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SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE JAMES M. RUSSELL

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. As most honourable members are aware I am sure, this is Education Week and each day this week I think we should have groups from various schools. Today in the galleries we have a group of thirty-six grade VI students from the Eugene Vaters Elementary School here in St. John's, with their teachers Mr. Raymond Stringer and Mr. Clayton Rice. On behalf of all honourable members, I would like to welcome you to the galleries and trust that your visit here is most informative.

PRESENTING PETITIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I undertook yesterday in response to some questions from honourable members opposite that I would table the report of the Royal Commission into the Blackhead Road Urban Renewal Scheme. One copy which I will table now and copies are available in my office in the department. Anyone who wants to get a copy can get it, or we can get them brought up if the honourable members wish.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: Well this is all I have at the present time, Mr. Speaker, but I will arrange to have the others brought up this afternoon so that the honourable gentlemen will not have to work so hard to obtain it.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, arising out of that if I may: Is that the full report of the Kostaszek Report?

MR. COLLINS: If the honourable Leader of the Opposition would permit me, that is the summary of the report. All of these various volumes, there are four or five of them are now before

MR. COLLINS: the printers and just as soon as they are ready we will present them.

MR. ROBERTS: We have the minister's assurance, there are five volumes, that the five volumes will be tabled when they are printed.

MR. COLLINS: I think four or five, several copies.

MR. ROBERTS: Well I understand there are five.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for St. John's South.

MR. WELLS: On behalf of the honourable member for St. John's North, who is not present, Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a petition from thirty-five residents of St. Phillips, in the District of St. John's North.

The prayer of the petition reads: We the undersigned residents of St. Phillips petition for a water system connected to the individual homes or alternatively for a community well. The water system in our area is polluted and unfit for human consumption. In fact the artesian well at the school is also polluted. Residents have had to obtain drinking water from St. John's at great trouble and expense. We would appreciate your giving this matter serious and prompt attention."

Mr. Speaker, I think, as we all know and as we certainly hear in this House from time to time in the form of petitions, that a great many areas in Newfoundland are in need of proper drinking water, the fact, that much of the drinking water in Newfoundland and small places particularly is polluted, is a matter of grave seriousness and sometimes I think, as a matter of fact, that the demand for good, clean potable water probably exceeds the demand even for roads in some parts of Newfoundland.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, I present this petition and of course support it and would ask that it be referred to the appropriate department.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: I rise to support this petition presented on behalf of the member for St. John's North on behalf of thirty-five residents of St. Phillips who are requesting an artesian well. I assume, Mr. Speaker, that is what the prayer of the petition asks for.

I think it is a very reasonable request, Sir. If the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing whom I figure is now responsible for artesian wells, if the minister sees fit to grant the prayer of this petition, Sir, I hope that the minister will not make the same mistake that has been made in the past with these artesian wells that the well will have water and that it will be completed and instead of putting just an ordinary hand pump there, that the minister will see to it that an electric pump is put in or that a submergible pump is installed in the hole and that a proper house is put over the hole to protect the pump and the artesian well and that if people want to run a line from that drill hole eventually they put water -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Well it has been done, Mr. Speaker. We have done it on Bell Island, that they run the water line right into their own home and have the water in instead of having to go down and carry it in buckets. I think we should try to get away from that now, it is a thing of the past.

I do have more than just a passing interest in St. Phillips, Mr. Speaker, with redistribution I have my eye on St. Phillips. If this present administration does not give St. Phillips the artesian well that they are asking for, well we will see to it that the next administration gives it to them.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition on behalf of sixty-six residents of Bartletts Harbour in St. Barbe North. The prayer of the petition is that they have their water line completed so that they can get water to their homes.

Sir, the water line in Bartlett's Harbour was started by the Department of Community and Social Development during the term of office of the previous administration and, Sir, last year this particular water line or construction of that project was brought to a halt. I might point out that the same thing holds true for about fifteen other communities in St. Barbe North. Hundreds of people in about fifteen communities were living in anticipation of having a water line to their homes within a year or two. Sir, many, many people purchased toilets and sinks and other plumbing utensils and they have had these utensils installed in their homes and, Sir, at the present time they serve only as ornaments and ornaments, Sir, that many of these people can ill-afford at the present time.

Sir, I am deeply disappointed that the present administration cancelled the work on these water lines without providing an alternative service to these people. I give this petition my fullest support and I ask that this petition be placed on the table of the House and referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. SENIOR: I support this petition just presented on behalf of the people of this community of St. Barbe North. Some reference was made to the fact that this administration had stopped many of the projects that had been started in this district by the previous administration.

MR. SENIOR: This, Sir, is partly correct. The primary reason for this is that we did a detailed study of the situation in St. Barbe North, in our Department of Community and Social Development, last year, and we found in fact that out of approximately \$175,000 I believe was spent in that district, most of it during the election campaign in 1971, many of these projects were started without any sense of priorities or planning, without any idea as to where these projects would or could be completed and in fact, Sir, most of the money that was spent in that particular district, and I might add there was more money spent in the District of St. Barbe North than in any other provincial district in the province in that particular year. Our investigation showed that most of the money was wasted and in fact projects, where probably \$20,000 had been spent on them, would take probably another \$75,000 to complete. After investigating this matter, we found that it just was not feasible to go ahead and complete some of the projects which had been started.

I support the petition. I hope that when work commences again in this district, on these projects; that the proper planning will be done and will be done in a more sane and sensible manner than it was by the previous administration.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, in speaking in support of the petition, let me just say three things.

First of all, Sir, the prayer of the petition is one which should commend itself to and command the support of every member of this House.

Secondly, I rarely heard a statement quite as stupid as the one just made by the gentleman from Grand Falls, what he

MR. ROBERTS: said that priorities and planning - Mr. Speaker, when it comes to a matter as important as water - the gentleman from St. John's South gave it as his opinion and I think it has much merit and much strength, that the matter of a supply of water to somebody who has not got it, is perhaps the most crucial thing of all. It is far more crucial than a road, it is at least as important as food itself, because without water we cannot live.

If people do not have water, anywhere in this province, Sir, that is a priority.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, that is typical of the gentleman from Grand Falls, typical, just typical, that is maybe the reason he was let out of the Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, if the prayer of this petition is that these people have water, or wish drinkable water, they should have water. I do not think the gentleman from Grand Falls is saying they should not. I would say that anywhere in this province where people do not have an adequate water supply, that should be the priority. As my friend from White Bay South said last year on the estimates, if these things are done during election year, his cry and my cry is "let us have an election every year, if that will get people water."

So there are a lot of requests upon the public treasury of this province, Mr. Speaker, that can wait. The matter of whether a road is paved or not paved is not one which must be resolved today. It can wait. It is possible to have a degree of priority and that some things may be done first, but Mr. Speaker, to ask people to wait for water is to ask too much of them.

MR. ROBERTS: I submit, Sir, that the attitude of the administration is not that one should have priorities on water, they are wrong. The whole question of water, all over this province, and it will cost millions, millions of dollars because the needs of Bartlett's Harbour are relatively small in a dollar sense. Many of our larger communities have even greater needs.

There is not a member in this House, Mr. Speaker, who does not have in his district one or more communities that need millions of dollars for water supplies. But they should have priority. We cannot debate at this point what happened in the past, we shall when it is appropriate, if the honourable gentleman wish. But I did want to make that point, Sir, I think it is an important one. I do not want to let it go unnoticed, with talk of priorities in the field of water.

The need for water is a priority, Sir. There can be no greater priority than that.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Premier.

MR. MOORES: I want to speak in support of this petition as well but not as it has broadened to the degree that the honourable the Leader of the Opposition has broadened it now.

I would like to say that

of course water and sewerage and all the services that go into communities that do not have them or need to go in are of a priority nature. But you know you can talk about resource development being a priority and a great many other things.

All I say, Sir, there are a great many times in this House when such a subject as this comes up when it would seem that the water situation is going to be solved by hot air. I suggest, Sir, we leave it to the people who are best able to do it.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, that is the contribution from the leader of the province.

MR. ROBERTS: It is an off day today.

MR. ROWE, W.N. It is an off day today, we are likely to see something happening. But I do not intend to get into a debate, Debate is not allowed on presentation of petitions. But I should say something, Mr. Speaker, concerning this particular petition which I support wholeheartedly since I did have the honour to be the Minister of Community and Social Development which was responsible for the past three or four years for trying to get water systems into unincorporated communities around the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador.

First of all let me reiterate what I said during the all-night session of the last sitting of this House when the honourable then Minister of Community and Social Development started to say that a lot of these things were done during the election campaign of 1971. Mr. Speaker, let me reiterate what I said then. If it means that the 200 or 300 communities which were then and some of which are now without the basic necessities of life namely, water, I wish there were an election campaign every six months instead of every three, four or five years. He is absolutely right. When I was minister of that department I found that I was able to get from the government and from Treasury Board about \$100,000 a year or so for unincorporated communities' water systems. As an election approached I found that public funds loosen up somewhat in this regard and I took complete advantage of the situation as I would do in the future, given the

same opportunity. I took complete advantage to get more and more money from treasury board and the government to try and get water systems into unincorporated communities. I will take whatever blame or whatever credit is due me on that account, Mr. Speaker.

The second point that I would like to make, Mr. Speaker, without getting into the realm of debate, relates to the honourable ex-minister's statement that it was done without planning or supervision and this sort of thing. Well I would just like to point out to the honourable member, Mr. Speaker, that all of these systems were under the overall supervision of

Mr Wallace Maynard who was a field worker in the area at that time and who subsequently became the Tory candidate in the area and seemed to have the support of the P.C. Party at that time. So if any problems with regard to supervision are evident, I suggestion the honourable gentleman go to his own would-be colleague who fortunately was not successful in getting into this House.

The third thing, Sir, which I would like to say before sitting down is that the honourable ex-minister is not correct when he gives the inference or the impression that the water systems in that district were shutdown because there was inadequate planning, and the impression seemed to be left that in other parts of the province where there was some planning they were left to go ahead. I found, Sir, when I got in opposition and started to check with the then Department of Community and Social Development, that department put a kibosh, a moratorium on all these water systems all over the province, I found it impossible to get a measly \$1,000 in one of my communities, Pollards Point, for a water system.

MR. MARSHALL: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. MARSHALL: I believe the object of the game, Mr. Speaker, is to speak to the petition and not enter into a full debate upon the administration or the government itself, either this government or the past

government.

MR. ROWE, W.N. Mr. Speaker, Your Honour need not even rule on it. Allow me to say that with these few non-controversial remarks that I support this petition wholeheartedly and I hope we will have an opportunity to debate this whole problem at length when the main estimates are brought before the House.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, before we get off this particular subject, there are a lot of petitions coming in to this honourable House daily concerning water and sewerage systems, water particularly. You know it strikes me as being rather peculiar that we find the honourable member for White Bay South and the honourable Leader of the Opposition, who have never had to go out and dig a hole in the street or dig a hole in the ground to try and come up with a drop of water, I have experienced it I know what we are talking about.

AN HON. MEMBER: Tell us all about it.

MR. COLLINS: I know exactly what I am talking about. I would like to be able to provide all the monies that are necessary to provide water for all the people of Newfoundland. Those people opposite know full well that is practically impossible. We will do our best and we will do a lot of work this coming year, please goodness, to provide, as the Leader of the Opposition said, a very important service. We cannot live by bread alone. Maybe we need water with it, I am sure we do. You know we must accept the facts of life. I had an estimate done a while ago, in the incorporated communities of Newfoundland, we were looking at about \$700 millions. If we look at the unincorporated communities we are possibly looking at another \$700 million or \$800 million and that is a figure I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that we cannot come up with overnight. But hopefully we can continue to progress and over a period of years provide suitable and safe drinking water for all of the people.

MR. P. S. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say a few words in support of this petition presented on behalf of my colleague for the District of St. Barbe North.

