this stupid new name for this airline, Canadian Airlines International, has either bought or somehow acquired shares in Calm Air. They have removed their 737 from the Thompson-Winnipeg run, they have taken the Hawker Siddeley 748, which used to service the Keewatin, put it onto the Thompson-Winnipeg run and given us a DC-3. We are now back to DC-3s as we were in the early 1970s. In addition, Mr. Speaker, and this is how stupid these people are, they have deliberately manufactured their schedule so that those of us not living in Rankin Inlet, can no longer connect with NWT Air to go to Yellowknife or Iqaluit. We are forced to use Canadian Airlines International to go to Winnipeg and around the South. If I want to go home to Baker Lake, it takes me four days travel, two to get there and two to get back. It has been done deliberately so that we cannot hook up with NWT Air. As you know, NWT Air has an affiliation with Air Canada, Calm Air has an affiliation with CAI and because the two of them do not want to work together, we end up paying the price. With the price structures, the fares, Baker Lake is 40 minutes away from Rankin Inlet, it is 160 lousy miles, and it now costs over \$450 to go to Rankin Inlet and back. This is higher than any of the fares that Mr. Pudluk announced the other day. NWT Air's new fare structure has very quickly changed, of course, when they saw competition coming in from Bradley. It is time that we saw competition in the Keewatin. Calm Air has had 10 years. It has had its chance. We should now bring somebody else in and open it up. Because, once again, it cannot get any worse.

When NWT Air started to come into Rankin, the rest of the region took a nose dive because, obviously, NWT Air takes away much of the lucrative traffic in the Keewatin because Rankin Inlet is the regional centre. The rest of us had to pay that price. I do not care who comes in. It could be Austin Airways, Air Ontario, it could be Bradley, if any firm is out there listening, I hope you come in because we need you.

Home-Ownership Assistance Program Praised

I would like to just very quickly mention the home-ownership program, Mr. Speaker. It has, I believe, been one of the best programs that this government has ever come up with. For the first time, even in the East, we are starting to see people wanting to own their own homes. Not only wanting to own their own homes but they take a pride in them. When I go to Baker Lake now, people are talking to me about landscaping their gardens and landscaping their roads and painting and putting ugly sites up behind the hills so nobody can see them and putting in little residential subdivisions. People are actually starting to take pride in their community and in the area where they live. That is directly as a result of the home-ownership program. When you have something that belongs to you, you look after it a hell of a lot better than something that you are only borrowing from somebody else on a temporary basis and that is what public housing is. You are only borrowing public housing and you can stay in public housing for 30 or 40 years and you can pay your \$400 or your \$500 a month rent and at the end of that 40 years you will have nothing left to show for your money. At least in the home-ownership program it is your house, it is a house that can be left to your children and their children. It is an asset that you can borrow money on it from the bank and maybe perhaps, best of all, you are not dependent on somebody else on where you live. It just makes you that much more independent. So I just hope that the home-ownership program continues.

I know that we are going to have to do something about the money available for people to hire help to build their houses because we are starting to run into a whole area of clientele in the home-ownership program who do not know how to build a house. The early people who got these units, the pioneers of the program, were people who had the skills to build their own housing. We are now getting into people who do not have those skills. Not everybody can build a house. So we are going to have to look at some kind of program, whether it is a repayable loan or whatever, to get money so that people can hire people to help them construct those houses.

Lack Of Basic Infrastructure In Constituency

My constituency, as usual, is still lacking in very basic infrastructure. It is the largest native constituency in the Northwest Territories and it comes from a region that historically seemed to be left behind in government budgets. Up until two years ago, for example, not one recreation facility had ever been built by the territorial government in my constituency. Not one. Every recreation facility had been either built by the IODE or way back in the early days of Indian Affairs. We are still woefully inadequate on those facilities. However, I am pleased to report that at least in the community of Baker Lake which has 1200 people, we are finally getting our new community hall this summer. This is to replace the one that we built in 1954 which only holds 200 people. But, still our housing and recreation facilities are far below the level that most other regions enjoy.

Notwithstanding Pangnirtung's claim, Baker Lake, for the record, has the highest number of low rental houses of any community in the Northwest Territories, closely followed by Eskimo Point. I believe Pangnirtung is third or fourth. I was reading that in the Nunatsiak News.

AN HON. MEMBER: It must be true then.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Many of those houses were the very first houses built in the North. I believe they constitute about 40 per cent of our total housing stock in Baker Lake. We still have somewhere between 80 and 100 houses of the low rental variety, the ones that cannot be fixed up any more. That is a major problem. There will have to be, over the next five years, a concerted and major effort in Baker Lake and Eskimo Point to readdress the housing situation because it is in extremely bad shape.

Even though we are large communities, I think Baker Lake and Eskimo Point are the seventh and eighth or eighth and ninth largest communities in the Northwest Territories, we still unfortunately have no running water, we still have no running sewer, people are still in a large part condemned to honeybuckets. We do have running water in Baker Lake but only the federal government has that. They managed to build a nice little utilidor down at their end of the town for themselves and their people, along with the millions they are spending on houses, Mr. Speaker, which I may add they are building right now for single people and married people with one or two children. We are talking of \$254,000 a house at 2600 square feet. That is the federal standard of housing in the North.

There are many exciting things happening in my constituency. As I say, the small business sector has taken off and is, in fact, the strongest private sector in all of the Nunavut regions. We have received and I know the Minister of Education has received a very exciting plan from a contractor in Eskimo Point by the name of Bob Leonard who has put together a training plan which if, through our government and the federal government we can implement, would over the next five years train over 26 people. Many of them would be journeymen electricians, plumbers, oil burner mechanics and carpenters. It is one of the most innovative and one of the most interesting plans that I have seen in a long, long time. All it needs is a little creative thinking on behalf of the government in order to respond to that.

Concept Of Government Capital Moneys For Construction

One subject that I will touch upon as MLA and really one that I am intimately involved with as a Minister is this whole concept of government capital money. Up until two or three years ago, the rule of thumb for government capital spending seemed to be value for money and get the building up as fast as we can. We were so short of buildings in the North that people could not wait. We had to get the buildings up as fast as we could. Secondly, because of the obviously very small amount of money that we do have and the large need that we have, another major factor was the price of the building. The cheaper the price the more buildings you can build. It is as simple as that. Those are good objectives.

However, time and time again in this Legislature, from the communities, from the business sector we hear the cry, "Why are people not getting jobs on this government work? Why are so many southern contractors coming in and taking those jobs?" Well, there is a lot of reasons. I think that we have to face up to the fact that in many communities, we do not have a skilled enough work force that can take a lot of these jobs. We have very good rough carpenters and we may have some good plumbing and heating apprentices. We may even have some electrical helpers and people like that and in some cases we have journeymen but by and large the skilled trades have to be brought in from the South. They do not exist in our communities.

I think there is a question of profit. Obviously if a contractor can bring in a carpenter and an electrician from Newfoundland or Nova Scotia and pay them \$10 an hour and have them work 12 hour days, seven days a week for three or four months, then he is obviously going to make more money on his contract. He is also going to get the job done quicker because the people in our communities are not prepared to work seven days a week, 12 hours a day in the summer because things like fishing and hunting and all those other things come into the picture. I know of nobody in our communities who is prepared to put the same amount of time into those construction jobs as the people who are brought in from the South because the people who are brought in from the South are there for one reason and one reason only, that is to make money and work on those jobs and then they are going to leave. Our people live there, this is their home. They do not want to kill themselves in three or four months of summer when they are going to be shut in for eight months of the winter. So, that is a real problem and it is a legitimate complaint from the contractors and it is legitimate.

I think there are some contractors who do not make the effort. It is more hassle for them to have to run around town looking for people who do not show up for work. At least if they bring somebody in from the South they control them and if they do not do a good job they can fire them and ship them south on the next plane. But I really think, in a lot of cases, the construction industry overemphasizes or overuses the excuse that there is nobody to hire, there is nobody with the skills. I think that if they take the time and they look, they will be very surprised at the number of people and the amount of skills that do exist in the communities.

By and large what the general public, what the Legislature and what the local politicians are saying is that we want more of our capital money to go into employment. We want more of our capital money to go into the northern private sector. That is an admirable goal. However, if it is the goal and I personally happen to think that it should be the goal, then we will have to say goodbye to the competitive tendering process; we will have to say goodbye to value for money and we will have to say goodbye to getting the buildings built as fast as we can, because the two are not compatible. They are just not compatible.

Capital Money Used For Economic Development

If we are to use our capital money as training money -- and that is what we are talking about -- we are using our capital money to train and employ a work force, so that over the years we can build a skilled work force in the communities. Well, to do that takes time, it takes money and it takes a lot of effort. If we are prepared to lengthen the period of time that construction takes, if we are prepared to put more money into that particular project -- because if you are hiring 20 unskilled people and you are going to train them to build a building as opposed to bringing in 10 who know how to do it and build it in a month, the price is going to be different. We are going to pay a lot higher premium for doing what we want to do and what the communities want us to do than going the other route, so we will have to be prepared to put money in. We will also have to be prepared to forego the competitive tendering process in a lot of cases. I do not think that major projects such as schools or hospitals can be used for these training projects. There is too much money, they are too complex and the demand for those facilities is too great to take them and turn them into a training-on-the-job process. I think that when you get into the big dollars you must really look at the competitive tendering process for those big ones. I cannot see any other way around it.

However, in our other buildings, whether they are hockey arenas, community halls, housing, offices, all of the stuff that goes on continuously and will go on, then perhaps what we should be saying is, "Okay, instead of trying to complete this job in two months, we are going to take six months and your community will just have to be patient. You will just have to wait because at the end of the six months we will have trained five or six people. If you want the building built now, then give up on the other objective." Because, as I say, the two do not mix. They are not compatible. But if the direction of this Legislature is that government capital money is to be used as a form

of economic development -- and that is what we are talking about; we are talking about training, employment, make-work, on-the-job -- then there will have to be a major revision in the way government does its business. If we are going to do that, then I appeal to everybody that the first thing we have to do is make the rules clear. Everybody must know what the rules are. The communities must know what the rules are, the contractors must know what the rules are, the politicians must know what the rules are and the employees must know what the rules are. We must have clear, concise rules so that nobody has any illusion about what we are trying to attempt and how we are going about doing it.

Exploration Activities By Mining Companies

My constituency for some reason, seems to be attracting mining companies at a never ending rate. We have this summer an extensive exploration program going on inland from Eskimo Point, from Whale Cove and as usual our normal uranium exploration inland from Baker Lake. The potential apparently is there. There is major potential. Unfortunately, as I said earlier, it is a potential that may never be realized unless we have a transportation corridor in that region. Quite frankly, unless there are also new rules on mining development and what the government and what the communities want out of mining development and until I see what the plans of the companies are, including Urangesellschaft who is the leader, then I cannot support that development. I want to see what the development means. I want to see what the rules of that development are going to be. I want to see what the environmental factors of that uranium mine is going to be before I throw my support behind the project. It looks promising but as with everything in this world, what looks good may not necessarily be good. So, I think that there is a lot more work to be done before I can throw my support wholeheartedly behind those developments.

On an aside, Mr. Speaker, just a caution on my part or a note of worry to whoever is involved. We recently had a PCB spill in Eskimo Point, one in which several local people were contaminated. I am given to understand that as of now there are going to be no long-term medical problems for those people but what concerns me is that NCPC were so unprepared and so unprofessional that they did not even know that we had PCBs in the power plant in Eskimo Point. I seem to remember not that long ago being told by NCPC or hearing on the news that NCPC said they had no PCBs in any of their equipment and yet here is a major spill occurring in one community within the last three months. I would hope that NCPC check their powerhouses, find out if they have PCBs and for God's sake get rid of them, and in future if they have a fire or they have an accident in the powerhouse, they make sure what they are sending people into before they send those people in.

Education Services Improving

I am happy to report, Mr. Speaker, that education in my constituency and even in the region is finally starting to look up. Did I see the lights go out there? NCPC heard me.

The region, this year, I think will enjoy somewhere in the neighbourhood of about \$10 to \$12 million in capital funding for educational facilities, which is long overdue and very welcome I may add. The high school in Rankin Inlet is by all accounts turning out to be pretty good. In talking to some of the kids and some of the counsellors and some of the parents, they are pleased with what they see happening at the area high school in Rankin Inlet. But even more pleasing is the fact that in my home communities of Eskimo Point and Baker Lake, they are bringing in, at least in Baker Lake, compulsory education now within the school which will lead to high schools in Baker Lake and Eskimo Point within the next two to four years. This is something the communities have wanted and they are working hard in Eskimo Point to get it within the next two or three years. I do not know where they all come from, but Eskimo Point has now, I think, the largest enrolment of children in school in the Eastern Arctic with perhaps the exception of Nakasuk in Iqaluit. There are about 450 children enrolled in school in Eskimo Point. It is a huge school system.

The education societies in those communities are extremely good education societies. They know what they want. They, I think, will demand of the Department of Education and of the school system the excellence and the quality in education that is rightfully the children's.

