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**VERBATIM REPORT**

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1975

SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE M. JAMES RUSSELL

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Stagg): Order, please!

Before commencing today's proceedings, I would like to welcome to the gallery on behalf of all honourable members, fifty Grade X students from Prince of Wales Collegiate in St. John's in the company of their teacher, Mr. Burry.

On behalf of all honourable members, I welcome you to the galleries here today and trust that your visit will be interesting, informative and educational.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Stagg): The Hon. Minister of Justice.

HON. T. A. HICKMAN (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting Adult Corrections."

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Stagg): The Hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. S. A. NEARY: (Inaudible).

HON. J. ROUSSEAU (Minister of Transportation and Communications): Yes, you are going to get an answer now at least. This is a question proposed by the member for Bell Island a while back on what action have the government, and I presume he means the provincial government, taken to eliminate charges for the passage of vehicles and passengers on the ferry service between Bell Island and Portugal Cove and to treat this service as an extension of the provincial highway system? Now, of course, the honourable member is aware that the ferry is a federal responsibility and not a provincial responsibility. And they have recently called for tenders over an extended period of time. There was included in the tender call proposals for a schedule of passenger and vehicle rate increases and, of course, this was a point on which

the provincial government and, I believe, a federal member fought against and the proposed increases were rescinded, and there are no proposed increases, I understand, in the long-term contract that was signed with the federal government. However, I can say that further to this subject, Mr. Allan Campbell, Chairman of the Water Transport Committee has indicated that he would like to meet with me to discuss the question of the Bell Island-Portugal Cove ferry, and I will be doing so as soon as possible. I do not know when, whether it be a week, two weeks, three weeks. And until such time as I meet with him, I do not think it would be appropriate to make any further comment. But they certainly would, I presume, when they meet with us, with a thought of us assuming the responsibility for the ferry.

ORRAL QUESTIONS:

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Stagg): The Hon. Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications, Sir. Is the minister aware of a promise that was made on Bell Island in 1971 and it was repeated again in 1972, a promise made to the people of Bell Island by the Premier that the Bell Island ferry service would be made a part of the provincial highway system? Is the minister aware of that?

MR. ROUSSEAU: You know, I do not know what statements went on, but, as I say, after I meet with Mr. Campbell, you know, if there are any questions arising from that, I am prepared to give it. And until I meet with him, it is now a federal contract that has been called and accepted by contract award to a company over there. And if Mr. Campbell wants to talk to us about it, I am prepared to sit down and talk to Mr. Campbell about it. I cannot assume what is going to come out of those talks. But when these talks are over, if the member would like to pose a question, or write me and ask me what came out of these talks, I would be more than happy to make the information available to him.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I am dissatisfied with the answer to my question, Sir, and I wish to debate it this afternoon at 5:30 P.M. during the late show.

I have a question for my honourable and dear friend the Minister of Social Services, the minister who sticks out his chest on television. Would the minister care to tell the House -

HON. A. J. MURPHY (Minister of Social Services): Where do you want me to put it?

MR. NEARY: I could tell you where to put it if the minister would put it there.

MR. MURPHY: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Would the minister tell the House what action, if any, his department has taken to increase the rental allowances to people who are handicapped, the people who are sick, to widows and to people who are unemployed through no fault of their own because of the increase in rentals in the Province, throughout the Province, especially in St. John 's? What action has the minister taken to increase the rental allowance to these people who are on social assistance?

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, this is the first intimation I have had that anybody is looking for an increase in rental allowance, the type of people described. I think we have increased the rates nearly 100 per cent of rental allowance since we took over in 1972 as compared to when the previous member was the same minister. But, I will guarantee those if there is any need or anything else for accommodations and there is an increase sought from these people, that we would do all in our power to help them out. But to this date I have not received one representation from anybody. We will pay up to \$180 per month rent for people in these areas. I think that is a considerable increase over what was previously.

As I said, Sir, just to reiterate, in my knowledge, I have not had one request that anybody is being put on the street out of an apartment or anything because of the fact that they are indigent, that need help, that our department looks after and they are being put out because they cannot afford to pay the rent, not one, Sir. I say that quite honestly.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

In view of the fact that the Newfoundland Tenancies Board have approved rental increases for Omega Apartments and the government have announced increases in Pleasantville and Churchill Square: Would the minister indicate if his department will increase the rental allowances to people who live in these apartments, who are getting social assistance beyond \$180 a month?

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, the policy of this government will be made known at the opportune time. So, I cannot guarantee that any more than I can guarantee anybody that if bread goes up seven cents a loaf, that we will increase their allowance by seven cents. We have a policy established. I think it is a very, very generous one and until the time comes, Sir, I have no statement to make on it at this time.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Labour or Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations could bring us up to date on the strike in Wabush? Is the minister assisting the parties in the dispute in Wabush to try to get back to the bargaining table? Does the minister

care to tell us what is happening in that regard?

HON. E. MAYNARD (MINISTER OF MANPOWER AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS): Mr. Speaker, we have had a conciliation officer assigned to Wabush back in January some time who is assisting both the parties during their negotiations. Since the settlement that was reached by the negotiating committee has been rejected and the people have been on strike, we have not had any correspondence from either party for any further assistance, but it has been made known to both parties that the conciliation officer is still available to assist them at any time that they request their services.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Would the Minister of Justice care to tell the House whether or not he has today started extradition proceedings to get the honourable the Premier and his brain thrust back from Ottawa before they do any more damage?

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Order, please! Order, please!

That question is completely out of order. It is argumentative. It is not a proper question for the question period.

The Member for Labrador North.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. Would the minister tell the House if the programme, the Canada Lands Inventory Programme, is now being reinstated for Labrador and if there will be an inventory taken and an atlas prepared the same as was done for the Island portion of the Province which I think was presented to this House last year? Is that an ongoing programme? Will it be done?

HON. H. COLLINS (MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY): Mr. Speaker, it might be just as well for the honourable member to wait until my estimates come on. I understand they are coming on pretty soon. I will be glad to go into it with him then.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications. In view of the fact that his answer to a question last week was taken up by a series of points of order, is

the minister now prepared to table a list or indicate to the House the list of highway projects for this year that would include upgrading projects, paving projects and new construction?

HON. J. ROUSSEAU (MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS): No, I am not. You are assuming there is a list. You know, that is based on an assumption. I do not have it.

MR. F. ROWE: Well, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Would the minister indicate to the House what plans his department has for so far, if he has not got a completed list, what plans his department has for new construction, paving and upgrading this year?

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Order, please!

That question is required to have a lengthy answer. It would be more properly framed for the Order Paper and the answer is too lengthy.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I am dissatisfied with the answer and the ruling. Therefore, I wish to debate it during the late show.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Order, please!

The question was disallowed and consequently the matter cannot be debated.

MR. ROBERTS: On a point of order, did Your Honour rule the question would be debated or would not be.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Would not be debated.

MR. ROBERTS: The Standing Order 31 (g) a member who is not satisfied with response to an oral question or who has been told by Mr. Speaker that his question is not urgent or not of public importance may give notice that he intends to raise the subject matter of his question on the adjournment.

Your Honour's ruling was specifically that the question was not urgent, that it will be on the Order Paper and therefore, I submit, my colleague is quite in order in asking that it be debated on the late show tonight.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Order, please! The point raised by the honourable member certainly deserves some more research on my part and I will rule on it at a later time in the afternoon.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, before Your Honour researches it and makes a decision, I realize any question will be held in abeyance until Your Honour brings down his ruling. Your Honour did not, as I heard Your Honour rule, did not state that the question is not urgent. What Your Honour did rule was that the question was more properly placed on the Order Paper. Your Honour did not give the reason. In fact, Your Honour I think said - well, Your Honour did give a reason, Your Honour said that the question was too lengthy.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Out of order as an oral question.

MR. HICKMAN: And I submit therefore, Your Honour, that -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: Unless my hearing is -

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Order, please! I refer honourable gentlemen to section 31 (f) in which the Speaker's rulings relating to oral questions are not debatable or subject to appeal. Now the Speaker's ruling, and its subsequent interpretation with reference to the honourable member's dissatisfaction to the answer is certainly something that will have to be



decided upon at a later date, However, honourable members are now entering into a debate on the Speaker's ruling.

MR. ROWE: A question for the honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications; Mr. Speaker, is the minister prepared to submit a partial list to the House of Assembly, of projects for the coming year in Highways?

MR. ROUSSEAU: You know that is the same question as before. I am not.

MR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I am entirely dissatisfied with the answer the minister has given me and I would like the opportunity to debate it during the late show.

Another question for the honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications, Mr. Speaker; has the minister or his department or any officials in his department made any effort at all to convince various construction companies in the Province who are improving or upgrading or paving roads to hire local workers as much as possible and to hire local machinery as much as possible?

MR. ROUSSEAU: The honourable member undoubtedly is referring to a gentleman that I think we both know, and in an area, yes, and I was contacted by this gentleman the day before yesterday and I passed the information along to the Deputy Minister. The gentleman phoned me last night and I had left with the Deputy Minister because we were in the House and to get back to him -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROUSSEAU: No, the day before yesterday when I got the original request, but certainly we would encourage the use of local labour and local vehicles in any given area of the Province that is, you know, would hopefully, our roads programme for the year would hopefully include local labour, local content, certainly where possible. What the exact details are I am not aware of. The Deputy Minister is checking the matter out. I have asked him to get back to the gentleman in question. I had another conversation with him last night and I assured him, of course,

that we are certainly interested in the particular area that we were both talking about, that local labour and local trucks be hired where possible. Of course I think the honourable member and the honourable House can understand, that, you know, the department is not in a position to order a construction company which is awarded a tender to hire such-and-such a one but certainly the encouragement would be there and where possible we would like to see labour in that area hired and any vehicles or equipment that would be necessary hired and that equipment too. That is not to say any particular area of the Province would get special treatment because we would hope that the programme would be extended all over the Province, everybody would have their fair share in their local area. I think that is a policy to which we subscribe, but again I must repeat that we cannot order a company, we can only encourage them to do so and that we certainly will do.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Health.

Could the minister indicate when construction of the Clarendville Hospital will begin, please?

HON. DR. A. ROWE (MINISTER OF HEALTH): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to state when the construction will actually start. I can say that the functional planning has been completed. We are now in the process with the Department of Public Works of appointing a project manager and architects. And I am told that hopefully once that is done within a period of four to five months we can begin some work.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I would give notice under the late show that I am dissatisfied with that particular answer.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Hon. Member for Bell Island.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have two matters to debate at the late show today, if necessary, Sir, I will withdraw the last one in favour of my colleague getting his on because we only have a half an hour. I have two on and my colleague has one on.

AN HON. MEMBER: No way.

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. ROUSSEAU: May I rise to a point of order, please? I think something happened last week at the late show, and I assume that honourable members will let me bring up this point of order, where it is one half hour in the late show, and if you have three shows on you have ten, ten, and ten, and if there are points of order and so on and so forth at the end you do not get the courtesy or the opportunity to reply to the third stage of the late show. And, you know, I think that the honourable members, I do not know if everybody agrees, that everybody should have the opportunity to have their five minute presentation. And, I think, the minister responsible should also have the opportunity or the courtesy, whatever you want to call it, to reply for the full five minutes.

AN HON. MEMBER: The late, late show.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is -

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Yes, the honourable minister's point of order is a hypothetical question which is not suppose to be posed during the question period or at any other time. I think, however, that this matter is of some urgency and it might properly be the subject for a further review of the rules sometime in the future because it does make it rather difficult to answer a question if there are several points of order. This was witnessed last week. So it is something that might be considered in the future when the rules are changed, if they ever are.

The Hon. Member for Labrador North.

MR. M. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Could the Minister of Justice give me any consideration of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labrador to subsidizing a lawyer to practice in Goose Bay-Happy Valley?

MR. HICKMAN: It is a very novel suggestion of the Royal Commission on Labrador, Mr. Speaker. And I think I have a very good knowledge of the lawyers who are available and my chances of - there is no point in wasting my time on something that is not realistic.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Member for Hermitage.

MR. R. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, the same matter I have raised with him on two occasions in the past three or four weeks relating to the sawmilling in the Bay D'Espoir area. I wonder if he would indicate what action has been taken by his department to rectify the situation, specifically the fears that I discussed with him privately, the fears of the small sawmillers with respect getting permits, cutting logs for the sawmills?

MR. COLLINS: In the Bay D'Espoir area?

MR. BIMMONS: In Bay D'Espoir, yes.

MR. COLLINS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned to the honourable member some time ago, although it was news to me at the time he raised it that some people might have been having some difficulties, I arranged then for the Assistant Deputy Minister of Forestry to get in touch with honourable member. And I presume that he did get in touch with him. In the meantime I have also been in touch with some of the people in Bay

D'Espoir myself since -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: Yes, well I have been in touch with some people in the Bay since. And the latest information I have is that they want to come in and have a meeting with us then we are looking forward to sitting down and meeting with them.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary. Would the minister indicate persons or the organizations he contacted. It is only within the last two hours that I had representation from one of the organizations who heard nothing from the minister's office since.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, really I cannot remember the names. But as I recall it they are members of the Development Corporation down there. Now whether they are speaking for the Corporation or not I really do not know. But some people have been in touch with me who are members of that organization, and they are anticipating coming in to meet with us concerning the problem, if there is one.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, before Your Honour proceeds to the orders, may I ask leave to move the adjournment of the House under the provisions of Standing Order (23) to discuss a depth of matter of urgent public importance. I have a copy here for Your Honour.

Mr. Speaker, the motion is as follows, that I wish to adjourn the House to discuss the following motion, namely, the failure of the government of this Province to support the efforts being made by other Provinces to prevent an increase in the price of fuel and oil products to the consumers in those Provinces, which failure by the government will result in the people of Newfoundland and Labrador paying substantially higher prices for gasoline and for heating oil in the very near future and which failure is a direct result of the government's refusal to stand up for the true interests of Newfoundland and of Canada as a whole.

Your Honour, that is word for word the motion which I asked leave to move yesterday and which was denied by the Chair on the grounds it was not of urgency. Since then, Sir, we have seen the conference in Ottawa, which is still in session. We have had no opportunity to discuss the matter in this House. It may be of interest to Your Honour, Sir, and an indication of the urgency as well as the public importance to know that the six cent a gallon increase will cost the people of Newfoundland \$30 million a year, a ten cent a gallon increase will cost the people of Newfoundland \$50 million a year. The matter is urgent. It is of public importance, Sir. It must be debated by this House and accordingly I ask leave to make this motion now that we can debate it. It is more urgent than any other matter which could possibly come before this House at this time.

MR. SPEAKER (Stagg): This matter came before the House yesterday and Mr. Speaker at that time disallowed it indicating that while it was a matter of serious concern to all people, it is not a matter that was pressing so far as debate was concerned or sufficiently important to suspend the ordinary course of business for the House.

Accordingly, the motion is denied.

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honour, with the greatest respect, may we appeal your ruling please. I am sure two of my colleagues will rise.

Could we divide the House please, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER (Stagg): Calling the members.

The motion is that the Speaker's ruling be upheld. Those in favour of the motion: The honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the honourable the Minister of Health, the honourable the Minister of Social Services, the honourable the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations, the honourable the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Environment, the honourable the Minister of Transportation and Communications, the honourable the Minister of Rehabilitation and Recreation, the honourable the Minister of Education, the honourable the Minister of Justice, the honourable the Minister of Industrial Development, the honourable the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, the honourable the Minister of Tourism, the honourable the Minister of Rural Development,

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER (Stagg): Order, please! There is to be no debate or discussion during a division. I am sure honourable members are aware of this.

Mr. Dunphy, Mr. Wells, Mr. Senior, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Evans.

MR. SPEAKER (Stagg): Those opposed, please rise.

Those against: The honourable the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Gillett, Mr. Woodward, Mr. Neary, Mr. Rowe, Mr. Simmons.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Stagg): The Speaker's ruling is upheld.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, could I ask -

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Stagg): Order, please!

Also while it is difficult at times to restrain one's self, some things that happen in the House are humorous. I remind all people in the press galleries and the public galleries that their participation in the House should be that of observers only and they will have to swallow their smoke and restrain themselves

The Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. ROUSSEAU: May I ask what is on the late show today because there was apparently one withdrawn?

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Stagg): Motion 2 - Committee of Ways and Means.

It is moved and seconded that I do now leave the Chair for the House to resolve itself -

AN HON. MEMBER: Motion 2?

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Stagg): I am sorry. Motion 2, Bill No. 18.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Saw Mills Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY:

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, when the committee last rose, we were dealing with 709, electoral office. I do not have too many questions on this, Sir, except that I want to take note that at the present time I understand, and perhaps the Minister of Justice can confirm this, that a voters' list is being taken in the Province at the present time. I do not know, Sir, if that is any indication or not whether we are going to have an early election.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hopefully.



MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: After the performance, Sir, of the Hon. Premier and his brain trust in Ottawa, it might be a good idea to have an early election because this is the only way, probably, we can resolve this matter. But would the Minister of Justice care to tell the committee whether or not there has been a deadline placed on when the voters' list has to be completed? Yes, I would like to know how the enumerators are being paid? You know, are they getting so much per head? Are they being paid by the hour? Do they earn the minimum wage?

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman!

MR. HICKMAN: I cannot hear what the honourable gentleman said.

MR. ROBERTS: Nobody can because the honourable gentleman's colleague is passing out goodies.

MR. NEARY: If the Belmont Tavern, Sir, had not burned down a week ago, I would swear we were in the Belmont Tavern this afternoon. Just restrain yourself, keep quiet.

I want the minister to tell us how they are being paid? Are they being paid by the head or by the hour or do they get a straight across-the-board salary? What about Mr. Harvey Cole, the gentleman who ran unsuccessfully several times for the P. C. party, the chief electoral -

MR. ROBERTS: He could not even get the nomination.

MR. NEARY: He could not even get the nomination.

MR. ROBERTS: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: That is right. The Burgeo Burp beat him out there the last time.

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

I am sure that on the general topic of elections that honourable members could wander far and wide and bring in

a great many matters. But the subject of the electoral office is one that is rather precise. I am sure that the honourable member realizes that he was engaging in a debate or about to precipitate a debate that could lead us down many irrelevant paths. I suggest that the honourable member might make remarks that are more relevant.

MR. NEARY: I want to know, Sir, if Mr. Cole is getting an increase in pay this year? Is there any provision? I have not had time to check the detailed salary report there. I think that is about all, Sir. I would like to know if there is any deadline on when the minister expects to have the voters' list complete? Does he expect to see it completed in April, May, June or in the Fall of the year? And if so, would the minister indicate if he has given any instructions for the Chief Electoral Officer to get ready for an early election? Have the ballots been ordered? Has all the election material been placed on order? Is it now in the hands of the printers? Can the minister just give us a run down on precisely what is happening under this heading, electoral office?

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, firstly, I am not aware of any intention to increase the salary of the chief electoral officer or of his staff. I think he has a staff of one, a very competent lady.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Who is it?

MR. HICKMAN: Mrs. Strong, who has been there for a long, long time.

There is no way that I can estimate when the - or, I am sure, the chief electoral officer - when the voters list will be completed and printed. I understand that the last voters' list which was taken in 1971, the minutes of council at least were passed in January of 1971 and the enumeration commenced shortly thereafter. It was late June of 1971 when the bound copies of the voters list were made available. So that I would anticipate that this present deliberation having started only within the last few weeks or in March, it is likely to be later than June before it is completed.

The method of payment is \$30.00 plus fourteen cents per person. That is an increase, a very modest increase, I might add, over that paid the last time when it was \$20.00 and twelve cents a head. It is anticipated that there will be 315,000 names.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: Approximately 1,400. The enumerators are picked by the revising officers. From what I can hear, the flak that I have been getting is that in practically every instance where they were available, the revising officers, revising justices, have used the same people who were used the last time.