First of all I am in support of this petition. I believe that it is absolutely necessary for this government or the one that will follow it or the one to come in a couple of years time in this province provide water for every community within the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Now I disagree with the honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs when he said the total cost of doing this would be something like \$700 million. I believe that if he were to inspect these figures a little closely he shall possibly find that it is only around \$200 million and that certainly is not outside of our reach.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have heard people like this laugh before but then the next day they changed their minds. Now, Mr. Speaker, there is no need for any community in this province to be looking into the future without any possibility of receiving these much-needed services. I sincerely hope and pray that the minister in his wisdom will look at this situation more closely and will give these communities some encouragement that they may within a short period of time receive this much needed service of a good water supply.

MR. M. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, may I speak briefly in support of the petition that was presented by the honourable member for St. Barbe North. This particular subject of water and sewerage, I think more in particular water, in a number of communities has come up and the honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing seems to get into a panic every time this particular subject comes up.

I think one of the great difficulties that we are having and why I speak in support of this petition is the fact that we hear so little from the unincorporated towns whereas the incorporated towns in this province do get the priority, and the minister has not yet set his priority straight because he is not hearing from the unincorporated communities. So I suggest,

because he is not hearing from the unincorporated communities. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the same priority should be given to the unincorporated communities, if he get representation from them, as is given the incorporated communities.

NOTICE OF MOTION

MR. W. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following bill, "An Act Respecting A Public Service Commission For The Province."

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HON. F. D. MOORES: (PREMIER): Mr. Speaker, the answer to Question No. 107, (a) Executive assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Development, (b) \$12,000, (c) \$2,000, (d) Normal duties required as executive assistant, (e) To the minister, (f) Yes, public building in Grand Falls, office also available on the fifth floor of Confederation Building, and (g) No.

HON. A. J. MURPHY (MINISTER OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE): Mr. Speaker, I have a number of answers to questions; Nos. (2), (3), (4), (5), (9),

ten, eleven, twelve, fourteen, fifteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty, all asked by the honourable member for Bell Island, I would like to table these.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. MURPHY: No, I am going to throw them in the furnace. Do not be so stupid.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please! The honourable member for Fortune Bay.

HON. H.R.V. EARLE (MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES): I ask leave to table the answer to question number (105), asked by the honourable member for Fogo, on the Order Paper of March 5. In so doing, I was a bit puzzled as to knowing how to answer the question because it was directed to me as Minister of Public Works, in connection with my travelling expenses. I have had none since becoming Minister of Public Works but took the courtesy of answering him as minister of previous departments.

HON. DR. A.T. ROWE (MINISTER OF HEALTH): I would like to table the answer to questions of the Leader of the Opposition; numbers (82), (84), (86) and (89), answered and tabled for the benefit of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Education:

HON. G.P. OTTENHEIMER (MINISTER OF EDUCATION): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answer to question number (35) appearing on the Order Paper of February 23 and asked by the honourable member for St. Barbe North.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation:

HON. J.G. ROUSSEAU (Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation): The answer to question (111) is yes, to a guarantee of a loan not exceeding \$100,000, together with interest at the prevailing bank rate. The loan is to be paid off over a period of ten years together with a guarantee of ninety-eight percent occupancy. The answer to (112) is no, to (113) no, to (114) yes - part one and part two, a guarantee of ninety-eight percent occupancy and approval in principle of an

institution with accommodation for between eighty and eighty-five patients, subject to the approval of the plan by the minister.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Leader of the Opposition:

HON. E.M.ROBERTS: A question for the Minister of Health. Would he inform the House and the people of Newfoundland whether in fact the proration agreements between the government and the Newfoundland Medical Association have been ended, as has been reported on at least one radio station?

DR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, a statement is now being prepared regarding the negotiations which have taken place between the Newfoundland Medical Association and the Medicare Commission, this includes a statement regarding a change in proration.

MR. ROBERTS: Could the minister tell us when we may expect the statement? Will he tell us when the change became effective if in fact it is in effect already? That will do for a start.

DR. ROWE: The statement will be presented tomorrow. As far as the change is concerned, the change in the type of proration will be effective from January 1973.

MR. ROBERTS: In other words, it is retroactive, is that the word, or has it been in effect since January?

DR. ROWE: The change in type of proration will be retroactive.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the honourable Minister of Highways. I wonder if he has made any progress with respect to getting some additional snow-clearing equipment into the District of St. Barbe North, since the children are losing a great deal of school time up there. The people are now starting to melt snow for the purpose of water. They cannot get fuel oil to their homes and, Sir, there is what I would consider a state of emergency in the District of St. Barbe North at the present time.

HON. DR. T.C. FARRELL (MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS):

Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to give the honourable member

for St. Barbe North the following information; You do not want a weather report today or anything like that.

AN HON. MEMBER: The weather is right.

DR. FARRELL: The weather is very bad up there. Right now, actually we sent into St. Barbe North, into the Northern Peninsula, in the last couple of days, three snowblowers, one loader from Clarendville and one loader from St. John's, all the available equipment we had available at this time.

At the moment I would like to inform the honourable Leader of the Opposition, that in the St. Anthony Area all ten plows are working. In the Cook's Harbour Area we have five plows -

AN HON. MEMBER: Ten plows?

DR. FARRELL: Ten plows.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is the most that was ever down there.

MR. ROBERTS: (Inaudible)

DR. FARRELL: Yes, well look, we are doing the best we can, Sir, I am not trying to give you an answer, you know, in between reading the paper. I am just trying to give you an answer. We are doing the utmost we can with the facilities we have, Sir, under the conditions and the fact that people are people and operators are operators and human beings.

In the Cook's Harbour Area we have five plows, we have a couple of dozers broken down there. We have eleven plows in the St. Barbe Area two of which are broken down. We have moved in, as I said, three blowers and two loaders since the question was asked.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

DR. FARRELL: No, excuse me please!

MR. F.B. ROWE: Where are those blowers being sent, into the District of St. Barbe?

DR. FARRELL: They have all been moved into the Northern Peninsula Area we are talking about right now, five pieces of equipment.

MR. F.B. ROWE: You cannot tell me what part?

DR. FARRELL: Not specifically

MR. F.B. ROWE: There are two hundred miles of Northern Peninsula.

DR. FARRELL: Yes, I know, I come from the West Coast. I know a little bit of the situation there, but I would like to inform you that we are doing everything in our power. I am sure that you would agree that there is a rather difficult situation out there at this time. I have gone over this in the days past and I assure the honourable Leader of the Opposition that we are doing our best, everything possible to improve the conditions.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question, because I think those of us who represent those constituencies are aware of the fact that the minister is taking considerable pains. I said that six and a-half days is all the school that the children have had - the buses at L'Anse au Meadows are being dug out as of twenty minutes ago. In view of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that the men who operate these machines have been working absolutely incredibly long hours, eighteen - twenty hours at a stretch, for weeks on end, has the minister made any arrangements or is he contemplating making any to relieve these men and to provide the additional help that will be needed, because we still have two or three months of snow ahead of us, in all probability, in Northern Newfoundland.

DR. FARRELL: I can say that we are looking at every possible means of alleviating the conditions in these areas, Sir. We are having, I agree with the honourable Leader of the Opposition, the worst period of snow in this particular area in Labrador South and on the Northern Peninsula. We will be doing everything that is possible. However, at this moment it is a bit early to move more equipment from the East Coast in case we get a sudden storm, or in the Central Newfoundland Area, we have to watch those particular areas for weather at this time, but we are looking at the whole situation.

MR. F.B. ROWE: A supplementary question. I hate to be so persistent, Sir, but I do have to answer phone calls and inquiries that are made of me by the constituents. What I would like to hear from the minister is exactly where these five pieces of machinery are being sent, because the problems on the Great Northern Peninsula are

localized in an area between Anchor Point and Eddies Cove. This is where the basic problem lies at the present time and this is what cuts off the people from the hospital.

DR. FARRELL: In answer to the honourable member for St. Barbe North, every piece of equipment we have is on the road. I do not know at any given moment where that particular piece of equipment is, but certainly every piece of equipment that is in working order, which most of them are at the present time, because we made it a policy to send our better equipment to these more isolated areas in case of breakdowns. Every bit of equipment available at this moment is working on the roads. Where they are at this exact moment in time, I do not know. Naturally they could be in any particular area, five miles from here, ten miles there - there is no way of knowing from moment to moment.

At three o'clock I can tell you because I keep a very close watch on this. For instance, if you want a weather report I will give it to you again. I am telling where the machinery is, but at this particular moment I do not know where the particular pieces of machinery are. They are there, the numbers that I have just given. We have sent five pieces of equipment, all we could spare, into district four which is that area.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question: The honourable minister stated publicly the other day that the worst is yet to come. Is the honourable minister taking any steps to see that the flooding that he expects to take place on the Great Northern Peninsula will not take place and that adequate staff and equipment are there to take care of the situation.

DR. FARRELL: Actually, I am praying hard, you know, that this situation will not occur. I am sorry for being so facetious, Sir, but who can...

MR. NEARY AND MR. ROBERTS: (Inaudible)

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

DR. FARRELL: Which one? No, I did not mean that, I apologize for

being facetious, This is a very serious situation but the point is, who knows at this particular time? Maybe we will have a very pleasant spring and everything will gradually move out. I am worried quite a bit about the situation and when those conditions arise we will do everything in our power to alleviate them.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible)

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the honourable member for Labrador South is not in his seat today, I would like to direct a question to the honourable Minister of Highways. In view of the fact that there are a number of roads in Labrador, especially in the Churchill Falls Area, where

The roads are kept clear of snow at all times. The woods roads in the Goose Bay Area and the road from Happy Valley to Northwest River, a distance of some thirty miles, are kept open at all times and free of snow. Why are we having such difficulty and causing severe hardship to the residents of Labrador South?

HON. DR. T. C. FARRELL(Minister of Highways): That is very obvious, I should say, to the hon. member for Labrador North, because the conditions of the roads are such that they are unbelievable. I do not think there is anybody to blame for these facts. I think the honourable member knows the Labrador Area much better than I do. I already made a statement that I intend to go there with the hon. member for Labrador South. We have been negotiating during the past week as to the best means of looking after that area. We are still in the process of doing so. I think that question is answered by the fact that we walked into a situation which is very difficult to handle at the present time.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Is the honourable minister saying that the Department of Highways have abandoned the road between Red Bay and Pinware for the rest of the winter?

MR. FARRELL: No, Sir. In discussion with the hon. member for Labrador South - this is a very serious situation, Sir, where children have missed eleven days of school.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. FARRELL: I know that. You do not have to repeat it. I already heard you say so.

AN HON. MEMBER: You would not know. How would you know that?

MR. FARRELL: I am in touch with this daily. In discussions with the hon. member for Labrador South, whom I must listen to because I try to help every area. I think every honourable member would agree that I go out of my

way to assist. The Department of Education, and the honourable Mr. Rousseau, who looks after Labrador Affairs, last week we discussed the situation which was very extreme in the Labrador South Area, as far as Pinware was concerned, where we could not keep the road open. We discussed means of keeping the Pinware - Forteau Road open and together we came up with a possible solution which we have not finalized up to this stage, that we would with all the facilities we had, be keeping the lower southern section of the road open for the school children in case they might be left out of school for another few weeks - a process which is going on from day to day, with changes from day to day. All I can say at this moment is that we are still in discussions on this matter at this time, Sir.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, is the honourable minister aware that the LIP Project which employs about fifty-four men in Red Bay will have to be cancelled if the road is not open? They cannot get their logs to saw wood and get the lumber they need to carry out this project.