Division Of The Northwest Territories

I had a little note here, Mr. Speaker, division. I do not know if I should talk on division. It is a very tricky subject. However, I suppose that because my stand on division was contrary to most of the MLAs in this House and apparently most of the appointed leaders of the native organizations, some explanation is due. I should add for the record, Mr. Speaker, that with the

exception of the honourable MP for Nunatsiak, I have not had one letter, one phone call, one meeting, one criticism of the position that I took in this House. Not one. In fact, every person I have talked to, said, "You did the right thing. You said the right thing." Which, quite frankly, surprised the hell out of me, because when I analysed my region, I thought that there may very well be a 50-50 split or in fact that the majority of people would be in favour of Nunavut. What I found was that indeed the majority of people are in favour of Nunavut, but it is not the vision that John Amagoalik or any of his cohorts envisaged. They are not in favour of that vision. They are in favour of a Nunavut that encompasses all of the Inuit regions because that was where Nunavut came from in the first place.

It seems to be that the position that Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Curley and myself and Ms Cournoyea took in this House is starting to look as if it was reflecting the wishes of our constituents. A very significant thing happened not that long ago which went entirely unnoticed in the press, which went entirely unnoticed on the radio. That was that at the Kitikmeot Regional Council, the elected representatives of that region voted against the agreement that was signed in Iqaluit.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Just seven to two. So it was not unnoticed.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Seven to two. Well, perhaps it was noticed by those who were looking for it, but when you think of all of the talk of division and all of the emotion around division, the fact that something like that happened and ended up I think on page six or seven of the News/North in a very small column, says something. What the people from the far east, Baffin, and the appointed people from there have to understand is that if you take Beaufort out of Nunavut, you are not going to get the people from Kitikmeot to go along with it. And you are going to have an extremely difficult time getting people from the northern Keewatin to go along with it, because our ties from Baker Lake into Gjoa Haven and into the Central Arctic are much closer than anything we have ever developed east. Our ties run to the West. Our transportation system runs to the West. The jobs that our people have run to the West. That is where, historically, the Kitikmeot and the Inuvialuit and parts of the Keewatin have gone. So it is either all or nothing as far as I am concerned because a fractured Nunavut will never work. Its people will be too small. Its economy will be poor and it will not have the strength of knowing that it is a body that represents all of the Inuit interests. And that is where the strength of Nunavut always came from, from the very beginning.

When you look at the books that were produced, when you look at the literature that was produced, when you look at the people who came up with the idea, the idea was an all-Inuit territory. And if some of our leaders are prepared to sacrifice the Inuvialuit and they are prepared to sacrifice the people from Coppermine and the western Kitikmeot, then let them do it, because I am not going to be the one to sacrifice people.

Nunavut, hopefully, will come. All one has to do is to look at a map and look at the geography. Look at the economy. Look at the political structures. Look at the ethnic make-up, and you know that at some point in time we will divide. We have to divide. The North is too big a jurisdiction to be administered under one government. To me, the question is not, will we have Nunavut? The question is, when do we have Nunavut and how will it take place and in what form will it be? I am quite prepared and quite patient to wait. Whether I have to wait on the strength of the economy, whether I have to wait on an increase in population and an increase in numbers, whether I have to wait on a West that may over the years get some more confidence so that the acquisition of the Beaufort, either for numbers or for money, is not such a priority, I am quite prepared to wait, because I do not think that those of us in the East should dance to anybody else's tune. We dance to our own tune. We make our own timetable and we stick to it.

Land Claims Negotiations

The land claims. I am going to hit them all today, so I might as well get it over with. Over the years, elected leaders from the East have been extremely careful not to criticize the representative organizations publicly. The time has come to stop that. It is 15 years since the land claims process was started. Fifteen years later we are still not even close to the settlement of the land claims in the Nunavut areas. The latest information we have is that the TFN land claim is now behind CYI and the Dene/Metis. Many of our old people are dying, many of the older people who should have been able, in the last 15 years, to enjoy the benefits of a land claim, because they were the ones who really lost, they were the ones who lived on and used that land much more than the people of today's age. They are the ones who are losing.

More importantly and what concerns me is that time and time and time again, people are starting to question what their organization is doing. They are saying, "\$18 or \$20 million has been spent on a land claim which is money that is borrowed from the eventual settlement of that claim." That \$20 million that is spent, Mr. Speaker, is your money, and it is the money for all the Inuit MLAs. That money has already been spent and people are saying, "Who is spending all this money? What is it getting spent on? What do we, the ordinary Inuit get out of this whole process?"

I think the real problem is two-fold. First of all, and God knows why, Inuit organizations have to understand that their constituency is not in Ottawa. Their constituency is in the North. And unless their organizations and the headquarters of those organizations and the people working in those organizations are in the North, they will never have the grass-roots support that they should and deserve to have, because they are just like any other agency. It is remarkable to me when you hear these appointed leaders standing up and saying, "The territorial government is so terrible because it is off in Yellowknife. The federal government is so terrible, it is off in Ottawa. It does not understand what we want. It does not know what to do." Yet, these same people who are the heads of these organizations have their own organizations also off in Ottawa. So if it is true for us, then it has to be true for them too. I think that is the first problem. They must move their headquarters back north.

Secondly, they have lost the grass-roots support of the communities and of the people. At one point in time, being president of ITC really meant something. People looked up to the president. People thought of them and respected them as important people. You will have a very difficult time finding people nowadays who even know who the president of ITC is. And, in fact, people are so confused right now about who is doing what to whom, that constantly in my travels I am questioned, "What is ITC, ICNI, TFN, KIA, BRIA, KRC, KRC from the Kitikmeot, BRC, INPHC, IDC?" I mean we could go through them. There are dozens of these organizations that exist now and people do not know who is supposed to be looking after what any more. We are the most overgoverned people in the history of this country.

I started to count the number of local committees and organizations and regional organizations just in Baffin and Keewatin alone, that have some sort of either legal or administrative responsibility for the government or they are an advisory group and I stopped at around 200 because I lost count. In my home community alone I think I came up with about 20 groups and eight regional groups. But I lost count around 200 groups and that is just in Baffin and Keewatin only. Every one is making money, every one of them wants honorariums, every one of them wants per diems, every one of them wants responsibility and I keep saying to myself, "What is everybody doing?" No wonder people are confused. No wonder people are saying, "Who is speaking for who nowadays?" If you are looking for someone to blame then you have to blame the government because they set them all up.

---Laughter

Political Development

I would, Mr. Speaker, briefly speak on the future and where we must go politically in the North. I think that in the last four to six years we really have taken on the role of responsible government. I think it is clear to everybody in the Northwest Territories now that Ministers are responsible for the government, elected officials are responsible, and if you look at the actions in this Assembly in the last two or three years, the Ministers are accountable for what they do.

I must pay tribute to John Parker. I spent eight years in community development work and the largest job and the biggest role that I had was to transfer power from settlement managers, as we were called in the old days, over to elected municipal councils. And our job was to really work ourselves out of a job, to train and to set up these bodies and to train people to take over the responsibilities. I can tell you that it is one of the most difficult jobs that a person can have simply because of the nature of it and the very difficult job of transferring power. In some cases and with some people I knew, because they had power, they were very reluctant to give it away. Because once people get power, power does something to people. There is an old saying that power corrupts. That is very true and I met a lot of people in the old days who had power and did not want to give it away. I can tell you from a professional viewpoint, John Parker, in his big community development role of turning over power from the Commissioner and the federal government to the Legislative Assembly and its Ministers, did one of the smoothest jobs and most professional jobs of political development that I have seen in my life, because he had a lot more power than any of us ever had.

---Applause

Actually, I wish he had been around about 15 years ago. I could have learned something from him. But the way in which he has taken himself out of the process but still remains a part of the process is something that you should all see at times. It is quite truly amazing. I really can say no more than the fact that it is probably the best job I have ever seen done.

I think that there has been a lot of talk of party politics. There has been a lot of talk about provincial-type responsibilities. There has been a lot of talk about lieutenant governor. I think that the next Legislature will very carefully have to assess where it is going. We will have to make sure that what we do does not lend itself to once again splitting the various peoples and regions in the North. I think the government of this Assembly and in fact the government of the last Assembly which started the process, has brought together the Territories more than any other government in the past. I think the increased role of communications, the development of communications, has really shown us that we are not that much different. The housing problems in Wrigley are the same as the housing problems in Baker Lake are the same as the housing problems in Pangnirtung are the same as the housing problems in Aklavik. We may live thousands of miles apart but the problems are essentially the same.

I, as I have said in the past, do not support party politics and will not support party politics for the Northwest Territories until many, many more things have taken place. I believe party politics to be destructive. In fact, all we have to do is to look at the Yukon. All we have to do is look at the southern jurisdictions. All we have to do is talk to the backbench MLAs and they will all tell you that party politics, by and large, does not work. And if you look at the McGrath report that went into the House of Commons, in fact, he is advocating moving toward a system that very much resembles what we are doing right now.

I think that party politics is an elitist concept. If I look at the recent Meech Lake accord, for example, where instead of people questioning things based on their conscience, based on their conception of the future of this country, they are all trying to fall in like little sheep dogs behind these leaders. If you think for a moment that parties and the philosophy of parties are shaped by the grassroots in all of the party organizations, then think again. Party philosophy is thought of by an elite group at the head of each party. Businessmen, party hacks or long-term party loyalists, that is who shapes party policy. Then what they do is try to sell the country on their policy. They do not take. In the Northwest Territories, there is a difference. In the Northwest Territories we take from our communities what we are told and we try to shape that into policy for our people. Party politics formulates policy and then tries to sell it to the people. That is the essential difference.

I think we are too small a jurisdiction for party politics. I think until there is a lot more people up here we do not need party politics. And quite frankly, I do not see why we should allow a few people to push us into adopting southern jurisdictional standards. I do not see why we have to have party politics just because everybody else does it, or just because, in communities like Yellowknife and Fort Smith and Inuvik they may understand it better. So what if that is how they understand it? There is a hell of a lot more of us who are not living in those communities who do not want party politics because party politics do not work for the North.

If you look at the problems that the North faces, whether it is the Meech Lake accord or others, you will find that consensus develops among all northerners, whether it is Mr. Nickerson of the PC party or whether it is the Liberals or the NDP northern branches, the Meech Lake thing offended all of us. And all of us have protested it because as northerners we come together and forget about party politics. That, I say to you, is what the North is going to have to do for quite a long time to come because our battles are with the South. Our battles are not internal. Sure, we may be able to sit together and we may disagree with each other but when it comes right down to it, our common enemy lies in the South. Those are the people that we have to try to influence. That is the change that we have to try to effect. There is nothing about party philosophy or political parties that says to me that there is such a diversification of answers to the northern problems. The Tories cannot come up with any better answers than the Liberals or the NDPs, neither can the Liberals or the NDP come up with any better answers than them because the answers to the North are common to all of us. The solutions are common to all of us.

The Legislature, I think, has to look very carefully at the way it goes. I think that the four and four split on the Executive has been to the benefit of this Legislature. I think that we will seriously have to look at the offices of the Legislature, the officers of the Legislature and perhaps at the Government Leader's job as maybe being the time for the East to participate. I think that we have been extremely generous inasmuch as we have never objected to the Government

Leader coming from the West or to the Speaker coming from the West or to the bulk of the chairmen of the standing committees coming from the West. We recognize that not only were they willing to spend the time and devote their energies to it, but they were the most competent and capable people who could be doing those jobs. All I say is that if some people in the next Assembly from the East feel that perhaps maybe they would like to try it, that we should give them some consideration because we have to get experience too.

I would just like to close up. I have not made a long speech in this House for a long time so I am taking my...

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: This is the last time, Gordon. We are changing the rules.

HON. GORDON WRAY: The record, I think, is two hours and 12 minutes. How am I doing?

MR. McCALLUM: You are getting pretty close, I would say.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: A new record I think.

Media Coverage Across The North

HON. GORDON WRAY: I am trying, Mr. Speaker. I just have one comment. Actually, I have more than one. I would like to make a comment on the northern press, and not only the northern press but the people in radio. One of the problems that we have in the North is, for example, when I go home to Baker Lake it is like moving to a different world. The West does not exist when I get to Baker Lake. I do not hear any news, there are no newspapers, the people over here just do not exist. The capital city does not exist. The North needs a northern CBC network that is as good as the network that looks after Saskatchewan or Alberta. We need, as northerners, to hear the news from each other's regions. We in Baker Lake need to know what is going on in Fort Smith. We need to know what is going on in the Delta. We need to know what is going on in the Baffin. If we do not know what is going on, then we cannot appreciate the fact that you do have problems. When we can appreciate the things that you go through, it brings northerners together. I do not see why CBC could not put in place a territorial news that truly is indeed a territorial news, followed in each region by regional news. We need a CBC presence in the Kitikmeot Region.