Anyway, I am not very popular -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Without fear or favor -

MR. HICKMAN: Without fear, favor, prejudice or anything else, and twenty-nine of our revising justices, magistrates -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Anybody fix up the ballots?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: Again, Mr. Chairman - I do not know if I have the list here - they were, as the honourable Leader of the Opposition is aware, the revising justices under the act have to be appointed by the Lieutenant-

Governor in Council. Most of those who served the last time, if they are still alive, are serving again.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Mr. Albert Meade is alive. Did he serve the last time?

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Albert Meade did not serve the last time. There was no district, was there? Because the chief returning officer and the revising justice in that district the last time was a gentleman named Carter, John Carter. Mr. John Carter of Harbour Breton is now the revising justice who reports in Hermitage. There were two or three districts -

MR. NEARY: Mr. Meade, it is just a coincidence that he ran for the Tories at that time?

MR. HICKMAN: Whether it is or not, you know, there is not a thing wrong with it. If the honourable gentleman will look through the list that was gazetted, he will find, as I am sure he has, he will find that most, that all of those pretty much who served as revising justices the last time are acting again this time. There were some extra districts and these had to be filled by men who had not served before.

MR. WOODWARD: Who is in Naskaupi?

MR. HICKMAN: Naskaupi - M.N.S., Magistrate Gordon W. Seabright.

MR. NEARY: Harbour Main-Bell Island - how is that one seated?

MR. HICKMAN:

Harbour Main - Bell Island is the town clerk whose name I cannot remember.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Mrs. Devereaux.

MR. HICKMAN: Mrs. Devereaux, the town clerk in Holyrood. The magistrate for that district is the revising justice in Conception Bay South. I do not know the lady at all, but my understanding is that she is an exceptionally competent lady.

MR. NEARY: Why not the Town Clerk on Bell Island? Is there any reason why -

MR. HICKMAN: Well, I would think that for a very good reason that there are more people living in that section of the district than are up above and we will see now when the enumerations take it, but they look like to me, and I must confess the names of the new magistrates, I do not know them. They were chosen, the names were submitted to me by the chief electoral officer, who is doing a first class job, by the way, and they were passed by Cabinet and now everybody is out busily working. I had someone come to my door with a button recently, which is a new innovation but a very desirable one for the purpose of identification.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: One like that.

MR. HICKMAN: No, a button identifying themselves as - herself as an enumerator. When it will be finished, I do not know, but hopefully it will be finished -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: Oh! It will be finished this year.

MR. MURPHY: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: Not any more. No, we ended the discrimination against the outports.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, in light of the fact that now there is the new list of voters being taken and during the time of the Redistribution Bill that was debated in the House, passed in the House, the Premier at that time was undertaking to say that if we discovered that the census

in Labrador, as we know for a fact it has been understated by Statistics Canada in the census of 1971, that he would again look at the possibility of revising the Electoral Act and give Labrador another portion of a seat or an additional seat maybe on the grounds of the electors list. Maybe the minister can tell us if we can determine by the list of electors, if the citizens were indeed understated by Statistics Canada and if his government is prepared to take another look at the Redistribution Bill and to give Labrador another portion of a seat or an extra seat?

MR. MURPHY: To set my mind clear: is it the census taken of population or voters the last list we had, the number of voters or the total number of people in the districts? When I hear census mentioned, I am just wondering what -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Enumeration of voters.

MR. MURPHY: We are talking about enumeration of voters.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, the census is where you count noses, where you take the names of everyone residing in the Province. The voters' list is where you take the names of everyone over eighteen years of age. I would -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: No, I am answering -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: The honourable gentleman from Labrador North has asked whether, in my opinion, a census, not a census, the taking of the voter's list will enable the government to ascertain whether or not there was a discrepancy in the census as was alleged. I cannot answer that but I suspect it would because you would not be able to come out precisely but I guess you could extend on - there must be some way that a computer could say, well if you have got -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Project.

MR. HICKMAN: Project. If you have got 5,000 people eighteen years of age and over, there must be some formula to say that that means there are another 3,000 people in that district. So, I have no doubt at

all that the Minister of Industrial Development with his computerized mind will be able to tell us that once we get the voters list completed, and that will be the time when I think the question can be very properly then put to government as to what government policy is going to be.

One more thing I would like to mention, Mr. Chairman, is a matter of interest and to show how efficient Mr. Cole and Mrs. Strong are, that this work of enumeration that is going on now is being done without any additional staff at headquarters whereas the last time it was done, in 1971, it was required to hire between six and seven additional people to work during that period.

MR. HICKMAN: The reason for it is that the Chief Electoral Office knew that there would have to be an enumeration taken sometime this year or last year and he and Mrs. Strong were very busy last year getting the various forms printed and in order and it saved us a great deal of money.

MR. ROWE: 709-01 Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister is he has asked the Chief Electoral Officer to do whatever he can to ensure that polling stations are held in public buildings, such as schools or community halls instead of in private homes?

MR. MURPHY: Do you want to deprive the people of making maybe thirty-five dollars?

MR. ROWE: Now, Mr. Chairman, that is the lowest kind of a comment that you could expect from the honourable Minister of Social Services. Before I even gave the rationale or the reason he stooped so low as to suggest that I am going to try to take twenty-five dollars from a person, how low can you get, Mr. Chairman!

MR. MURPHY: That is what you are doing.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. ROWE: Now if he would close his mouth and open his ears he might understand the question. When any person asks a question he obviously has a reason for asking it. Here are the reasons, Sir. In the last few years I have had the honour of participating in one election as a candidate, and I have been involved deeply with the running of three other elections, two federal and one by-election, and one of the complaints that I got from a great many of the electors, the electorate in the districts, whether they be federal or provincial, is they did not like the idea, now I do not know whether this is a unique Newfoundland feeling or what, but they simply did not like the idea of going into another person's private home in order to cast their votes.

Now I can give you one example, there are many reasons for that, but in one community in my own district, a polling station was held in a certain home and not unlike many Newfoundland communities there was a dispute between one side of the community and the other side of the



community, or between that family and a group of other people within that community and thirty people out of a total voters' list in that community of 150, I think it was, thirty people absolutely refused to go in over the doorsteps of that house to cast their vote. Now the honourable minister knows the type of thing I am talking about. The honourable minister has represented a rural, not quite as rural as the district that I have the honour to represent, but in many districts in Newfoundland people have voiced their opposition over going into private homes to cast their vote. And in most communities there is a community hall or a schoolhouse or something of that nature where a ballot box can be held in a public place and you will still have your, not polling captains, what do they call, hold the polls?

MR. DOODY: District returning officer.

MR. ROWE: The district returning officer and the deputy you know, all this sort of thing, the -

AN HON. MEMBER: The arrows.

MR. ROWE: The arrows, these people still have to be hired by the government, the Department of Justice or the Electoral Officer and with reference to the low comments of the Minister of Social Services, I would suggest -

MR. MURPHY: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if there is twenty-five dollars to be spent for the rental of a home that that twenty-five dollars could probably just as well go to a service club or to a school or to a church and spread it out a little more widely, twenty-five dollars is not all that much. But you know in one community there is more than one person who is in need, and there is only one person who is going to get that twenty-five dollars.

MR. MURPHY: You are helping that one.

MR. ROWE: You are helping that one but the money could probably be more helpfully spent if it went to a service club or something of that nature because they are using more than one person in want. But I hope I have made the point of my question, Mr. Chairman, and I have sent

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a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer quite some time ago  
in connection with this and he has asked me to provide him with  
a list of community halls and what have you in my own particular  
district and I must confess I Have not done that for the Officer.

I was wondering if the minister would try to make it a point to see that public places are used for the holding of polling booths in the up coming or next election in this Province? You cannot do not much about the federal situation.

MR. MURPHY: If I may , Sir, in speaking to that I certainly hope, Sir, that people who have been for years and years and years, and I know I speak for my district and many others throughout the Province, who have been given the chance to get a few extra dollars by having a polling booth in their home and perhaps being the D.R.O. in that particular one, For heaven sake do not take the bit out of their mouths because someone, in his first election possibly, is not familiar with the old ancient custom here where people look forward to earning - and he talks about one or two or three - it might be a widow in most cases - I can name five in my district - it is the only bit of cash they get in their hand, Sir. And I would say this, that if you can do that, spread these polling booth all over the area instead of everybddy having to congregate. Perhaps it might be a bit different in the member's district. Around a public building where there is no parking nor anything else you try to split as best you can, Sir, and spread the dollar as evenly as you can between the people can certainly do with it. That is my feeling on it.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, you know, I got to reply to him.

MR. MURPHY: Well, go ahead and reply.

MR. F. ROWE: I hate to reply to him.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: But I should not have to do it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: Number one, learn the rules. Number one, let it go on the record, Mr. Chairman, that I nor my colleagues are advocating that we take \$25.00 out of the pockets of a poor person. If the minister was ever west of Manuel's Bridge and gone into some of the communities such as I represent, Sir, he would understand exactly what I am talking about.

MR. MURPHY: Inaudible.

MR. F. ROWE: And it was the minister just to whom the question was directed. And I do not know who he has got on his list down there, Sir, in St. John's Centre -

MR. MURPHY: Does he want me to read them out?

MR. F. ROWE: But if it is upsetting the Member for St. John's Centre that is too bad.

MR. NEARY: Could the minister take him out .....

MR. F. ROWE: You know, let us hear something from the minister instead of this garbage coming from the minister opposite.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): The Hon. Minister of Provincial Affairs and the Environment.

HON. G. W. DAWE (MINISTER OF PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND THE ENVIRONMENT): My goodness gracious. My colleague the Minister of Social Services on his stand in this matter because, although there might be differences of opinion or animosities or whatever in communities around the Province of Newfoundland, the house in which the polling station is established surely is not the offender. And generally you will find that it is only the house, or a room in the house, that is rented for polling day.

AN HON. MEMBER: It will not make any difference to me.

MR. DAWE: And generally the person who owns -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. DAWE: - the house is not around the polling booth on that day. And I think it is ridiculous for the honourable member to come up and suggest that certain people should be deprived of a few dollars on polling day. And I know in many instances -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. DAWE: - deputy returning officers generally look for houses that belong to widows, in order to probably give them a little benefit out of it, \$25.00 for the day or whatever. My father was a deputy returning officer for many years in Conception Bay South. He always sought out houses that belonged to people who were in need, and provided them with the opportunity to earn a few dollars on polling day. I think it is utterly ridiculous the arguments that the honourable member is

making, Sir. It is even stupid.

AN HON. MEMBER: It does not make any difference where they are, you are going to get it any way.

MR. DAWE: Do not worry about that my son.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. DAWE: I just hope you will be the one to come and run against me.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. DAWE: But, Mr. Chairman, this is crazy. I think that were a person can be helped if it is only a matter of \$25.00 or whatever it is, if it is a matter of \$10.00 or whatever they should be helped, they should be given that opportunity to at least make that much money to help them alone in their - trying to live from day to day, because God only knows it is hard enough today with the ever rising cost of living.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): The Hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Well, all I can do, Mr. Chairman, is thank the honourable gentleman for their words of wisdom. I am sure there are not sufficient community halls throughout Newfoundland to accommodate all the polling booths. There may be some communities, for instance on the Great Northern Peninsula, where you have but one polling booth. My understanding is that it is the prerogative of the district returning officer who in most, well in twenty-nine districts at least will be magistrates to go out and find places where a polling booth can be set up. And

I have not up to this point suggested to the Chief Electoral Officer that he should instruct the district returning officers to discontinue that practice of renting space in private homes where the district returning officer thinks it appropriate.

AN HON. MEMBER: By the returning officer?

MR. HICKMAN: By the D.R.O.

May I say, too, Mr. Speaker, you know, so that there will be no misunderstanding, I do not give instructions to the Chief Electoral Officer. My responsibility under the act is that I am the minister that has to report to government on behalf of the Chief Electoral Officer, or to this House, and that is all. He does not consult me, nor will he nor should he, as to who is going to be the D.R.O. He will submit a list, as he did with the revising justices, which under the act must be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. But I certainly have not indicated to the Chief Electoral Officer that there should be a hard and fast policy that community halls be used. I note from the comments of the Hon. Member for St. Barbe North that the Chief Electoral Officer has indicated to him that he will be very glad to ask the D.R.O. in that area to consider the community halls when he receives the list of things, which shows that the Chief Electoral Officer is a very co-operative, sensible gentleman.

MR. F. ROWE: Just very briefly, I do not want to prolong this, but I asked this question, you know, out of a number of representations that have been made to me over the years from people who sincerely want to go into public places. Now probably these people represent a very small minority and probably the majority of the electorate could not give a darn where they vote. But I never have had people coming to me objecting to voting in public halls. If so, I would have made representation accordingly. But I have had hundreds of people, while I was campaign manager and this sort of a thing, come to

me and suggest that they would have preferred to have voted in a public place.

MR. NEARY: Petty jealousy is a local policy.

MR. F. ROWE: You know, and I think it is incumbent upon me in my role as an M.H.A. to bring this to the attention of the minister, and I am completely aware of the fact that he does not direct the Chief Electoral Officer, he can certainly bring this kind of a feeling to the attention of the Chief Electoral Officer, as I have done, and I would assume that the Minister of Justice would carry a little more weight than the average backbencher. And it is a reasonable and legitimate question to ask, and I submit that he take into consideration these factors that I have brought to the attention of the minister. And I must again, since the second honourable member opposite has seen fit to stand up, re-state that there is no intention, in anything that I have said to deprive any poor widow or widower or recipient of social assistance money or anybody else, to deprive him of \$25. I mean that is not even worth arguing. You know, you take any community where you would have one polling station with 200 or 300 voters, and you would have thirty or forty people in need. There is only one person who is going to get that \$25. So, you know, you are helping one out of thirty or forty. Helping one is better than helping none. But having this money going to a school or the Kiwanis Club or a community hall or any recreational hall or anything like this is just as valuable a way for the money to be spent. So I reject the two honourable ministers' arguments and their cheap attempt to play politics with a fairly legitimate question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible).

MR. HICKMAN: The only thing I can say -

MR. CHAIRMAN: (Mr. Dunphy): Order, please!

MR. HICKMAN: The only thing I can suggest, Sir, is that there may be a variation of attitudes in various parts of the Province and if any honourable gentleman in this House feels that he has a representation to make, I am sure that the Chief Electoral Officer would be more than delighted to hear it.

I ran into the occasional complaint in the 1971 election but it was in a different category. There were at least three polling booths in my district where they insisted on having inside the curtain a very expensive picture of the leader of the party for which I was not running.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).



MR. HICKMAN:

and I sort of thought, and there was one place where there was a picture of my opponent on the door walking in, I kind of thought that was a breach of The Election Act, but fortunately it did not do me any harm.

On motion 709-01, carried.

On motion 709-02-01 to 712-03-03, carried.

MR. NEARY: 712-03-03 Mr. Chairman, this vote, Sir, will not carry for another two or three minutes at least.

MR. ROBERTS: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Legal Aid we are on now.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh yes, and I have a few words.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I am not about to have my annual flick at the lawyers. I think, Sir, that I have -

MR. ROBERTS: Been flicked up.

MR. NEARY: When this matter of Legal Aid first came up, Sir, about three years ago in this honourable House, members of the House may remember that I forecast at that time, and Legal Aid I think at that time was \$10,000, then it went up to \$20,000; no, it was \$20,000 I think was the total amount of Legal Aid, prior to that, Mr. Chairman, the lawyers always boasted about the fact that they would not deny any citizen of this Province legal counselling if they did not have the money, if they could not afford a lawyer. The lawyers boasted about the fact that they used to do it voluntarily and to listen to the honourable Member for Placentia East in this honourable House, Sir, three years ago when the honourable member came in here, a rookie, a greenhorn, I almost broke down and wept, I almost cried when I heard the minister telling us about all the wonderful work that the lawyers of this Province were doing free of charge.

MR. MURPHY: Everybody wants to hire him now.

MR. NEARY: I do not mind giving the honourable member a plug. He probably needs it. And so, Sir, we introduced it. It was the Liberal Administration that introduced the new concept of Legal Aid and I think the first year it was, I am not sure if it was \$10,000 or

\$20,000, it was not more than \$20,000, \$10,000. What we did we provided the bar association, the lawyers' union, we provided them with \$10,000 to open an office downtown, to have a telephone and maintain a secretary. That was all they wanted, they told us.

They came in, met with the former Liberal Administration and they told us they were such a kind-hearted crowd of people that all they wanted was a telephone and a secretary where those who could not afford a lawyer could call in and there would be so many lawyers on duty, the Bar Society, the lawyers' union would have so many lawyers on duty every week. It was only a matter of calling in and a lawyer would be assigned to this person or that person that could not afford to hire a lawyer on his own for some reason or other.

So we granted \$10,000. Then the next year it went up substantially. Then the Government of Canada came into the picture and I forecast at that time, Sir, within a very short order, and my honourable friend staring at me across the House there from St. John's South can go and check Hansard, I forecast that within a short time Legal Aid the amount of money provided for Legal Aid would be up to \$300,000, I think is said a quarter of a million and I mentioned the figure of \$300,000. Well now, Sir, we are asked to vote the lawyers for Legal Aid \$380,000 and I will make another forecast, Sir, another forecast, that within another year or two it will be up to a half million dollars. It is the biggest milch cow -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Outside, Mr. Chairman, of second mortgage money, loan companies, outside

of the rip-offs they make for being loan sharks, this is the biggest milch cow they have found, I suppose, in the whole history of the lawyer's union in this Province. It is not disgraceful. It is true.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I put a question on the Order Paper to the Minister of Justice a couple of weeks ago. I have now, I suppose, thirty-five or forty questions on the Order Paper. I have probably gotten the answers to three or four. I asked the Minister of Justice to table in this honourable House a list of all the amounts that have been paid out to individual lawyers and to law firms on behalf of Legal Aid. The minister has not answered my question yet. The question has been put on the Order Paper. "Fred", will you find the question?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Yes. Well, in case the minister missed the question, has not seen the question, before we pass this vote, I am going to ask the minister to table for the perusal of the Committee so that the -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Ah, the minister can get it. It is taxpayers' money and we are lashing it out to the lawyers. The minister - all he has to do is pick up his phone or ask his colleague, the Member for Placentia East to provide an accounting. Does the minister ask for an accounting of this money?

MR. HICKMAN: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Oh, I see. We are not allowed to have that. Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the Committee should have it because only recently, Sir, we saw one if not two lawyers suspended from legal aid for thirty days - one for sure. I am not sure about the second one - suspended from legal aid for thirty days for soliciting.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Name them.

MR. NEARY: Name them. Michael Laurie was one, suspended without a hearing, suspended in the most dictatorial manner by a crowd of individuals that are following archaic rules and regulations, suspended for thirty days.

Here is the question: MR. NEARY (Bell Island)- To ask the

Honourable the Minister of Justice (this incidentally was back on April 2, 1975, nine days ago) what payments have been made under the Legal Aid Program to solicitors or law firms in Newfoundland during the calendar year 1974, showing in each case the total amount paid to the solicitor or firm concerned and the services in respect of which the payments were made, indicating whether the payments were made in connection with services rendered in criminal or civil matters.

The minister has not to this date answered my question. So, I am going to ask him now when we are in Committee, before we pass this \$380,000, slowly crawling up towards \$500,000, that the minister give us some accounting. We are not trying to pry into the personal affairs of the lawyers, but we are entitled, Sir, the taxpayers, the people who pay this \$380,000 which will soon be \$500,000, are entitled to some accounting because, Sir, I was most concerned when I heard that one honourable and learned gentleman had been suspended by a group of people - I do not know who - who meet in secrecy in a dark, probably smoke-filled room Downtown and just flung this gentleman out without any regard for his character or his reputation or his family, just flung him out.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Is that so?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Yes, that is so.

MR. NEARY: The man had no recourse to appeal.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Wrong.

MR. NEARY: That is not wrong, Sir. I have copies of the letters that were sent to the gentleman.

MR. REID: Oh, you are all wet now.

MR. NEARY: I am not all wet. The honourable member can get as hopping mad as he likes.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is wrong.