MR. FARRELL: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. member from Bell Island - I mean I do not have any control over the natural conditions up there. I am doing the best I can to keep these areas open. I understand the situation as far as the LIP Programme is concerned and we are doing everything (I repeat) in our power to help the people concerned as far as these projects are concerned.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. I accept the honourable minister's explanation but is the honourable minister aware that there is a bulldozer in Red Bay at this particular moment that is not working on the road, that is not trying to open the road? Is the honourable minister aware of that?

MR. FARRELL: I certainly am, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Well why is it not working?

MR. FARRELL: I certainly am, Mr. Speaker. As I explained a few moments ago, in consultation with the hon. member for Labrador South, Mr. Martin, we

Mr. Farrell.

discussed this area . Now, Mr. Martin unfortunately is not in his seat today. I would like to say that we discussed this. I just explained that the bulldozer in that area was unable to keep this particular section of road open and we felt that it would be much better utilized in the lower section for that period because as they tried to open the road, it was closing in behind them.

AN HON. MEMBER: Red Bay.

MR. FARRELL: These roads are drifting in right at this moment.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question: The minister personally we are not blaming because of the fact that there is a lot of snow.

MR. FARRELL: No, no.

MR. ROBERTS : He does not get the credit either. I think he is doing the best he can with a difficult situation but the minister has told us that he has been in touch with the member for the area, and that is a commendable step. Would the minister consider getting in touch with the people in the area who have been on to us for the past two or three days, from Red Bay?

MR. FARRELL: Yes.

MR. ROBERTS: They are very unhappy. Indeed we were told that they were to picket the L'Anse-a-Loup Highways Depot this morning. We do not condone that. Would the minister consider getting in touch with the people directly to get their views?

MR. FARRELL: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I have already been in touch with the people of Red Bay. We are discussing this at this moment, the best utilization of this for the benefit of all. I spoke to them at approximately 11:30 A.M.

MR. W.N. ROWE: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Has the minister received any report, since I have and we have, that fuel and oil supplies are getting dangerously low in Red Bay? If so, what steps has he taken to remedy the situation?

MR. FARRELL: In answer to that question, no, Sir, I have not received any reports that the fuel and oil supplies are getting low in that area. We will be checking on it and keeping in continuous touch with them.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, just one last supplementary question. I am still not clear whether the road between Red Bay and Pinware is going to be open again this winter. There is a bulldozer already in Red Bay. It has not done anything now for almost a week, on the instructions from the minister's department. The driver is there waiting. They are satisfied to start in and try to clear the road.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please! The hon. member for Bell Island is getting into a debate on the question.

MR. NEARY: I would like to know from the minister, Mr. Speaker, is the road going to be opened or is it not going to be opened?

MR. FARRELL: Mr. Speaker in answer to questions of the hon. member for Bell Island; weather permitting, yes.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Motion second reading of a bill, "An Act Respecting Tenancies Of Residential Premises."

HON. T. P. HICKEY (Minister of Provincial Affairs and Environment) Mr. Speaker, if I had my air quality regulations approved today, I might implement them right in the House and solve some of the pollution problems. When I adjourned the debate, Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on this bill, I said there were a couple of items that I wanted to cover which were raised by the opposition. There was a statement made by the hon. member for White Bay South, I believe, to the effect that the recommendations of the Canadian Council on Social Development were all but ignored or disregarded. I would like to inform the member, Mr. Speaker, that that is not so. The recommendations made by that organization, some are contained in the bill itself and what are not contained in the bill are contained in a number of areas for which we propose

to make regulations. Before this bill passes, Mr. Speaker, before it is given third reading, hopefully, in the committee stage we hope to have an amendment to it empowering the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council to make certain regulations. I would just like to refer to some of the areas in which we are asking the authority to make regulations. It would give honourable members on the other side some indication as to the kind of research and work that was done with regard to tenant/landlord relations. We would have a section in the bill giving authority to the government to make regulations when necessary under the following headings: (1) distress, (2) covenants interlocking, (3) post-dated cheques, (4) contracting out, (5) restrictions on children, (6) restrictions on trading, (7) overholding tenants, (I think this matter was raised by the hon. member for White Bay South yesterday) (8) discrimination, (9) a standard lease, (11) accelerated rents (I think this item was mentioned by the honourable member yesterday) (13) tenants' unions or tenants' associations. In this particular area, Mr. Speaker, about the only regulation we would want to make would be one

which would prevent a landlord from doing anything to obstruct or prevent people renting his premises to organize themselves into a tenants association. Rent strikes, this is the heading we have here and I am not sure but there maybe a better heading or a better phrase to use but what we have in mind here would be we feel that in fairness to the landlord, while the tenant has a right to make certain demands upon a landlord yet we feel that tenants do not have the right to withhold rent or to involve themselves in an organized fashion and refuse to pay rent for any given period of time or any long period of time, such as the situation that developed in Lake Apartments not too long ago.

The other area, Mr. Speaker, which is a very important one although it is mentioned in the bill only in a very general way is public welfare-tenant-protection or to cover units rented by welfare recipients and paid for by the Department of Social Services or the Department of Social Assistance. It is very important to point out, Mr. Speaker, that those areas are not covered in the bill, with the exception of the welfare-tenant-protection which as I have pointed out is covered in a rather general way. We did not have the time, Mr. Speaker, to develop those areas to have them in the bill because it requires even more research than we have been able to do. However, we realize that most of them, if not all, are very important and we feel that some authority should be vested in government to make regulations to cover a particular situation when it arises otherwise we have a whole host of amendments along with a very thick act which is probably, as some hon. members pointed out yesterday, more confusing to tenants than anything else. We would only make regulations in those areas, Mr. Speaker, when the situation arose or when the situation was such that warranted. I feel the bill would be weakened if we passed it in its present form, without giving the authority to make regulations whenever they are necessary.

There is another area, Mr. Speaker, which is deemed to be very important if this legislation is going to have any real meaning to both the tenants and the landlord and that is the setting up of a central registry where all landlords should register the premises they have for rent or are renting, giving an address for service, the number of apartments that are available for rent or that they are renting; that there should be a small licencing fee for the landlords to help defray some of the cost of providing the services that this division is going to provide to both tenant and landlord.

Mr. Speaker, if this is not done it will be next to impossible in my view, no matter how much or how good a job of public relations we do to make tenants aware of what their rights are, because in effect we will not know who is renting property or who is not. I feel there is something to be said for inspection of premises where possible, in certain instances before those premises are rented and this particularly applies, Mr. Speaker, to the renting of premises by the Department of Social Assistance, the more run-down properties that are being rented today.

Mr. Speaker, another item raised by, I think the member for White Bay South yesterday was the problem of explaining the act to the tenants or making it possible so that the tenants could determine what their rights are, what is in the act and how to protest it. He mentioned something about a brochure. I want him to know and the whole House that this matter has also been gone into in a fair amount of detail. We have a brochure from Manitoba which has sixty-two questions and sixty-two answers which puts in layman's language, so to speak, the important aspects or the most important aspects of the bill and the matters which are of prime concern to the tenants. There is also the matter of an agreement or leases, as we sometimes refer to them, and we have a copy of the agreement that is used in Manitoba. In that province, Mr. Speaker, they have this standard agreement which applies to all

tenants and landlords. I am not sure whether that is workable in this province and I am not sure as to the effects or how the landlords would look upon it.

As I pointed out yesterday, our every effort in this area has to be made and made in a manner, while being conscious and continuing to be conscious of the acute housing shortage, so that we do not discourage development or we do not discourage people from investing in the most important area of housing. I am not sure whether we as a province should adopt this kind of an agreement or insist that all landlords use the one agreement but there might be something to be said for having their own agreements while giving some protection, which is already provided for in the bill itself.

I just want hon. members to realize that this work is being done. A great deal of research has been done and is continuing in this very vital area.

Mr. Speaker, while on the matter of leases, it is a subject which some of us might well take for granted as not being too important. I came across a lease recently in which there are a couple of sections which all but wipe out most of the rights of a tenant. It on the one hand specifies that the landlord will not be responsible for the corridors and hallways of a building. It specifies too that under the present legislation that people who rent those premises will not make representation or make complaints to the rent control board under any section of the Rent Restrictions Act.

Mr. Speaker, all the debate that has taken place on this bill if none of it had taken place and if we wanted one justification for bringing this bill before this House, certainly there is no better one to use than this particular example. There is one good thing, Mr. Speaker, about this legislation and that is that for now and forever let us hope that this legislation removes a lot of the treatment that has been handed down to tenants and a lot of the treatment, on the other

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hand, that has been given landlords by certain tenants with regard to abusing their property. We look forward to developing this very important area of tenant-landlord relations, of establishing the boards which I indicated as contained in the bill and developing it in a responsible way and, as I have indicated before, Mr. Speaker, always with the knowledge that there is a very acute housing shortage. It is a very important matter

and one which has to be dealt with in a responsible way, to ensure that there is still a basic reason for a person to invest in the housing field and still get a fair return on that investment. I assure this House, Mr. Speaker, that our every action will be responsible in this connection. Meanwhile, we are doing everything in our power to protect the tenant and the landlord. We will not take any irresponsible steps which will in effect discourage the development of housing in our province.

Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in moving second reading to this bill.

On motion a bill, "An Act Respecting Tenancies Of Residential Premises," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House presently.

Motion second reading of a bill, "An Act To Amend The Legislative Disabilities Act."

HON. FRANK D. MOORES: (PREMIER): Mr. Speaker, in introducing this bill it is a departure from the past, a departure that has been necessitated by the changing, I think, in our society and the pressures that are applied on it. Previously, as the honourable Leader of the Opposition himself would know, the Premier had a parliamentary assistant to help him with his various chores regarding his constituency and so on in his office. We find now that it is necessary and desirable, I will try to outline very briefly why. Then in bringing this debate to a close we will further answer any questions that may be outstanding regarding the reasons why.

First of all the parliamentary assistant of today receives and acknowledges correspondence from the province to the Premier's office including correspondence, for instance, from M.H.A's., M.P's., inquiries from the district I represent. He takes the appropriate action and brings the necessary inquiries to myself. This person, the parliamentary assistant, also interviews people on my behalf on a great many occasions and brings back what they have to say for further recommendation either to government departments

or to whomever those inquiries may relate.

The parliamentary assistant receives incoming phone calls for the Premier and takes appropriate action. He attends various meetings on my behalf and he assists me here in the House in matters regarding the answers to the questions and so on.

Mr. Speaker, the need for that particular job has increased very much from the ten years ago or whenever it was that it was instituted to today. Today there are some eighty to one hundred pieces of mail per day coming into the Premier's office and all these people who write and all these pieces of paper, as a rule, are either from concerned people that deserve attention as quickly as possible or are on matters that have a very definite concern to the government.

Mr. Speaker, I think that in order to give full service to those people that are concerned we require extra assistance in my office.

The other person, Mr. Speaker, who has had a background on this, as a parliamentary assistant, as I said before, is the Leader of the Opposition. The reason for the new appointment is to start to précis and do research on the various reports that we as a government receive. At the present time, for instance, the person who is in there on an interim basis as an assistant to me is doing research on governmental policy such as the North Norway Plan which is considered as a tremendous rural development programme for Northern Norway. He is taking this and doing the research and précis on it so that my office and other departments that may be affected will have more of an accurate judgement without the trouble of or the necessity of myself or the ministers having to read it in detail.

Mr. Speaker, I would like at this time to adjourn debate on this subject and return to it at a later date.

On motion debate adjourned.

Motion second reading of a bill, " An Act Respecting Homes For Special Care."

HON. JOSEPH ROUSSEAU: (MINISTER OF REHABILITATION AND RECREATION): Mr. Speaker,

this bill would provide for the operation of homes for special care. The Home For The Aged And Infirm Act in 1965 made provision for the administration only of the Hoyles Home. In September of 1971 the building at Carbonear, known as Halfway House, was acquired under a Rental Purchase Agreement. The bill provides in paragraph (d) of section (2) for the inclusion of Hoyles Home, Harbour Lodge, Exon House and the children's home on Water Street West in the definition of homes for special care as well as any other institution in the province for the care of persons who by reason of age, need or infirmity, blindness or other incapacities or disability whatsoever are unable to fully care for themselves or for the accommodation of persons for any reason considered sufficient by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council.