I think, in terms of the press, again we fail because we do not have a truly trans-northern press. We have the Hub, which looks after Hay River. We have the Slave River Journal in Fort Smith. We have the Nunatsiaq News in Iqaluit. We have the Drum in Inuvik. We have the Yellowknifer for Yellowknife. We have the Native Press for the Valley and all of these are excellent newspapers.

Inadequacies Of News/North

I guess the News/North could have been one vehicle to do it but I quite frankly have to state for the record, Mr. Speaker, I have never seen and never read such an incompetent newspaper and staff as News/North. In four years nearly every edition that comes out from that newspaper has a mistake of some form or another in it.

MR. McCALLUM: Wait until you see your pardon in it.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: There will be no mistake.

---Laughter

HON. GORDON WRAY: I, quite frankly, do not care because I cannot get any worse press in the News/North than I have had. It is the only newspaper which regularly carries columns apologizing for the mistakes it made the week before. It is the only newspaper that I have seen that cannot get the captions on its photographs properly. It has people in Baker Lake being from Tuktoyaktuk and it has scenes of Eskimo Point being in Baffin. It is truly an incompetent newspaper. Its editor is one of the most incompetent editors that I have had the misfortune to read. If you read the editorials, not just the last one, but over the last two or three years they do not even make sense. They just do not make sense. It is like the ramblings of somebody who escaped from a lunatic asylum at times. Their news stories are superficial. The newspaper belongs on the same shelf as the National Enquirer and the Star. They are bathroom reading material. That is where that newspaper belongs. They even sent a reporter into my home community and did a series of stories out of my home community and I could not believe that she was actually there. I am reading

these stories and I am saying, "Did this person really visit Baker Lake or did they just talk to somebody in Rankin Inlet at the airport?" I really have never seen a worse newspaper in my life.

It is unfortunate because about four years ago when I first came to Yellowknife it was a pretty decent newspaper. There were some good news stories, the editorials were right on, there was some interesting articles and it was really starting to look like finally we had a newspaper that would capture the spirit, capture the essence of the North and give us a truly northern newspaper, because all the other newspapers that I mentioned are local newspapers and they are excellent newspapers. I happen to think that the Native Press is one of the best newspapers put out anywhere in Canada. Its editorials are excellent editorials, they are right on the mark. We may disagree with them sometimes but they are carefully and well thought-out editorials. So are most of the other local newspapers. The Slave River Journal is another newspaper which is a good newspaper. The Nunatsiak News, with the exception of this idiotic scheme they have of taking letters from people with "name withheld by request", that should be confined to Penthouse, Forum and not to a newspaper. If people want to write to Nunatsiak News and complain and bitch they should be prepared to put their names on the letters. I do not think that any newspaper should accept letters on that basis because once you do that you open yourself up to a whole host of problems.

I cannot overemphasize or underemphasize my contempt for the News/North because really I read that newspaper every week and I sometimes wonder if they are all sitting in Calgary and printing the newspaper.

AN HON. MEMBER: We need a state sponsored newspaper.

HON. GORDON WRAY: No, we do not need a state sponsored newspaper. What we need is a newspaper that has northern people employed by it. If it is going to call itself the News/North then, to me, one of the first conditions is that it should be northerners who should be working at it and it should have people in all the regions who are able to report factually and correctly the information and the news out of those regions. It should have an editor that has a history of the North, that knows what has gone on in the past and knows what is going on in the present and can speculate a little bit into the future. It should have staff willing to challenge the government at all times.

I have no problems with newspapers taking me to task because in many ways that is some of the best feedback that you can get. Unfortunately, the News/North, if they criticize you, you figure, "I must be doing a good job so I am going to keep on doing that." I think what they, perhaps, sometimes want to change or what they intend to have an impact on, it works the opposite for them.

Difficult Role Of Minister And MLA

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment that the most difficult of all the roles that I have had to play is that of being a Minister and an MLA but being an MLA who chose not to live in his constituency. The fact that I have not lived in my constituency for two years has caused me problems. As is usual, many people in the constituency think that you have forgotten about them or that you are ignoring them and the simple fact is, that if MLAs are to be Ministers then I really cannot see how a person can do a proper job of being a Minister and give it the time and the dedication and the travel that is needed for that job, unless they are living here in Yellowknife. That is a sad reality. I tried to commute for two years and it almost destroyed my family, it almost destroyed my marriage and it almost destroyed my political career because I could not do the job. There was one point in time where for five straight weeks I was off in Lac la Martre, then I was off in Wrigley, I was off in Cambridge Bay and it was six weeks before I got home. In six weeks a lot of things can happen with children. A lot of things can happen in the home and it was an extremely painful time for me. I chose to move to Yellowknife because I could not, in all conscience, claim to be thinking that I was doing a good job, commuting to Baker Lake, particularly with the air transportation that we have. I think as a government, if we are going to have Ministers who do not choose to live in Yellowknife, then we will have to take advantage of some very high tech stuff and start looking at video conferencing, video meetings.

Among other things, Mr. Speaker, I think that this Legislature and maybe the government should start negotiating with whomever to broadcast this Legislature live across the Territories when it is on. I think other than the places which are covered by very good media, most people in the Northwest Territories have no clue what the Legislature is doing. They rely on five or 10 minute newscasts at night. Perhaps if people saw the government in action, debates might get a little

more rational in here too, but at least people would see what their representatives are up to. I do not think it is impossible. I think it is well within the realms of the technology available to us that this Legislature should be broadcast live.

Thanks Expressed To Staff, Colleagues And Family

I would, Mr. Speaker, like to thank the staff of the Legislature. They have put up with a very difficult group of people at times. I would like personally to thank the respective staffs that I have had the pleasure to work with: the staff of the Housing Corporation; the Workers' Compensation Board; Public Works and Highways; Municipal and Community Affairs and the Highway Transport Board. In all my dealings with the government I have developed a great respect for the competence of the territorial civil service, in fact when I look at it and compare it to southern jurisdictions, we can hold our heads up high because I think we have as competent a civil service in the North as anybody else in this country.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

---Applause

HON. GORDON WRAY: I would like to thank my colleagues on the Executive Council who have put up with my temper tantrums for the last four years. They have, I think, recognized that I was the youngest so they allowed me a little bit more leeway than most. They supported me at times when I needed it. They have taught me a lot. Last but not least, I would like to thank the other MLAs. I have, I hope, enjoyed the confidence of all of the MLAs. I have tried to do the best job that I could. I know that I have some rough edges. I know that at times I am not a smooth or polished talker. I know that people will find flaws, but I came here to try and do my best. I came here to follow my conscience. I came here to hopefully change things and have an impact, based on the way my communities wanted things to go.

Very last, but not least, I really would like to thank my wife and children who have paid the heaviest price for me being involved in politics. They have had to suffer an uprooting. In the case of my three youngest children, they have lost almost all of their Inuktitut. In fact my oldest daughter is probably the only one who is now, I could reasonably say, bilingual. My oldest son has lost most of it and my three youngest have lost almost all of it. It is a very heavy price that I have asked my family to pay for being over here. I have talked to them and we have talked as a family and I essentially said to them, "Look if the price that I am asking you to pay is too heavy, then tell me because there are lots of things I can do in this world. I do not need politics. I do not need the money that it gives me. I do not need the power that it gives me. I do not need all the headaches that go along with it. My family is much more important to me." I must say, Mr. Speaker, that my wife and my children have been very supportive of me. They have encouraged me and they have challenged me to run in the next election and win, because they believe that what I am doing is right and what I am doing can have an impact on their home. So to that end, Mr. Speaker, I will be running in the next election and, hopefully, I will see some of you back here. Thank you.

---Applause

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Erklou): Thank you, Mr. Wray. Replies to the Opening Address. Mr. T'Seleie.

Mr. T'Seleie's Reply

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to read into the record my short reply to the Opening Address. The last reply that I gave was in March of 1986. Some of the concerns that I raised at that time have been partially addressed and others continue to remain outstanding.

Back in the early part of 1984, community leaders at a regional council meeting passed a resolution asking that I lobby on their behalf for a separate region of government for the Sahtu. I have been able to do some research on the establishment of the Kitikmeot Region, but I regret that this has not moved along as far as some people would have liked. It will have to remain as an agenda item for the business of the 11th Assembly.

Sahtu People Would Like Their Own Government Region

As you know, my constituency is part of the Inuvik Region, even though most of Sahtu residents culturally share more in common with Slavey-speaking people who are a part of the Fort Smith Region. If an objective of government is to provide better administration and to provide for better accountability to the communities, then I think that they ought to take a look at reorganizing the regions so that the Sahtu communities become a part of a region that represents communities with the same cultural make-up; such as Fort Simpson and other communities in that area, and perhaps to include even communities as far south as Fort Providence. A good choice for a regional headquarters might be Fort Simpson.

Some parents from the Sahtu region are uneasy and reluctant about sending their children to school in Inuvik. I am told that there are problems in getting along with students from other regions. Parents say that their children quit high school because they do not like Inuvik or they find it hard to get along with other students from there. I have been told this about students who have enrolled in advanced education programs as well. We are also aware of the fact that there is a desire on the part of the people of Fort Norman and Fort Franklin to be transported to Yellowknife for medical treatment, rather than to Inuvik.

So along with the prospects for improved administration, there are other reasons to consider a regional reorganization. Of course, the first preference of Sahtu residents is to have a separate government region of their own. The regional council has been a partial answer to this concern. It is useful to remember that the Sahtu region represents 25 per cent of the total population of the Inuvik Region and that the fifth, sixth and seventh largest communities of the Inuvik Region are in the Sahtu. I would like to see either the Executive Council or the WCF as part of its work, look into this matter.

Another general topic that I would like to mention concerns the government budget. During the winter part of the current session I recall that I complained about representing four per cent of the total NWT population and yet the government would only be spending two per cent of its 1987-88 capital budget in my constituency. This is a situation that has to be changed because whether we like it or not, almost all the dollars and jobs that go into the communities are somehow related to government. There are large numbers of people who do not have jobs. It is especially important that there be government projects during the summer months when most people are looking for work. I know that many people are depending on community hamlet and band councils to sponsor government projects so that they can have work for at least a couple of months.

Booming Economy In Yellowknife Hard To Accept

I find the differences between the booming economy of Yellowknife and some communities of my constituency to be hard to accept. Especially when I know that a major part of the reason for the booming Yellowknife economy is government money. In this regard, I would recommend to the 11th Assembly that it recommend to its Executive Council that they put a moratorium on the growth of government in Yellowknife until adequate levels of government infrastructure and personnel are addressed in some communities. I know for sure that some communities could use two or three more administrators to assist settlement managers, chiefs and mayors. There is also a requirement for more houses for government personnel in the communities.

It is difficult for me to understand how Yellowknife MLAs could criticize publicly the 1987-88 budget when probably a big part of the reason for the deficit is Yellowknife itself. In the last four years I have spent more time in Yellowknife than I have ever spent here before. I have had a good chance to see facilities that are in this city. I have had a chance to talk to more people, especially about housing, in Yellowknife. I have been told that similar houses in Whitehorse and Yellowknife, are priced almost double in Yellowknife. The reason, it is believed, is because of the increasing presence of government and government housing subsidy. Most private individuals, that is, those who do not work for government in Yellowknife, find the housing to be extremely costly. So increased government presence in Yellowknife appears to be both a blessing and a curse.

It is clear to me that residents and businesses of this city cannot forever expect that from one year to the next there will be a never ending stream of government to build an economy on. Government must be spread around. I believe the same arguments can be used with regard to any of the regional headquarters, be it Inuvik or Iqaluit, etc. Many times we are told that such and such a position cannot be put into a community because there is no housing. If there is no housing, it should be built because it will help the local economy. I have been a Member of the standing

committee on finance for the last four years, so I am not making these statements irresponsibly or to badger Yellowknife. I have given this matter some consideration. As a Member of the finance committee, I believe I have some knowledge of the financial structure of this government.

Another general area of concern that I want to address is the whole area of training for jobs in the oil and gas industry. In the Sahtu region, there has been some discussion about a regional training centre to be located in Norman Wells. I believe that the Executive Council is aware of the proposal for a Sahtu tech which is supported by the Mackenzie-Great Bear DIZ group as well as by the regional council. As I understand it, the objective of such a proposed training centre is to train Sahtu residents for jobs in different sectors of the economy. The hope is that people will be more willing to stick with their training since they will be closer to home. In my view such a training centre, especially for jobs in the oil and gas industry, is long overdue. This matter is also one that I believe must receive high priority from the future government since it will be of large benefit to Sahtu residents.

Land Claims Negotiations Should Continue To Be A High Priority

My last general comment concerns the issue of the settlement of land claims and aboriginal rights. This continues to be a major issue for a majority of my constituents because they want to see their rights defined as aboriginal people. In this regard, from my knowledge of the issue, the people at the community level and the federal government are miles apart on their understanding of aboriginal rights. It will not surprise me to see negotiations continue for some time to come or even to see a breakdown of negotiations. One wonders why the federal cabinet has spent such large funds on what are called negotiations when they have already decided the amounts of land and other aspects of what can be negotiated by aboriginal people. Some of the implications of the Meech Lake accord, with regard to aboriginal rights and aboriginal self-government, do not help any either. This matter must continue to be high on the list of important priorities for Members of the 11th Assembly.