MR. NEARY: It is not wrong, Sir. Suspended, Mr. Chairman, suspended - did you ever hear such foolish nonsense, suspended for soliciting. I am willing to deal with that, Sir, soliciting. So what if he was soliciting? What is wrong with it? What is wrong with advertising your wares? What is wrong with advertising your rates? I will tell the

Committee why that learned gentleman was suspended for soliciting,  
Because this is a safeguard they have, Sir, that none of the lawyers  
will cut the rates that are laid down in that little blue book that  
they have locked up in their top drawers.

That is why, Sir, they are so sensitive about soliciting. They are afraid the poor, old consumer, the poor, old client might get a break.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): Order, order, please! Order, please!

The honourable gentleman's remarks for Fell Island, the Chair fails to see how these comments relate to Legal Aid and feels that the gentleman is out of order in pursuing that course.

MR. NEARY: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with a suspension, Sir, a thirty day suspension for a member of the bar society for soliciting. He was suspended from Legal Aid, from receiving Legal Aid for thirty days. He was not allowed to receive any payments from the Legal Aid Society, from Legal Aid from this \$340,000 paid out last year, for soliciting. I am arguing, Sir, I am arguing that that was no justification, in my opinion, for suspending not only that gentleman, but anybody, any lawyer for soliciting. What is wrong with soliciting? What is wrong with it, Sir, is this: The honourable and learned members of the bar society are scared, Sir, that gentlemen like this particular gentleman who was suspended from Legal Aid for thirty days might give his clients a break - and I am not saying that he did. I do not think he did for one moment - but this is why, Sir, they are in deadly fear of people soliciting. Yet, Mr. Chairman, we see lawyers putting their cards in the newspapers. Is that not advertising, soliciting? Discrimination, Sir, of the worst sort and I want an explanation from the minister. And I happened to be over at the Arts and Culture Centre when the Editor of Debates of this honourable House retired, and was listening to this conversation and the Member for St. John's East accused me outside of this honourable House and told this gentleman, by the way, who was suspended, not the Minister of Justice but the Member for Placentia East, told this gentleman that I was one of the complainants. I want to say here and now in this honourable House, Sir, that I was not one of the complaints. I was not one of the complainants.

The gentleman was accused of soliciting on Bell Island. The

minister was standing there, and the minister is thinking now. He had better think because I was not one of the complainants although -  
AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Well, the member, the minister's colleague from Placentia East when confronted by this gentleman said, oh, the Member for Bell Island was one of the ones that complained. And that learned gentleman came to see me and wanted to know what form my complaint took, was it a formal complaint? Was it in writing? Was it orally? I want to tell the House now and the minister and the Member for Placentia East, it is too bad that he is not in his seat, that I did not complain about the gentleman that was suspended for thirty days from Legal Aid and I was shocked and amazed. What are we living in, Nazi Germany, when a learned gentleman is suspended for soliciting! Even if he was soliciting - I do not think he was, Sir - I say so what? What kind of rules and regulations do they have in that society? It is about time, it is about time, Sir, we had them investigated.

This is not Nazi Germany we are living in now, and then we heard of a second gentleman that was suspended only last week.

MR. HICKMAN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. We are debating Legal Aid. The honourable Member for Bell Island has dragged before this House the name of a practiced solicitor which, in my opinion, will do irreparable damage to that solicitor. But in any event, the solicitor whom he named a few minutes ago was, if 'suspended' is the word, at least was removed from the list of those eligible to serve on Legal Aid cases for thirty days. He was the only one, the only one in Newfoundland.

Now, if the honourable gentleman is leading into another soliciting I say that that is not at all relevant to Legal Aid and is way beyond the scope of this committee, apart from the fact that it is a pretty undesirable thing to be discussing in this House. Any person who is not in public life, who is not in public service, who is not beholden

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to the government, who is not beholden to this House, who does not seek any protection from this House, but whose name is bandied about in here within the immunity that are conferred upon honourable gentlemen. I say that it would be most unfair, most undesirable and certainly most irrelevant to 712-03-03.

MR. NEARY: To that point of order,



MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I would submit to Your Honour that I am completely in order, that the gentleman who I named, Sir, his name had already appeared in the newspaper, that I am merely trying to protect that gentleman, protect his rights as a citizen of this Province.

MR. HICKMAN: The one you are leading up to now.

MR. NEARY: The one I am leading up to now, Sir, the minister did not give me a chance to finish my remarks, The minister felt obligated to leap into this debate to try to head it off. Well the minister should give me a chance to finish. And Your Honour should give me a chance to finish my remarks to see what I am going to say before ruling me out of order, because so far, Sir, I am completely in order and I would submit that the minister's point of order, Sir, is just a stalling tactic.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please! The honourable minister's point was well taken. The item debate discussion 712-03-02 under the heading, Cost of various items such as royal commissions, Legal Aid Programme and public enquiries, and the Chair fails to see how the suspension of any member of the Bar Society can be relevant in this particular debate and the Chair would ask the honourable gentleman that he will refrain and follow the lines as laid down in committee, particularly 03-03 Legal Aid.

MR. NEARY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, Sir, I will get back to my remarks about Legal Aid and who should receive it and who should not receive it, My argument is this, Mr. Chairman, that no learned member of the Bar Society should be suspended from receiving any of this \$380,000, no member, unless the minister who reports to the House on Legal Aid has his say. Before any member of the Bar, Sir, is denied Legal Aid, suspended from receiving any of this \$140,000 last year and \$380,000 this year, is the minister consulted? The minister is not consulted. Why not? On every other vote in the estimates, Sir, the minister has the final say, the minister has the final word and why not in this instance? Why delegate? Why give up his authority? Why abdicate his responsibility and give it to a group of dictators downtown? Why should the minister do this?

I think, Sir, the House should have a full explanation of this matter and on the second suspension, Sir -

MR. WELLS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the second suspension, as the minister has pointed out, was suspension of a lawyer from the privilege of practising before the courts in this Province, It had nothing to do with Legal Aid. It had nothing to do with the expenditure of public monies and it is completely out of order to even refer to it in this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I concur with the honourable member's point of order, that it is completely irrelevant to this point that the honourable member is bringing up and further debate on it will be prohibited.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I want to know from the Minister of Justice if the second person, Sir, suspended received any notice from Legal Aid.

AN HON. MEMBER: Point of order -

MR. NEARY: Wait now, just a minute now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: I am perfectly in order, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The facts of this matter are not subject to debate before this House under the heading of Legal Aid, and the honourable member is not going to be permitted to debate it through the back door.

MR. NEARY: I will do it to the front door.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because the honourable member -

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Now the honourable member is speaking about something that is very akin to libels on a person who is not here, and this matter is a very delicate matter and -

MR. NEARY: Well, let us get a layman in the Chair, so we can talk about it. Let us get the lawyers out of the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There happens to be a lawyer occupying the Chair at the present time and he has all the powers and rights that are incumbent with holding

the Chair and one of them is that he is not going to be shooed out of the Chair by any honourable member in the House. Now I have ruled that the honourable member's

argument pertaining to the so-called second suspension is irrelevant. And under the Standing Orders of the House a member who persists in irrelevance may be directed to take his place. I suggest the honourable member may have pertinent points that deal with Legal Aid but this is not one of them.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, let me get back to my conversation over at the Arts and Culture Centre. Without referring to - and this may or may not refer to the learned gentleman who is suspended, the second suspension but, Sir, during that conversation, when the member for St. John's East, the member for Placentia East, the Minister of Justice and one or two other lawyers who were there, Sir, during that conversation, I was told that there were going to be two suspensions from Legal Aid. I was told, Sir! Subsequently, one gentleman was suspended, and I have been since told that another gentleman - I do not know who it was, Sir, - that another gentleman received a warning that if he did not stop soliciting that he would also be suspended. And I think the minister should tell this House, tell this committee, whether or not that is correct? That is all I am asking, Mr. Chairman. As a matter of fact, if anything I would be defending these gentleman, not bandying their names about like the minister is pretending. I am trying to see that justice is done, that they get their rights as citizens of this Province. That is all I am doing, Sir. I would like to ask the minister before any member of the Bar Society, before this faceless crowd, I do not even know who they are, before they can suspend anybody from Legal Aid. Is there any prior consultation with the minister? Does the minister have any say in it?

AN HON. MEMBER: Why?

MR. NEARY: Why? Because this House here is voting \$380,000 out, and we want to know how it is spent, if it is being spent wisely if it is being abused. We want to know. We want an accounting. That

is all we are asking for. We are asking for an accounting. Every other subhead here, Sir, the minister has to give an accounting to this honourable House. And we are certainly entitled to an accounting for this \$380,000. I would like to have an answer to my question that was put on the Order Paper. Legal Aid is getting big in this Province, Mr. Chairman, it is getting big. It is one of the biggest milch cows, I suppose, the lawyers have found for a long time, and I know the minister can get up and argue that we now have 160 lawyers in Newfoundland, and we have so many in Law School, and it is increasing and their share of the pie is not as big as it used to be. They have to compete now more. They have to get out. You cannot earn your living under Legal Aid. You got to get out and get into second mortgage business and this sort of thing. So all I am asking the minister to do, Mr. Chairman, all I am asking the minister to do is to tell this committee how that \$340,000 last year was spent? I am asking the minister, and I think we have every right to know, Sir, if there is any favouritism, if there is any patronage within the legal profession?

MR. HICKMAN: Are you talking about political patronage?

MR. NEARY: No, not political patronage. Patronage, you know, a select few, one getting it all, you know.

MR. HICKMAN: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: No. Well, Sir, the only way we can determine that and the minister can screw up his face and look Heavenward all he likes. The only way we can determine that as a committee and is to have the list in front of us. The minister should give us an accounting. Why not? Who do they think they are? Who do they think they are to waltz off with \$380,000 of the taxpayers' money and not account to anybody? Who do they account to? Does the Auditor General

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go down and check their accounts?

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.

MR. NEARY: Well, okay, then we should have a report  
in this honourable House.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Well then, Sir, then there should be no objection.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Lang under his Act does not ask for .....

MR. NEARY: Oh we dare not encroach on - this is santimonious territory. We dare not encroach -

MR. HICKMAN: ... the names of lawyers.....

MR. NEARY: We dare not ask how the \$380,000 that is provided to the lawyers of this Province by the taxpayers of Canada and Newfoundland, we may not ask the minister how that money was spent. Who received it?

MR. HICKMAN: Who received it is something else.

MR. NEARY: Who received it is something else. Does the minister have anything to hide?

MR. HICKMAN: No.

MR. NEARY: Well then table it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Put it on the table of the House. Let us all have a look at it.

MR. HICKMAN: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I would say that in a very short time, Sir, we will be up to a half million dollars, a half million dollars.

AN HON. MEMBER: The way you are talking.....

MR. NEARY: No, I have only had two so far, one paid for by the Minister of Justice - Legal Aid? Yes, I did receive Legal Aid, Sir, in a different form,

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: and I had one of the best solicitors, I suppose, in this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: And I have got another one now, no Legal Aid, who is equally as good.

But, Sir, the lawyers themselves - Mr. Chairman, the lawyers themselves would like to - I know because I have talked to several in the last week or so who would like to have an accounting of this \$340,000 that was shared out last year. And as taxpayers they are entitled to that

information. And I hope the minister will not get up now and just try and brush it off by saying, oh, you know, we are not going to interfere with the internal operations of the lawyers' union. No we are not going to do that.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Who do they think they are? What I would suggest, Sir, in view of the fact that there was a suspension, and I do not know whether it was justified or unjustified, in view of the fact that there was, that there be an investigation into the lawyers' union. Let us get their constitution out in the open. Let us see what justification they have for this kind of disciplinary action.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: So, Mr. Chairman, I would hope, Sir, that the minister would give us a full explanation of this whole matter of Legal Aid before -

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman -

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have three honourable gentlemen who -

AN HON. MEMBER: The Leader of the Opposition -

MR. ROBERTS: I have to go to see -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I want to say a word or two -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Stand up when you are speaking 'Ank', please.

Mr. Chairman -

MR. MURPHY: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, would Your Honour then rule who has the floor please?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! While the Hon. the Minister of Social Services had the floor, and while I am not sure whether he had relinquished the floor or not, I guess once a person sits down he has relinquished his right to have the floor. However, certainly if an honourable member does sit down and does another honourable member the courtesy of giving up his right to speak, I think it is rather improper for that honourable member to make a derisive comment as the Leader of the Opposition did to the Minister of Social Services. by referring to him rather derisively,



as in the phrase "Sit down 'Ank'" I think is what he said. I suggest the honourable member might be a little more courteous.

MR. ROBERTS: .... I regret it, and you know I am quite willing to apologize for it. It was only because it was a very rude, arrogant, nasty comment made by the honourable minister, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, if I wanted to be derisive the Member for Burgeo invites derision, but that is another story.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I want to say a word or two about a different aspect of Legal Aid, and that is the problem raised - my colleague has raised some matters which, I think, should be answered and dealt with. Perhaps the gentleman for St. John's South will speak to that point as well as the minister. But I am concerned, Sir, with some statements that were made by the Member for Placentia East, who unfortunately is not here today, the Select Committee is off holding some hearings, and these were

reported in the Evening Telegram on March 18. I do not know if the minister has seen the - he must have seen it. I am sure he reads the paper each afternoon. Let me read part of it. The Legal Aid Committee may have to curtail its programme this year because of a lack of funds. Fintan Aylward, chairman of the committee, said this year they received a ten per cent increase in their budget, but we are anticipating a forty per cent increase in applicants. Mr. Aylward pointed out that during the past year the Legal Aid, officers in St. John's and Corner Brook processed approximately 3,000 applications, but it is expected that the number will be in excess of 5,000 during the coming year.

A St. John's lawyer said their budget during the past year amounted to \$340,000, but this year has been increased to only \$380,000 which of course is the amount showing here. He said that if they are to provide the same service to the number of clients they expect this year (quote again) we are going to need an extra \$225,000. He goes on to talk a little about what Legal Aid was done.

Now, the chairman said that last year it was the committee's understanding that they would receive an annual grant from the Provincial Government to pay the administrative costs, the cost of civil matters and the remaining ten per cent of the cost of criminal matters that is not covered by the federal contribution. He said it was also understood that the federal contribution would be paid to the committee. "However, the Provincial Government's position is that the annual grant would cover all the costs and the federal contribution would be paid directly to the provincial treasury."

Now, my question or my concern is this, Sir. We have in the estimates here an amount of \$380,000, and we are showing a related revenue from the Government of Canada of \$85,000. Now, the minister - I am sure there is an explanation - but I would like the minister to provide it. Ottawa provides ninety per cent of the cost of providing criminal aid or, I am sorry, Legal Aid in criminal matters, on the criminal side in an amount not to exceed fifty cents per capita I believe.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: They are at least a year behind in sending their payments.

Well -

MR. HICKMAN: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay, but I mean, my first point is then, or the answer to it is that Ottawa have not sent us the money they owe us under the agreement. Let us leave aside a moment why they have not done that. But, surely we are to get more than \$85,000 revenue this year? But, we are entitled to \$260,000 at fifty cents per capita.

MR. HICKMAN: We have not received - the only payment we have received from the Government of Canada since this programme was implemented, you know, since the agreement was signed, back in 1972 was a few thousand dollars.

MR. ROBERTS: But, it was \$75,000 shown last year, Mr. Chairman, you know, shown here in the printed estimate.

MR. HICKMAN: Right, but -

MR. ROBERTS: We have a different quintal of fish but one which is obviously worth some examination. I am correct in recalling that it is \$260,000 a year provided that is not more than ninety per cent of the cost. Well, we spent more than \$286,000 a year on Legal Aid on the criminal side. Therefore, we are entitled to receive \$260,000 or \$270,000, fifty cents per capita.

MR. HICKMAN: We have received so far a total sum from the Government of Canada on account of the Legal Aid of \$2,460.80.

MR. ROBERTS: That is astonishing, and I would hope when the minister speaks, he could tell us exactly how much is owed and what is being done to collect it. It is an old problem.

MR. HICKMAN: They want to pay once a year and they will not pay until after our year is ended. Our Auditor-General goes in and does the audit first. Then following that there is a claim prepared and filed. Then they send down their Auditors and well, you know, it -

MR. ROBERTS: It is obviously an administrative nightmare and perhaps becoming unworkable.

MR. HICKMAN: That is right, which every Province is complaining about, but the accountants in Ottawa say that they are better accountants

than the provincial people are. That is the way it goes.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, they might not be better accountants. They are obviously better bookkeepers or money keepers. Now, Mr. Chairman, the minister may want to expand upon it but he has dealt with the first point which is why the revenue is so low. We are entitled to receive this year from Ottawa under the formula, under that agreement, approximately \$270,000.

MR. HICKMAN: Well, we will get it next year.

MR. ROBERTS: Right. Well then we are entitled to receive approximately \$270,000 in respect of last year which we should get this year.

MR. HICKMAN: Oh. All right. Go ahead. I was only trying -

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I mean, I -

MR. HICKMAN: I know this is not the way to deal with it.

MR. ROBERTS: No. But my point is - the first point is, where is the revenue? The minister could explain that because, you know, ninety per cent of the cost of criminal aid, criminal Legal Aid, not to exceed fifty cents per capita is paid by Ottawa. The civil side

of the Legal Aid programme is entirely the responsibility of the government of the Province.

MR. HICKMAN: Let us say - just to give you a little assurance right now.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, sure.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, here is the situation on the Legal Aid. We made our first claim to the federal government re Legal Aid for the period of January 1 to March 31, 1973, on December 3, 1973. Our claim was for \$2,460.80. We received payment of this claim from the federal government on February 13, 1974. We made our second claim for the period April 1, 1973 to March 31, 1974 on November 5, 1974. Now let me stop right there. The audit of the period covering April 1, 1973 to March 31, 1974 was completed by the Auditor General on October 1, 1974 or thereabouts, and then there is a fairly complicated claim form, a yearly claim form, and we tried to argue with the Government of Canada that we should be paid quarterly. They insisted that it has got to be paid yearly after the work is done. Mr. Lang, that is, the Hon. Mr. Lang, the Minister of Justice acknowledged receipt of the claim on November 27, 1974. Now there was a claim April 1, 1973 to March 31, 1974. The federal auditors came in to audit the claim on March 4, 1975. Our claim for that period was \$77,052.57 -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, we will receive that money during this fiscal year from the Government of Canada, and that is all of the money that we will receive. Now for the period April 1, 1974 to March 31, 1975, you know, the audit will be finished, say in October, the claim will go in again in November. Their auditors will come down and we will get - we are going to be a year behind every year, and there is not much we can do about it.

MR. ROBERTS: So I thank the minister. There are two comments, Number one, the estimates as printed are obviously hideously inaccurate in that case, on their revenue side, page 45. And therein, secondly, I find it interesting that we of the Bar are being audited to a much greater extent than any other federal programme. I do not know what that means,

but one could read a great deal into it, and there will be those who do. But in my experience over the years in dealing with Ottawa, you know, normally it is the procedure is not nearly as complicated as that. And I do not know why it is -

MR. HICKMAN: Normally they pay, do they not?

MR. ROBERTS: Normally they pay quarterly, and they pay on the receipt of the certificate signed by the -

MR. HICKMAN: That is right.

MR. ROBERTS: deputy minister, the comptroller subject to later audits.

MR. HICKMAN: That is right.

MR. ROBERTS: I mean that is normal.

MR. HICKMAN: Sure.

MR. ROBERTS: They may be - the Auditor General's - take Medicare.

The Auditor General each year has his regular plaintive cry about the fact the Medicare accounts are regularly not closed for a year or so afterwards, because they are related to the national per capita average costs and it takes a year or so to determine those.

MR. HICKMAN: Anyway we can take some consolation in the fact that it is well audited.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, I find it consoling that the only thing that is so well audited apparently are the lawyers' claims. And I do not know - if my colleague for Bell Island had realized that he might have been able to - and in fact if any of us had realized it he might have been able to say something about it. For what it is worth there it is.