Provision is made in section (6) for the act to be carried into effect with the same force and effect as if they were incorporated in and formed part of the Department of Rehabilitation and Recreation Act, 1973, to be read, and for this purpose the act shall be read contemporaneously with the act. In particular this provision applies without change to sections (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (18), (22), (23), (24), (25), (26) and (33).

Provision is also made in section (20) for the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council to make regulations for the conduct and internal economy of these institutions and for the admission and discharge of patients and for any charges to be made to or in respect of patients and other matters which are considered necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes and provisions of the act. I move second reading of the bill.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and why should I not because it involves a number of homes, Sir, that were opened by the previous Liberal Administration, that old whipping boy that we have been hearing so much about in the last few months.

This is a bill, Sir, to provide for the operation of Hoyles Home, that great institution down here on the Portugal Cove Road that was opened a few years ago by the then Premier, Premier Smallwood, to

provide for the operation of a home in Saddle Hill, over in Saddle Hill, in Carbonear, Sir, near Carbonear, between Harbour Grace and Carbonear, which was formerly known as Halfway House, a motel, beautiful, luxurious, magnificent motel built by a number of prominent Newfoundlanders, including

a number of people in the Carbonear Area, I think the hon. Minister of Health will probably know what I am talking about, The owners found that the hotel was not feasible and it was taken over by the government, by my department actually, and turned into a home for the mentally retarded and physically handicapped adults, and we changed the name to Harbour Lodge. That was a name that I chose myself, Sir. The hon. minister might be interested in learning that.

Is that the fire alarm system again, Mr. Speaker? Do we have to evacuate the building or what?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. members and the people in the galleries are wondering, it appears that some kid pulled the fire alarm up there but there is no reason to panic, it is just a false alarm.

MR. NEARY: So, Mr. Speaker, even though there was a lot of controversy surrounding Halfway House which is now known as Harbour Lodge, I think it was a pretty fair investment. I do not think the government could have put Harbour Lodge there for the price that we paid for it, although it is argued that we could have gotten the building cheaper by foreclosing on the owners. I do not know whether that would have done any good at the time, Sir. It is argued that it would not. Perhaps the Minister of Health, if he want to speak in this debate, could elaborate on why it was necessary for the government to purchase Halfway House and not foreclose on the owners.

Exon House, Sir, is a different quintal of fish. It was a building formerly occupied by the Anglican Orphanage Corporation. It was an orphanage and as most hon. members know orphanages are going out of existence right across North America and so the Anglican people offered the facilities to the government to be operated for children. The need at the time, Sir, was for an extension to the home on Water Street West. The real need in this province we felt, after very careful research, was for a home, a modern, up-to-date home for mentally retarded and physically handicapped children. So

in the first instance, Sir, we leased the building, over a ten year period, from the Anglican Corporation and later we made the outright purchase. I am not quite certain, Mr. Speaker, if all the negotiations were concluded when we got flung out of office or not. Perhaps the hon. minister could tell us when he is closing the debate, because the hon. Minister of Provincial Affairs may have had to finalize the deal, draw up the documents and the conveyance and so forth and pay the first installment.

Now, Mr. Speaker, since we opened Exon House, I think it was probably almost three years ago, there has been a rumor that the present administration, if you wish, has gotten away from the original concept of Exon House. Exon House was designed, Sir, to try to rehabilitate mentally retarded and physically handicapped children in this province, and for the first time in Newfoundland, Sir, we had employed at that institution what we called social counsellors. As a matter of fact I think in the early stages we sent one or two over to St. John, New Brunswick, for training. The whole idea, Mr. Speaker, was to try to do away with the attitude that people had prior to this, of making their children wards of the state and hoping or thinking that they would have to leave the child in an institution until the day it died. Now we wanted to get away from this attitude, Sir, and we wanted to try to rehabilitate as many of the children as possible, if at all possible to rehabilitate the children, and return them to their own home. This meant, Mr. Speaker, that they would come into Exon House say for a period of a year, two years, five years, whatever time was necessary to give the children whatever training they could absorb and then return them to their own homes. We also wanted to take care of a number of the children from the Children's Home on Water Street West and in some cases, Mr. Speaker, it is tragic to say but some of these children do not have any homes and in some cases I suppose it is

as equally tragic to say that a lot of the parents do not want the children back.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, apart from all this, what we wanted to do was to try and give the children as much training as they could absorb. So this started out more or less as an institution where not only would you have children for custodial care, children who could not fend for themselves, who had to have close supervision for their own safety and protection but you would also have children actually going to school, even if it only meant, Mr. Speaker, learning how to use the toilet, learning music, learning how to paint and draw. We had hoped, Mr. Speaker, to put on a couple of additional classrooms down at Exon House so that parents who live in the greater St. John's Area could bring their children to Exon House by day, drop them off and come back in the evening and pick them up. Or to give the family a break, if they were going away on vacation or just wanted a break period, they could bring the child down to Exon House, leave the child there for a couple of weeks and when they return they could come and take the child home again.

Now this was a good concept, Sir, but we have heard very strange rumors, very strange rumblings from Exon House of late, Mr. Speaker, that the original concept of Exon House has gone down the drain, the morale at Exon House is bad, that the new minister when he took over the new administration did not follow the original concept and that they have fallen back into the same old way of treating the children on Water Street West, Sir, which was what we were trying to get away from in the beginning. I do not know if it is true or not, Sir, but we have heard reports about it. We heard a couple of social counsellors who were employed at Exon House then come out and make some pretty serious charges about the way Exon House was being run, about the staffing problems down there, about the morale over at Exon House, Sir. We had heard a rumor a few months ago that the

administrator at Exon House had been suspended for two weeks and no reason was given, Mr. Speaker, for his suspension and he was later put back in his old job, No reason was given, Mr. Speaker, and I submit that this was very demoralizing on the whole staff at Exon House. Then we heard the latest rumor, when restructuring took place, that there was going to be a new administrator appointed at Exon House - and that seems to have fallen through.

Now, Sir, when this controversy was taking place, and it is unfortunate that these things have to be brought out into the open but sometimes that is the only way you can get

to the root of the problem. We were accused, as an opposition, the Leader of the Opposition was accused, I was accused of using mentally retarded children for political purposes. What nonsense! All we were doing was looking for information. Mr. Speaker, what the social counsellor was saying about Exon House? Was it true? Was it not true? Was Exon House being used for the purpose for which it was originally designed? At one stage, Sir, the then Minister of The Department of Social Services and Rehabilitation lashed back at me and said that there was no planning put into it, this and that, it was not suppose to be this kind of an institution. I did not even bother to defend myself, Sir, I just ignored it. It was pure ignorance. Nothing in his files, he said, nothing on record to show that this was the kind of an institution we were going to run down there.

Well, Sir, I have a letter here, first of all I have the paper that went to cabinet, public welfare, 40-1969. The paper that went to cabinet establishing Exon House which recommended amongst other things, Mr. Speaker, that we employ the services of Dr. Stanley who was well known in this field of work in Eastern Canada, as a matter of fact, throughout the whole of Canada. He had started a similar institution over in St. John, New Brunswick an institution called "The Training Facilities of the Dr. William F. Roberts Hospital School, St. John. New Brunswick." Dr. Stanley, Sir, volunteered his services, made himself available, free of charge, to this province to help us set up a similar institution here in Newfoundland over here at Exon House.

Mr. Speaker, also recommended in that paper was authorization for me to appoint an advisory committee with representation from public health nursing, medicine, education, and the Association of Retarded Children. This was done, Mr. Speaker, and this advisory committee and Dr. Stanley spent months and months planning Exon House, working along with my officials, the department that I represented at that time, to try and work out a plan whereby (1) severely and profoundly retarded children, who were bedfast or vulnerable but who do not require intensive nursing care would be

accommodate at that institution. It was felt that accommodations should be made at Exon House for thirty of these children, and (2) that are severely and profoundly retarded, who are ambulatory active and potential destructive that thirty of those children will be accommodated there and the trainable retardates, approximately thirty would be housed at Exon House, another thirty educable retardates, pseudo-retardates and children with specific learning disabilities. Because there was no space for classroom space, Sir, or occupational therapy it was felt that classroom should be erected on the grounds, two portable classrooms connecting the main building. Provision was made, Mr. Speaker, in the 1969-1970 estimates in the amount of \$50,000 for the necessary extensions and alterations. The classrooms unfortunately were never built.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Public Works of the day set about with his officials to carry out the recommendations of Dr. Stanley and the advisory committee that was set up representing public health nursing, medicine, education and the Association of Retarded Children.

Here was what Dr. Stanley recommended, Sir, this is on file down in the minister's department. Dr. Stanley said: The most obvious shortcoming of the present residential service is that it caters almost exclusively to severely and profoundly retarded children. I was very impressed by both the attitudes and the skills of your nursing staff at the childrens home and had the impression that they were doing a very capable job with children in these categories, representing special medical and nursing problems

"However," he said, "I would feel that there are a considerable number of children in this home who do not present such special medical and nursing problems and would indeed be better cared for in a foster home environment. There do not appear to be adequate facilities for either indoor or outdoor exercising for those youngsters at the home who are not permanently bedfast. There are also at the Water Street home a number of ambulatory, hyperactive children some of whom are trainable, for whom the Water Street facilities are entirely unsuitable and whose care imposes considerable strain on the

nursing staff."

Then he goes on to talk about the correctional institutions, "They should be tied in with the childrens home.

"To turn to Exon House, this is a very beautiful building" So this expert, the only expert I know in Canada on these matters. Sir, Dr. Stanley. "This home," he said, "is a very beautiful building which should be readily adaptable as a residential facility for mentally handicapped children. In view of its proximity to the university and hopefully its eventual utilization as a teacher area by the Department of Sociology, Social Science and Medicine at the university, it has the potential," in other words what he was saying, Sir, we had it ideally located because it would be near the new hospital to be built on campus over here at the university. It is being built now, thanks to the planning and foresight of the previous administration. Dr. Stanley saw it then, Sir, as we did. "Ideally located," he said, "because it is going to be near that teaching hospital over at Memorial University." Yet we heard screams from the minister at that time when this controversy came up, "Oh, it was a mistake." Exon House was a mistake." I say it was not a mistake, Sir.

"It has the potential to become a centre for a variety of disciplines concerned with problems of child development and an institution which the province could be very proud. If it is to fulfil its function it is essential that its utilization not be restricted to the severely and profoundly retarded categories." That is what I said in the beginning, Mr. Speaker. "Although the need to provide residential care for a certain small proportion of trainable and educable retardates seems as yet not to have made itself too much felt in Newfoundland, I have no doubt that it is there and that consultation with your local child psychiatric personnel and special educators would confirm it."

The he goes on to say, "I would strongly recommend the top floor of each residential wing be used for training and educable children reserving the lower floor for severely and profoundly retarded children. One of these ground floor units should be reserved for bedfast and vulnerable.

non-aggressive ambulatory children while the other should look after the more aggressive, hyperactive, severely retarded child. In these groups there should be no problem with mixing the sexes and it is more reasonable to divide them according to their behavioural characteristics than according to sex."

Then he goes on to say, "I have already discussed with Mr. Frampton, I presume an official of the Department of Public Works, the structural changes which we feel would be necessary and we will not go into any great detail here."

He said, "I will close with a few comments which I think are particularly important. I would think it essential, before your department proceeds with the development of Exon House along the lines suggested, that you have available to you a competent clinical team capable of providing an adequate screening service." Well, Sir, we did that too. We carried out that recommendation. Dr. Nora Renouf has done yeoman work, Mr. Speaker,

MR. NEARY: and as chairman of the admitting committee of Exon House, she is an expert in her own right, right here in our own province. I assume, Mr. Speaker, that Dr. Renough is sufficiently qualified to know what she is doing. Then he says that a nurse or social worker is capable of giving leadership, training and direction to your child-care worker who will be responsible for the home life of the institution.