Constituency Concerns

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about my communities and some of the issues that continue to be outstanding. Fort Norman, after all these years, does not have a proper community office nor a proper community hall. The present buildings that are used for those purposes are old and must be replaced. This community is also without recreational facilities such as an arena or skating rink, although I am told that it is planned for the next year or so. There is also interest in Fort Norman with regard to becoming involved in the oil and gas industry in the same way that Fort Good Hope has become involved. There continues to be a concern in Fort Norman about hunting in the Mackenzie Mountains. This is a matter that must continue to be an item of business for the 11th Assembly because there is very little benefit for the community from big game outfitters in the Mackenzie Mountains. The outfitters are the only ones under territorial legislation who have a right to operate big game hunting businesses in the Mackenzie Mountains and the people would like the right to become involved. All the big game operators, except for one, are headquartered out of Alberta and other provinces. The government should consider buying out these outfits and turning the businesses over to community businesses.

Norman Wells is now a tax-based municipality. Statistics Canada says that the population has gone from 420 people in 1981 to 620 in 1986. This is an increase of 200 people, so there does not appear to be any reason to believe that there are going to be less people in the future. One other interesting statistic about Norman Wells is that there has been an increase of over 100 dwellings in that community from 1981 to 1986. Some residents have been concerned about having a doctor in the community. The community probably has an employment rate of 90 to 95 per cent, and I am told has one of the best tax bases in the Northwest Territories. It is turning into somewhat of a regional centre, a point that I think ought to be made a subject of regional consensus. The community, I know has suffered some disappointment because it was not chosen as a forward operating site by the Department of National Defence.

Another large community in my constituency is Fort Good Hope. According to the Canada census of 1986, the population in this community went from 463 people in 1981 to 562 in 1986. This is an increase of 99 people. It is important for government, especially the Department of Education, to know that this change in population has implications for the way in which they allocate teachers as well as space. There will be requirements for more space and more teachers at the school there. My suggestion is that the department consider building a separate building for students in grades

seven, eight and nine. I do not think that the older teenage students like being around the very young students. The very latest information that I have received from the community with respect to the Chevron deal is that the Fort Good Hope leadership has agreed to initial a deal with Chevron tomorrow. I know that over the course of the last two or three years during negotiations of this matter that the community had many concerns about oil and gas exploration. The Minister for Energy, Mines and Resources, I hope, is aware of these concerns because if he is not and if he does not find ways of accommodating them as his department continues to negotiate a northern energy accord, I have no doubt that the same concerns will arise again and nothing will really have changed. I want to also remind the future Minister of Education that the present Minister has committed in writing, department officials to assist the community with respect to training on the Chevron project. A final remark about Fort Good Hope is that this is another community that still does not have an arena or a curling rink. This item is an important one for the community and I hope that the 11th Assembly will take note of the petition that I tabled regarding this matter during the earlier part of the current session.

Fort Franklin is also a large community. The population in 1986 is listed as 530 people. There is also an outstanding need in that community for a proper community hall. The present building cannot be classed as a proper building and not one that, in my opinion, any government can be proud of. There is a special need also in that community for job projects in order to supply some summer work for employable persons.

There continues to be a concern about sport fishing lodges. This is not a new concern. The 11th Assembly must be aware of this. I believe that some consideration must be given to making it mandatory to consult and have the approval of the community before the lodges are allowed to fly fishing guests into any areas which are used for subsistence by the people of Fort Franklin. In the past, decisions have been made without consulting the people and this is a situation that must be changed. An interesting aspect of this and in order to have an idea of what we are talking about here is the fact that at least one of the lodges on Great Bear Lake has an airport that can land a 727. I believe that they can fly directly from Winnipeg to Great Bear Lake.

Very recently the community of Colville Lake had an official opening of its new community hall. It is a small log structure. The territorial government and DIAND contributed in equal amounts to the project. The community has now at least a respectable place to meet with visiting officials to consider such topics as the possibility of becoming an organized community in order to make life better and easier for its residents.

Mr. Speaker, those are my remarks. In closing I want to say that I consider it to have been a privilege to have served on the 10th Assembly. For my constituents I hope that through my actions I have contributed in some small way to some improvement in their lives. For myself, personally, I have found the last four years to be sometimes difficult but on balance it has been a unique experience and I would like to say that if I am not here again it will be because of personal reasons. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will recess for 15 minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: I will call the House to order. Item 8, replies to the Opening Address. Replies to the Opening Address. That appears to have concluded this item for today.

Item 9, petitions. Petitions.

Item 10, reports of standing and special committees. 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 want to table Tabled Document 81-87(1): Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, 1985-86. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of documents. That appears to conclude this item for today. Item 12, notices of motion. Mr. Erkloo.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice Of Motion 34-87(1): First Air Application For Scheduled Service

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 17th, 1987, I will move the following motion: Now therefore, I move, seconded by the Member for Baffin South, that this Assembly reaffirm its support for First Air's application. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Notices of motion. Mr. Butters.

Notice Of Motion 35-87(1): Approval Of Amendment To The Formula Financing Agreement

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 17th, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that this Assembly approve a proposed amendment to the financial agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada, made pursuant to the Financial Agreement Act. The proposed amendment to the financial agreement is to change the description of the Statistics Canada tables used to calculate the formula financing escalator.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Notices of motion. Mr. Erkloo.

Notice Of Motion 36-87(1): Lowering Of Old Age Pension Age Limit

MR. ERKLOO: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 17th, 1987, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for -- I do not know where yet -- that this House request the federal government to investigate this matter and see if lowering old age pension age limits from 65 to 60 for native people of the Northwest Territories is appropriate. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Erkloo. Notices of motion. That appears to look after that item for today.

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

Item 14, motions.

Item 15, first reading of bills.

Item 16, second reading of bills. Item 17, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 37-87(1), Fourth Report of the Special Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges, Bill 19-87(1), Bill 35-87(1), Bill 28-87(1), with Mr. Erkloo in the chair. Mr. Erkloo, as soon as another Member comes in, transfer places with them, will you?

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

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER BILL 37-87(1), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 2, 1987-88; BILL 19-87(1), RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT; BILL 35-87(1), WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): The committee will come to order. We are on Bill 37-87(1).

Executive, Energy, Mines And Resources Secretariat, Total O And M, Agreed

We are on Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, page four, Executive, operations and maintenance, Energy, Mines and Resources Secretariat, \$325,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total department, \$325,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Are you ready to go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 2, application. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 3, supplementary appropriation for 1987-88. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 4, reduction of appropriation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 5, purpose of expenditures. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 6, lapse of appropriation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 7, accounting. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 8, commencement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Schedule, 0 and M, total 0 and M, \$23,123,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Capital, total capital, \$12,498,100. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Total appropriated, \$35,621,100. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Short title. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Does the committee agree Bill 37-87(1) is ready for third reading. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Mr. Chairman, on Friday the order of business I gave would see the next item for discussion to be the Fourth Report of the Special Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges. I have spoken with the chairman of that committee and he has agreed to relinquish that place to Bill 19-87(1), Residential Tenancies Act. I know Mr. Ballantyne is ready to go and would be grateful if he could proceed at this time. And we thank the chairman of the rules committee.

---Applause

Bill 19-87(1): Residential Tenancies Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Does the committee agree we go to Bill 19-87(1)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne, do you wish to have opening remarks?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to introduce an Act Respecting Residential Tenancies which, as you know, is Bill 19-87(1). The purpose of this bill is to clearly set out the rights and obligations of both landlords and tenants and to provide procedures for the enforcement of those rights and obligations. This bill governs the relationship between landlords and tenants who are parties to a residential tenancy agreement. This bill is based on the recommendations of the report on the Landlord and Tenant Act review and a discussion paper which I tabled before this Assembly. As you are aware, public hearings on the Landlord and Tenant Act were held throughout the Territories to hear submissions from both landlords and tenants. I have received comments on the bill tabled before this Assembly. Many useful suggestions were made by the Law Society of the Northwest Territories, the Consumers Association of Canada, Yellowknife Local, and landlords who appeared before the standing committee on legislation.

I would also like to thank the Members of the standing committee on legislation, and its chairman, Mr. MacQuarrie, for reviewing the tabled version of this bill and for giving many useful comments that were incorporated into the revised bill that is before you today. I would like to say that it was, I think, somewhat of a novel way which we proceeded with the bill. I considered this bill important enough and I considered that this bill had enough implications to people throughout the

Territories, that I thought I would welcome the comments and the suggestions of the standing committee on legislation more than normally is true in the process as we have in this House. I think that this bill is very much a result of those discussions and deliberations with the standing committee on legislation. I owe them a tremendous debt for the bill you see before you today. The question of residential tenancy is one that is very important to us all. This bill will have an impact on a great number of residents of the Northwest Territories.

Office Of Rental Officer Created

If I could, Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw your attention to some major issues that are addressed in this bill. As requested by both landlords and tenants, the office of a rental officer is created. The rental officer has the powers given to him or her under the proposed act. He or she will mediate disputes between landlords and tenants, provide information to landlords and tenants and hear complaints from landlords and tenants and settle their complaints. A rental officer will have the power to terminate a tenancy agreement and to order a tenant to vacate the residential premises.

The question of security deposits is addressed. The proposed act clearly sets out the amount which may be requested as a security deposit and the manner in which the security deposit is to be given and returned. No other amounts, other than the security deposits, such as first month's or last month's rent may be requested by a landlord from a tenant.

In addition, this bill contains specific provisions to ensure security of tenure. Also, the proposed act contains specific provisions on the termination of residential tenancies. The remedies which may be sought by landlords or tenants for breaches of an obligation are clearly spelled out. The intent of the proposed act is to foster harmony between landlords and tenants of residential premises. I feel that if both parties are aware of the rights and obligations, harmony can be achieved. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Mr. MacQuarrie do you want to say something as the chairman of the legislation committee?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of work has gone into this bill, both by the government and by the standing committee on legislation. It is an attempt to try to clarify both the landlord's and the tenant's rights or, I think, also to strengthen the rights of tenants to have premises in a good state of repair and fit for habitation. There is also the intention in the act where difficulties arise between landlords and tenants. There is the attempt to resolve them by mediation and, where that fails, to resolve them as simply as possible without great expense to either party by reference to a rental officer.

The Minister pointed out that in the whole process of bringing this bill to the House that it included a contractor holding public meetings and receiving input from the wide variety of people. It included the Minister's department then assessing those recommendations and responding to them in preparing a draft bill. It included having a variety of landlords and the consumers association and the law reform committee of the law society responding to the initial bill that the Minister had prepared. It involved the standing committee Members discussing many of the ideas that were presented by a great many people who had input and in the end, hopefully, what we have is a very good bill but, as always, with things like this, particularly where you are trying things that have not been tried before, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, as they say. So, we will not really know whether it is a very good act until it is implemented and tried out. But, in so far as it is possible ahead of time to believe that you have taken as many things into account as possible in preparing the legislation, I think that that has been done and that, therefore, it is as good a bill as possible at this time, without the experience of actually implementing it.

Probably the most significant feature of the bill that was brought to the committee was the introduction of a rental officer onto the scene. It was a measure that the government was proposing and that the standing committee supported. But in reading the draft bill, the standing committee Members generally felt that perhaps the power that was given to the rental officer in the draft bill was not sufficient, that if you are going to introduce the concept you might as well extend it to the greatest possible degree. So the standing committee recommended to the government that it not only give the rental officer the powers that had been recommended in the draft bill but to go a little further and enable a rental officer to order a termination of a tenancy where he felt that that was warranted.

The standing committee was aware that in making that recommendation there may be some legal difficulties that arise at some point and, nevertheless, the standing committee Members felt that it was a desirable thing and urged the government to go that extra length; and the government has, in this bill. But, it should be clear that these matters can still be referred to the court if one part or the other is not satisfied with the determination. So that there is a safeguard there.

Appointment Of Rental Officers

In our discussions about this position of the rental officer, the law reform committee suggested that perhaps justices of the peace could be named as rental officers. While that does not directly impact on the bill in that the bill does not specifically say who the rental officer should be, it merely makes provision for their appointment. The government in its response to our committee has indicated that the Department of Justice is reviewing the suggestion made by the law reform committee of the Law Society of the Northwest Territories, that justices of the peace should perform the duties and exercise the powers of a rental officer. The department may decide to appoint justices of the peace as rental officers. Justices of the peace would be appointed under this act, if that decision is made. So I merely note that that was the suggestion that was made by the law reform committee. I think standing committee Members felt that if there were no other difficulties in the way, that in some senses that made good sense, and the government has indicated that they are looking at it a little further. So it will be interesting at some point to hear the results of that consideration.