The much more important point, Mr. Chairman, is this. The gentleman for Placentia East speaking in his non-political capacity said that there is a very real danger -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I am not quoting. I can read the quote - said the Legal Aid Committee is concerned about the small increase they have received this year from the government, and some cut-backs are going to have to be made in the programme unless further assistance is forthcoming from the government.

All I ask is an assurance from the minister that the programme will not be curtailed. Going by what the Chairman of the Legal Aid Committee says in this statement here, unless the government are prepared to increase the amount of money, and it must be this government, whatever Ottawa are going to pay is fixed, even if we are a year or two getting it, it is fixed by that formula by the agreement between Ottawa and the Province. But unless the Province are prepared to increase the amount that they make available one of two things must happen - and there are only two things which must happen because the scheme cannot run at a deficit. The first thing which can happen is that the scheme is terminated that in month nine or month ten all the money is used up and the word goes out from the Legal Aid Committee that any lawyer who undertakes to act in a Legal Aid capacity will do it for charity because there is no more money available to pay the fees which have been agreed will be paid in respect of work for Legal Aid. That is one thing which can happen.

The second thing which could happen

is that the programme is reduced, that instead of defending or acting in certain types of matters, a certain broad spectrum, we will act only in a narrower spectrum of matters. Either way people will suffer. Either way people who need help and who are entitled to get it under the programme as it now exists, will be denied that help. So, what I ask is an assurance from the minister, I know estimates are only estimates, but here we have a case where the Chairman of the Committee, who happens to be a political bedfellow of the honourable the minister, says that we are going to need an extra \$220,000. Now, I do not know if his estimate is right, wrong, left, center, up, down, in or out, but I am prepared to accept it. We are going to need an extra \$220,000. They only got an extra \$40,000. So, there is an extra \$180,000, if you wish, needed and not there.

Now, that would mean the scheme would have to shut down in month nine or month ten or the lawyers would have to work for charity - my brother at the bar, I suspect, would have some comments on that - or the scope of the scheme is reduced. So, all I ask essentially is an assurance from the minister that the scheme will not be allowed to run out. Indeed, if anything the scheme should be expanded because while the Legal Aid scheme is obviously serving a purpose, it is not meeting the need in Newfoundland by any means. It may be meeting it on the criminal side, I do not know, But, judging by what I am told and by what I hear from my constituents and people throughout the Province, it is not meeting the need on the civil side. It is not.

I could go into it in some detail if we wish, but my concern now is that at least what we have not be curtailed. There is a very real danger of that. For that we have the word of the gentleman from Placentia East who is Chairman of the Committee and who, as I said, is a political bedfellow of the honourable Minister of Justice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

I wonder if at this time, rather than having the House go back, the Committee rise, that I might be able to give notice of



the questions that are to be debated at five thirty. Will honourable gentlemen agree to that? Agreed.

The first will be the question from the Member from St. Barbe North directed to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. The next will be the question of the Member for Bell Island directed to the Minister of Transportation and Communications, and the third the honourable Leader of the Opposition directed to the honourable the Minister of Health.

MR. NEARY: Pardon me, Mr. Chairman. I put a matter to the Speaker, Sir, about - let me see, what is today? Thursday? - last week, Friday or Monday about the electrical rates. That should be number one on the late show today, Sir. The Speaker has it in his office, I am sure, in his files.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That was directed to which minister?

MR. NEARY: To the Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That minister is not here.

MR. NEARY: No, but it does not make any difference if the minister is here, Sir. I still have the right to debate it, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rules are, unfortunately if we are going to have a debate on which precedents are going to be answered, probably the Committee should rise. However, it is in the discretion of the Speaker which questions are to be raised. However, I see no objection to having the honourable member ask his question to the Minister of Mines and Energy even though the gentleman is not here.

MR. NEARY: The Minister of Industrial Development is going to reply to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good then.

In any event, the sequence will be the same. The Member for St. Barbe North first, directed to the Minister of Transportation and Communications; and the Member for Bell Island, a question directed to the Minister of Mines and Energy or some other minister who might wish to reply; and the honourable Leader of the Opposition, his question directed to the Minister of Health.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I am not questioning Your Honour's ruling but the Speaker has already established a precedent in this House that the first question, Sir, is the first one that is debated on the Late Show. Yes, Sir. Mr. Chairman -

MR. CHAIRMAN: In this case I ask the House Leader if he might rise the Committee so I can make a ruling on this from the proper place.

MR. CROSBIE: On motion that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

On motion that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again, Mr. Speaker returned to the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN (WELLS): The Committee of Supply reports progress and asks leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chairman of the Committee of Supply reports that they have considered the matters to them referred, have made progress and ask leave to sit again.

On motion report received and adopted.

With regard to the matters raised while in committee, it has been designated the House resuming its normal course of business, I refer honourable members to section 31, subsection (j) of the Standing Orders which reads as follows: "When several members have given notice of intention to raise matters on the adjournment of the House, the Speaker shall decide the order in which such matters are to be raised. In doing so he shall have regard for the order in which notices were given, the urgency of the matters raised and to the apportioning of the opportunities to debate such matters among the members of the various parties in the House. The Speaker may at his discretion consult the representatives of the parties in such order and be guided by their advice."

In this particular instance, the Chair noted that the Minister of Transportation and Communications, and the Member for St. Barbe North were engaged in a discussion of the similar question last week and the question in effect was unanswered, consequently that question was placed first on the adjournment debate and other questions will follow in their natural order.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to appeal your Speaker's ruling because, Sir, on the grounds that the Speaker of this House, Sir, has already stated in the House that the questions would be put on the late show in the order in which they were presented. Mine was presented, Sir, several days ago in writing to the Speaker of this honourable House, to Speaker Russell.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The motion is that the Speaker's ruling be upheld. Those in favour "aye", those against "nay", in my opinion the "ayes" have it.

On motion that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 712-03 The Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, I asked the Minister of Justice, Sir, if he would give the House a full accountability of this \$340,000 that was spent last year and I asked the minister also if he would ask the lawyers' union to open up their records and open up their books to the House and I am sure they they have nothing to hide, Sir.

I am not saying for one minute, Mr. Chairman, that there was anything improper about this, I hope the Member for St. John's South is not misinterpreting what I am saying. And I also want to say, Mr. Chairman, while I am on my feet that I was not consulted or asked by the gentleman who was suspended from Legal Aid to raise his case in the House. I was not, Sir. I am basing my case in the House on what I read in the newspapers, a release, because you see I have to say that, Mr. Chairman, because if I do not they are likely to go out with the guns and shoot the poor fellow, according to what they did with him -

MR. HICKMAN: But you did tell us you had copies of the letters.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the gentleman came to me -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Wait now, let us get it straight. The gentleman came to me, Sir, with the letters because he said that he had confronted the Member for Placentia East and the Member for Placentia East had told him that I was one of the people who complained.

MR. DOODY: Too bad you do not say that when the member is here.

MR. NEARY: It is not my fault the member is not here and I, Mr. Chairman, whatever I say inside of this House I am prepared to say outside of it, and have said.

MR. EVANS: Because you know Legal Aid is available for it.

MR. NEARY: Sir, I want to make that perfectly clear. This was in December, by the way, that I was accused of this. It was December that Miss Murphy, the Editor of Debates retired and the government gave her a dinner over at the Arts and Culture Centre when I first heard of this

matter involving two learned friends, two learned gentlemen and probably two friends, but I was not asked by either one of these gentlemen to fight their case on the floor of this House. I want to make that perfectly clear. Because other disciplinary action could be taken against them, Sir, if for one minute the Law Society thought that that was the case, because, Sir, it is a closed organization, and in my opinion, Sir, it is very, very dangerous, the best closed shop in the world. All I am asking the Minister of Justice to do is to give us an accounting, to ask the lawyers' union to open up their records and their books, to present their rates, to give us their rates so that we could take a look at the rates.

Mr. Chairman, what is wrong with the minister saying, look, here are the rates charged by the lawyers under Legal Aid? Is there anything wrong with that? If you hire a mechanic or a plumber or an electrician or if you go up and get your car fixed up to a garage, what is the rate, you say to him. And nine chances out of ten the rate is published in the newspaper, hung on the wall. Or it is in a little contract, union contract, as I say, here are the rates.

AN HON. MEMBER: You cannot afford it anyway.

MR. NEARY: Who cannot afford it?

Mr. Chairman, I am hoping, Sir, I am hoping for their own sake and, you know, Mr. Chairman, I can see the wheels turning over there now in St. John's South. I am not knocking Legal Aid, Sir. I am all for it. I am not knocking it. All I am asking for is an accounting of the money. How many lawyers got it? How many law firms got it? Is it one-sided? I know lawyers who do not participate in Legal Aid and have not got one cent and do not want to.

MR. HICKMAN: There is no law which can compel them to.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. HICKMAN: There is no law which can compel them to.

MR. NEARY: No, of course not. Who said there was?

MR. DOODY: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Was this money, \$340,000, paid out to a half a dozen lawyers, ten lawyers, one law firm, twenty law firms, fifty law firms, how many?

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: One thousand.

MR. NEARY: No, not a thousand. There are not that many around. They got a hammer lock on Newfoundland. They got a strangle hold on us.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, there is nothing wrong with my question

to the Minister of Justice. I am all for Legal Aid. I am all for our people getting a fair shake, getting good representation in the courts in criminal and civil matters. I have no objection to that, Sir, at all. I do not think for one minute that the programme is being abused, but I was a bit taken aback, a bit rocked back on my heels, when I picked up the newspaper and saw that one learned gentleman had been suspended for soliciting, for soliciting. Is that a criminal offence to go out and try to drum up a little bit of business for yourself? I thought this was the capitalistic system we were living under?

MR. HICKMAN: It is in some professions.

MR. NEARY: It is in some professions? The oldest one in the world is the only one that I know of, Sir, where you cannot solicit, and in certain countries that is legal too. It is not legal in Newfoundland. But apart from that oldest profession in the world Sir, where it is illegal to solicit, the only other organization on the face of the earth in Newfoundland, especially, that I know of where you cannot solicit is the lawyers' union. You are not allowed to try to get a bit of business. You are not allowed to advertise the fact - you open an office downtown, and you would like for a few people to drop in and see you once in a while and perhaps if some poor fellow needs Legal Aid, he would not even know where to go look for a lawyer. So you hang out your shingle and you say, come down, boy, come down to my office, I will take on your case. Because, Mr. Chairman, remember -

MR. DOODY: Sure, all he got to do is phone you. You must know every lawyer in town.

MR. NEARY: Well, I tell you, I am becoming a crackerjack, a walking encyclopedia, Sir, on jurisprudence and legal matters. That is why, Sir, I can stand in this honourable House and ride the razor's edge and

give it to the lawyers right, left and centre and they cannot get anything to hang their hat on to get back at me apart from the fact, Sir, that they will try to say, oh, this was an internal matter, this is a matter of how we distribute Legal Aid.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable gentleman did a good job of walking the razor's edge that time.

MR. NEARY: It is an internal matter how we spend the taxpayers' money, the \$380,000. I say it is not. I would say that before this committee approves almost a half a million dollars for any organization in this Province that first of all we should insist that they give an accounting of how that money is spent.

MR. DOODY: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Chairman. I just finished explaining to the committee, Sir, that I am all for Legal Aid. I am all for it. I am not knocking it. It is unfortunate, it is tragic, Sir, it is tragic indeed, in my opinion, that the lawyers have not followed the traditional pattern that was set by their ancestors and had not given a little charity. They can well afford to give a little charity, Sir. And I know the member for St. John's South is going to say, even with Legal Aid, we still do the odd job for nothing.



I hope he does not say that because if he does he may be disciplined tomorrow by the lawyers' union for undercutting or for giving charity. You are not allowed to cut your rate. And I know, Sir, and my honourable friend knows that they are at it all of the time. Even under Legal Aid they are competing with one another. They are cutting rates, under the table deals, over the table, they are cutting -

AN HON. MEMBER: Discounts ...

MR. NEARY: Discounts.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: And they are not allow to solicit. What foolish nonsense! What foolish nonsense! All I am asking, Mr. Chairman, for the lawyers to do it for their own sake, and their own protection, is for the minister to table the rate in this honourable House, to table a list of all the monies that is being dispersed and who got it. Was it one law firm? Was it two? Was it three? How many?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Open up their books if they have nothing to hide, if they are not ashamed of anything, like every other organization in society, in this free and democratic society of ours, every organization, Sir, will, when asked especially by the minister and by the honourable House, open up their books.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Let us have a look at their rates.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Nineteen what?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Yes, I want to make sure that the minister, when the minister stands he will not twist and turn and try to distort my remarks. I want to repeat it again, Sir. All I am doing is asking the minister - get this straight - and sometimes you have to say it so that some of the people in the galleries will understand it.

MR. DOODY: You have repeated yourself so often that even Smallwood is running.

MR. NEARY: I want the minister to table a list of the lawyers who have received money from this \$340,000 of the taxpayers money. What law

firms? Table the rates.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I know, Mr. Chairman, I know it is awfully funny, you know, awfully, awfully funny.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

AN HON. MEMBER: The honourable gentleman will be accusing us of filibustering later on.

MR. NEARY: No I am not.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, we did not set the seventy-five hours in this honourable House. That was set by the government.

MR. HICKMAN: The same question has been asked by the honourable gentleman for Bell Island in the last -

MR. NEARY: Twenty times.

MR. HICKMAN: Twenty-one.

MR. NEARY: Twenty-one times.

MR. HICKMAN: Twenty-one times.

MR. NEARY: Will I get the answer? Am I going to get the answer?

MR. HICKMAN: I think you should ask another twenty-one times first.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Mr, Chairman, if I do not get the answer I will get up and I will ask it another fifty times,

MR. HICKMAN: Good.

MR. NEARY: but I hope it will sink into everybody in this Province...

MR. HICKMAN: Good.

MR. NEARY: that the lawyers' union will not produce an accounting, that they will not open their books. And if they do not open their books they must have something to hide.

MR. HICKMAN: Your honourable leader just expressed the surprise, the satisfaction that the lawyers' accounts are the only two that are subjected to the Auditor General and also the audit from Ottawa.

AN HON. MEMBER: Stop talking out loud.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, -

MR. HICKMAN: I am going to report you.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, that is not the question, Sir. That is not the question. The minister is dragging a red herring into the argument. That is not the question. You can go down, Sir- one law firm could get this whole \$340,000 and all the accountants and auditors in the world could go down and say, yes there is nothing wrong with it. They charged the X number of dollars. They charged these rates, and the audit would be accepted. Why not? No swindling, no under the table deals, no abuse.

MR. HICKMAN: Right.

MR. NEARY: One law firm got \$340,000. Good for them. The auditor says everything is proper and aboveboard. And I would assume, Sir, that is what happened when the audit is done, that everything is proper and in order.

MR. HICKMAN: And it is too.

MR. NEARY: But how much? What I am asking is how much was paid out to these individual lawyers and law firms?

AN HON. MEMBER: And the rates too.

MR. NEARY: And the rates, I want to know the rates.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, I want the people of this Province to know how their money is being spent, that is all.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Protector. Protector of the public purse.

And I am hoping, Sir, that the Minister of Justice will not try to distort or quote me out of context or twist and turn as he usually does. This is a straightforward request.

MR. HICKMAN: What? What is the request?

MR. NEARY: Not a criticism of the lawyers' union. Although I could.

MR. HICKMAN: You could do that too if you wanted to.

MR. NEARY: I could probably do that too if I wanted to.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes.

MR. NEARY: But I certainly have strong criticism for the Disciplinary Action Committee. I do not even know who they are, so you cannot say I am bandying names around. But I think the minister is the one who should have the final say in whether anybody is

going to be suspended under this Legal Aid Programme or not and not abdicate his responsibility and pawn it off on somebody else. How do we know but they may hate somebody - or maybe jealousy and hate and greed. How do we know? Does the minister know?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Yes, jealousy, hate, greed, local politics, internal politics, religion - it could be anything, Sir. It could be anything. The whole thing should be complete and aboveboard when you are using the taxpayer's money. Put it all on the table of the House and let us have a look at it. Then we will judge whether or not our money is being spent wisely.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. John's South.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for Bell Island talks about walking the razor's edge. The trouble with that is that when you get cut in two, if you are like the honourable member you do not even recognize it. You know, Mr. Chairman, I hope that I can speak on this matter without exhibiting the prejudice that the honourable member has exhibited this afternoon in his remarks, because he does not really care who was suspended or what law firm gets the money. This is merely a sounding board for him in his crusade against a particular profession.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, a point of order. You are not allowed to question the motives of honourable members of this House. I would submit to Your Honour that my learned friend has just, Sir, questioned my motives in this matter. My motives are sincere, honest and aboveboard, Sir, and I would submit that the member is out of order and that he be asked to retract that last statement he made there, Your Honour.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Chairman, it is not necessary to wait for a ruling in this case. If it is improper to impute motive, by all means I withdraw it. But, I think that the remarks of the honourable gentleman speak for themselves. Those who hear them will know how to interpret them. The point is, Mr. Chairman, I would like to get back to a sensible discussion of Legal Aid without a lot of red herring and a lot of things, whatever the motive, which draw the whole thing into disrepute and can

only bring the minds of the general public to considering that there is something wrong here something which has to be hidden or there is something improper.

Let us go back to the beginnings of Legal Aid and I will attempt to give some explanation as to how the thing works. Legal Aid has been on the go in other countries, in other jurisdictions, I am sure, at least to my own knowledge, thirty or forty years. It got going in England approximately twenty years ago. It has been going somewhat longer than it has here in other Provinces of Canada, and it was felt here by certain members of the public, by lawyers and others, around four or five years ago that it was time that Legal Aid was started in Newfoundland in order to attempt to bring a service to people, a legal service to people, who perhaps could not afford to pay for it.

Now, nobody knew with any certainty four or five years ago how many people would draw on Legal Aid, how many people needed Legal Aid. I think you have got to look at certain aspects of our pattern of settlement in Newfoundland to understand that. You see, in more wealthy societies, communities of 3,000 or 4,000 people have been able to support lawyers, doctors, accountants, a lot of professional people, and a lot of skilled trades people which Newfoundland communities historically have not been able to support. Therefore, you go into certain Provinces of Canada or to England or to the States in the United States, you get a community with 4,000 or 5,000 people, it maybe has two solicitors, but it seems to me that the economic basis under most of the communities of Newfoundland have not been able to provide this.

In other words, you went in a community of 3,000 people or 2,000 people in Newfoundland, you would not have a doctor, perhaps, in a fishing community if the government did not put him there. You have not got a chartered accountant. You have not got a consulting engineer. You have not got a lawyer. The answer is not that people do not want to live in that particular climate or they do not like the place. The answer is, Mr. Chairman, that the economic underpinnings of the community have been such that these services cannot be afforded. That

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applies to skilled tradesmen as well as professional people.

So, it was felt that legal aid ought to be tried in Newfoundland and the Law Society instituted the programme and the government provided \$10,000 to pay for some of the out of pocket expenses only.

Lawyers who participated, and everybody was asked to participate, and most did, even senior lawyers who had substantial practices gave up their time. A good many of us went and sat nights down there in the old Justice Building and interviewed people trying to provide a service. And what was found was that there was a demand for Legal Aid far more than anybody thought up to that time. Gradually the federal government, or not gradually, a couple of years ago the federal government became involved and the provincial government then joined forces with the federal government paying the greater share of the cost, although the minister says they have not actually paid the money yet. But that is a matter of accounting, I gather. The money will be forthcoming. And what has been found ever since Legal Aid was instituted, was that people required this service. There were people who wanted to sit down and talk to a lawyer but who were afraid to do so, that they might get into cost. They did not know how to go about it and Legal Aid has filled a definite need here as it has filled in many other countries and provinces and states in the United States.

Now that is what has happened in the last three or four years. I cannot see anything sinister in it or anything wrong with it. I think it is a good programme. I think it is a service that the federal government, chiefly, and the provincial government are bringing to the people of Newfoundland.