"I would strongly urge that the programme for trainables and educables not be developed until you have a director of education and training and a supervisor of child care workers that you need, regardless of what pressure comes from full utilization of your institutions."

We followed that recommendation too, Mr. Speaker. We were gradually phasing in that institution. We were not in a rush to fill it up and have every bed over there filled up. We were taking our time, moving the children in as we got the trained staff - the nursing assistants, the social councillors and the nurses, ward mothers and ward fathers and all the staff we needed, Sir. We took our time. We were not in any hurry.

First of all we moved thirty children down from Water Street West, from the children's home up there. Then we started bringing children in from homes across the province. We were taking our time, Sir. We were not going to be bulldozed into filling the institution up over night, no more than we were with harbour lodge, We decided to phase it in. We were pioneering, Sir. Only the bedfast children requiring special nursing and medical care should be left at Water Street and the remainder should be transferred to Exon House.

"I would also urge," say Dr. Stanley, M.B., B.C.H., C.R.C.P.(C), I guess that is sufficient qualification, Minister of Health, "to advise the government of the time." That was sufficient, and enough qualifications. The minister does not think so. Associate

Director of the Roberts Institution, Roberts Hospital School, in St. John, New Brunswick.

He said, "I would also urge that no time be lost in forming some sort of advisory committee with representation from Public Health Nursing, Medicine, Education and the Association for Retarded Children. Representatives from these various groups should have a chance to comment on planning before it is implimented."

That was done, Mr. Speaker, carried right out to the letter of the law, never departed one iota from the recommendations of Dr. Stanley. So I ask, Mr. Speaker, where has Exon House gone wrong? We opened it up. I did not have time to finish it. I got flung out. This administration was flung out. We passed it on to the new administration. Everything was working perfectly at Exon House when I left, Sir. It was perfect, no complaints.

Dr. Renough was giving us periodical reports, everything was going along fine. Then all of a sudden we find out, via press and radio, that the administrator, the administrator who runs both institutions, runs Exon House and Water Street West, has been suspended, and no reason given him. There may have been a reason, Mr. Speaker. The administrator was suspended and I think his assistant or one other person over there was suspended. No, it was not his assistant, the administrator and the director of nurses, Sir, the two key people in these institutions, responsible for the care of about 140 or 150 mentally retarded, physically handicapped children, suspended and no reason given, and then put back in their former position and still no reason given, after two weeks' suspension, I presume without pay. I do not know whether they were paid or not Sir, which completely demoralized the two institutions, according to the

information that I have, Sir. This was a shame, there was no continuity.

The new administration got away from the concept, did not understand it, Sir. They were not big enough to be able to comprehend what it was we were trying to do for mentally retarded children, physically handicapped children in this province. They could not comprehend it, Sir. So the continuity was lost. Morale was shot. The children are not getting the training that we had visualized and their minister has the nerve to come back and tell us, "this is politics. You are trying to make politics out of mentally retarded and physically handicapped children."

"We did not do any planning," we were told. "There was nothing in the minister's office to show that we had made any plans for that institution." Well there it is, Sir, and I am satisfied to table it, if the honourable Speaker wants me to. Sir, we demand an explanation. We demand an explanation in this House, and the people of Newfoundland are entitled to have it. What has gone wrong at Exon House?

AN HON. MEMBER: Sit down and I will tell you.

MR. NEARY: The honourable minister will have his chance. The honourable Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation is dealing with this matter now, Thank God. We might get some sense put back in it.

I understand, Mr. Speaker, that some of the political appointments that we heard about, that NAPE complained about so violently to this government, were made over at Exon House. I do not mind political appointments if they have the qualifications, Mr. Speaker, do not mind it one bit.

AN HON. MEMBER: Name one.

MR. NEARY: I do not have to name one. If they have the qualifications, Sir, by all means hire them. But you do not put them in over somebody's head. You have to have qualifications for that kind of work, Sir.

Anybody that was hired down there over the time I was there had qualifications. They had the qualifications, Sir. The honourable minister may question some but they did. They had the qualifications and he can check their qualifications. You will find out that they did have the qualifications, Sir, and they were doing a good job. But where has Exon House gone off the rails? That is what I would like to know, and if it has gone off let us get it back on.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I dealt with Harbour Lodge briefly in the beginning, I would like to have some more information on Harbour Lodge. I have to ask the questions first before I can get the information, if the honourable undertaker from Harbour Grace were not so stupid - why does the undertaker not get up and make a speech in this House?

Yes, you have to ask the questions first before you can get the answers you are looking for, Mr. Speaker. We had to ask the Minister of Highways today about the bulldozer at Red Bay before we got the answer. We had to drag it out of him. We asked him about ten questions before he finally told us they were going to open that road down there.

Getting back to Harbour Lodge, Sir, despite all the criticism that we had for taking the honourable Premier - I do not know but the honourable Premier was into it himself, for taking the honourable Premier off the hook, no judicial enquiry into that, Mr. Speaker, no judicial enquiry into Harbour Lodge, no judicial enquiry, Sir. The Minister of Health -

AN HON. MEMBER: Let us start on that side.

MR. NEARY: Nobody on this side was into it, not one soul over here, Mr. Speaker, not one soul on this side of the House had one penny in Halfway House, not one soul. Maybe a client of the honourable member for St. John's East, but not one soul in this House, Sir, had one penny in Halfway House. No judicial enquiry into that, Sir,

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since the government took it over.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: That is right, because I think it was a good buy myself.

I did not mind taking the honourable Premier

Mr. Neary.

off the hook or the hon. Minister of Health off the hook or any other Tory that was involved in it and most of them were Tories, Mr. Speaker. I think we have as fine an institution for looking after mentally retarded adults and physically handicapped adults as I have seen anywhere in Canada, Sir, or in Europe. I have seen a good many of them. The honourable minister who is looking after it now should be proud of it. There is still a great need in this province, Mr. Speaker, for additional facilities to care for mentally retarded and physically handicapped adults. This is the biggest problem we have in Newfoundland right now - the biggest problem we have. They are not all sitting on the other side of the House either. What I want to know, Mr. Speaker - I was in the process of phasing in Harbour Lodge and I might say that we hired ninety per cent of the staff who I think came from the Harbour Grace, Carbonear Area, or even more, maybe one hundred per cent. I might have helped get the honourable member elected, Sir, I do not now. I might have helped to get him elected. All the hiring was done when I was minister.

MR. MURPHY: They are not qualified.

MR. NEARY: Yes, they were qualified people. They were all qualified. Everyone of them were qualified, Sir. Those who did not need special qualifications, the hiring was based on need, Sir. Married men were given preference and where the head of the household was unemployed and could not work, his wife was hired. The honourable member knows that.

MR. MURPHY: Yes.

MR. NEARY: But, Sir, I do not want to get side-tracked here.

When we were phasing in Harbour Lodge, there was a great deal of furniture and equipment that we had no use for. There was a television in every room. There was a bar. There were a number of other items there that were surplus

to the need. I would like for the honourable minister, when he is closing the debate, to tell us whether all these televisions, whether the equipment that was surplus to that building has been disposed off, if it has been sold or what has happened to it? Is it put in storage? Has it been sold? Has it been sold by public tender? What has happened to all the equipment at Harbour Lodge? I would like to know also, Mr. Speaker if the building is fully occupied now. I think it was probably about, I would say, thirty to forty per cent occupied when I was flung out, Mr. Speaker. I would like the minister to give us a progress report on Harbour Lodge. How is it working out? Is the morale good there? Are the people content there? Believe me, Mr. Speaker, they have the most luxurious accommodations in Eastern Canada. They have one of the most beautiful views, I suppose, in Newfoundland, over there in Harbour Lodge. Are they happy over there? Tell us about the waiting list now because, as I stated earlier, here is an area where we had one of the greatest needs in Newfoundland, (it was the greatest, Sir) to provide accommodations and shelter for adults - mentally and physically handicapped, who could not fend for themselves. What is the waiting list like now? I think there were several hundred when I left the department or if you want to put it another way, when I was flung out. If there is still a long waiting list, Mr. Speaker, what steps are this government going to take to provide additional facilities? Does the minister have any plans to expand Harbour Lodge, build a couple of wings on it? Are you going to build a new institution anywhere in Newfoundland? Will there be one built on the West Coast or in Central Newfoundland to accommodate either children or adults? What plans does the honourable minister have? Are we stopped now? Are we going to wait until this crowd over here forms the new administration before we start to move ahead again?

MR. MURPHY: We are not going to wait that long.

MR. NEARY: The honourable minister shakes his head and says: "No, we are not going to wait." I would like for the minister to tell us what plans

they have, if they have any, to expand the facilities of Harbour Lodge? Where will the new institutions be built, what part of the province?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think I have said enough on this. I am beginning to get hoarse. I am not in very good voice today. If I were, I could probably carry on for another hour or so. I have thrown out a number of questions and if we can only keep the "crackies" quiet over there for a few minutes, perhaps the Minister of Rehabilitation and Recreation will give us some of the answers.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to delay the House too long. I am sure the honourable minister will then give some answers to the honourable gentleman's questions. There are a few that I should give him, because he directed most of his blast at me. Normally, I would sit down and take it, except that it would be very wrong to have the public of this province, having been fed such garbage today by the honourable gentleman, accept this as truth, what in fact is something other. The episode of Exon House showed its head. It was brought to the public not by me but by the honourable gentleman who bragged, Mr. Speaker, about the fact that he had a few spies in that institution. He knew what was going on even though he was out of office. He talks about the suspension of two people. I am not going to get into personalities, Sir, today. I did not rise to debate when the honourable gentleman threw it out and I am not going to rise to it today except to say that I accept full responsibility for the suspension of those two people, that those two people fully understand why. The honourable gentleman and the people of this province were told why, publicly, by a public statement, that because of allegations made by members of the staff of that institution and because of the kind of institution that was, Mr. Speaker, where retarded children were being housed, because of the importance of that institution, The kind of care that was necessary for those children, I, as minister, was not prepared to take any chances on the general well-being and protection and care of those children.

MR. HICKEY: I took the only responsible course open to me, upon the advice, Mr. Speaker, of the officials, the same officials who worked for the honourable gentleman, unless he wants to say today that those officials were or are incompetent - does he want to say that? If he does, then he worked with them for a long time, something like three years. I did not find them incompetent, Mr. Speaker. I find them very competent people - on my own assessment of the situation, I approved the suspension, as recommended by the senior officials of that department. I make no apologies for that. Those two people were suspended and when an investigation turned up nothing serious to the extent that would prohibit them from resuming their duties, they were notified accordingly and they were paid for the time that they were suspended. I took the responsible position, at least of protecting the people who live in that institution when such rumours raised their heads. If I had not done that, Mr. Speaker, the very first person who would come out and term my actions as irresponsible would have been that same honourable gentleman. That is typical of him. With regard to the suspension, those two people presently employed and presently working in that institution are well aware of why, what happened, what brought it on and the end results.

I listened to a lot about Dr. Stanely. The honourable gentleman said that I indicated by a public press release that there were no plans. I did at no time, Mr. Speaker, said that there were no plans. The honourable gentleman kept making press releases, talking about his blueprints, the blueprint that he had left in that department before this administration took over. I questioned through the new media, by way of answering those comments, where was that blueprint? The only blueprint, Mr. Speaker, that is in that department that was left by the former administration is this blueprint; that a building was purchased, first of all leased.