There were quite a number of evolutions that the bill went through and I think in this committee of the whole there will not be any point in calling attention to each change that was made along the way. We have received a letter from the government, dated June 3rd, that notes the changes that have been made in the bill since the standing committee last reviewed it. So as we are going through the bill, at appropriate points I will read from that letter, noting for Members generally what the most recent changes are to the bill. Most of them are changes, indeed perhaps all of them are changes that were recommended by the standing committee on legislation. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, the committee recommends this bill, as it is, to committee of the whole.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seek the permission of the committee to bring witnesses into the House.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister, would you introduce your witnesses at this time?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left I have the chief of our legislation division, Giuseppa Bentivegna. On my right, I have the chief of the consumer and corporate affairs division, Shirley Stevenson. Thank you.

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

Extra Charge For Late Rent

MR. APPAQQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not satisfied in some areas concerning the rent, especially, for those, who are not receiving regular wages. If the rent is over that due date there are going to be extra charges. I think this will be also applied to the communities. This is going to create some problems to the renters. I just wanted to point this out. Even for some people who have a job, there can be problems for those especially who have to receive their cheques by mail. Sometimes they receive their pay cheques really late and if this is going to be implemented, will there be extra charges for late payments of the rent? When you have a date set in the bill to pay the rent, it is definite that there are going to be extra charges applied.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the question that is being asked was asked in committee, and it was our feeling that this particular piece of legislation should not have the impact to make it a major hardship for tenants in communities. Presently in the agreement that any tenant signs with a housing authority or housing association of when rent should be paid, there is the potential for a late charge. In very extreme cases, and I emphasize very extreme cases, some tenants have actually been taken to court by an association or by an authority for non-payment of rent. I think that a potential change in this particular process would be that, if for instance, somebody did not pay their rent for two or three or four months, the authority would have the option of going to the rental officer. The rental officer could have the person pay their rent over a period of time or pay it immediately and this would have the potential of saving a tenant fees for a lawyer, for instance.

I would say generally there are many positive sides also of this particular piece of legislation. I think it provides some protections for a tenant that do not exist today. So, our analysis of this situation is that we do not see that there will be many cases where a tenant who lives in a small community is going to be hurt by this new legislation which is being introduced. We do see more situations where a tenant could be helped. Thank you.

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

Process Government Should Be Following In Drafting Legislation

MR. RICHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few general comments on Bill 19-87(1). First of all, I want to compliment Minister Ballantyne on the consultation process over the past year or more that led to this bill's coming forward. I think it is an example, and it does not happen very often with this government in recent years -- it does not happen often enough in my view, but this is an example that the government should be following with other pieces of legislation. There was a study done on contract for the government but the important part there is that that report was tabled in the Assembly and circulated to the public and comment invited on the proposals. That was very much a concept document, as opposed to technical legislation. Then the Minister and his department, in due course, did take the reaction to the McMillan report and drafted a bill. That bill itself was tabled in the Assembly and comment invited on the draft bill. And, as Mr. MacQuarrie has mentioned, there have been many changes leading to, actually, Bill 19-87(1) which is slightly different from the bill that was tabled in October.

I have, for example, just myself, Mr. Chairman, had the opportunity to provide the Minister with some comments on the McMillan report back a year ago, in August of 1986, and subsequent to October, 1986 some comments on the bill and the Minister, to his credit, has considered those comments and the comments of many others; an example is the law society committee. But I think the process here is one that the government should be following with more of its legislation. This is an exception and it should be the rule.

The concept of a rental officer or a rental ombudsman, I am in agreement with that because its main object is to have landlord-tenant disputes resolved without the expense and delay and formality of the court process. Hopefully, certainly in the larger centres, the Minister will be able to find the right person to serve as the rental officer and the landlord and tenants will be able to go before the rental officer and resolve their dispute without going to the expense of hiring lawyers and, I guess, ideally, we are all hoping that that will be a smoother process and certainly less expensive and with less delay than is the current situation with landlord-tenant disputes coming before the courts.

The issue of the rental officer, I was going to ask the Minister, perhaps, before we start clause by clause, to indicate that -- I am assuming that for the initial period anyway, that the Minister envisages appointing rental officers in some areas but not in all areas and the courts would continue to have to be used in some of the communities in the Northwest Territories.

Some of the other issues that are in the bill dealt with -- rent control was a big issue back when the McMillan report was tabled. There is, in my opinion, a form of rent control in this bill. Perhaps, I can address it in a little more detail later on but I have a concern that it may have the opposite effect to what the government is hoping for.

Principle Of Freedom Of Contract Interfered With By This Bill

The other general issue I wanted to comment on, or put my comments on the record, Mr. Chairman, is the notion of security of tenure that is in this bill. It is introduced for the first time in this bill. It is not the case at present. It is an interference with the principle known as freedom of contract, that two people can enter into a contract decided by themselves. Part of this bill says that, if those two people are a landlord and a tenant, no matter what you agree, this is going to be the case governing your contract as landlord and tenant.

The security of tenure part provides that a landlord is going to be compelled into a perpetual renewal of his lease agreement with a particular tenant, at the decision of the tenant. Although there are some exceptions in the bill for that provision, in one of the first drafts of the bill the territorial government was exempted from that clause and I believe the wording now is simply that public housing is exempted as is the employer-employee situation. Staff housing, again, it is a new concept and I, personally, find it offensive and also the concern that it may lead to escalated disputes between a landlord and a tenant. I have raised this with the Minister as early as last August, before the first draft bill was produced. The Minister and Executive Council continue to have that provision in this bill, so the Minister is not only aware of my views on it, he is steadfast in introducing this new concept in our legislation. So I will not belabour the point. I do not suspect, even if we had a quorum, that I could get sufficient Members to support a change at this stage. But I simply wanted to state that for the record. Those are my general comments, Mr. Chairman. I will address some of the other issues as we go clause by clause. Thank you.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, just an observation as a Member, not as the chairman of the standing committee on legislation. I have been a Member who feels that in preparing legislation it is so important to get as much public input as possible, particularly from people who are likely to be impacted by the legislation. I still deeply feel that that is a desirable process and that it ought to be followed by the government. But, of course, it raises the interesting point that when you do that and receive widespread public input, there will be people afterwards who may say, and I am not referring just to my honourable colleague in Yellowknife South, I am thinking of some of the landlords, perhaps, or whoever, who will say, "What was the point of giving my input? Because when I look at the bill that is before me, it does not reflect what I said." And so, it must be clear to the public that in seeking public input, you cannot possibly satisfy everybody who makes a presentation. Because, in fact, there are contradictory presentations when we have that kind of public input.

But at least the public can have the satisfaction of knowing that these varying points of view were raised, they were heard and for good reasons, presumably, a majority of Members have decided to opt for one resolution rather than an opposite one. And so, my own judgment is that it still is a very desirable process and I hope that the public would not become frustrated by taking the trouble to make their views known and then be so disappointed if the bill does not reflect entirely what they said, that they would not be willing once again on another occasion to make their viewpoints known as well.

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

Bills Should See Light Of Day Months Before Being Passed

MR. RICHARD: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, just on the same view just so my comments are clear on it, I believe the Minister and Executive Council have made a lot of changes as a direct result of the process. I just cannot stress enough that I think this is the way that government should go 10 times out of 10 if they can. I think of legislation that we have just seen in recent weeks, the insurance bill, the mechanics' lien bill, the vehicles bill. These are examples and there should be no secrecy of what the government is planning in these areas. There is no reason why these bills should not see the light of day months before they are brought in to be passed in this Assembly and I understand that in recent months the Minister or the House Leader or whoever it is, is making an arrangement with, for example, the law society or the law reform committee to review draft bills and I would applaud that happening on each and every occasion. I think probably in the Minister's portfolio of Justice and Public Services there is going to be this kind of bill that

affects the public more than some technical bill in one of the other Ministers' departments. So, I am hoping that this Minister, presuming that he gets to have a say after October in the group that decides these things, that they will take this as an example of how to do it as opposed to what has happened in most cases in the past. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I thank the Members for the comments and I found that this process for this bill, as with other bills, has worked quite well. I have instituted the process where the law society looks at many bills and I found that very helpful, too. So, I hope that this Executive or the following Executive Council will build on this and I think we can establish procedures that would serve us all well.

Security Of Tenure

If I could make one comment about security of tenure. I am quite aware, and I respect Mr. Richard's feelings. During the course of this process, over the last couple of years we have heard some very strong presentations supporting the concept of security of tenure. We have also heard some fairly strong representations against the concept. After reviewing, I think quite intensively, the arguments put forward by the two sides, I tended to stay with my own belief, that an integral part of any meaningful landlord-tenant legislation, to me anyhow, and I think to most of the committee, has to include the concept of security of tenure. Very simply, if I can put forward why I philosophically believe that it is very important, it is that housing is not a commodity like other commodities, especially in the Northwest Territories, housing is a necessity and all things being equal, in this particular act we have set out the relationship between the landlord and the tenant and there are, I think, a fair number of protections for a landlord. If a tenant does not act in a responsible way, the landlord does have some fair recourse to have that tenant removed from the premises. The basic philosophy is that when you are dealing with a commodity such as housing, which is a necessity, there should not be any whim as to who should be allowed to take advantage of that commodity. If it is between John Brown and Sue White, if both of them pay their rent and both of them behave according to the rules, then the landlord should not be able to make a subjective choice that for some reason he or she does not like one of them and he or she does not want one of them to live in his or her residence. We gave this a lot of consideration and I think that to have any sort of viable legislation in this area, the rules have to be set out fairly and objectively for both the landlord and the tenant but a basic principle, I feel anyhow, has to be that security of tenure; that if you live according to the regime that is set out in this particular act, you should not have to worry about whether or not you will be able to stay in your unit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

People Who Do Not Earn Wages

MR. APPAQAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to add that regarding this proposed act, I think that there are going to be some problems arising from the legislation, especially for those people who go out on the land. I am sure that when you sometimes go hunting, sometimes you do not make any money at all and you have to pay rent. Now I want to know if this act is going to apply to the people who do not earn wages. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Right now, especially in the small communities, there are certain agreements that tenants have with housing associations and the housing association has with the Housing Corporation. We have a system now of rent-to-income so that if, for some reason, a tenant in a given month does not make any income, that tenant will only have to pay the minimum rent, which is \$32 per month. Essentially, nothing will change because of this legislation. The tenant will essentially have the same obligations to pay his or her rent as the tenant does now, living in public housing. So, though I understand the Member's concern, basically the rules that apply now between the tenant and the housing association will continue. So, I do not see that there will be a big problem for tenants, especially in public housing in the small communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. General comments. Is the committee ready to go clause by clause? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Interpretation, clause 2. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I would just like to note that since we last reviewed it, the word "yards" has been included specifically in common areas so there is no misunderstanding that that is a landlord's obligation to ensure that these are kept in a reasonable state for tenants as well as walkways, steps and so on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 2, definitions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 3, application. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 4, contractual relationship between landlord and tenant. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 5, remedy of distress abolished. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 6, application of Frustrated Contracts Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): We were on page five; now we are on page six. Clause 7, covenants interdependent. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 8, mitigation of damages. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Tenancy agreements, clause 9, agreement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 10. Mr. Richard.

Standard Conditions In Every Lease Agreement

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, this clause provides that there will be standard conditions in every lease agreement and I believe they are set out at the back. Then it goes on to provide in subsection (2), that when this act is proclaimed, those standard conditions are immediately a part of every lease agreement. I am wondering if the Minister and his officials do not have a concern about the retroactivity in a sense of that clause, and that you would instead grandfather in existing lease agreements in that regard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think the intention here, Mr. Chairman, is when the act comes into force that all tenants would consistently be dealing with the same regime. So it was felt that it was important that there was that uniformity.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Clause 10, provisions of a tenancy agreement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 11, delivery of a copy of agreement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 12, additional rights and obligations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 13, accelerated rent prohibited. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 14, security deposit. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 15, condition and contents of rental premises. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Only A Security Deposit May Be Required

MR. MacQUARRIE: Incidentally, I will not take note of every change that was made of it if it was largely of a technical nature. Here in section 14(5) it was amended to broaden the scope of this subsection to prohibit a landlord from requiring any amount as a deposit from a prospective tenant or tenants other than a security deposit referred to in section 14. This change had been suggested by the standing committee to try to make sure that money would not be required for getting onto waiting lists and that sort of thing. That the only type of money that a landlord can ask is a security deposit when you are becoming a tenant and not otherwise. So it is made very clear in the legislation now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Thank you. Clause 15, condition and contents of rental premises. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 16. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Investment Of Security Deposits

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, this area of the deposit and what would be done with it and the interest that would be paid on it, and so on, were matters of contention in committee hearings. There were a variety of ideas with respect to this. Certainly in one area there was one landlord who wanted whatever was decided by the government with respect to the amount of the security deposit, the landlord wanted the freedom to be able to use that deposit as he saw fit. There are restrictions on it which I believe he is still not happy with.