Now my friend opposite, the Justice critic for want of a better name, that is what he appears to be, has suggested that things are not right with that. There is something wrong. But I would wish -

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: Well the innuendo is there, even if it is not explicitly stated, Mr. Chairman, and I would wish to refute that.

Now, I think also we must examine his allegation that everything should be laid on the table. If the minister has and wishes to lay the figures on the table, and I am sure he has got the figures, I would be delighted to see them. I do not see whether it matters, it would not

matter to me, but I do not see that it matters whether individual lawyers should be named or not. I do not think that is the point, because you have to go back to how this is done. Now if the honourable member wants to avail of Legal Aid - I think by the way he talked about the profession, he said a great deal about the profession. I think one of the strongest statements of approval for the profession is that a man who said so much about it, my honourable friend over there, can go down to eminent counsels in this Province when he needs them and they will take on his case, no problem, no questions asked how they may feel about him.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: And maybe they do or maybe some members of their firm.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: Oh, I see. So the honourable member seeks people who do not participate rather than those who do. Is that the -

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: It is just the way it happens. Well that is all right. It is pure coincidence.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: But the point is that if the honourable member were to go to somebody who participated in Legal Aid, and he needed Legal Aid, the lawyer concerned or he himself -

MR. NEARY: The member would be -

MR. WELLS: Well thank you, thank you. I would take the honourable member on. The person looking for legal aid, Mr. Chairman, goes to a lawyer or goes to Legal Aid and he chooses his lawyer. That is the first and fundamental point here. It is not a matter of going to Legal Aid and they say you must have Mr. X because we are trying to give him a bit of patronage, we are trying to put a few dollars his way. That is not the way it works. A member of the public goes to Legal Aid and he says, I would like to have Mr. John Jones, whoever he might be, if he participates in the Legal Aid Programme, it might his first week called to the Bar or he might be a twenty year man, and he says, I would like to have him, and



if that is what he wants then he is assigned to Mr. Jones, and Mr. Jones who participates in Legal Aid must accept him. And that is the way that works. Now, then, there are some people who do not know of a lawyer or do not know who they would like to have and they go to Legal Aid and they say, I want a lawyer. And Legal Aid looks up and then on a rotation basis they assign cases to the next lawyer whose name comes up. Now that is the way the thing works. So there is no question of patronage, no question of some lawyers getting the bulk of it because they are, you know, a friend of the Legal Aid Society or something like that.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: That is not so. That is absolutely not so. Now that is the way the thing works.

Now, all right. After the lawyer does the work for the client he must submit a bill. But it is not a matter of his submitting a bill, whatever he feels like, and they lash out a cheque to him. He has to go to the Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court and have his bill taxed, which means that the Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court goes over his bill item by item and decides

if it is proper, if the bill is proper, And he may cut it down, but he will never increase it, He may allow it or he may cut it down, and he puts his signature on that and that is what the lawyer gets paid, because that tax bill of costs then goes to the Legal Aid Society or the Legal Aid office and that is their authority for paying it except for certain matters such as small matters which are under, I do not know, \$200 or something like that. The permanent Director of Legal Aid taxes these smaller bills himself, A \$35 or \$40 or \$50 amount, he will tax that himself. And also I understand recently in divorce matters, uncontested divorces which follow a pattern in the courts and are dealt with probably four or five a morning that the fees are so standard there that the Director of Legal Aid will tax these also.

But there is no question of anybody getting away with fat amounts out of Legal Aid because you have to go to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court decides what you will be paid for the service -

MR. NEARY: The Supreme Court does not decide.

MR. WELLS: It does so decide.

MR. NEARY: You are giving completely the wrong impression.

MR. WELLS: The Deputy Registrar -

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dunphy): Order, please!

MR. WELLS: The Deputy Registrar -

MR. NEARY: The Deputy Registrar of -

MR. WELLS: - of the Supreme Court, who is not a lawyer -

MR. NEARY: Not of the Supreme Court.

MR. WELLS: He is. He is an officer of the Supreme Court.

MR. NEARY: An officer?

MR. WELLS: An officer of the Supreme Court,

MR. NEARY: And not the Supreme Court.

MR. WELLS: - so that he is a taxing master of the Supreme Court, and his job is to decide and tax costs and bills and that is what he does. He is not a member of the Law Society or a lawyer. He taxes them. He decides what is to be paid and then the Legal Aid pays it. Now whether you agree with this taxation or you do not does not matter. The point is that the Legal Aid pays what is on that tax bill of costs. They have no jurisdiction to decide what the lawyer should get for the services performed.

AN HON. MEMBER: And he has no control over the rates.

MR. WELLS: And he has no control over the rates.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where are the rates set?

MR. WELLS: The rates are set not by the Law Society but by the government, as I understand it, because it is public moneys. Is that correct Mr. Minister?

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. WELLS: Oh, no, that is correct. It is not the regular scale of fees that is applied in Legal Aid cases but a scale of fees that is presented to you—Now you can participate in this programme if you want to, here are the rates. Now the honourable member smirks. Now is the honourable member challenging what I said? Am I lying? It is easy enough to laugh, Mr. Chairman, and try to make a joke. Talk about walk the razor's edge, you can see what happens.

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Sick.

MR. WELLS: No, no, not sick, not sick. But happens to know a little more about the way this system works than the honourable justice critic on the other side. So, Mr. Chairman, there it is. Now if the minister has the information I am sure he will table it, of what was spent on criminal, what was spent on civil and all these sort of things. But what went to the individuals went because the

particular person who got Legal Aid chose that individual or, if he did not choose, on a rotation system it was handed out. And they are bound to accept it, a particular lawyers, because they are participating in the programme.

Now when you come to this faceless group of dictators -

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible)

MR. WELLS: Yes. We get to this faceless group of dictators, this is. I suppose, Mr. Chairman, he is referring in his wisdom, as he thinks, to the Benchers of the Law Society. Now the way this works is that by Statute the Law Society Act, which the honourable member could read, if he can read -

MR. NEARY: Cloak and dagger.

MR. WELLS: Cloak and dagger. If he can read it, he can read it.

It is in the Statutes. The Statute allows Benchers to govern the practice of law in this Province, and there are certain ex officio benchers such as, Attorneys General and previous Attorneys General, these sort of persons, previous judges of the Supreme Court and there are a certain other group elected by the society. They govern the practice of law, and the Legal Aid is a sub-committee of Benchers.

Now I think it is most unfortunate and most sad that because a man was suspended by the Legal Aid committee that his name should be bandied about in the House. If the man did something wrong -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. WELLS: It was in the paper, yes.

- but if the man did something wrong, at least he was disciplined by his peers. I know that the Medical Society does the same thing from time to time. I know that doctors from been struck off the roll. I do not know if their names have been bandied about in the House to their further embarrassment. If the honourable member had heard of abuses and brought it up in this House, he would be the first one to say, ah - I can hear him now - the Law Society

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does not discipline its own members. The Legal Aid Committee  
does not discipline people who abuse the system. But the

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Legal Aid Committee did discipline a man and the honourable member brings it up -

MR. NEARY: What for?

MR. WELLS: What for?

MR. NEARY: What was he disciplined for?

MR. WELLS: I am not part of the Legal Aid Committee. You say, or the honourable member says it was for soliciting.

MR. NEARY: It was in the newspapers.

MR. WELLS: It was in the newspapers. I presume that be so. I presume that is so.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: We will come to that. We will come to that.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. WELLS: I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, my first point first, that if the honourable member had wind that something wrong was taking place, soliciting or anything else, and the Law Society or the Legal Aid Committee did not discipline its membership, can we imagine! The closed shop, the cartel, calling on God to rectify this grave injustice perpetrated on Newfoundlanders! But, the Law Society and the Legal Aid Committee does discipline somebody and that is wrong, too, because it is a group of faceless dictators now who are doing this thing.

You see, Mr. Chairman, you talk about prejudice and hate for a class. That is what shows through in this debate.

MR. NEARY: You would make a very weak defender.

MR. WELLS: Thank you very much. The honourable member would not recognize whether it was weak or strong.

Now, you come to the question of soliciting. The honourable member thinks he is very smart now, Mr. Chairman. He, the justice critic, sits back and he smiles and he puffs and he preens himself and he says, now, what is wrong with soliciting? The fact is, Mr. Chairman, that in the legal profession, I presume in the medical profession and perhaps in some other professions also, it is not considered proper to go out and buttonhole people and ask for legal work. Now, maybe some people

do it in a profession. If they do, that is not to excuse it. But, it is not supposed to be the way that the profession behaves.

Now, insofar as this person who was suspended, I know nothing of the details of this and there is no reason I should know. The honourable member says it was in the paper that it was for soliciting. If it was for soliciting, then he was properly dealt with and if he was not properly dealt with there are modes of appeal right up to a judge of the Supreme Court if you do not like the way - it has been considered in the legal profession for a good many hundred years to be the wrong way to practice the profession.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: In my opinion, it is improper. If it is not improper for you, we'll fine.

MR. NEARY: Maybe you can sell me on the idea.

MR. WELLS: I do not think it has anything to do with this particular subhead to go into the whole broad business of whether lawyers should solicit or not. We are talking about the expenditure.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: No, and I do not think he ever will. We are not really talking about -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: I do not think so, Mr. Chairman. If I thought that argument or rationality or sanity or anything like that could convince the honourable member of something that he does not want to be convinced of, then I would try it. But, the honourable member has his prejudices and they run very deep and very strong in this area, Mr. Chairman. So, I do not think any amount of argument on my part or on anyone's part is going to have the slightest difference.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: No. I think I would be wasting my time.

MR. NEARY: Because there is no justification for it, that is why.

MR. WELLS: If the honourable member thinks that soliciting should be allowed in the professions, he may be able to so persuade the public of Newfoundland and the professions that they would have a go at it.

Maybe then they would operate, Mr. Chairman, on the level that he operates on.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: It probably is. It probably is. It probably is.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: It probably is.

So, Mr. Chairman, to come back to the point made by the Leader of the Opposition when he spoke on this, if there is money being spent on Legal Aid in this Province I do not think there is anything wrong with it. What it means is that certain persons who cannot afford to pay for the service themselves are having it provided by the taxpayers. People who cannot afford and even those who can afford to have medical services provided - why, he is gone. He is gone. Perhaps my arguments, Mr. Chairman, had more strength than I thought. Ah, he is back again. He is back again.

Mr. Chairman, what it means is that in this particular age in which we live, somewhat of a more enlightened age, it is felt that certain things should be provided for people who cannot afford them. We are providing medical services for people who cannot afford them, and for those who can as well. That is fine. That is good. That is a major social advance. We are providing welfare services of all kinds for people who cannot afford to maintain themselves in society. That is fine, that is good social



legislation. Now we are providing a certain amount in a certain number of categories of legal services for those who cannot afford to supply them for themselves and I think that is good. The only difference here, Mr. Chairman -

MR. NEARY: Do not give them eyeglasses or dentures, give them Legal Aid.

MR. WELLS: I think these things will come also. The only difference is here, Mr. Chairman, we are giving them to people who demonstrate that they cannot afford the service and that is the difference between this and Medicare. And I am not suggesting at this stage legal services holus-bolus for everybody whether they can afford them or not. But there are certain people, and let us forget the jokes and the laughter, Mr. Chairman, there are certain people in this Province, particularly married women, who have not financial resources and who end up in an awful mess, very often with no resources, no way to get helped financially when they get into legal problems, in the case of separation and divorce. And I think this is one of the finest things about Legal Aid and I hope to see it extended in that way, not so that I or some other lawyer can make money off it, but from people who are up against the wall, and especially married women, as I say, who are in marital difficulties, literally up against the wall, nowhere to turn without money, without anywhere to go and without any advice or help. These are the sort of people who need legal services and if the Canadian taxpayer and the Newfoundland taxpayer can go some little distance toward providing some of this service then I say that is fine, because in its way that is just as important as medical service, and in this way we have been deficient in the past and I am proud as a member of this House to vote monies for this kind of service. And it does not matter what law firm, whether it be Liberal or Conservative, or what religion or all the package that the honourable member brought up in his remarks.

You see, Mr. Chairman, I suggest again, I said it when he was here

and I will say it when he is gone, that in his haste -

MR. WOODWARD: Inaudible.

MR. WELLS: Oh yes, in his haste to try and drag down the profession, in his haste he has forgotten the good that may come out of providing legal services for certain groups of people who cannot afford to pay for them. So, Mr. Chairman, no doubt the minister will tell us what monies he has and what figures he can table and that is fine, but I think it cannot go unchallenged the type of remark that we have heard this afternoon about this particular system, and assistance to people who cannot afford to pay which is provided by the Canadian and Newfoundland taxpayer.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): The honourable Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, if I may very quickly give the facts and then maybe we can get on. There were ninety lawyers in the last twelve months participated in Legal Aid in Newfoundland. These were ninety lawyers chosen by people litigants who have an absolute right to select their lawyers.

The report that is required to be submitted by law to the Minister of Justice in Ottawa does not deal with individual lawyers or the amount going to individual lawyers for the very obvious reason that the accounts are audited and then are subject to being taxed by a non-lawyer who is an officer of the Supreme Court.

The fees that are charged and taxed are considerably below the going fees. Let me give you one example. The fee, I am told, that is normally charged for a divorce case in Newfoundland is \$500 minimum.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, for Legal Aid it is \$260 if you are acting for the petitioner and \$140 if it is for the respondent. But there is no such thing as a totally straightforward even divorce case.

Last year there were 171, to show you that we have expanded the Legal Aid into the non-criminal field, there were 171 divorce cases handled under Legal Aid, sixteen separation cases, twenty-nine family court cases, twenty custody cases under The Child Welfare

Act, twenty-one for maintenance and support, and seventy-one miscellaneous civil matters for a total of 328.

Less there be any apprehension on the part of anyone in the Province, there most assuredly will not be a cutback in the Legal Aid services and programmes provided in Newfoundland this year and it is my hope is that it

will continue to expand this year as it did last.

AN HON. MEMBER: Carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): The Hon. Member for Labrador North.

MR. M. WOODWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, during the debate last year in the estimates on Legal Aid, I think the matter was brought up - and before I go on I must say that I support my honourable colleague and friend for Bell Island on the joint ripoff of lawyers and Legal Aid in this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: That on a bunch of intelligent people -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible. Go ahead.

MR. WOODWARD: I do not have any income tax. I do not pay any income tax.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, now the question that I raised last year in the House, and I did not get a satisfactory answer from the minister in the Committee, was the fact that of the 171 divorce cases that were dealt with in the Province by Legal Aid last year - how many of these divorce cases were outside of the Cities of St. John's and Corner Brook? Maybe the minister can note that.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: We felt during the time that we spoke that the publicity on Legal Aid was not reaching into all parts of the Province, it was primarily around the areas where we have a collection of law firms the St. John's and Corner Brook areas, and the other mostly rural parts of the Province were not even hearing of Legal Aid. So maybe, Mr. Chairman, the minister can tell us how many cases outside of the Cities of Grand Falls, Gander, where we do have law firms - how many lawyers went abroad into the rural parts of the Province to do the Legal Aid cases? Of the 171 divorce cases, how many outside of the five major communities? Of the sixteen separation cases, how many outside of the five communities that I mentioned? Of the twenty-nine family cases that were dealt with, how many of these outside of these five communities. Of the twenty custody cases, how many outside of the five major communities along the Trans-

Canada Highway -

MR. HICKMAN: How many in rural Newfoundland, Sir?

MR. WOODWARD: Yes, outside of St. John's, Grand Falls.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: And of the seventy-one civil cases.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: And how many times - also the minister may tell the Committee, Mr. Chairman, how many times did the lawyers refuse to go outside to administer or do the case and ask the clients to come into the City of St. John's or to some major city to have the case dealt with?

MR. HICKMAN: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: It is important to know. I have known in a lot of cases where the lawyer would take the case on and say, okay, come on in to St. John's, get your tickets and we will deal with you here, rather than the lawyer travelling abroad or into rural Newfoundland to deal with it. And in lots of cases the clients were perturbed and felt that instead of travelling some great distance the lawyer or whomever is dealing with the cases should have gone into the communities and dealt with it on that basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): The honourable member has exactly thirty seconds.

MR. WOODWARD: Do you want me to adjourn the debate, Mr. Chairman?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: You do not have to adjourn the debate.

MR. HICKMAN: No. I move that the Committee rise report progress and ask leave to sit again.

On motion that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again, Mr. Speaker returned to the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply reports having considered the matters to them referred, have made some progress and ask leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Chairman of the Committee of the Supply reports that they have considered the matters to them referred, have made progress and ask leave to sit again.

On motion report received and adopted.

April 10, 1975

Tape 1260 (Afternoon)

PK - 3

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): It now being 5;30 we revert to Standing Order 31(h), a question directed to the Hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications by the Member for St. Barbe North.

MR. F. ROWE:

Mr. Speaker, my question to the honourable Minister of Transportation and Communications was for a list for the highways projects in this Province. Now, Sir, there have been a number of peculiar events going on over the last few weeks. That is, that members opposite have been making public announcements about road work or highways upgrading or reconstruction or paving in their own districts. Sir, one thing that we object very much to is the fact that these members are given the opportunity to make these announcements and honourable members opposite are not given that same courtesy. It is very disgraceful indeed, Sir, that members on this side are not afforded the courtesy or the same opportunity to inform their constituents as to what if any road work is going on in our districts in order that they may make plans accordingly.

Now, Sir, there are many other reasons why we suggested that this list should be made public. One is that the Premier has made on two occasions, one at the Progressive Conservative Convention and once in the House of Assembly, he has announced that a list would be made public. In fact, he has promised this great new five year plan that we have not heard anything about since except that there is a five year plan.

Sir, there are many other reasons why we want this list. All honourable members equally should have the opportunity to inform their constituents about what is going on in their districts. Sir, constituents, no matter where they are, want the opportunity to purchase equipment so that they can get to work on these road projects. Sir, heads of families need to know what is in store for them during the construction season. Is the head of a family going to stay around his own community where there may be some road work or is he going to have to pack up and go to the mainland or go to Labrador to work? These are the types of things that our constituents need to know so that they can make plans for the construction season.

Sir, there is another reason, a sixth reason. The construction industry needs to plan ahead and needs to know what is going on. They cannot sustain a massive influx of construction during a short period

of time. They have to plan it out and spread it out as much as possible. It is no good to put out so many millions or billions of dollars worth of construction for roads and not have the construction industry be able to take care of it.

So, we simply ask what is all the secrecy about with respect to this list of roads projects, and, Sir, there are only a couple of conclusions that we can come to as to why this government has refused to provide the people of Newfoundland and this House with a list of roads projects for this Province. We suspect, Sir, that they are saving their announcements, their gravy, for any upcoming election. That is one possibility that we can conclude, that they are saving the list for the appropriate, strategic time for an election.

But, Sir, I think there is another reason. If you look at the Throne Speech, you will see that there is \$33.35 million supposedly made available by Ottawa for the -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The budget speech.

MR. F. ROWE: - the budget speech, I am sorry - supposedly made available by Ottawa for road construction. I would submit, Sir, that one of the hangups, one of the reasons why this administration is not making this list available is that they have not secured a firm commitment from Ottawa on that \$33 million. Now, if that is so, Sir, they should not blame Ottawa. Ottawa is providing this Province with in excess of fifty per cent of its revenue, and if they are going to put \$33.35 million accountable to DREE in their budget speech, there should be a firm commitment before hand.

So, Sir, there are only two reasons that we can suspect why they will not provide that list. They are saving the gravy or the announcements for the strategic time during election, or they have gone ahead and put the money in the budget without securing firm commitments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Transportation and Communications.



MR. ROUSSEAU: Certainly I would reply to the member to the best of my ability as he put the case forward, and indeed you know we are not going to deny that there is no firm commitment from DREE and we are not going to say that it is DREE's fault either, It is a normal process of negotiations where we attempt to secure agreement to rather a large package.