It would have been better today if we were still in a lease with regards to that institution but no, we bought it. The whole issue of this institution, the leasing of it and all, was done by the Leader of the Opposition when he was minister. That is who started it, not the hon. gentleman but the present Leader of the Opposition. I do not question, Mr. Speaker, the sincerity of the Leader of the Opposition when he set out to find an institution. I think his idea was basically sound to lease that building and to use it until such time as we could develop the proper type of programme for retarded children in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Bell Island refers to Dr. Stanley and I am not about to question Dr. Stanley's qualifications, his academic standing or otherwise but I will say this to the hon. gentleman, let him talk to Dr. Stanley today about Exon House and see what he has to say. I have talked to him, I talked to Dr. Stanley, Mr. Speaker, when I was in New Brunswick as I talked to a number of other people with regard to retarded children and a programme for retarded children. The hon. gentleman would like the people of this province to believe that he personally left a great blueprint in that department and that this administration did not follow up or did not do anything.

Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth because the same hon. gentleman that we hear today making those statements, and he must make them just for the want of hearing himself talk because it was he who did not follow up. He talks about a training programme. How many people did he put in that institution when he was minister that were trained, to provide a well developed programme for retarded children? He did not tell this House that, Mr. Speaker. I will tell them. I will tell this House. He placed one person that was sent to New Brunswick after being hired and trained and that person, Mr. Speaker, within a matter of months, left the employment of that department to give

birth to a child. One would not want a better reason to leave but that person did not return to employment in that department but proceeded to raise her family. One can hardly condemn her for that. But I get this kind of static about political appointments, he raised the matter of political appointments as it applies to me. Yes, Mr. Speaker, two of the so-called political appointments are in that institution today and I was responsible for putting them there. I was responsible for approving their applications. They went through all the normal channels of obtaining employment in this government, namely the selection board, the completing of application, the meeting with the administrator and the other people in that institution. What are their qualifications, Mr. Speaker? It is funny you know how people talk. They have a short memory apparently because if their memories were a bit better, they would not dare open their mouth. The same hon. gentleman who talks to me about political appointments has yet to appoint to that institution a person, in terms of counselling services or a programme development, with the kind of qualifications of the two people that I put there. One is one credit away from two degrees and has something like ten years experience as a teacher and a music teacher, in addition to a regular academic teacher. There was never a bit of music taught at Exon House, never a bit of music heard I suppose before this administration but those kids down there today have music and they have a new piano, thanks to the ladies auxiliary who provided it, and they have a competent number of people to provide at least the basics of a programme for development.

It is not what it should be, Mr. Speaker, far from it and it is going to take a while before in fact they do get that. The other person who was appointed in the area of counselling services had a degree from Memorial University, a young person not with a great deal of practical experience but a person with a great, burning desire

to work with retarded children. Surely that must be an ingredient, surely that must be one of the requirements for people who work in that kind of an environment and that, Mr. Speaker, is not the easiest environment to work in. Those were the two people that I appointed when I was minister. The other person who was appointed at Exon House was appointed upon a whole series of recommendations, from the deputy minister to the administrator to the selection board, to Dr. Renouf and others. What does the hon. gentleman talk about when he talks about political appointments as regards to Exon House? No doubt when we get to debate other parts of that department, we will get on to a few more alleged political appointments and we will show the hon. gentleman again that the people who were appointed by me were well qualified and resulted in a savings of over a half million dollars in about eight months. That is performance, Mr. Speaker. If that is political appointments we need more.

With regards to the programme, maybe the most important part of this debate, as regards to the point raised by the hon. gentleman from Bell Island, it should be pointed out, Mr. Speaker, the weakness in what started to be if not a perfect solution to the problem of retarded children in this province at least a reasonable facility. The weakness or the broken link, as it were, in the programme, as announced by or as developed by Dr. Stanley of New Brunswick, was that the hon. gentleman did not follow through. He had one person trained and that person left and there was never another went to New Brunswick for training. I said, Mr. Speaker, outside this hon. House, that Exon House was not the location for retarded children and I say it today in this House and so will Dr. Stanley say it and so will anyone else who has been connected with retarded children and the development of a programme for them. An institution of this kind, where we have children who are able to get out around and move around, it is no place for an institution, Mr. Speaker, on one of the busiest freeways or highways

in this city. There has been an occasion when a child got out of that institution. Can you imagine if the proper security measures were not maintained, if the proper control were not maintained, what would happen if those children were to get out of that institution onto a freeway or almost a freeway which passes right in front of the door.

The kind of institution, Mr. Speaker, that is required for retarded children, as indicated by classic examples in the State of Connecticut, in other areas in the Commonwealth and on the mainland of Canada is a quiet area with a large plot of land, sufficient for those children to get out and get physical exercise and plenty of sunshine and fresh air, at least when it is available, not a situation like we have at Exon House where there are no provisions and there can be no provisions, Mr. Speaker, because the room is not there. It is only in recent months that we managed to get into a fire drill in that institution. Did the hon. gentleman talk about for the three years that he was minister? No one in that institution heard of such a thing as a fire drill.

MR. HICKEY: Where they were located, the ones that were confined to bed, little or no outdoor space, Mr. Speaker, and when someone suggested a ramp be installed in the event of fire, who stopped it? The honourable gentleman who sat in this House, Mr. Speaker, was one of the first to object and, among other people close by, prevented that ramp from being installed. But we get the blame for the non-development of Exon House, What hogwash!

There has been more done, Mr. Speaker, at Exon House since this administration took over, of a constructive nature, than had been done since those children went in there. I will stand on that statement and whenever the honourable gentleman wants to take me up on it, I will give him adequate proof.

Before I left that department, a committee was set up, as a result of one of my trips abroad looking at the whole problem of retarded children and their development. The workshops whereby adults when they reach a certain age can go on, the educable ones can go on and develop not only, Mr. Speaker, to take care of themselves but to go on out into gainful employment, even if it is on a part-time basis to make their contribution to society and most important of all, Mr. Speaker, to make their contribution to their own livelihood, which gives them some sense of living and some value for living.

This is the kind of programme that has to be instituted in this province. Where did the honourable gentleman make any move in that direction? He made none. What was done to extend or carry out other features of the programme as outlined by Dr. Stanley? Nothing. And yet he has the gall today to stand in this House and tend to ridicule a programme at least that is getting off the ground and a programme as part of a government who has given special emphasis to retarded children and the care of such children in this province, by separating that very important responsibility and putting it into another department under the direction of a capable and competent minister.

MR. HICKEY: The honourable gentleman would have us to believe that he had the same policy and blueprint and that those awful people took over the government and did nothing for the retarded children of this province. It is impossible, Mr. Speaker, it is just impossible to determine what motivates a person to make such a statement when he, himself, above all else knows that that statement is not correct. I am at a loss to know what motivates anyone to do that. But it will not be too long, Mr. Speaker, please God, when this committee is finished their work and when the minister gets an opportunity to do what he has in mind, it will not be too long before improvements will be seen at Exon House, in addition to the ones that have already been made.

Why for two years that department was complaining about the installation of an elevator for those children to use. Did the honourable gentleman manage to get that through Treasury Board or Cabinet or wherever he had to take it? Two years those people were complaining about an elevator. It was not until this administration took it over or took office that this improvement was attended to.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have all the answers to Exon House, I never claimed to. I am sure nobody in this House is going to claim to. But it is pretty cheap politics if the honourable gentleman wants to stand here and try to make politics out of the retarded children of this province. I made that statement outside this House, Mr. Speaker, I make it inside this House today and I mean it. If anyone wish to make politics out of something, I suggest they use something else than the retarded children, Exon House and the Water Street Home.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame! Shame!

MR. HICKEY: He suggests that they were not going to fill that institution, they were going to do it on a gradual basis when this

MR. HICKEY: programme was developed. The honourable gentleman apparently forgets, Mr. Speaker, that when I took over that department there was room for four children in that institution. Did he call that not filled? Is that not fantastic? But the honourable gentleman says he was not going to fill it. He says he was not going to fill it. No, he was just going to block it off to the seams. That is different than filling it up.

Now, Mr. Speaker, people of this province are not going to fall for that. They are not going to accept that. This administration will develop the programme for retarded children. The honourable gentleman can do what he wishes. He can lay claim, having been minister of that department, and I take no credit from him or anybody else who makes a contribution in this area. No credit whatever will I ever attempt to take. But let him not stand in this House and for cheap politics, ridicule what someone else tries to do and twist things around to make it look as though we on this side could not care less about the retarded children of this province.

One of the big things that the former administration did not do, Mr. Speaker, which is about to be done and which there is some work already done on, and that is the setting up of a registry to determine how many children in this province are retarded. It is rather difficult to solve a problem when you do not know how big that problem is. The former administration did not know and I concede the point I doubt if we know yet how many such children there are throughout this province, any more than we know how many people are disabled or need help in some other area.

Mr. Speaker, I have the greatest confidence in the minister who is responsible for this institution and the others, and I know when the committee that is presently studying that institution and that area of jurisdiction, when they bring in their report I know that the minister will take it and give it the

MR. HICKEY: priority that it deserves and I know too, and this is one of the real reasons I am proud to be a member of this government. I know that when that report is made that this government will give the priority to retarded children in this province that they truly deserves. That is something that the honourable gentleman and nobody else as part of the former administration for the last twenty-three years can say. I am proud to be able to say that, Mr. Speaker, because I know it to be true.

MR. WM. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I will not get involved in the honourable minister's tedious, boring attempts to vindicate and defend himself. I want to make one or two comments and ask a few questions of the minister concerning these homes for special care with the hope that when the minister sums up on closing the debate he can give some additional information to the House.

One situation, which has always intrigued me yet in a way disgusted me, is the payment or the system or method of payment in respect of Hoyles Home, for example, and perhaps the other institutions, old age institutions which we have in St. John's, and elsewhere in the province in the future certainly, the method of payment, how the payment by the inmates or the patients, as the case might be, at the institutions, how payment is made on their behalf?

I know several men who have struggled all their lives and put a few thousand dollars aside and find themselves in the Hoyles Home, for example, and find that that small nest egg which they hoped would go to their wives, I am not worried about their children, the children can fend for themselves working and otherwise, but which they hoped could go to their wives is drained away from them because of the high rates which people who are supposed to be able to pay have to pay. I believe over \$600 is the current cost of a patient or

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MR. WM. ROWE: a resident of one of these homes, particularly
the Hoyles Home. I do not know how many

persons are in Hoyles Home at the moment but my information is that there are no more than one dozen who are in fact paying their own way either wholly or partially. This may not be a correct figure. It may only be a dozen or so who are paying the whole shot and maybe several others are paying for part of the cost of staying in the home. Most of the other people there, if not all the other people, have their way paid by the Department of Social Assistance or Rehabilitation, whatever the case might be under - I guess the Canada Assistance Plan. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that although people should obviously be encouraged to pay their own way, it seems to me that there is some sort of a basic inequity, something unjust about the operation of Hoyles Home and perhaps the other homes. I do not pretend to be an expert on it, All I know is what is told to me by friends and relatives of one or two of these people who are in the home and who are in fact paying their own way. If a person has a lot of money, a fair amount of money, certainly he should pay for this highly expensive care. But in the case of somebody who has merely put a few dollars away, hoping to leave it to his wife and now finds himself having to go dip into that and get rid of it completely and then have welfare pay for it and presumably after he is dead and gone the welfare department has to take care of his wife, (well his widow) it seems to me that there is something basically wrong and unjust about that situation.

I would be the first to admit that maybe I am labouring under a misapprehension with regard to the programme but I would be interested to hear what the minister has to say about that type of thing.

The second thing that I would like to ask the minister, Mr. Speaker, is in respect of the backlog which presently exists concerning Hoyles Home and Exon House and other institutions throughout the province. I would like him to give us some idea as to what sort of a waiting list there is. What kind of a backlog exists on people who have applied to go into these homes? The one that I am particularly concerned about is the

home or homes for retarded children.