At any rate, as a result of the discussions that took place in committee, the letter from the government says, "Section 16 was amended to provide that the interest on the security deposit is credited at a rate equal to the deposit rate on deposit receipts for 30 days." A subsection (2) was added to section 16 by the Department of Justice because it was felt that a provision was needed to clarify that the landlord shall credit to the tenant interest up to the date that the tenant vacates or abandons the rental premises. In an earlier change, this would be to 17, but it is related to the idea of these security deposits, the government had made some modifications to enable a landlord to invest the security deposit. So there was some movement on the part of the government, but I know not fully to the pleasure of at least one of the landlords who had provided input to the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Clause 16, interest. Mr. Richard.

Landlord Abuse Of Security Deposits

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, just generally with respect to 16 and 17. This is a change from the current legislation and I had initially expressed to the Minister a concern in my correspondence with him last year; a concern that the bill was implementing a protective, restrictive regime, presumably to have tenants protected against a landlord's defalcation or misuse, absconding with tenants' security deposits. I do not believe that there is a big history of that happening in the landlord-tenant industry in the Northwest Territories. I cannot recall what Ms McMillan indicated in her report. There was one isolated incident I know in the Yellowknife market a few years ago, but even in that case, as I recall, the tenants were eventually reimbursed their security deposits -- those who had the deposit due to them. And it occurred to me that the bill was setting up a new practice or requirement for the isolated incident that never occurred. I asked if the Minister or the government could not consider instead, a provision for, maybe, non-resident landlords to deposit these funds in a special account, or for landlords who had been delinquent in the past in failing to meet their obligations to reimburse security deposits to tenants, or maybe just a provision to have landlords post a bond of some kind to protect the tenant against the misuse of the security deposit funds.

Because this is a new system, landlords are going to have to do extra accounting. I have no problem with the tenant who is entitled to receive his security deposit back, getting interest on that money. The Minister has changed that now to a 30 day term deposit rate, which I believe is reasonable. But the placing of the funds in a separate account -- I understand a lot of landlords do commingle that money with their own money and use it in the cash flow requirements of their business and now they are not going to have that liberty, if you will. Now, any time you change what the landlord is going to do, I think you are going to increase his operating costs. And we all know, every time there is an increase in operating costs, it can only be offset one way and that is by the landlord's passing on his increased operating costs to his tenant. If I could ask the Minister, was he not able to investigate the notion of a posting of a bond in situations where the rental officer or the government, if you will, did have a genuine concern that there may be a defalcation or misuse of funds, rather than applying this blanket rule to everybody? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Erkloo): Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: We spent a lot of time and a lot of effort on this particular clause and we talked to other landlords, there seems to be one landlord who is against it. In fact, that individual landlord told me in a letter that if we put this forward he is going to raise the rents and blame it on me, which I find unacceptable. I think everybody, landlords and tenants, must recognize what we are attempting to do with this particular legislation and that is to find a reasonable balance and fairness to both sides. There is one school of thought that because of the high rents in the Northwest Territories, it is calling for rent controls. We rejected that

particular option, with the support of the committee and most people who appeared in front of the committee and the consultant, because the southern experience with rent controls has been dismal. In Ontario and in British Columbia with control, rents have gone up and developers have stopped building. I think the only way we are going to have some relief from high rents in the Northwest Territories is to have a climate where developers will build apartments and provide competition. So, we did not bring in rent controls. I know that if one or two developers use that sort of rationale and raise rents based on this legislation, future governments, I am sure, would reconsider rent control.

What Security Deposit Is

I think we have to recognize what a security deposit is. A security deposit was never intended to be a slush fund for landlords. A security deposit was originally intended to be an insurance to protect the landlord from potential damage to the premises. That was the original intent. In this particular legislation, we are doubling the amount of money that a landlord will have access to. So in the case of a big landlord, especially in Yellowknife, we are looking at extra hundreds of thousands of dollars that that landlord, under this particular act, will have virtually unrestricted use of. The only restriction we are putting on a landlord is that it has to be invested as directed by the Trustee Act. It is still fairly wide open. I think that anyone here would love the opportunity to have a big chunk of money to be able to use and to only have to pay interest at the lowest or almost the lowest rate available at the banks but have the opportunity to invest that money at a much higher rate of return.

I think from the original draft of this particular bill we have bent over backwards to try to be fair and I totally reject any sort of a threat by a landlord who says that because of this they are going to raise rent. It is unacceptable and it is not right and I would tell any landlord who takes that approach that in the future, governments will take that sort of action very, very seriously. I think that in this particular case, I think the money has now some safeguards. I think that landlords have tremendous freedom with the use of large sums of money which essentially belong to the tenants. The tenants are only going to receive minimal interest for it while the landlord could, with any sort of prudent investment, probably pick up another eight or 10 or 12 per cent interest on the tenant's money. So, I really think that we have attempted here to be fair and I do not think any landlord, any rational responsible landlord can argue with this particular clause. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, I asked a fairly simple question, whether the Minister and his department had not investigated this other approach of requiring the filing or posting of bonds as security. I do not know why the Minister is getting so upset about my question. I do not know where or why he is using the term "slush fund". That term has connotations and topics that we are not discussing this afternoon. I cannot think of an example now, but I do not know who is raising anything about slush funds and his comment that landlords can do whatever they want with this money -- well, they cannot. That is precisely the point under this act. This act is very clear in that it provides for a scheme of protection of security deposits and I do not criticize the government for bringing in some sort of a scheme, but clearly the words are fairly clear. The landlord is to put the money in a chartered bank, not in a chartered bank in the Bahamas or a credit union in Alberta, it is to be a chartered bank in the Territories, that is fairly clear; or he can invest it as trust funds as a trustee would normally under the Trustee Act.

Landlord May Not Use Money As He Sees Fit

So the landlord clearly is not free to use the money as he sees fit as the Minister has indicated, because the act does not say that. Bill 19-87(1), clause 17 says this is what the landlord may do with the money. I am simply asking if the Minister and his department did not investigate, instead of clause 17, of requiring all landlords or those landlords it is feared may misuse security deposits, of having them post a bond with the rental officer or with the consumer affairs officer with the Department of Justice and Public Services. If I could just ask that question again.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Richard. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I guess, Mr. Chairman, I was responding when the Member said that if this sort of clause is put in, a landlord who would not be able to use the extra money would pass on to the tenants the extra costs or associated costs. That is what I was responding to, the comment that the Member made.

I think that the Member's question is a fair one and we did look at it. Our information was that there would be a certain amount of logistical difficulty to get a rational bonding process in place. We looked at this one particular clause in the last two months and it has probably given us the most difficulty. I went to other landlords and asked what advice they had, how to handle it, and generally they felt that the restrictions of the Trustees Act are not that onerous. I agree there is some restriction but it still gives them fairly good use of the money. In fact, the second part of the act, the major parameters of using money under the clauses of the act are that a person shall exercise the judgment and the care that a man of prudent discretion and intelligence would exercise. Essentially, using that as a criterion, that person then could invest I think in a variety of operations or investments. So, we did look at it and we looked at every possible permutation and combination of ways to deal with this. I said we made some modifications from our original position and I think that, unless I can be convinced otherwise, this particular clause as it stands right now is fair to both the tenant and the landlord.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Anything further? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: If I could ask for some clarification. I thought I was clear at the point where we were dealing with it in the committee. Now I am not so sure. I thought that the way 17 reads now, that the landlord may invest the money that he receives as security deposit, according to the terms of the Trustee Act. That he must retain on deposits separate from his own money whatever he will have to pay back as security deposit and interest, but that the remainder of the money which he may gather as a result of his investments, he is able to use in his operations. That was the way I understood it at the time. Is that a correct understanding?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, under the Trustee Act, a trustee is authorized to invest in every kind of property, real, personal or mixed, and to use judgment and care of a man of prudence, discretion and intelligence. So, if in the opinion of the landlord, there is a prudent investment in one of his own operations -- at some point, he would have to potentially defend that to a judge, that it was in fact a prudent investment. But, there is nothing that we have read in the Trustee Act that would prevent a landlord from investing in a reasonable operation of his or her own.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Further, Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I was also interested in the profits that might result from investments. Was my understanding correct that he must retain, in the trust account, the amount to pay back the security deposits and the interests but that any amount over and above that he is able to use in his operation?

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, there would. My understanding of that, and again it is a technical interpretation, is that the money that comes from deposits would all go into this particular fund. The landlord would have access to the profits that are derived from those particular funds. The landlord essentially could do what he wants with the profits that are derived from the funds invested per se.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Any further comments? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Okay, just so as to make it clear, the other half of that equation then is that it was the committee's understanding, and that now is confirmed, that while the landlord may do that, the tenant can be assured that it will always be, as much as you can be assured of anything as "always", that your security deposit is secure and that you will receive it when you leave, along with interest, providing you have not damaged the place in the meantime. There is that security for tenants.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Minister, is that correct?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Clause 16, interest. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 17, obligation. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 18, return of security deposit. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, the letter from the government noted here that 18(5) was amended to enable either a landlord or a tenant to refer a matter of security deposit to a rental officer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 18, return of security deposit. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 19, change of landlord. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 20, consequences of change of landlord. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 21, change of tenant by assignment. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 22, right to assign or sublet. Mr. MacQuarrie.

No Automatic Right Of Assignment

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, in committee some question had arisen over the automatic right of assignment, which originally had appeared in the bill, in that it seemed that it may be a way to subvert waiting lists where you have tenants who have friends who may just have appeared on the scene and if there was an automatic right of assignment that that could subvert the waiting list, people who had been patient and had the right to expect that, where someone had offered rental accommodation, they went on with the list and that when their turn came, that they could reasonably expect to be assigned and yet here was a method of subverting that. And so, in the letter to the committee, it notes that the Department of Justice is of the opinion that a rental officer should not be able to permit an assignment without the landlord's written consent. If a landlord unreasonably withholds his consent to an assignment, then the parties would have to take the matter to court rather than to a rental officer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Further comments? Clause 22, right to assign or sublet. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 23, no charge for consent. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 24, subtenant's rights and obligations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Rights and obligations, mutual obligations. Clause 25, alteration of locks to rental premises. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 26, tenant's right to privacy. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 27, entry without notice. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 28, remedies. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 29, entry by political canvassers. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 30, obligation to repair. Agreed? Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, just a one word-change in 30(5) but it is significant. The word that appeared in that clause before was a tenant shall give prompt notice and that had some implications that Members were concerned about and I will just note for Members that the government has amended that to read "reasonable notice" rather than "prompt".

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Clause 30, obligation to repair. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Obligation To Repair Basement Suite

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 31, tenant to repair. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, at this point there was some discussion about buildings where the landlord himself may be living in them and basement suites and that sort of thing. There was a little unclarity and the matter was raised with the government. The government has reviewed it and

indicates in a letter to us that the Department of Justice is of the opinion that this subsection would not apply to basement apartments. The reason is that this subsection applies only to a residential complex comprised of one rental premises. If there was a basement apartment in addition to the living accommodation for the landlord then the residential complex would be comprised of two rental premises and then other provisions of the bill would come into effect there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Any further comments? Clause 31, tenant to repair. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 32, payment of rent to rental officer. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 33, definition. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 34, quiet enjoyment. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 35, no seizure of tenant's property. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 36, notice of legal name of landlord. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 37, landlord to make available copy of act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 38, tenant directory. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 39, compliance with additional obligations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 40. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Locks On Rental Premises

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you. We will note that a new (2) has been added to clause 40. The letter from the government says, "As suggested, a subsection was added to section 40 to provide that, where the landlord has not installed locks to the rental premises, a rental officer may require the landlord to comply with this obligation." And this now is 40(2) of the bill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 40, safety devices. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 41, obligation to pay rent. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, the government's letter to the committee states that subsection 41(3) was amended to state that the penalty on late payment of rent shall be calculated by multiplying the deposit rate on deposit receipts for 30 days. This is a corollary to the change made to section 16. So this was not one specifically asked by the committee but the government is indicating that it suits the change that was made earlier to section 16.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 41, obligation to pay rent. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 42, responsibility for repair of damage. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 43, quiet enjoyment. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 44, landlord to investigate complaints. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 45, compliance with additional obligations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 46, illegal activities. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 47, rent increases. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 48, restriction on termination of tenancy. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 49, automatic renewal of tenancy. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 50, agreement to terminate. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 51, termination by tenant of fixed term agreement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 52, termination by tenant of periodic tenancy agreement. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 53, early termination by tenant. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 54, notice of early termination by landlord. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Notice Of Termination Of At Least 10 Days

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, the letter from the government says, "As suggested, paragraph 54(1)(d) was amended to read that the landlord may give a tenant notice of termination of at least 10 days where the tenant has not complied with an order of a rental officer to rectify a breach of an additional obligation to the tenancy agreement." Now, I had meant to check this out before and did not. I guess my mind got on to other things. I do not recollect that the committee specifically asked for that, so I would ask, Mr. Chairman, if we can just by-pass this clause while I hunt that down and just carry on with other things. Can you respond to that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Minister, do you have a comment?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: If the chairman recalls, during the discussion at committee, we had gone through our discussion and then the representative for the law society spoke. I think we touched on it and it is a recommendation that the law society had made. It was part of our conversation. If I recall, that is how it happened.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. MacQuarrie, do you have anything further, or would you still like to set this down?