We have indicated that we have attempted a five year programme, You know we want to make sure that every road in the Province is included. Now I would hope that the honourable member can well understand what I am going to say now; look, a five year programme is a big programme and to take three or four or five months and to try and negotiate that programme would be quite a problem. What we have done with DREE, and by mutual agreement DREE and ourselves in order to not hold up the programme pending the signing of it, we have suggested that tenders are called, It is anticipated that, we anticipate this will be part of the programme.

Again if we held the programme up for five years we would have some difficulty because of the magnitude and breath of such a programme, so we have more or less come to an understanding of let us proceed on what would be approximately one-fifth, or the first year of what we would like to see for a five year programme. So that we would have this work done this year so that it would not be held up until maybe too late, next June.

AN HON. MEMBER: Two year programme.

MR. ROUSSEAU: No, one second now, next May or June or July or August, you know, the sooner it is the more work that is going to be done, had jobs that were on the Northern Peninsula last year at St. Anthony and Brig Bay that we could not get done because the tenders were awarded too late because of the agreement. Now we are trying to get that done by agreement with DREE and ourselves and that tender says it is anticipated that -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Right. But it does not say, and I am not going to say

we do not have a commitment from DREE, we do not have a commitment from DREE. We have some understanding that we are trying to finalize. I would hope that it will be finalized within the next couple of weeks, within the next month, I do not know.

But anyway we have indications, but we are not going to hold up both with - DREE and ourselves have agreed we are not going to hold up the programme to sign a five year programme. We will try and get a one year programme off the ground, hopefully during the first year, to attempt to negotiate the next four years of our five year programme. We are attempting to make sure in short that we do not lose this construction year. We are attempting to make sure that we start the programme early enough so that whatever work is to be done is completed before the snow comes in the Fall.

Last year we did not have that. The programme was not signed until, I think, sometime in June or July, I forget, But whatever the situation the honourable member knows one of the areas in his district, the job was not started up in the Northern Peninsula, two jobs up there. We do not want that to happen again. So by mutual agreement between DREE and ourselves we are calling these, and it is not a tender, it is anticipated that we will have an agreement signed to provide funds for these. But we are not certain of them. We are not blaming DREE, by the way, for any delay in this. It is a normal set of negotiations. The amount of money involved, of course, Mr. Jamieson and DREE are not going to throw it out and say here go ahead and do it, we will talk about it after. We will sign it after. They want facts and figures and well they should have them. And we feel for the same way that the programme should be started early enough so that whatever work is to be done is to be completed before the end of the year.

When the agreement is signed there will be a joint announcement between DREE and the provincial government.

MR. ROWE: How come it took the honourable member a week to find this out.

MR. ROUSSEAU: That was in the Budget Speech, Mr. Speaker, was it, the Great Northern Peninsula?

MR. ROWE: Not itemized like this.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Well, you know, but I mean it was in the Budget Speech that \$10 million will be spent on the Great Northern Peninsula, and that is an anticipated tender. So that is the situation as we see it. As soon as the agreement is signed it will be announced jointly by Mr. Jamieson and the provincial government and at that time of course they will have an indication of just what is available.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The honourable member's time is expired. The Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Before I get on to my few remarks I want to reassure the Member for St. John's South that I am not prejudiced against lawyers, I am leaving for Bell Island in a few minutes, accompanied by a lawyer, because he does not have his own car he is coming with me.

Sir, my dispute today, my dissatisfaction is with the Minister of Mines and Energy over a number of questions that I put to the minister recently concerning the so called hearing before the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities concerning an application by the Newfoundland Light and Power Company for an increase of fifteen per cent in their rates. Now, Sir, I claim that that was not a hearing, it was a complete farce.

The Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities, Sir, had not jurisdiction whatsoever over the Newfoundland Power Corporation. They could not call any of the people from the Power Corporation in as witnesses. They could not send for any documents. They could not find out whether or not, Sir, the claims that were made by the Newfoundland Power Corporation, through their mouthpiece, the Newfoundland Light and Power Company were correct or not.

The whole thing was just a complete shambles, Sir, a farce. It was a non-hearing. Mr. Speaker, a number of organizations in Newfoundland are thinking about appealing the decision of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities in this matter. They merely acted as a rubber stamp and they admitted publicly that they did not know whether the request for the fifteen per cent increase was justified or not. Newfoundland Federation of Mayors and Municipalities thought they might appeal it.

Now, we hear that the City of St. John's may appeal the exorbitant power rate hike. This, Sir, in my opinion, was a political decision and should be traced back to the Minister of Mines and Energy. The Newfoundland Light and Power Company, Sir, had one year to run on their old agreement. It was not due to expire until next year, but because of the decision of the minister and the cabinet, forcing the Newfoundland Power Corporation to get a fifteen per cent increase from the Newfoundland Light and Power Company, they were forced, they had no choice but to reopen their agreement although it did not expire until next year. They were blackmailed into it, Sir. They were forced to open their agreement. It was a political decision and the blame for it should be laid right on the doorstep of the Minister of Mines and Energy.

Now, Sir, we hear that the Newfoundland Light and Power Company are coming back to get a little gravy for themselves. Next month they are going to apply for another fifteen per cent increase. Now, this time, fortunately, the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities can check the records, cross-examine witnesses, get consultants to delve into it to see whether it is justified. But, I say, Sir, and we say as a party that there should be no middle man in this. That the government should provincialize the Newfoundland Light and Power Company, that not only the generation of power in this Province, Sir, should be under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government but also the distribution of power. Otherwise, Sir, the benefits from the government owning and operating the generators and producing the power, the benefits will be lost to the middle man who is in this business merely to make a profit.

As I said in the beginning, Sir, this whole hearing was a complete

farce. The Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities had no jurisdiction to hear this case. They merely acted as a rubber stamp. The whole blame, Sir - it is a political decision and the blame should be laid right on the doorstep of the administration and the Minister of Mines and Energy.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the honourable the Minister of Mines and Energy is absent today. He is the minister who answers for the Power Commission in this House. I simply want to deal with a couple of the accusations made by the honourable the Member for Bell Island when he says that this was a non-hearing, that the evidence before the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities was such that nobody knows whether there is an increase justified or not. Now, I find that a rather disturbing and a rather appalling statement.

The simple fact is, Mr. Speaker, we have in this Province as capable a Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities, if not more so, than can be found in any of the ten Canadian Provinces, beyond any doubt. It is not very often we can say that and say it with absolute certainty. But, insofar as that particular Board, that totally independent Board, that quasi-judicial Board is concerned, I have no hesitancy at all in saying that Newfoundland is very, very fortunate indeed. I do compliment the honourable the Member for Bell Island on his choice of solicitors. May I say that I have no fear at all and the public of Newfoundland should have no fears at all over the adequacy of the hearing and the fact that the Board of Commissioners of the Public Utilities had before them sufficient evidence to warrant an increase in the rate.

The law is very clear, a law that has been in force on our Statute Books since, I think, 1951 or maybe 1950 which says that any utility is entitled to a reasonable rate of return. That law is not peculiar to Newfoundland. It is, I suspect, and indeed I feel reasonably certain, it is a uniform legislation in all ten Canadian Provinces.

Mr. Speaker, I simply want at this time to take issue with the allegation made by the honourable Member for Bell Island. It was a fair hearing. It was heard by an exceptionally competent board. And if the Newfoundland Light and Power Company Limited were not in a position to prove their case and to prove that they were entitled to this increase the public of this Province can rest assured the increase would not have been granted.

Insofar as the other issues are concerned, issues that are allegations that the Newfoundland Light and Power should be nationalized, well there you would get into a great philosophical discussion, does not one? The Newfoundland Light and Power Company Limited invest a great deal of money, so I understand, and all you have to do is look around you in this Province, in assets, capital assets. And at least that is a few dollars that this Province does not have to go out and borrow. And I have no hesitancy in saying as a representative of a constituency where the Newfoundland Light and Power operates on the Burin Peninsula that they are an exceptionally efficient organization.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. HICKMAN: If you want to see the difference between free enterprise and the crown corporations, you know, compare CN with CP, Air Canada with -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: Canadian Pacific.

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: All of these. If you want to see efficiency at its finest, if you want to see efficiency at its finest watch the people in the Newfoundland Light and Power work. Any time that I have had any complaint in my district one telephone call to the Superintendent, Mr. Slaney over in St. Lawrence and, boy! do they respond, and do they respond quickly and effectively! And I would most assuredly like to see some - there would have to be some very compelling evidence presented to me before I would be prepared to go along with nationalizing simply for the sake of nationalizing. And I think, Mr. Speaker -

AN HON. MEMBER: The Newfoundland Light and Power -

MR. HICKMAN: The Newfoundland Light and Power Company as I understand

it operates in pretty well every district except, not every district, but in most of the districts of the Province, although there is some distribution done by Bowaters. Power which is a private corporation you know, operating out of Deer Lake.

I recall - I am being reminded by my honourable colleague, a few years ago that there was some very, very mild criticism by, I think, the honourable gentleman himself when he was Leader of the Opposition, of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities. The explosion that emanated from that seat at that time! And we were given a lecture on the comparison between the Supreme Court and the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: But I simply want to reassure the people of this Province that at least insofar as the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities are concerned, Mr. Speaker, we have a fine Board under the leadership of a competent chairman as you can find anywhere in Canada.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: Pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: He has got another three or four years, I hope.

AN HON. MEMBER: I hope so.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): The Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to be able to debate what the minister had to say but, of course, my quarrel is with the Minister of Health and with the Clarendville Hospital.

Now, Sir, I asked the minister at the question period today whether he could give us a definite commitment that the hospital would start this year, whether he could give us a date? And he could not or at least he did not. And I assume it was only because he could not.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Clarendville have been promised this hospital by this administration for the past three or four years, and each year that promise has not been kept. In 1973-1974 the government

spent a grand total, according to the estimates, of \$10,000 on the Clarendville Hospital project. In 1974-1975 they budgeted in the minister's estimates a half million dollars. We were assured by the then Finance Minister in his budget speech that there was provision in the estimates for the provision of new facilities at Clarendville. Sir, the government did not spend a half million dollars or anything like it, they did not even spend half of it or a quarter of it. According to the figures we now have before us they spent less than \$100,000. The revised estimate is \$100,000 and not the \$500,000.

This year, Sir, we are being asked to approve \$450,000 for the estimates, \$450,000 to the Clarendville Hospital, less than was asked last year. And there is no evidence and



no indication that we will see that amount of money spent. Sir, the people of Clarenville are being told that the hospital will start this year. The member who represents Clarenville in the House of Assembly, the member for Trinity North, says that there is enough money in the budget to pay the architects and also to start construction of the hospital. I challenge the Minister of Health to support or to deny that statement. And if he says he supports it, I challenge him to produce his evidence. Have architects been appointed? Has a project manager been appointed? Is it to be Mr. Purdy, who I understand is resigning from the Health Sciences centre after making a monumental mess of that project? Why has no board been appointed? A year passed in this House the minister undertook, in committee, to appoint a board to consult with the people of the Clarenville area. No board has been appointed. There may or may not have been consultation. There may or may not. The people of Clarenville, Sir, deserve some straight answers. They are not getting them. All they are getting, Sir, are promises that are not kept, promises that go so far as to put items in the estimates and when the actual expenditure is known as opposed to the estimated expenditure, it was \$10,000 one year and \$100,000 the next, a grand total of \$110,000 instead of the \$600,000 or \$700,000 that the government promised to spend.

Sir, the government could have started that hospital at least a year ago. If they intended to go ahead with it this year, they could have had the tender calls prepared by now. Instead, Sir, they are delaying, they are obviously trying to make it a political football and that is why I raise it here now. I ask the minister if he will give us a firm and unequivocal commitment when that hospital will start? He cannot be allowed to slide out by saying it is his colleague, the Minister of Public Works, who is responsible. It is the minister who is responsible. The items are carried in his budget estimates. The minister's estimates have not been spent. He has asked, whether knowingly or deliberately or not,

he has asked for more money in each of the last two years than he has spent. He has spent only a little more than \$100,000 by the actual figures. He has not appointed a board. He has not made public the plans. He has not made public the functional plan. He has refused to make public the functional plan for Bonavista. He has been asked time and time again. The member for Trinity North tells us that there are to be 138 beds in that hospital, 138 beds, Mr. Speaker, at \$100,000 a bed and that is not an unreasonable figure given what the Twillingate hospital cost. It is \$14 million. The government have spent \$110,000 against it. They have asked for authority to spend \$500,000 this year. Mr. Speaker. I ask the minister for a clear and an definitive answer. When will the Clarenville Hospital start? When will the government start being honest and truthful with the people of Clarenville in the area that hospital serves?

DR. ROWE: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition is well-versed in the construction of hospitals, but I do not intend to bandy words or to become sarcastic. I would say that the Clarenville Hospital was a promise made by this P. C. Government given by myself which we are fulfilling, and proceeding in an orderly manner. The facts are simply these.

Late in 1973 we appointed Agnew Peckham Associates to do the study on the functional planning and programme for the Clarenville Hospital.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

DR. ROWE: It is a great pity that that was not done for certain other hospitals in the Province.

MR. BRETT: Yes, a great pity.

AN HON. MEMBER: Table it.

DR. ROWE: I am not going to table it. I will give you the information that is in it.

On the functional planning, it was completed and passed by them to the department on the 21 January, 1975. The provision in this is made for 138 beds plus eighteen bassinets and a potential for expansion on the base to 200 beds. The committee in Clarenville were given an abridged version, a summary of the report. of the Functional Planning Committee.

In 1973 we appointed also engineers, Sheppard and Hedges to select a site. In the Autumn of 1974 the site was finalized and secured by the Department of Public Works. The site is located on the new North South access road, near the new Regional High School in Clarenville.

In early March this year the Department of Public Works and Services were requested to appoint project management and/or architects. We are suggesting project management so that we can use a phased programme to build both the Clarenville and the Burin Peninsula Hospital at the same time. This indicates to us on

advice that there are considerable cost-savings in appointing project management to do phased construction.

MR. MURPHY: Very well, very well.

DR. ROWE: Now on the budget for this year he complains of \$450,000. Also we have committed \$500,000 for the Burin Peninsula. Now if you add these together that is \$1 million which project management can now begin to use the phased construction. There are five project managers being asked for proposals on this. I am told, and I can only go by the advice I am given, that within four to five months of these appointments, we will be ready to proceed with excavation and construction. How can I say to you whether it is going to be the first of September or the first of October? I will give the assurance if these people are appointed, as I understand them to be, within the next future and the information given to me is correct that it takes four to five months to do the phased programming, the hospital will be under construction later this Summer or early this Fall.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Stagg): It is moved and seconded that this debate do now adjourn. Those in favour "aye." Contrary "nay." The motion is defeated.

I leave the Chair until eight o'clock this evening.

The House resumed at 8:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Order, please!

On motion that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply. Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY:

On motion 712-03-03 through to 09 carried.

On motion Head VII, without amendment, carried.

Head XII, Forestry and Agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): The honourable Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

HON. H. COLLINS (MINISTER OF FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE): Mr. Chairman,

I do not anticipate to make any long speech tonight because I imagine that honourable members will want to ask some questions as they relate to the various headings. I would like to give a resume of what has been taking place in my department during the past year. Probably one of the most important things which has happened is the approval by the House of Assembly last year of the new Forest Land Management and Taxation Act which was passed in the last session and which was proclaimed in January along with the regulations which followed.

The next important, major - the most important feature, I suppose, of the department is the new Federal-Provincial Subsidiary Agreement. On forestry, these are the two major accomplishments of the past year. The new legislation has been received by the people of Newfoundland, I think, quite favorably. It has been received by the two major paper companies with some reservations, and that is to be expected, I suppose, because both of those companies have been operating in Newfoundland for a considerable period of time without too much regulation or control and it follows, of course, that whenever any moves were made to bring about any proper management procedures that there would be some apprehension.

However, I am happy to say that there have been a number of meetings with the two major paper companies. I am satisfied and I am sure my colleagues in cabinet are satisfied that we will be able to find common ground and be able to bring about proper management procedures without really hurting anyone who is depending upon the forest resources of the Province.

one of the major thrusts as I said, was the Forestry Agreement which we signed with DREE. And, of course, one of the major features of that is the Forest Access Road Programme which I will have some information on later for honourable members. That is a programme which was started three or four years ago on a small way. It was enlarged upon last year and, of course, this year it will be enlarged upon further in terms of the numbers of dollars which we propose to spend.

Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, the next major accomplishment in the department is the business of integration and decentralization of various departmental activities. We have established regional offices in Corner Brook, in Gander, in Goose Bay, Labrador and, of course, we have a regional office here in St. John's. Many of the senior positions required to accomplish that organization have been advertised and recruited. And I might add that all the senior positions in terms of the regional jobs have been recruited from people who already worked in the department. The regional administrator in Corner Brook and his counterparts in Gander and Goose Bay and St. John's will have responsibilities for forestry, for agriculture and for crown lands. Of course, they will have people from those various divisions working for them to provide them with the necessary expertise.

In terms of agriculture, Mr. Chairman, this government are committed to improve the lot of our farmers, to continue to make it possible for Newfoundland to become self-sufficient in the commodities in which we can grow successfully in Newfoundland. Honourable members -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: Well, that will change. There are always ups and downs in that particular field, but surely that will change, Mr. Chairman. We do propose to continue in those programmes. I might add for the information of honourable members that we have had five commodity studies done, and when I say studies it is a little bit different from what they generally refer to as studies, and that is that the Federal Department of Agriculture make people available to us, in fact most of the work has been done in Ottawa with some input from the Province. Those five studies have now been received by the department and are getting a going over, if you want, a thorough analysis within the department

to enable us to embark on any new programmes and to change any policies which might need to be changed or indeed to come up with any new policies which might be necessary.

With regard to crown lands, Mr. Chairman, there has been a considerable amount of work done. I am sure that all honourable members of this House will know from their experience in dealing with crown lands over the years, and when I say over the years, not only over the past two or three years but as long as there has been a Crown Lands Division, as all honourable members know it has been quite difficult sometimes to meet the needs of the many people around Newfoundland, and when I say Newfoundland I mean Newfoundland and Labrador, who have been trying to obtain crown lands for whatever purpose, whether it might be for agricultural purposes, whether it might be for Summer cottage purposes or ordinary residential purposes or whatever. The staff of that department has been considerably enlarged. I do not have the exact - I think I may have them here somewhere. But in the order of about thirty new people have been employed. There have been two or three new divisions created. And most of those people have been in place since around December and January. And I understand that as of now we have cleared up the backlog from the point of view of dealing with the applications which come in. That does not necessarily mean, of course, that the leases or grants, whatever might be the case, have been done. At least we have caught up with the backlog of applications, and people have had their applications acknowledged and they have been told just at what stage they are in processing towards a lease if they are approved.

We have run into some difficulties in terms of completing leases. And one of the reasons for this is that it is very difficult to recruit the necessary people, the people who have the necessary skills to be able to draft proper leases in terms of the legal terms of the lease. We are

overcoming that and on that we have worked a considerable amount of overtime. We have had a lot of co-operation from my honourable colleague here, the Minister of Mines and Energy and that we have been able to second from his department a gentleman who is very knowledgeable in that particular field and we are catching up there and my officials assure me, Mr. Chairman, that within the next two or three months we will have caught up with the backlog in terms of issuing leases and in terms of issuing grants.

The other section of the department, Mr. Chairman, was that the Gros Morne National Park, and I have a fair amount of information on that if honourable members want to hear of it, and I suspect that they might, as we go along. I might say that that particular project is moving along fine. There is a considerable amount of work being done down there in terms of the park itself. There is a tremendous amount of work being done in terms of infrastructure in the communities which, the enclaved communities, altogether Mr. Chairman, a very active year in the Department of Forestry and Agriculture and as honourable members can see from the estimates this year, we are looking forward to a very busy year in 1975-76.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 1201-01 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, before it does just a few preliminary remarks. Unfortunately my colleague from Bonavista North who is much more versed in the estimates of this department than I am is not here because he is out of town as you know, Mr. Chairman, on other business affecting the House, namely the Select Committee and he, the Member for Bonavista North, would like to have been here very much to address himself to this question.