Every member has had the experience in rural Newfoundland of going into a home and finding a pathetic and pitiful sight, namely; a mother with four or five other children of ordinary normal intelligence, completely saddled, completely down, really unable to take care of her other children because she has to devote almost all of her time looking after some poor, subnormal in intelligence or in physical ability, some poor child which is not able to go into one of these institutions and receive the proper care and training.

I would like to hear from the minister what the backlog is on this type of case throughout the province, if he has that information available. I would also like to find out about the possibility of any new homes, for retarded children particularly, being built throughout this province in the relatively near future. It is all very good for a family from St. John's here to have a child in one of the homes for retarded children which they can visit conveniently. But for someone in my district, for example, White Bay South, to have a child in St. John's here it is very inconvenient, in many cases heartbreaking for the mother and father concerned because they do develop tremendous attachments to their children, especially children who are particularly vulnerable and pitiful in many respects as some of these children are. For them to have to come into St. John's here to visit these children is an impossibility and the problem is of course the ties loosen and loosen and pretty soon the child is merely an institutional child, it is almost an orphan, for practical terms, and the mother and father are constrained of necessity to devote their time to their children who are at home and they cannot visit or attend to the needs of the child in one of these institutions.

What plans do the government have to perhaps decentralize to a larger extent the homes for retarded children? I realize of course the problems that there are with regard to training and staff and this sort of thing. But I would like to hear the minister on this whole aspect of

perhaps decentralizing the homes for retarded children and other homes as well.

"I would also like to ask the minister, Mr. Speaker, what the situation is in respect of the homes which are run by the churches, the Agnes Pratt, St. Patrick's and these homes? Do they come under the overall supervision of the minister under this act or under the Department of Rehabilitation and Recreation Act, 1973? Do these homes come under his supervision or are they more or less left entirely to the supervision of the churches or groups concerned? I understand that in all of these cases or most if not all of these cases, there is a guarantee by the government, a guarantee with regard to occupancy. The government guarantees ninety-eight percent guarantee of occupancy, which means of course that these groups can go into the field. They should be lauded for going into this field, and the government agree to pick up the cost (it is sort of a built-in subsidy) if necessary. I doubt if it is really necessary because these homes are all filled.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is necessary.

MR. ROWE, W.N. It is necessary. The government agree to not only pick up the cost in case the homes are not fully occupied but also of course under various programmes, the Canada Assistance Plan, I guess the government agree to pay the difference between what a person in a home can pay and what the actual cost of the care of that person is. I do not see, as I say, any reference made to these homes in specific, but there is something here, "any other institution in the province for the care of people, persons who by reason of age etc or for the accommodation of persons, which are designated by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council." Is it the intention to have these designated? The minister can go into that as well.

Also is it the intention of the government to continue this policy, which was started by the former administration, of allowing interested groups particularly churches to get into this field? I thought it was a good policy. The churches like in this day and age to be known for being socially conscience, to have involvement in great social issues of the day and they should be applauded and lauded for that and of course, they are

trying to get into this type of thing as well as other things. Is it the intention of the government to continue this policy or does the government feel that perhaps a board, a non-denominational, non-partisan public board should perhaps run these institutions or what? These are one or two questions which occur to me, I am briefly looking at the bill, Mr. Speaker, undoubtedly we will have other questions when the bill goes through committee stage - clause by clause study.

MR. J. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, I think I would have to say that it is with extreme regret that I have to stand up here today with this bill in the sense that the one thing I did not want to happen and which I had hoped would not happen, since my assuming office early in December, that of all the homes administered by this department and all the institutions that the one to be chosen again is Exon House. We have been trying to work quietly to improve all aspects at Exon House. A recent article, I should not say a recent article, about two months ago, singled out Exon House when I know that other information was available to the newspapers, but because it was Exon House it had to be printed.

I can stand on my feet here and give this assurance to honourable members across the House, to honourable members on this side of the House, to the press, to the people whose children are in Exon House and to the people of this province; give me a chance to do something with Exon House and leave it alone for a short while, please. I cannot do it when it is constantly in the news, no matter what I do with Exon House, it is not going to be satisfactory because there is some wall built up and it is impossible to do something that would be received as being adequate, and that is a sad situation.

I know I am up against it. I know that one of my great failings, one of the very many but one of greatest when I leave office will be that Exon House has not improved, because I feel genuinely that no matter what we do in Exon House, it will still be open for discussion, such as we have had today, and that is unfortunate. So I would ask and I would ask in all sincerity and non-politically and with no sense of malice

that Exon House be left. Give me an opportunity to do something in Exon House. Now, we presently have a committee, under the very able direction of Dr. Pottle and a group of other people who are looking at the programme at Exon House. It is my personal observation that there are three aspects of interest at Exon House and I would feel obliged to mention a few things in reply to the questions that have been posed and then I would hope that the matter would rest. There are three important aspects at Exon House or any like institution.

Number (1) is the administration of the building, of the physical plan, the supervision and administration of the building itself. That is important. That is one aspect of the situation.

Number (2), there is the nursing care. That is another important aspect of life at an institution of this nature, the care available for these children, from a nursing point of view.

Number (3) - and these are not in order - is the programme or counseling service available to these children. Not only to these children but to the senior citizens in senior citizens homes.

I feel very strongly that senior citizens homes are homes for special care, not places where people go to spend their waning days and die quietly and peacefully without being in anybody's way. I think life for them should be pleasant. Indeed, our hope would be that some of these people may be able to leave alive rather than in a box. If the proper type of rehabilitation is introduced, I think that this is certainly a possible way to extend the good living to life that we would like to have them lead at these houses, and the same for the children's homes.

That we would like to rehabilitate these people, there is no question about that. I do not think that this is just a home, a penitentiary where we take people and say, "here you are, now stay out of everybody's hair." We pay a few people a wage, which precludes getting as competent personnel as we would like to have. Certainly,

there are not that many available in special fields of this nature. We say, "keep them away from everybody. Keep them out of everybody's hair. We do not want to hear about them." Little more is done for them. That is a shocking situation. We certainly do not intend to have that situation occur at this home.

Our hope is to await the report from the committee looking into the programme and to attempt within the limitations of a provincial budget to provide a satisfactory, all-round situation of the administration of the building, the nursing care and the programme of counseling care in Exon House and indeed in other such houses as they may develop from time to time.

We mentioned rumblings and rumors of bad morale and so on and so forth. Well, I have not made my start yet on the building, mainly because I do not intend to act in haste. I have to look at all aspects of life down there. When the time comes, as the report from Dr. Pottle becomes available, then we are going to make certain moves, if necessary, to improve life at Exon House.

I would say that a good use for the home would be as a day school centre as well, for children who are mentally retarded. Certainly, there is a lot of merit in that. We are going to introduce the system of two superintendents, one at Exon House and one at Water Street, instead of one superintendent taking care of both buildings. This has been approved and we now have the position up for classification. We intend to move the educable and trainable, concentrated at Exon House, and the noneducable and nontrainable mostly at the Water Street Home but some of them unfortunately will have to be at Exon House. So, we intend to do some rearrangement with the clients of both homes so as to provide the maximum benefit of life in these homes for them.

We are committed to a programme of rehabilitation in Exon House. Unfortunately you do not build a home, as you would not build a school unless there is a need for it, and the need for one is suggested by a programme. Unfortunately, we are stuck with a building many times and then we say, let us fill it. What are we going to do? This is not the way that I like to operate. I like to say, "What do we need?" If there is a need showing, you

expand to fill a vacuum, identify the need and then expand to fill it.

Now, it is pretty simple politically to run around this province and to set up homes in every nook and cranny in view of a forthcoming election. That is not the way that it is going to be done either. It is going to be done on the basis of need.

Now, I find myself in the very unique and unenviable position with the mentally and physically handicapped people in the province, of not knowing who my clients are and believe me, that is an unenviable position.

I reported to this honourable House during the inquisition last week that this inventory of the physically and many mentally handicapped would be overcome. I have a great sense of pity for these people. I have had many letters cross my desk since last December, on the need for senior citizens homes in various areas but especially on the need for the care of mentally handicapped children and adults. On Saturday past, in Corner Brook, the Premier and I met with an individual - believe it or not, he cares too - with an individual who had a child who was retarded and had some problems and we discussed the problem with that person. I have received, as I said, many letters.

There is a great need for expansion of facilities for the mentally retarded but not only for the mentally retarded children. There is a great need there but there is also a need for the middleaged and older people who are also inflicted with mental retardation.

First, I have to identify my clientele. By rough estimates, I had been led to believe that there are some two to three hundred physically handicapped, and two to three hundred mentally handicapped in and around Corner Brook, within a thirty mile radius. I do not know that, but these are the rough figures that I am given. Again I presume that honourable members can appreciate that one is unable to work unless one can identify the clients with which he is working. I can say here and now that we are giving consideration to establishing a school

on the West Coast for mentally retarded children. We are giving consideration to it. There are right now in numbers, on the waiting list there are approximately, by the last rough estimate, about 135 people waiting to get into Exon House.

Let us say we had a home of 130 people, at about \$9,000 per person, per year. You are talking about an investment of some \$1,120,000 per year, for a home to accommodate 130 people. So these cannot be thrown around for the sake of erecting a home. A lot of thought has to be given to it. You are talking about an awful lot of money. Where best can it serve the need? We have to, as I say, identify the people first, and then attempt to regionalize these homes. I agree that the Province of Newfoundland does not extend from one end of the Avalon Peninsula to the other. We respect that, as a government.

We talked about senior citizens homes expansion. Well, I think honourable members are aware that what I like to call phase three, which was the recent announcement of a senior citizens home at Grand Banks, St. Anthony and Lewisporte and

Mr. Rousseau.

I can now announce that we have also approved a home for Stephenville Crossing, to accommodate some fifty to sixty people, so that is the fourth and last home that has been committed by this government in this phase of its activity.

We are now prepared to go back to the drawing board as a group (We have a committee studying this) and look at the possibility of establishing senior citizens homes in various other areas of the province. But again it has to be established on a need basis. So the hon. member for Bell Island can rest assured, we are looking into the expansion of facilities both for the physically and mentally handicapped. We are going to do it in our own time. We are going to do it on the basis of good judgment and on the basis of study. We feel at present that the four homes that are now going to be built at Grand Bank, at Lewisporte, at St. Anthony and at Stephenville Crossing are adequate for the moment.

MR. NEARY: What about Grand Falls? Is that underway?

MR. ROUSSEAU: Grand Falls is underway and should be open within a year. The steel is down, the basic construction is there and I am going out to see it and meet with them in the very near future. Within a year that should be well underway. Gander is ready for opening within the month. Corner Brook is functioning and has been increased.

MR. NEARY: They are both on file.

MR. ROUSSEAU: That is good, because I have some bad news for the honourable member in a minute that I would also like for him to take credit for. The honourable member has taken credit for everything else, so he might as well take the -

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. ROUSSEAU: A couple of minutes, a couple of minutes. That phase

Mr. Rousseau.

would be what I would call Phase 2, the Gander, Grand Falls and Corner Brook institutions. Phase 3, I would suggest, are the four we have just mentioned. We have some other areas across the province where we feel there may well be a need for a senior citizens home. We have had representations from various areas of the province. We are sitting down now, we will take a look at this. We have to look at the situation.

AN HON. MEMBER: How about Springdale?

MR. ROUSSEAU: I have had representations from Springdale and I have had very serious representations from Botwood, Bonavista Peninsula, a number of them. I do not like to mention them all because I am going to miss some, but we have had a number of enquiries. As far as we are concerned, the government, right now is that Phase 3, as I call it, is finished. Anything else now has to go back to government for approval. We extended the four that we said we were going to build. We lived up to our commitment in this respect. We do not intend to start playing games with the people in the sense that you are going to get one or no, you are not going to get one. When the times comes, if this is approved, they will get it.