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I would appreciate just leaving over it and I will check it out a little further.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Does the committee agree to defer this section 54? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 55, contents of notice of termination. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 56, termination of tenancy where employer landlord. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 57, termination of tenancies of different types. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 58, termination for use of landlord or where sale of residential complex. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 59, termination for demolition, change of use or major repairs. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 60, remedy for improper termination. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 61, application of government authority. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Territorial, Federal Or Municipal Authority

MR. MacQUARRIE: The government letter again notes that section 61 has been amended. It is now clear that where a territorial, federal or municipal authority who is not a landlord requires rental premises to be vacated, it may apply to a rental officer for an order to terminate. Subsection 61(2) states that the rental officer may issue an order if he determines that the rental premises must be vacated in order to comply with the order of a territorial, federal or municipal authority.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Clause 61, application of government authority. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 62, abandonment. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 63, order of eviction. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 64, abandoned personal property. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 65, sale of unclaimed property. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 66, remedies for wrongful sale. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Overholding tenants, clause 67, rent due. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Applications, clause 68. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Time Frame For Application To Rental Officer

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, just a one-word change again but it was a matter that concerned the committee and that is the change and the time frame. It had been a five day time frame before and the government has extended it to 14 days now. So that is the only change in that clause. That is 68(2).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Clause 68, application to a rental officer. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 69, application to judge or territorial judge. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 70, summary application to judge or territorial judge. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Service, clause 71, service of notices. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Rental officer, appointment, clause 72, appointment. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Duties and powers, clause 73. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Suitable Appointments As Rental Officers

MR. MacQUARRIE: Just as a matter of interest, in 72 where it is talking about the appointment of rental officers, perhaps the Minister could give some indication of what time frame or what considerations are going to be taken into account as to whether justices of the peace would be suitable appointments as rental officers.

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

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have put together the job description. We are talking with the Department of Personnel right now to get the PY classified. I think at this point in time, anyhow, it probably will take until the fall to have a person in place in Yellowknife at the outset, but at the same time we are investigating the possibility of having part-time rental officers in regions to start off with. Mr. MacQuarrie has already made mention of the possibility, of JPs at the community level who potentially might take on this responsibility. Basically we want to start the process and have at least one rental officer in place in headquarters and, hopefully, by September some part-time rentals persons in place in the regions. I think it will probably take a year to get an idea of what sort of demand is put on the position and I would have to say the next government will have to evaluate that and then decide if there is a need for full-time people in the regions. For instance, some regions might have more of a need than others. So it will probably take a year or two to get it totally in place but we hope to have the process started this fall. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. MacQuarrie, do you have anything further? Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just with regard to the last comment that was made by the Minister, I do have concern with the idea of just having one individual being appointed immediately. I would think that the Minister should consider more than one person, in terms of employing those individuals, mainly because in terms of Yellowknife, if you have a substantial number of renters, you might say, or landlords, and much of the work that is going to be done by this particular individual will probably centre around Yellowknife alone, at least within the next year. There are other landlords in the Territories and Inuvik happens to be one centre. I assume that Hay River and Fort Smith are a couple more, in terms of larger centres, and so is Iqaluit. Maybe it is just a matter of recommending to the Minister that he consider additional staff members, that one dealing with the East and one dealing with the West be appointed in addition to the one that is stationed here in Yellowknife. Because I think you are going to have that individual dealing primarily with the issues of Yellowknife initially. I just have concern that the other issues are not going to be dealt with in the regions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I think the Member has made a valid point. Over the summer we will be looking at options. Obviously, our intention is to cover equally all areas of the Northwest Territories. As I said, one way of going is to get somebody based here to start off with. We have to start somewhere and that person obviously will be travelling to the regions and evaluating the demand in the regions. There is the possibility of part-time people in the regions. And I think quite soon in the process we will be able to tell what sort of demand is going to be put on this position and from where. So, if there is a need for full-time people in other regions, I think we will find out fairly quickly. I would say that within a year or in time for the next budget process, there should be enough information so that the next Minister of Justice can come to this House with some data and some request to have extra manpower if needed. Thank you.

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

Positions Could Be Term Positions

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to indicate further that the positions do not necessarily have to be permanent, as opposed to term. So that, in terms of review, we may get an indication, as the Minister has pointed out, of the requirements of the staff members to respond to the needs of both the tenants and the landlords in the implementation of the act, rather than the idea of having one individual do the analysis themselves -- initially I assume that much of the work is going to be education in terms of the act itself. And secondly, how that is going to be implemented, in particular in the larger centres? I believe that Yellowknife is probably going to have the largest demand on the individual than any other region initially. But, I just wanted to make that suggestion if the Minister is going to be reviewing this particular issue over the summer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Yes, the concept of term positions is a good one and I think we will definitely have a look at it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Clause 72, appointment. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 73, duty. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 74, powers. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Procedure. Clause 75, expeditious procedures. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 76, rental officer to mediate. Mr. MacQuarrie.

Frivolous Or Vexatious Applications

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, the government's letter to the committee notes that as suggested, subsection 76(2) has been amended to state that where the rental officer refuses to accept an application or to continue any proceeding where he is of the opinion that the proceeding is frivolous or vexatious or it has not been initiated in good faith, the rental officer issues an order to that effect. So that it is clear and documented. That change has been made.

I just note, and I may be wrong, but in that subsection (2) the word "frivilous" appears and that is not the way I spell "frivolous". I am not sure whether the way I spell frivolous is wrong. So, is there anybody here who is certain about it? I think it is frivol.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. You will note that in the actual subclause the spelling is, I think, "frivilous", where it is frivolous. Which would you prefer? Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: So that there will be no more frivolity.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Considered a typo that will be corrected. Clause 76. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: No, I just had a question with regard to 74, under Public Inquiries Act, that I wanted to ask the Minister, if we could return to that particular item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 76, rental officer to mediate. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Do you agree to go back to clause 74, subsection (3)? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Mr. Nerysoo.

Public Inquiries Act

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is with regard to the approval of the public inquiry itself. Is the Minister responsible for determining the modifications?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Is that it Mr. Nerysoo? Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: My understanding is that the sections in the act which are appropriate to the act will be in effect. It is not a discretionary power on the part of the Minister. Obviously it is not a public inquiry board. If you look at the act, there is one section (4) which would not necessarily be needed. My legal counsel tell me that it logically follows that certain sections of this act which have to be consistent with this new act would fall into place. Does that answer your question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I do not have any problem with the idea of the Public Inquiries Act having some relevance to this particular act but in this particular Landlord Tenancies Act you are already determining that the rental officer will be determined as a commissioner under the Public Inquiries Act and having all those authorities that are, in fact, given to a commissioner under that particular act. My concern, I guess, rests with wherever the modifications are and I can agree, Mr. Chairman, with such modifications as the Minister may approve but if I read it correctly, the rental officer can determine the amount of modifications without ever having to go to the Minister. Basically, I am trying to protect the authority of the Minister in terms of making those modifications and maybe I am reading this incorrectly but nothing there indicates that the rental officer needs the approval of the Minister, even in determining modifications.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: To my understanding, it is a drafting procedure we are talking about here and it is pretty cut and dried to the draftspeople that there is no discretion here for either the Minister or for the rentals person. Logically, from this act there were certain powers in the Public Inquiries Act that would be necessary for the rentals person to do their job. I am told there is no inconsistency in putting it in this particular way.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Minister is satisfied that his authority is protected, then I am not going to argue with him. But just the way it is read, and I think just the way the Public Inquiries Act reads, I would be concerned about it. But if the drafters and the Minister are happy, I will not debate it any longer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Perhaps I can ascertain that then, Mr. Nerysoo. Is the Minister happy?

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Happy but not frivolous, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): You are going to be frivolous in a moment because if we are finished with that section, I will entertain a motion from you to change the spelling in the bill on line 38. We just cannot call it a typo. So you may not be "frivilous" but you are going to have to be "frivolous".

Motion To Amend Bill 19-87(1), Clause 76, Subclause (2), Carried

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: I apologize for the spelling errors. Mr. Chairman, I move on page 38, line 38, the spelling of "frivilous". The fifth letter, if I could delete the "i" and replace it with an "o".

MR. NERYSOO: Point of order.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Chairman, do you have to name the bill?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Perhaps, Mr. Minister, you could phrase your amendment by quoting the bill and the clause number and keep everybody happy.

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: It is Bill 19-87(1), the Residential Tenancies Act, clause 76, subsection (2).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Bill 19-87(1), under the section dealing with procedure, clause 76, subsection (2), line 38. You are changing the spelling from "frivilous" to "frivolous". That motion is in order. All in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 76, rental officer to mediate, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 77, decision to hold hearing. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 78, issues may be heard together. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 79, examination of materials. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 80, rental officer to question parties. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 81, rental officer to investigate. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 82, decision. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 83, making of order. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 84, tenant may deduct compensation from rent. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 85, authority of order. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 86, filing of an order. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 87, appeal to judge. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 88, stay of order. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 89, decision on appeal. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 90, appeal to court of appeal. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

False Information In Sworn Statement

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 91, offences. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, I would like to note that there was a change in clause 91(f) to note specifically that it would be an offence if there were false information in a sworn statement to a rental officer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 91, offences. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Regulations. Clause 92, regulations. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 93, repeal. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 94, commencement. Mr. Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Minister what his current intentions are with respect to a date for the legislation to take effect?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Mr. Minister.

Date Of Coming Into Force

HON. MICHAEL BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For two reasons I do not expect it will be until the fall. One, I would like to get the rental office and the potential of part-time rental officers, or what have you, in the regions worked out. Also, I would like to give some opportunity to circulate the bill to landlords and tenants to make them familiar with it. So, my intent -- I do not have the exact date, but it would be in the fall, at some point in the fall when I am still a Minister. Definitely not before September, for sure.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Clause 95. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Schedule. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, committee had recommended a couple of changes to the schedule that have been included. First, the schedule has been amended by adding to the note that follows section 7, that the breach by a landlord to perform his obligation may result in his tenancy being terminated. Paragraph 8(c) of schedule has been amended so that the wording would be the same as that in the act. Therefore, a tenant has to conduct himself and require other persons on the rental premises with his consent to conduct themselves in a manner that will not disturb the landlord's or the other tenants' possession or enjoyment of the rental premises or residential complex. There was a point, as well, at which the committee had recommended that there be witnesses to the signatures and that has been included as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Schedule. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): We will go back now to clause 54 that was set aside. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MACQUARRIE: Yes, it appears that that did arise as a result of a suggestion from the law reform committee rather than the standing committee on legislation, in that they suggested that all of the grounds for terminating tenancies ought to be codified in the legislation itself and this was done with respect to this one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Clause 54, notice of early termination by landlord. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Short title. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): The bill as a whole, as amended. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Does the committee agree that Bill 19-87(1) is ready for third reading, as amended? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses.

The next item is the fourth report. Mr. Butters, do you have something else?

HON. TOM BUTTERS: Well, I was just going to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that there may be some discussion on the fourth report. Bill 35-87(1) is very short. I wonder if we might try that before 6:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): What is the wish of the committee? Does the committee agree to deal with Bill 35-87(1)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 35-87(1), Workers' Compensation Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Bill 35-87(1), An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act. Mr. Minister, do you have any opening comments?

Minister's Opening Remarks

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, the intention of the act is to do two things. The first thing is basically house cleaning. For several years now, the board has given money to St. John Ambulance to provide safety related programs in the Territories, and also has given a contribution to the Department of Justice to have a safety program within the Department of Justice. Even though this has been the practice for several years, it has been pointed out that the current legislation does not allow this practice. So we want to amend the legislation so that practice can continue.

The other purpose of this bill is of interest to almost all the Members in this House, particularly those Members who have an awful lot of residents who hold general hunting and trapping licences and whose primary subsistence and source of income is hunting and trapping. The idea of the bill is to cover people who hold general hunting licences and whose primary source of income is derived from hunting and trapping. For the purpose of those people, this legislation will deem them to be employees of the Government of the NWT and they will be covered under the part of the contributions which are given by the GNWT to cover its employees. The reason for this is the government wants to recognize people who hunt and trap in the Northwest Territories and provide the primary part of their subsistence from that job and to recognize that that is a valuable job in the Northwest

Territories and that those people should be covered by adequate compensation. With that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask in my witnesses, the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Mike Moore; and Mr. Patrick Orr from the Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms accompany Mr. Orr and Mr. Moore? Thank you. Mr. Minister, for the purposes of the records of this committee meeting, would you introduce your witnesses, please? Mr. Pedersen.

HON. RED PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move that we extend the sitting hours until we complete this item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): A motion to extend the sitting hours to complete this order of business. All those in favour? Against? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Minister, just for the record.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My witnesses are, on my left, the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Mike Moore and on my right, Mr. Patrick Orr, from the Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Mr. MacQuarrie, do you have any comments on the bill?