Before we pass over this particular item there are two or three general comments that perhaps could be made under headings but if made now will not need to be repeated later. I was hoping, while I am one of the persons who has been critical of some of the ministers for giving



rather verbose and lengthy introductions to their estimates, I was hoping that the minister in particular would, the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, would give us some indication of how the reorganization, if you like, the new regulations, the implementation of the new programme affecting forest management is proceeding and perhaps if he does not see fit to do it under this head he might do so under an appropriate head later on.

There is not an awful lot that is visible in this respect. I am aware that some people have been hired and that kind of thing but my real question, Mr. Chairman, is what of essence has taken place? How is the forest management proposition working out in practice? What in effect has been done of substance, what benefits have accrued, not only financial but what kinds of benefits can the minister see or is it perhaps a bit premature to ask that kind of a question.

During question period in the last few weeks I have raised the matter of forest access roads. I would suggest that here is a matter that does need some definition or if they are to find to the minister's satisfaction or to the department's satisfaction, they certainly need some more explanation publicly. There is a lot of confusion, and in some parts of the Province some hard feelings, some misunderstanding about access roads and who have access to them, who having in mind the person who wants to go into the forest for forestry purposes as opposed to the others who want to go in for recreation purposes. That is one set of problems that crop up. Another set is among the forestry people themselves. I do not mean Department of Forestry people, but among people who are going into the forest for forestry reasons. There is some fair degree of misunderstanding there about who has got first access in a particular area of the Province. I am in part thinking of the situation that I discussed with the minister as a result of some questions a few weeks ago but I have other examples in mind where people have discussed with me some of the confusion that exist, at least in their minds in terms of the whole

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matter of access, the whole matter of who can use forest access roads and for what purpose, and, you know, to what degree are they public roads, in other words? I think that is an area that the minister could well comment on.

He mentioned

crown lands, Mr. Chairman. Crown lands is a very sore point with a lot of Newfoundlanders. The minister has given indications that there are better days ahead, and I believe, if I am not mistaken, either the Throne Speech or the Budget Speech gave similar notice, that there was to be some kind of a reorganization of the Crown Lands Office. I hope this time we can bank on that promise because it is creating a lot of confusion. Crown lands, as I do not have to tell anybody in this Committee, is an area that affects a good many communities in Newfoundland, particularly the smaller communities, particularly communities where there has not been any great traditional private ownership in earlier years, where often once the community begins to expand outside its own immediate area, you get into the periphery of the community boundaries. You find that everything around the periphery or outside the community boundary, in fact, the municipal boundary is very often crown lands.

This affects a lot of people who want to get housing started in those areas particularly. I can think of examples where small industries, small businesses would have been started but they have run into all kinds of snags in terms of getting the matters sorted out with Crown Lands. I will not go into details because I am sure every member who is sitting in this Committee presently has been faced with a whole slew of those problems from individual constituents, constituents who have done their own homework. They have gone through the proper process. They have made application. They have laid down their deposit. They have got the survey done or they are waiting for a registration number to be assigned to their application before they proceed to the next step.

Again, without going through details, they have done their homework. But, having done it, having done all they can do to facilitate the process and having had people, perhaps their member or whoever intercede for them to try and get the thing moved along, having done all that, they still find that the thing does get bogged down. One of the reasons, and one which I identified last year, I would just like to mention it very briefly again, Mr. Chairman, before we move on. It is the matter of

the bottleneck which is created and has been created for a number of years by the present setup insofar as the Committee itself is concerned, the Crown Lands Committee or whatever the appropriate name is for it. Crown Lands Committee, I believe. Yes.

I am, told and my information is a month and a half out of date now, so the minister might be able to update me on this, I am told that as of a month or so ago there was something like 700 to 800 applications waiting for the Crown Lands Committee to make decisions on.

Now, I am not talking about those where there are particular problems or have to be reviewed or have to await for approval from health or from whatever other department may be involved in the particular application. I am talking about applications that have gone through all the processes and are waiting for Crown Lands to, in most cases, give the rubber stamp. I am not talking about large tracts of land, fifty acres or twenty-five acres. I am talking about the application for 100 foot frontage or for a building lot, that kind of thing.

There are literally hundreds of them sitting there. Why? Because the Committee only meets once a week. Now, Mr. Chairman, I am aware also that this Committee is made up of civil servants who have other things to do, other responsibilities. I am not being critical of them. I am being critical in this instance of the system. I would like the minister, too, to indicate whether the thinking on this, the proposals on this, would include something to do away with this particular bottleneck because this is the source of, I would say, the majority of the frustrations that the average fellow across the Province has with the service or lack thereof which, in his opinion, he is getting from Crown Lands.

I suggest that if it has to be done by civil servants, well then let us have ten committees if necessary. If they can only meet for two hours a week, let us have ten of them or let us break up the committee into three or four subcommittees or let us have a procedure whereby the first class of applications does not have to come before

the committee. If these conditions apply - and it is obviously a routine application - let it be the decision of some assistant or assistant to the assistant director of Crown Lands. Let the regulations provide that he can without reference to a committee approve those applications which are probably rubber stamp type applications anyway in terms of getting approval.

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So my suggestion is, just to sum up on this point, Mr. Chairman, either remove from the committee's jurisdiction some of the applications that are obviously going to get approval anyway because they satisfy the requirements easily, or set up additional committees if indeed this work has to be done by civil servants or perhaps, and I would just like to explore the following suggestion for a minute, perhaps instead of these at all, could we contemplate some kind of a separate body such as we have done in other areas, such as we have done, I believe, in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Board but that is probably not a good example. But I draw it in the sense that we have there a number of full-time people whose assignment is that particular board. And perhaps the time has come to have a small committee, probably three people, the numbers are beside the point here, a small committee, whose full-time assignment is this matter of Crown Lands' approvals. Now the minister is in a better position to indicate whether there is that kind of volume there to require three or four people to go at it full time. But I think the point needs to be emphasized that the frustrations that people are experiencing across this Province because of the delays in getting Crown Lands' approvals, the frustrations are beyond number. But if it were only frustration, you would not mind. But in many, many cases, it represents the cost to the individual concerned.

I know of an example, and this can be multiplied many times I am sure, of an individual who last Spring, the Spring of 1974 - I should say the Winter of 1973 - had his approvals, I believe, from, yes, from CMHC, had his money approvals, and he was all ready to go ahead. He had a piece of land right in the middle of Harbour Breton. He had a certificate from the Harbour Breton Town Council saying that he was within a few feet of the water and sewer and, therefore, could

be hooked on which certificate wiped out, albeit, the need for him to have any approval from the Department of Health. To make a long story short, he had all the necessary approvals, and he sat from last February, when he got his final approvals from CMHC and the other bodies, he sat from then all through last summer and not first nor last did he get his approval for that very, very routine application. And to this day, April, 1975, fourteen months later, he is not yet able to start his house because he is waiting on the routine decision of a Crown Lands Committee, which committee of itself is not to be blamed, I repeat, because they have that great volume of applications I talked about. As my colleague from St. Barbe North reminds me that example is very common. It is one that could be repeated literally hundreds of times around this Province. If the committee does not believe me, it can be repeated several dozens of times, several dozens of times in my own district of Hermitage. I can quote several dozens of examples such as the one I have just given. In all cases they would not cover fourteen month periods but they would cover extended periods, periods that are too long to be justified in terms of red tape or in terms of any kinds of reasons.

And as I say I am not wanting here to make a great political speech about how the Crown Lands is a shambles and that kind of thing. That is not the point. The point really that I want to make, and I believe the minister has the point, is that I would like to hear some indication on behalf of my constituents and on behalf of many people who have these frustrations I talked about, I would like to hear some indication that this thing is not just going to be studied and then tucked away somewhere, or not going to be just studied for the next year or two years or so but that while the studies, whatever studies are necessary are going on, some of the obvious bottlenecks, and the one that I quoted is the Crown Lands Committee, some of the obvious bottlenecks would be taken care of now by even some interim measure, because while the studies go on and while

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the minister's department engages in whatever re-organization  
they are contemplating, the people



out there in Harbour Breton, and the other places that I could have mentioned, are not only being frustrated again this Spring but are losing money. It is costing them more. It will cost that constituent of mine in Harbour Breton more if he gets approval even today or tomorrow, it will cost him more to start that house tomorrow than it would have cost him if he was able to start twelve months ago, say, last April.

So, this Crown Lands Committee means dollars and cents to a lot of people, an awful lot of people, literally hundreds upon hundreds of them. Another aspect of the Crown Lands Committee which I have not touched on and I would like to just for a minute 's that part of its responsibility which relates to the, oh, the summer residents, the cabin lots or recreation lots I think is the term for them. I recently came upon a case of a gentleman who had had a lease to such a lot. Yes, he had a lease to it, a long term lease. He had gotten the lease back in 1958 or there about. Through some fault, probably his fault or probably the fault of the department - I am not sure which - but for some reason he had neglected to pay his annual fee. I think it was a \$10.00 fee or something. He neglected to pay his fee for about ten or twelve years.

Then, I understand, last August or September there was a bit of a crack down or a bit of a programme to consolidate this matter and to bring it up to date. As a result, there was a notice placed in his cabin door which he visits, in his case, probably once every two or three months at that time of the year because it was placed there in September. He finally got the notice one day in December. The effect of the notice was that if you do not do something within X days or X weeks, your lease is cancelled.

By the time he got the notice, the lease had been cancelled. I interceded on his behalf and thanks to the co-operation of some officials in the minister's department, that particular one has been straightened out and he has been assured by the people in Crown Lands that he will be able to, in view of the circumstances that I have outlined, he will be able to get back on track and just pay his arrears which he has done and everything is okay.

But, I am wondering if that matter is not again repeated many times. I am wondering if the minister will indicate if they have now come up with some system to police this kind of thing. It struck me rather oddly that a notice to this gentleman would have been delivered out on the road near Bay Bulls, what do you call the line?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Witless Bay Line.

MR. SIMMONS: The Witless Bay Line. Yes, out there. It struck me that they had gone out there to deliver the notice when they should have certainly had a permanent address for him. I am wondering if this is an exception or if this is what was done in all of the similar cases.

But, these are just a few points, Mr. Chairman, that I wanted to raise and the minister might want to respond to either now or as we go through the various subheads.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the Forest Management success or otherwise of it as the honourable member mentioned, one question he raised, how we were proceeding, how we were making out with the new management concept. One of the first things, of course, which must be done is to break the Province down into areas known as management units. There is a considerable amount of work done on this. In fact, so far as Crown Lands are concerned, we have established the units now and I think there is at least one and possibly two management plans just about in place which will be considered for approval.

With regard to timber rights or land containing timber to which the two major companies have the rights, there has been a tremendous amount of dialogue with the two companies, first of all, in determining what the boundaries of the various management units will be and

number two, in terms of doing inventory work to establish just what those units might contain in terms of timber, the number of trees. There is a tremendous amount of work involved in this, as I am sure all honourable members must realize, and as I said in my opening remarks we are getting very good co-operation from the people concerned. And with the work we anticipate doing this year, which will be cost-shared in some cases in terms of the forest inventory, we are looking towards coming up with some or having the companies, at least, submit to us some management plans. I would not like to hazard a guess as to when, because it is something that we cannot really predict but certainly we are moving towards that. And once the management plans are sent in, then, of course, we can deal with them. And whether the plans are sent in or whether they are accepted, how many are sent in and so on would determine to what extent the taxation regulations will apply. As I said in my opening remarks, we are getting good co-operation from the companies, and we can understand why some people might be concerned. But I want to re-assure everyone here tonight that we are not going to do anything to turn the industry upside down. We realize to bring about the ideas which we have in mind is going to take some time. And if it means doing it slowly to do it properly, well then slowly it will be then. But we are making progress there.

With regard to forest access roads, the honourable member raised some questions which are valid ones and that is that the Forest Access Road Programme is a relatively new programme. Last year, I think, the department responded, in the main, to requests from various individuals and companies who wanted access to timber in different parts of the Province. And the government in its desire to assist those people to harvest wood, to employ people in sawmills to employ people in the woods in the first place and employ people in the sawmills secondly, we went out of our way to accommodate such

people and I cannot say for sure but there could be some cases where the proper co-ordination with other departments and other interested groups might not have been done.

With our Forest Access Road Programme this year we are spending considerably more money on that programme, and we have engaged a professional man, in the name of Mr. Pelly who came with us I believe from Bowaters or Price, I am not sure which, but from one of the companies, a man who has had extensive knowledge in road construction in terms of woods roads.

AN HON. MEMBER: Bowaters.

MR. COLLINS: Bowaters so my honourable colleague tells me. And the idea for that is that we realize now and we realized in the past that we must set up a division which is going to take a very critical look at the areas where access roads are going to be built. For instance we are going to be opening up country which might contain considerable numbers of wildlife such as caribou and moose and probably going near streams and ponds which contain fish. But what it means is, I think, that as we move towards constructing more roads there is going to be a great need to co-ordinate the activity with the Wildlife Department, with the Federal Fisheries Department and with other departments, where necessary, to make sure that what we are doing will not interrupt any wilderness areas, what we are doing will not have any affect on the chances of fish getting up river to spawn or whatever. It might be possible that in some areas we should bring access roads to some ponds or streams to open it up for people to fish, but that is another concern. What I am saying is that this division, under Mr. Pelly, would have the responsibility to co-ordinate with other departments whether they be federal or provincial to determine that we are doing is in the best interests of not only the people who want to harvest the forests but in the best interests of all Newfoundlanders.

We are developing policies, and I can only say that we are developing them because, as I said before, it is a new programme and we are just getting staff in place. We are developing policies in terms of how the roads will be controlled, who will be able to use them, and so on. There is a good argument, I suppose, to be made since we are spending public funds on those roads that the roads should be made available to anyone who wants to use them and the resources, probably, should be made available to people who might want to reap them,

to use those. But there might be some constraints there and that when timber cutting permits are given out we do not generally let two or three people cut on the same block. Sometimes that might happen but generally speaking a block is assigned to an individual. But these are things which are being worked out and I can appreciate the concern of the honourable member and I am sure other honourable members are concerned also. I can only assure you that it is a concern of ours and we are aware of the problems and those policies will evolve as we go along.

The Member for Hermitage mentioned Crown Lands and I have a feeling that since I have been in the department I have been the Minister of Crown Lands and not the Minister of Forestry or Agriculture but Crown Lands only because I have had to devote a lot of my time to it for the simple reason that there has been a lot of complaints and the complaints in a good many cases have been justified in that people have had to wait too long in order to obtain a lease to a piece of Crown Land. But there are more problems there possibly than meets the eye because when an application comes in, depending upon what piece of land the applicant might be talking about, we might have to refer that to the Department of Health for instance and if the application comes in in December or January and it means that the health inspector has got to go out there and do an inspection, he cannot very well do an inspection with the snow on the ground, or with the ponds frozen over or the streams frozen, so very often we have to wait until the snow is gone before the health inspector can complete his inspection.

There are referrals to the Department of Highways. I am not trying to share the responsibility but the Department of Highways might be asked to comment on it, the Planning Division of the Department of Municipal Affairs, the Department of Tourism, or whatever, very often there are good many referrals to other departments and those come back in and then they are considered by the Crown Lands Committee.

One of the things which has bothered me since I have been there is the fact that it is all very well and fine, you know, to refer the applicant around to the various departments and possibly after the expiry of several months, the applicant is told that he cannot build this cabin or he cannot build this motel or whatever it might be. I have been concerned in that in that case we have not been really geared up to be able to respond and offer an alternative site. I do not think it is enough for us to refuse an applicant, I think we have to be able to respond and offer some alternative site to him.

Now the honourable member mentioned that there was quite a backlog and I believe that when we started to reorganize the department and that particular division and get bodies in there, I believe we had something in the order of, somewhere around 5,000 or 6,000 applications. They were in various stages of processing. Some of them the applicant had been notified that his application had been received and he had been given a registration number. In other cases the applicant had not been notified at all. There had been no acknowledgement had been received because there was quite a backlog. They were there in thousands.

We have got that just about cleared up. The exact number I do not know. But I know that everybody who has made an application now have had their application registered and that is moving fairly well.

One of the bottlenecks, as I mentioned in my earlier remarks, now is in the drafting of leases and that is quite a problem. I am sure that my colleague, the Minister of Justice, can tell us some of the problems we hit sometimes in terms of drafting legislation. There are very few people in the department can have the ability to be able to draw up a Crown lease, and as I mentioned we have taken advantage of all of the people in other departments we can get our hands on. I think we have worked something in the order of 3,500 hours of overtime, I think that figure is right. I have it here somewhere. But a tremendous amount of overtime to catch up on that backlog.

With regard to the Crown Lands Committee, what the honourable member says about the Crown Lands Committee meeting weekly that is true and we looked at the possibility of the Crown Lands Committee meeting every day and we could have had it meet every day or we could have established other committees, but that would not have meant very much because we had already reached the stage whereby we were producing more through the Crown Lands Committee than the men who were drawing up the leases could handle. So by getting it through the Crown Lands Committee did not mean anything in terms of getting the lease drawn up and out to the people. But as I said I am assured by my officials since we have taken on I think it is in the order of thirty-five people, there are more positions coming up, more positions have been approved, we are trying to recruit them.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: Yes, but within two or three months they have assured



that we will be up to date. If we can ever reach the stage where we are up to date, I cannot foresee any other problems in terms of delays. We have also introduced, honourable gentlemen might be interested to know, we have also introduced a photo interpretation unit. Generally speaking, I think, in the future, when an application is made for a piece of land for a summer cottage or whatever, the photo interpretation unit - if we can get the proper types in there. We have one or two fellows on that now - they will be able to tell us from a quick glance at the map if the soil is conducive to proper septic tank operation, where to put your septic tank, etc., etc., which means that we will eliminate in a great many cases the need for the Department of Health to have to send an inspector in the field. That means that the winter months when the health inspectors cannot do their work from the physical point of view, we should be able to make that interpretation downstairs from the photo interpretation unit. So, that in itself, I think, will certainly speed matters up.

I do not recall hearing of the particular case which my honourable friend mentioned from Harbour Breton. I do recall getting involved in several cases from various places across the Province where people had gone out to C.M.H.C. and arranged mortgages, etc. To my knowledge, every one of those cases were dealt with. They were pulled out of the order of sequence because a man with C.M.H.C. mortgage and maybe a basement finished and winter coming upon him certainly deserved, you know, some special treatment. I am sure that all the other people who might have had applications in ahead of him would understand why we might pull his application and give it some special treatment. I know of dozens of cases where that was done. There might have been some which I was not aware of and maybe this particular one was a case in point.

What I am saying is, Mr. Chairman, that I think we all agree that ever since there has been a government in Newfoundland there has been a lot of difficulty in terms of dealing with Crown Lands. There are a lot of problems in terms of determining what is Crown Land and what is not Crown Land sometimes. There is a great problem in determining who

owns what because a lot of land has never been registered in Newfoundland. Someone's great grandfather possibly passed on a piece of land to his son and then there have been bills of sale where the grandfather passed down to other daughters and sons, etc. Very seldom will you find any record of the transaction down in the registry.

I know of cases this past year. I am sure there have been others, my friend the Minister of Industrial Relations was in the department, there have been cases where we have given out leases on land which ultimately we found did not belong to us and we could not give them. But, that is going to take some time to correct because we would have to do a tremendous amount of work to get the registry up to date. But, that will come in time as well.

But, the other matters which the honourable member raised, I am sure that within two or three months if not, there is going to be some trouble down there - but in two or three months, I think, we will have reached the point where we will be up to date and as applications come in we will be able to deal with them effectively and efficiently.

MR. SIMMONS: Could I ask the minister a question on that subject,

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is related to Crown Lands?