The Harbour Lodge, to the best of my knowledge, the supplies that were down there are now being put to good use. As a matter of fact, a lot of the supplies remained at the home, others of the supplies are being used in other areas. I do not have the exact location of each television set. They are being put to use. They have not been sold and there is no skulduggery involved. Honesty is the by-word with this government.

You asked me the question: Is Harbour Lodge fully occupied? No, it is not quite and that is because certain rooms in Harbour Lodge are now being used as offices until a side room is renovated for office space. As soon as that room is prepared, which is any day now, for use as office space, then there will be more rooms available.

MR. NEARY: How many people - ?

MR. ROUSSEAU: About eighty-nine, ninety or somewhere around there.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. ROUSSEAU: Eighty-nine, according to last year's report. I do not know exactly what the number is now. I have them but they are not right here. We have a waiting list. As a matter of fact the waiting list for the province is, approximately, roughly 500. It is a big waiting list.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. ROUSSEAU: Right! We again have to look at it. We do not want to start pushing these things all over the place. We have other people who need money for various departments, we have to scratch for our own. But I think that my colleagues are fully cognizant of the needs of these people and they certainly have been most co-operative in extending approval for the four that have already been built. As I say, we will be looking forward to the erection of more in the near future.

The hon. gentleman asked me, was an extension being planned for Harbour Lodge. Yes, there is an extension planned, a thirty-four bed extension. Are we doing well? I have had the misfortune, ever since I got elected, I mean everything I do the hon. member for Bell Island has taken credit for. Maybe one of these days I will be able to come up with something original. Is the hon. member satisfied? Is that the answer to all his questions? Good.

Now the hon. member for White Bay South raised a few questions about the method of payment and I have some figures here for him that I happen to have because when I introduced the amendment to the bill some weeks ago there were some figures involved there with the thought that the question may be asked, I happen to have these figures here. It is not a put-up job or anything of that nature but I had them here in the event of the amendment to the bill for the Hoyles Home, some weeks ago, and I kept this information out. At Hoyles Homes, I would ask the hon. member to note the years involved, the prime years of Liberal Administration, from 1966 to 1972, early 1972. These are the costs and how they have escalated at Hoyles Home. The ambulatory patients now pay \$120.00 a month. The bedridden patients pay \$180.00 a month.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROUSSEAU: One second now. These are the costs. In 1972, and this has gone from two hundred odd to \$464.00 and in 1972 the ambulatory cases, the cost now is \$562.00, and the bedridden cases are \$1617.00, and who says that Tory times are bad times.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. ROUSSEAU: No but the cost is increasing. I appreciate the point that the hon. member for White Bay South makes that there are very few people paying their own way. There are eleven actually in Hoyles Homes, thirty-two are on partial government subsidy and 204

are on full government subsidy. At Harbour Lodge all ambulatory -

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. ROUSSEAU: By the Federal Government, yes. All the ambulatory patients at Harbour Lodge are \$448.00 per month and there are three paying their own way at Harbour Lodge, twenty-six on partial government subsidy and sixty on complete government subsidy. So we have these figures and they are available, of course, in the annual report. The hon. member for White Bay South also mentioned something about the backlog in homes for the special care and for the homes for retarded children. There certainly is a backlog. It is an extremely difficult situation but again we have to recognize certain facts. We progress on the decision to create a facility, a senior citizens home, for example, and we use certain figures. We take the total population in the district and we assume that the Province of Newfoundland, the retention of old aged people with their relatives, because of tradition, is probably greater than in most other provinces and the number of people over sixty-five in Newfoundland is less in relation to the total population than in any other province. So normally we have been using the figure of three per thousand population to determine the number of beds that we suggest or propose for a senior citizens home.

So there is indeed a backlog for both homes for special care and for the home for retarded children which, as I suggested before, we would hope to rectify, depending on funds. I have no time planned for this, no time frame, we just go as we find the money for it. I hope that there is money available for this very worthy effort by government

and we hope that in the years to come that by planning and progressing at a rate where we are not stepping into ice that is thin, but when we know where we are going, when the plans have been set, that we will indeed create a situation where a backlog will not be necessary.

He mentioned the church homes: The church homes are operated by the churches. We pay up to three hundred dollars a month for nonambulatory and up to three hundred and sixty dollars a month for ambulatory. What we do is, we actually pick up their deficit. It is not a method of payment but what deficit they have we give them a grant up to that maximum.

The honourable member for White Bay South mentioned something about certain denominations and so on. The policy of government is that in any future senior citizens' home, it will be of the inter-faith variety. There will be no strictly denominational homes, all homes must be available on an inter-faith basis. We certainly will encourage, if it is decided that a home would certainly be suitable for a particular area, to involve all religious denominations in that area. Of course, because of our geography and regionalization, there are possible areas in the province where maybe one religion only exists. Certainly, as long as the home is open to anybody of any faith, then that certainly will be involved in this, in consideration, and will certainly go along with the spirit of the act.

I think that we should also point out one other point; that we were the government who established the post of social worker to find foster homes for the children who go in them, and I think this is a positive step. I think that there are a number of positive steps we have in mind, but you know, it is a funny thing, once you start throwing this out in public before your plans are solidified and you know that money is available, you certainly could quickly develop problems.

We are moving, we are thinking and we may not be moving

fast enough to suit some, I do not know that but I have been involved in schools and I can throw out a few credentials that would make me happy enough to know that I know what I am doing. I was in the very envious position, last year before I left my previous position, of having a group of mentally retarded children in the building, which I administered the year before that and last year. Then this year, one of the decisions I undertook before I left was to introduce them into the school system, so there are a class of retarded children within the school system itself and I am very proud of this. I think this is something, certainly, that children can fit into this atmosphere and be all the better for it.

In closing I would like to say once more to everybody concerned; give us the opportunity to do something at Exon House, give me sufficient time, give my officials sufficient time. We are aware of the problems that have been down there, but we cannot do it when every time something happens at Exon House it is pulled across the newspapers. It is a difficult situation, there can be an easy loss of confidence by the parents involved and we certainly do not want this. We would like to do our job and if in six months or nine months or twelve months you feel that there has been nothing done, good, rake me over the coals, I am more than prepared to do it and if I have not done anything in that time, then I certainly deserve to be raked over the coals.

I will take responsibility for the actions of everybody in respect to that, but I would ask that, in all sincerity, to give us the opportunity to do the job without looking at the bad points. There is a lot of good work being done at Exon House and

MR. ROUSSEAU: we will certainly continue to do so. We are going to be making an effort, As I said, Dr. Pottle's report I am looking forward to and I feel that that is going to be a good report and we are certainly prepared to introduce that programme, whatever programme he comes up with, which we think is beneficial. We are going to look at it with a critical eye certainly. But we certainly will give every opportunity to these people to benefit themselves from the programme as it exists and, as I said before, we are not a one-shot institution down there. We like to think of it as being a threefold one, in the administration and supervision of the building, the nursing care and the counselling or programme. So when the time comes to make our moves, we will make the moves in not only Exon House but in any institution that needs it and we will make the moves in such a way as they will have been done with good sense, good planning and we hope the availability of abundant dollars.

Before I sit down I would be remiss if I did not congratulate the former minister for the work and the interest he has shown in this aspect of his former Department of Social Services and Rehabilitation. I think he has done a good job and certainly he has made my job a lot easier in following in his footsteps. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the job he has done and I would like, with pleasure, to move second reading of this bill.

On motion a Bill, "An Act Respecting Homes For Special Care," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Motion second reading of a Bill, "An Act Respecting The Department of Provincial Affairs and Environment."

MR. HICKEY: This bill, as indicated, is to set up the new Department of Provincial Affairs and Environment. I suppose

MR. HICKEY: I could say that whatever is not in the other departments is in this one, but I do not intend to go into any detail unless some honourable members on the other side have some questions. It is basically the old Department of Provincial Affairs, with the exception the museum, the historic sites have gone to the Department of Tourism. The Division of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is to be split up, reorganized and beefed up. We have seen some examples of some legislation which has already been passed in this House, in that regard.

The Clean Air, Water and Soil Authority which previously operated by and large independently of government, although being responsible to the former Minister of Mines, Agriculture and Resources, it is now in this department and will come under our jurisdiction. The Clean, Air, Water and Soil Authority Act was on the statutes prior to this time, but

is included in this bill and all the sections involved in it are included here. The Division of Cooperative Societies, transferred from the former old Department of Mines, Agriculture and Resources is now in this department. Of course it goes without saying that the rent control board is slightly involved in this department.

The present bill before the House has in it sections dealing with the Registry of Deeds and Companies. Mr. Speaker, it seems as though we have in this department almost everything that is to be registered. I do not know of anything that is to be registered that is not in this department, under this bill. I suppose it is fitting that the Registry of Deeds, Companies and Securities be in this department as well, for this reason, to place them all under one roof, which was the original intent.

I have gotten together with my colleague, the Minister of Justice, who was previously and in fact up to the present time, in terms of signing authority, has the authority for companies and securities, and we agreed that there has to be a real job done in this area. There has to be a new Companies' Act brought in and it is my belief that up until such time as that new act is brought before the House and passed and some necessary changes made in the structure of this division, that it should remain in the Department of Justice, because, the development of an act in itself is quite a chore. I think it requires a great deal of input from the Department of Justice and I suppose I could say that it would be rather unjust for me to suggest that I keep it under my own jurisdiction in this department.

I hope the honourable minister will agree to this. I know he has plenty to do already, but I hope he will not object to my passing him over yet another chore. There has been very little done in the way of development of a good, well-organized division of companies and securities in this province. By and large my officials tell me that we take or we look to the Province of Ontario for guidance and for help in performing this function in this division.

It was our intent to recruit a young man to make this his pet project, so to speak, to establish this division, reorganize it and to establish it along the lines or something close to what they have in the Province of Ontario, so that we at least will be in a position to protect the people of our province with regard to securities and also with regard to registering companies, which is a very vital area.

The Division of Environmental Management and Control, Mr. Speaker, is probably one of the most sensitive and probably one of the largest divisions in this department. Certainly there is a great deal of work to be done in the future to develop this division and to make it even stronger than it is today. There is a great need for a good public relations job to be done in this department, because in it are a number of sensitive areas such as some of the legislation which is already before the House and some which has already been passed, certainly none the least is the section of this act pertaining to environmental management and control.

It is not enough for us to make a lot of our citizens, industries and companies feel the iron arm of the law when they break this act or break this law, they should be made well aware of what they are required

to do. In this regard I think there is a real need for a good public relations job. Hopefully, that will be accomplished.

I do not know if there is anything else, Mr. Speaker, that I should say unless some honourable gentleman has questions, on the other side.

I move second reading.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, let me say simply that our position with respect to the bill which was just introduced by the honourable gentleman is exactly the same as our position with respect to the other bills in this restructuring exercise and that is simply that if the government feel that they wish to shuffle and deal and wheel, that is up to them. Let them do it, and we have no hesitation there, we do think it is a great, big waste of time and overrated. We think it is no answer to the problems that face this province. We think that it is a waste of money etc. etc. etc. We have said that before. It was applicable to the other bill, it is equally applicable to this one. I resent any time being spent in debating these bills because I think the House could usefully spent its time on so many more things.

We will go along with the bill, if they want to divide the House we will vote for it. If they do not want to divide the House, we will just stay quiet on it. It is of utter unimportance to the people of Newfoundland and their problems.

On motion a bill, "An Act Respecting The Department of Provincial Affairs and Environment," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act Respecting The Department Of Transportation and Communications:"

MR. MARSHALL: In the absence of the honourable minister, in deference to the comments passed by the honourable Leader of the Opposition, I move second reading of this very important bill.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I second that.

On motion a bill, "An Act Respecting The Department of Transportation And Communications." read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I move that the remaining orders stand deferred and that this House at its rising adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday at 3:00 P.M.

On motion this House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 3:00 P.M.