Comments From The Standing Committee On Legislation

MR. MacQUARRIE: The standing committee on legislation generally approved of both of the purposes in the bill: the one to enable the board to make some contributions to deserving organizations that were promoting safety and the other to extend workers' compensation benefits. The committee, however, in the majority felt that the bill should go further than what the government had introduced. The government bill states that these benefits are to be available to a person who is "an independent operator principally engaged in hunting, fishing or trapping for a livelihood." One Member of the committee had introduced a motion, and it was supported by the committee, asking that the wording in Clause 1, paragraph 10.1.(1)(c) be modified to indicate that they be available to an operator "partly or wholly engaged in hunting, fishing or trapping as a material part of his income." That motion passed in the committee and was submitted to the government, although the government has indicated that it does not wish to accept that change. Perhaps the Minister could explain why that is the case.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. Mr. Minister, do you have a response or would you like to make a response?

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Executive Council in considering this wanted to cover off those people whose primary source of income comes from hunting and trapping. Other people who hold general hunting licences but have a full-time job or derive most of their income from another source of income, first of all are covered by workers' compensation while they are doing that other job and they also have enough income. It is felt by Members of the Executive that they could go the route which exists right now for people who hold general hunting and trapping licences, to pay the \$100 which would then cover them while they were hunting and trapping as an additional source of income.

In other words, we think we are taking a large step forward here to provide coverage for people whose primary source of income is hunting and trapping and we think that people who do not hunt and trap as their primary source of income have other jobs which would allow them to take advantage of the other coverage where they could pay \$100 under the existing system and be covered while hunting and trapping. So that is basically the position that the Executive have taken on that. To do this right now is a big step forward and we are applying quite a bit of the resources of the government to this. We feel that what we are doing is a more than adequate measure in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Speaking as an individual Member, the person in committee who had raised the concern and wanted to see a change was Ms Cournoyea and she is not able to be here now. She would still like to pursue the matter and asked if I would, on her behalf, introduce an amendment when the bill came into the House and I will do that now. I move that...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Excuse me, Mr. MacQuarrie, we are on general comments. Mr. Nerysoo.

Principal Source Of Livelihood

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support the amendments that are being made to the Workers' Compensation Act. The only concern that I would have in terms of the principal livelihood is that when individuals are not participating in hunting and trapping during the summer, they could work only for four months and make more money in those four months than they do in the eight months they spend on hunting, trapping and fishing. So the manner in which it is being interpreted could be very difficult. I would hope that upon implementation of the amendment that you have here, that you do some review of the implications for those people that do have to work in short periods of the year to gain more money than they do in all the year in hunting, trapping and fishing.

The other point I wanted to make was in terms of the application of these amendments. What is the intention of the Workers' Compensation Board to implement this particular section? Is there going to be an all-out public relations scheme to inform hunters and trappers that this is available to them? And the other thing, does this also apply to those who are commercially fishing on Great Slave Lake or other lakes that are available for char fishing in the East or in the Arctic areas? How is this going to be made available to those people?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In answering the last part first. Commercial fishermen are already covered under the act under a scheme which is working well right now, but if a person holding a general hunting licence was fishing, not for a commercial fishing operation, he would be covered under this new scheme. So that answers that part of it.

The other part is that if a person has a job for another part of the year and it could be only for three or four months, that could be a job with a significant amount of income and, like I said before, the person could very easily then afford to pay the \$100 to cover themselves off for the other part of the year. But the wording was specifically left vague in that area so that where a person spent more time in the year as a general hunter and trapper than he did in some part-time job, for example, with an oil exploration company, the board could then make the decision in that individual's case, to cover him off under this provision. By just saying "principally", the board could use either income or time as the definition of "principally". So the board would then have the option to evaluate each individual case that comes to it so that it would not be forced into a rigid situation.

And the other part of the question was public relations. The idea would be to take advantage of Mr. Pedersen's department and through all the renewable resource officers in the Territories and the hunters and trappers associations, to make the accident forms available so that every person who gets a general hunting licence would then be able to have a form available to him at claim time in order to fill it out and submit it with his licence number on it. We would make sure, through Mr. Pedersen's officials, that those officials would help people in the field to fill out the necessary applications. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nerysoo.

MR. NERYSOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could ask, are those forms available now for Members of the Assembly to at least have copies of and if they are prepared would they be made available by the Workers' Compensation Board so they could take some of the documentation back to their communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Nerysoo. Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry. I did not make it properly clear. The intent is that every person who holds a general hunting and trapping licence will be covered by this and when they have an accident, the application forms to request compensation, would be available through the hunters and trappers associations. So when this act is proclaimed, anyone with a general hunting licence who primarily hunts, is covered automatically. The form is only necessary to be filled out at the time of an accident. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further general comments? Mr. Erkloo.

Workers' Compensation For Hunters And Trappers A Good Thing

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this will be very beneficial to the hunters and trappers, especially if they have an accident. If the insurance is going to be available for them, I think that will be very helpful. When this topic comes up we always get mixed up with who is an employee full time or who is an employee just for part time. Sometimes I am told that I am not a true hunter and trapper. I do not think we could come up with a proper definition as to what a hunter and trapper is. For example, I cannot understand what Greenpeace is all about. I was talking to a teacher about this and I was trying to get some clarification from him. And the teacher said to me that he himself is a hunter and trapper and he can hunt and trap just like an Inuit person. When he tries to catch a caribou, he has to say "bye" to it first before he shoots the caribou. The way an Inuit person and a non-native person look at hunting is very different. We are coming up with more answers.

I would like to thank Moses Koonuk from Arctic Bay because I think he was heavily involved in getting insurance for hunters and trappers. There should be more Inuit people in the smaller committees heavily involved instead of just appearing as a council member. I think people like him should say more about their problems. I just wanted to say to the House that if somebody is going to make a motion I will be in favour of it. The Minister stated earlier that the hunters and trappers, even though they work part time in a year, will be covered by this insurance, will have insurance. Who would they pay the \$100 to if they want to apply for insurance?

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, first I want to make it clear that a hunter and trapper who holds a general hunting licence, whose primary job is hunting and trapping, does not have to apply. As soon as this act is proclaimed they will be automatically covered. The only time they will have to fill out any kind of forms is when they are injured and are making a request for compensation and there is no fee involved. So there is no form to fill out to be covered and there is no charge.

But for those people, possibly like the honourable Member where it may be considered that hunting and trapping is not their primary source of income, they would have to get an application and pay the \$100 fee and the applications are available by writing to the Workers' Compensation Board. I believe they are also available at regional headquarters offices, and hunters and trappers associations apparently have the application forms available as well.

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

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thanks for the clarification. I believe the ordinance has not come into force yet. It is not used yet. Do the hunters and trappers in the communities have these forms already or are they going to have these forms available only after the bill has come into force?

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

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The existing program where a person holding a general hunting licence can pay \$100 in order to get coverage currently exists, and the forms are currently in regional offices and held by local hunters and trappers associations. But my information is that only about half a dozen hunters and trappers in the whole Northwest Territories have applied under this program even though it is available right now. So, for people for whom hunting and trapping is not a primary source of income, those forms are available now and that program will continue to be available after this is put in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Mr. Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question. The \$100, is this to cover one year or is this for the life of the hunter?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Mr. Minister.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$100 fee is to cover one year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Any further general comments? Are you prepared to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 1. Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated I would like to advance an amendment on behalf of Ms Cournoyea who suggested the wording before she left. As I say, the reason I am doing it is because the standing committee on legislation had approved, by motion, a modification to the bill which the government has not accepted.

Motion To Amend Paragraphs 10.1.(1)(b) And 10.1.(1)(c), Clause 1, Bill 35-87(1)

Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 35-87(1), An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, be amended in the following way: That paragraphs 10.1.(1)(b) and 10.1.(1)(c) in clause 1 be deleted in their entirety and the following substituted: "(b) holds a valid general hunting licence issued under the Wildlife Act or has the authority to hunt, fish and trap pursuant to an agreement between a group of aboriginal peoples of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada; and (c) is an independent operator engaged in hunting, fishing or trapping and earns a material part of his livelihood from such activity."

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

MR. MacQUARRIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms Cournoyea had wanted the change in (b) because apparently under the provisions of some land claims agreements, it is her understanding that a general hunting licence may not be required. Then, as far as (c) is concerned, she wanted to broaden the opportunity for hunters and trappers beyond what this bill provides and the bill does, as is already noted, provide without fee the opportunity for workers' compensation benefits for those who are engaged principally in hunting, fishing or trapping for a livelihood. I know Ms Cournoyea had the concern that you may have individuals who are employed not full time throughout the year but perhaps full time for several months, perhaps even six months during the year, but then for another part of the year they may be engaged in hunting, fishing or trapping and they would not necessarily fit under the definition. So she is suggesting this alternative wording.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. MacQuarrie. To the motion. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to suggest to Members that what we are doing with this bill right now is taking a pretty big step in recognition of people that earn their livelihood as hunters and trappers in the Northwest Territories. I think the board should be congratulated for taking this initiative to cover those people, it is long overdue. But I would suggest to Members that this amendment should be defeated because the people that do not spend the primary amount of their time hunting and trapping or do not have hunting or trapping as their primary source of income, have another job that adequately provides them enough income that they can easily afford \$100 to cover themselves while they are being part-time hunters and trappers. So I would urge Members to defeat this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Mr. Wray.

HON. GORDON WRAY: Thank you. If I could ask the mover of the motion what the intention is or what they mean by "earns a material part of his livelihood". Could I ask the mover of the motion for clarification of that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Mr. MacQuarrie.

MR. MacQUARRIE: Yes, it seems that the wording in the bill which says, "principally engaged" would have a time implication associated with it. In other words if you hunted, fished or trapped for five months a year, the board might decide that you are not principally engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing. Whereas if the words "a material part of your livelihood" were used, the board would understand that you had worked for Esso for seven months, now you were hunting and trapping for the other five months and you are injured at that time -- well, you were engaged in that occupation to earn a material part of your livelihood, so you would be covered automatically. That was the intention, Mr. Chairman.

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

Implicating Land Claims Process

MR. CURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do respect the honourable Member's proxy in this exercise.

---Laughter

But at the same time I think it is important that we separate this very complex set of agreements between aboriginal groups which have settled through the land claims -- I would think that they do have provisions in the agreement that give a certain recognition to the profession. Therefore, to try and put in a provision now to incorporate them as a part of the group of hunters or groups that would be eligible to be covered under this act, I would think that, without the benefit of having what these agreements are, certainly creates a bit of confusion. Not to undermine whatever these land claims agreements are -- I think if we do that we may be implicating a whole lot more than we are trying to do. So in that regard, I am not sure whether I am going to support the motion without seeing what these agreements are there for because I think what has been done by the government and the Minister is a remarkable step and a very important step because the hunting profession and the fishing industry are two of the most hazardous occupations and that deserves to be recognized. I would like to congratulate the Minister and his department for coming forward with the amendment. But let us not try to be so generous that we implicate and complicate a whole lot of things because we do not have the agreements. I certainly think if we were to ask the legal adviser, that we would go into a whole lot of legal hassles right now. So I am not at the moment going to support the proposed amendment notwithstanding at all my full support to the land claims provisions in the other agreements between Canada and aboriginal groups. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. McLaughlin.

HON. BRUCE McLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, just one clarification, the understanding is that by putting the word, "principally" in there, as I said before, we have left it open enough to interpretation that the board can make decisions which make common sense, which is what the members of the Workers' Compensation Board always try to do. And I would put it to you that if a person, for example, was working in the oil and gas industry for six or seven months and they then quit that job because the job was over, either forever or even just over for the season, and then that person went back onto the land and was hunting and trapping for the next five or six or seven months and then had an injury, the Workers' Compensation Board would rule that that person had left one job and now had gone into a job where he was principally a hunter and trapper and he would be covered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Any further comments? Are you ready for the question?

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

Motion To Amend Paragraphs 10.1.(1)(b) And 10.1.(1)(c), Clause 1, Bill 35-87(1), Defeated

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Question being called. All those in favour? Opposed, if any? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

I would just like to mention that it is very nice to have the entire cabinet, past and present, here in committee of the whole.

---Applause

Clause 1, independent operator engaged in hunting, fishing or trapping. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Clause 2, agreements respecting safety. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Is Bill 35-87(1) ready to report for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses. I will rise and report progress.

AN HON. MEMBER: You did a good job.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Mr. McCallum.

ITEM 18: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILL 37-87(1), SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT, NO. 2, 1987-88; BILL 19-87(1), RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT; BILL 35-87(1), WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

MR. McCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 37-87(1), 19-87(1) and 35-87(1), and wishes to report that Bill 37-87(1) and 35-87(1) are now ready for third reading. And further, Mr. Speaker, Bill 19-87(1) is also ready for third reading as amended.

Motion To Accept Report Of Committee Of The Whole, Carried

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Carried

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

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Announcements, Mr. Speaker. There will be a caucus meeting tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Orders of the day for Tuesday, June 16th, 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: Fourth Report of the Special Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges; Bill 28-87(1)
18. Report of Committee of the Whole
19. Third Reading of Bills
20. Assent to Bills
21. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, June 16th at 1:00 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

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