MR. SIMMONS: Yes. On the matter of Crown Lands. You are saying you will get up to date, you hope, in two or three months. Presuming you do, what would be the average time, not for commercial property and so on, but for, say, a residential property, what would the average time be would the minister say, in getting an application processed, from the time the fellow submits his application, gets the approval and he gets his lease. What are you talking in terms of weeks or months?

MR. COLLINS: It might vary, Mr. Chairman, dependant upon what purpose the land might be needed for. I think, generally speaking, I can say when we are up to date - that should be within two or three months - when we are up to date, an application comes in, it will have to be, as I said, referred to some departments but with the photo interpretation unit even in the winter we should be able to deal with it quickly. I cannot see it taking us any more than two months, three months at the most before we would have a lease issued.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. John's East.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, it is very disconcerting talking to somebody when he is sitting in front of you and you are talking behind him, to his back as it were. Anyway, I heard the minister make reference to access roads, to forest access roads. I would like to ask him a question with respect to these forest access roads and the necessity of balancing out the interests of the various wilderness areas around. I speak particularly of the Avalon wilderness areas with which I am familiar. I go up in the wilderness area in the Summertime and I come to the legislature which is an equal wilderness in the Wintertime.

During the Summertime it is looked after very well, Mr. Chairman. There are helicopters going over all the time chasing all sorts of people who are not supposed to be there out. It is not that easy

to invade the wilderness area during the Summertime. But I am afraid this is going to disappear if, and my understanding of this is to a large extent from a point of view of hearsay, I have not seen the maps. I understand the planners and the civil servants as they were, and the planners have planned certain forest access roads and various - they call them roads to resources and various other cliché expressions that they use all over the Province everywhere. And I am wondering whether any of these access roads come near to the wilderness area because it would be a pity, Mr. Chairman, for there to be a, there really would be a pity for forest access roads to get to the stage where the wilderness area, any of the wilderness areas could be invaded. Certainly in the Wintertime they are already invaded. And, I think, steps ought to be taken with respect to it. If it is not the minister's responsibility, I do not know whether it is the Minister of Tourism or Transportation and Communication, because the snowmobiles are used to a great extent during the Wintertime and they are always in the wilderness area to a great degree when they should not be. Because this particular area has improved very much the wildlife in this Province, the Avalon herd, for instance, the caribou herd and the moose herd have been protected with a great deal of results. The terrain has been protected and what have you. But there are an increasing number of people going in there in the Wintertime on snowmobiles and I am afraid that the situation will become aggravated if access roads are permitted in the immediate vicinity. And I would just ask the minister what his plans were and urge the government. We have plenty areas around where there is plenty of wood in which to make access roads, and I would hope that they would keep them away from all the wilderness areas but particularly in express and especially but not to exclude the generality, particularly the Avalon wilderness area.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I presume my friend behind me is referring to the, his remarks are referring to the wilderness area which has been in the news this past few days. Now as I said in my opening remarks we do have a director in the name of Mr. Pelley in that particular

division now, and his job is to coordinate the locations of roads, the directions of roads and routes and so on with other departments to ensure that there is a balance between the various interests, of various groups in the Province. I gave an undertaking a couple of days ago that in this particular wilderness area, in the road coming up from Colinet and the road going down from the Trans-Canada to Fox Marsh that we will cease any further construction on that particular road until the people who have voiced some concerns will have an opportunity to get them into the department so that we can see what their concerns are. If they want to meet with us we will certainly be only too glad to meet with them. But as I found out a few days ago very often the access roads which we are building are going into timber areas which contain good saw log material, and very often we find that the saw log material is sometimes of an over-mature nature, which means that it creates a bit of a fire hazard. It is more susceptible to damage from insects. So all of these are considerations. But in the event that there are enough people concerned about the threat to the wildlife and the wild features of this particular area, in view of the fact that it is on the Avalon Peninsula where there are not too many areas like that around there, as there are a tremendous number of people who might be interested - we certainly do not want to do anything to upset the apple cart, as it were, and as I have said we have ceased any further construction on it until we have had a look at what the implications are. And I can assure honourable members that that will be looked at very carefully.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for Labrador North.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, if I may have a few brief words,  
to Sleepy Hollow -

MR. SIMMONS: Wake up "Bill".

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, when we talk of land and land claims as my friend and colleague for Hermitage has said I guess it is a very sore point, not only on the Island of Newfoundland but on the Mainland portion of our Province as well where we have greater problems than they do in the immediate area here. I suspect that one of the major problems is the distance and the travel for land surveyors. We do not have a registered land surveyor other than Labrador City, I suspect. and they go through and anyone who is looking for a grant that has to need a survey must bring in a surveyor from the Island, and mostly from the City of St. John's, which is a very expensive proposition. I have known the survey of one lot of land to cost as much as \$800 and \$900.

AN HON. MEMBER: A lot of money.

MR. WOODWARD: It is a lot of money. So, Mr. Chairman, when you look at the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labrador, and I do not know if the minister has had the opportunity or the time to study the recommendations of the Commission or to look at the Commission, they are recommending that there be something done in this respect as far as claims are concerned and maybe we have made several attempts to have a surveyor in the Goose Bay area. I have corresponded myself with the Department of Crown Lands and asked that a surveyor be licenced to do work. We feel that we do have a qualified person but apparently he did meet the criteria set down by the department and consequently we do not have a surveyor in the area.

Now there have been a number of problems, not only with Crown Lands itself, but there are a number of problems and I am sure that Municipal Affairs, along with the Crown Lands Division, are aware of the problems that we have in Happy Valley where the original survey was done and all of a sudden the whole community got out of kilter and now that they have to go back and resurvey the total town, a community of some 800 lots.

So this is a problem and it is a very expensive problem for the people in the area. We can go a little bit further than that and I would like to hear the minister's comments when he rises again to speak on a number of other problems and then go back to, far further back than the problems that we are having in Happy Valley, they go back to the colonial days. I have often wondered sometimes if we are out of the colonial system when we look at some of the antiquated systems that we have in Labrador. But when you look at the title and claims that have been given to people such as the Moravian Mission in the coastal communities in the North, we think in terms of Nain, I think, where they have some 44,000 acres by way of a grant that came about some 200 years ago.

Now that involves the whole Community of Nain and where it is a fast growing community anyone who is looking for land do not have to go to Crown Lands. They go to the Moravian Missionary and they get a permit to build or to do whatever they want to do in that respect. And I suspect, Mr. Chairman, that in a number of ways, maybe we should not do the same as we did for the Reid land, I do not know if that land is so valuable as the Reid land, but indeed I think the onus is on the government and on the minister's department now to take a very serious look and research those old titles that the Moravian Mission has along with the Hudson's Bay Company, going back again for hundreds of years, vast tracts of land that they have title to, The Grenfell Mission,

is another that has been given title to large tracts of land all along the Labrador Coast. Sir, those communities now where we have, not a fast growth, but we have some potential. Business people even from the Island of Newfoundland are beginning to look at tracts of land in the area around coastal Labrador because of the so-called findings of oil and gas along the coast and the potential developments that eventually I hope will take place. So those are real problems, and I do not suspect that they are problems that are going to be solved overnight. Then again we saw in our wisdom to sit down and reach a satisfactory agreement with the Reid Company with regards to their tracts of land, and I cannot see why those particular titles may be not as valuable but then again maybe more valuable in lots of respects when we turn around to take a look at minerals in the Northern communities and no doubt some minerals have already been found on tracts of land that the Moravian Mission have title to, I think, in the areas North of Nain.

So, Mr. Chairman, I wonder what would happen in the event, you know, there is a discovery or all of a sudden there is a great need for some onshore servicing developments in that area where a development company wants to go in and all of a sudden the Moravian Mission discovers that, oh, we have legal title to the property, and we are not going to allow you to do anything about it?

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. WOODWARD: I do not know if it goes back this far. This is going back before the B.N.A. Act was brought over.

MR. DOODY: We will find a way.

MR. WOODWARD: You will find a way. But you should look now for a way, Mr. Chairman, and you know there are a lot of people who are going to be embarrassed in the fact that a lot of people here are living on this property with the permission of the Grenfell Mission or the Moravian Mission or the Hudson's Bay Company that have given verbal rights to say, here you are, you can settle here, and your family can settle here. No, he had nothing to do with it.



MR. DOODY: Somehow I am just getting an inspiration coming through for the solution.

MR. WOODWARD: You need inspiration, and you are going to need more.

MR. DOODY: (Inaudible).

MR. WOODWARD: More inspiration.

MR. DOODY: (Inaudible).

MR. WOODWARD: You need an infusion, a brain infusion. That is why he is rubbing his head. You are wishing that some of it will rub off.

MR. DOODY: (Inaudible).

MR. WOODWARD: Chew your candy.

Now I am very serious on this matter, Mr. Chairman, and then we can lean on from there. The federal government have seen fit now to finance land claims for native people. There is research taking place right now today, and maybe we will eventually discover that we have whole communities on land where we have no title to have those communities. We are putting in infrastructures. We are putting in things into the communities in the development of communities. I do not know what would happen in this case. And I do not know if the minister has given this any consideration. But now when the property is becoming more valuable people are taking a very serious look. I do not know if the minister's department are helping to fund the native claims, the research that they are already doing. I know Ottawa has put a substantial amount of money in, some \$68,000, and now the Inuit Association is in Ottawa and I think they are looking at somewhere in the vicinity of \$140,000 for land research. I do not know what role the Province is playing.

MR. DOODY: We are paying part of it. Treasury Board are until fairly recently.

MR. DOODY: I do not know which department it is, but we are paying part of the cost of that lands research bit for the native -

MR. WOODWARD: I thank the minister for the information. These are titles and there are a number of disputes already taken place. One of the recommendations of the royal commission which may be a thing, I think, rather than my colleague who talked about a committee that would meet every day, is they recommended that a land use authority for Labrador be set up. I think this is very important. They also recommended that legislation to provide for a tribunal type court having power to accept evidence, to travel throughout the Labrador and to have an interpreter and to sit down and talk with the native people and look at the whole aspect of land.

Land may not be - we may find ourselves as a developing Province. If we are to come into any great finds of mineral or offshore activities, we may find ourselves, Mr. Chairman, being blocked by a group that has title to property, and not being able to develop in certain areas. I think that it is important that the Province set about immediately to do this type of research.

Now, I am sure the Grenfell, the Moravian Mission, more especially, would be more than willing - I do not know if they have not already broken the ice with the Crown Lands people with regards to relinquishing their rights for maybe a small sum of money. Maybe the minister can speak on that. I am sure the the Grenfell Mission, who have legal title to this property, would be very receptive to turning their land back to the Province, letting it revert back to Crown Land for a token fee, as well as the Hudson's Bay Company. Maybe we should be a little more severe with the Hudson's Bay Company than we would be with the charitable organizations, such as the Moravian Mission and the Grenfell Mission that have done a lot of good work over the years in that part of the Province.

But, as you see the activities and you focus on that particular area, and when we are looking North of Lake Melville and going that stretch of the Northern Coast to Nain, it is conceivable that you could run into a number of problems when you are looking at land titles. I have

an incident which is in the North of Hopedale in a place called Big Bay going back over 100 years ago, a Mr. Broomfield to a King James, some King who had a jubilee and he was sent a silver fox sort of a packet to him, and he in turn wrote back and gave him a title to a large tract of land in that particular area. It had been passed down.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: It was a good investment and he has got the document to prove it. There are a number of things that did happen going back before the turn of the century of a similar nature. Those people now are very anxious to look into this aspect and to register their titles and their claims to the property.

So, Mr. Chairman, all I am saying is that we may have a legal way to stop the rape of Labrador after all in the event that the minister in his wisdom does not see fit to give us something in return for taking out what is in. But, that is the portion of what I wanted to say as far as land is concerned. I think it is important. I would like to hear from the minister in that respect.

The other aspect of the thing is agriculture, agriculture being one of the most important things. The cost of fresh fruit and vegetables is contributing to a large part

of the high cost of living in the Labrador sector, not only in the Goose Bay area but in the whole area. This is due to the fact that we have to not only during the winter season but also during the summer season as well that most of your fresh fruit and vegetables have to be flown into the area at a tremendous cost, something in the area of now, like fifteen to twenty-two to twenty-five cents per pound.

So, the Royal Commission, Mr. Chairman, is making recommendations as to what the Department of Agriculture should do in this respect. They are looking at the fact that there should be a study of soil conditions and looking at possible potential and published guidelines so that in areas such as the Goose Bay-Happy Valley area and indeed the North West River area that is very fertile.

MR. DOODY: How long is the season?

MR. WOODWARD: The season, you will get into from the first of July before the frost goes out of the ground up until about mid-October and we have a very hot and a very warm season. A lot of people now, myself, well, myself will be experimenting with a greenhouse this year. I am going to see the Minister of Rural Development and I am going to ask for a loan of \$10,000 or \$12,000 to erect a greenhouse on the back of my house. I hope that the loan will be approved.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: And do some experimenting in the area for the people if I can get a loan from the minister. I am sure that -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman,

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: We can get some fertilizer from Imperial Oil. They produce some of the best fertilizer in the country, in case you are interested.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: But it is not as good as the fertilizer we get from the Minister of Industrial Development. Mr. Speaker, in all sincerity

and being very serious, being very serious in this respect and looking for comments from the minister that this type of thing and it was never tried. They have done a little bit of experimenting in Happy Valley now. We have one individual who is doing some experimental farming in the Mud Lake area, but to produce, think in terms of producing, even during the summer season, sufficient fresh fruit or vegetables, root crops sufficient to look after the demands in that area would no doubt be a tremendous savings to the consumer, a big savings to the consumer. When you think in terms of now that all the potatoes are gone bad in the area within another month and they will have to fly potatoes in, selling potatoes for \$22 a sack of seventy-five pounds, that is cost we pay during the spring of the year.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: (First part inaudible) - since October.

MR. WOODWARD: Well, they bring in and this is where the - and the Minister of Industrial Development, Mr. Chairman, was partly responsible for not having erected in the area what they call the temperature controlled building where you could stock vegetables for a long period of time. The building went in at a cost of some \$28,000, cost landed in Goose Bay and it was sold on public tender just this year for the fine sum of \$5,000.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: No, it was a friend of mine, but I am not going to tell you his name. But when you think in terms of this type of thing going to waste and when you think in terms of are all its experimenting with low temperature controlled building and the advantages it could have been to a community like Goose Bay-Happy Valley you can see how sincere the minister was to help to alleviate the high cost of living in the area,

for the Royal Commission is recommending that something be done in this respect. I do not know if the minister cares to make some comments on it. One of the big problems that we did have in this respect was getting people to go into farming. But now we are encouraging a couple of local people to get involved and maybe they will get rich and it will prove to be a viable, economic venture.

The other aspect of the thing - well, a few comments I would like to make, and I am only making a few comments, Mr. Chairman - is the fact that on forestry you can look around and see what is happening to the landscape in the Goose Bay area as the result of Labrador Linerboard and their wood harvesting operations. When you fly over the area, it is an unsightly mess. I do not know what the minister's department is looking at as far as reforestation is concerned in that particular area where the growth is very slow. The first wood was taken almost in the community. The near wood, some of it was less than five miles out of the town limits. When you look around and drive around the area and more especially when you fly over it and get a better view, that it is an unsightly mess. We see no signs of reforestation, no signs at all.

We are looking at harvesting with last year's some 200,000 cords of wood, this year, hopefully, we can look at another 230,000 or 250,000 cords of wood. It is a very necessary industry for the community. But, then again, when you think in terms of looking down the road if we are looking at some long-range planning for another thirty or forty years, we are going to look at a great vast bleak wilderness in the event that something is not done in that respect.

Another one of the recommendations that the Commission is making is that the rural development in the forestry sector would look at financing a number of small sawmill operators. Maybe the minister can tell the Committee what his department is doing and what policy it has in regards to an integrated service with Labrador Linerboard. Maybe the Minister of Industrial Development is familiar with this. A lot of good merchantable saw logs are what we consider too valuable to be used for pulpwood.

As going out to the mill in Stephenville, we feel that with an integrated saw mill operation which could possibly employ an additional few people in an integrated industry, it could be very valuable and very viable to the community. So, those are my few remarks, Mr. Chairman. If the minister would care to speak now or he can do it when we go through the subheads and give me the answer.

MR. COLLINS: I will try and deal with the points. I have made some notes on them here. The honourable member raised a problem which exists in Happy Valley, Goose Bay-Happy Valley. That problem was brought about, as I think the honourable member possibly knows, by virtue of the fact that a considerable amount of Crown Land was deeded over to the local body there, which there is nothing wrong with that in itself. But, for some reason the surveys which were done there did not turn out to be accurate and that their points of reference were not the proper ones, let us say. We find now that a great number of the people who have erected residences on what they thought was their lot, find that half of the house is on their neighbor's lot and the other half is on their own. It is quite a mess to say the least.

My deputy minister and

and the ADM of Lands and other people were in the area last Fall and had had meetings with the town council. Work is being done now to try and alleviate that situation. It is going to be a difficult one but it can be handled, please goodness. With regard to other problems in terms of land title, I think the honourable member might be aware of the fact that we have received some representations from Mud Lake, Mud Lake is in Labrador North, from Mud Lake people whereby they are requesting title to their land and very rightly so. I know that the officials have been working on this and it looks like we are going to have to make a visit to Mud Lake and possibly we should be looking at the Moravian missionaries' land holdings and the IGA and others, but I would like to tell the Committee that we have established now a regional office in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The regional administrator is in position now and the idea is that he will have agricultural people working for him. He will have forestry people working for him and eventually he will have Crown Lands, he will have a lands man working with him as well.

We have a trip planned into Goose Bay from a regional point of view, a departmental meeting and certainly we hope to meet some of the residents when we are in there as well. I can appreciate the problems which the honourable member has raised and I can only say to him that he would like to come down to my office, I will certainly get the lands people in and I am sure he has got some contribution to make in terms of his observations around the coast. I would only be too glad to listen to him.

With regard to the forestry aspects, I think the honourable member of the Goose Bay Development Committee and I think an integrated sawmill approach effort that is being looked at by that Committee now, some members of my department are on the Committee, I believe that there is a future for agriculture in the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area as well. It is not the banana belt of Newfoundland. You are not going to



be growing soybeans like they are growing them down around Windsor, Ontario. But certainly from a subsistence point of view there can be a lot of vegetables grown in Happy Valley Goose Bay and when that office is properly staffed there, which should be pretty soon, those people can certainly avail of the various programmes which are available to people in this part of the Province and what is more important, I think, is they will be able to avail of some expertise in terms of what is best to plant and what fertilizer to use and how to go about it and so on. I am sure we can develop something there in that respect. We are looking forward to it. We think it has some potential and we can do something with it.

On motion, 1201-01 and 02 carried.

On motion, 1202-01 through 08 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): Shall 1203-01 carry?

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, before we move off of this particular subhead, there has been a substantial increase in salaries for forestry. I suspect this is due to the additional people that they have taken in because of the management areas. Maybe the minister can tell the Committee what is happening in respect to the number of new positions that have been filled, what sectors of the Province that he has established regional offices in and maybe the contribution that those regional offices are making in terms of providing jobs in what particular areas. I think the increases are very substantial, almost \$1 million with an increase in forestry. So, maybe before we move on off of that subhead, Mr. Chairman, the minister can tell the Committee why the large increase.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I notice my assistant deputy minister is up in the stands. I am sure he does not expect overtime or anything else because those people work a lot of overtime for nothing. Maybe he might drop down and be able to give me some -

MR. WOODWARD: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: Yes, this does reflect a great number of -

MR. WOODWARD: Treasury Board will approve it.

MR. COLLINS: This does reflect a great number of people -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: who we are taking on as -

MR. WOODWARD: It is important to know. What I am looking at now is established management areas - where are they? How many people have you added to the management areas?

MR. COLLINS: I will get some more detail when Mr. Brennan gets here. But the honourable member is right when he says the additional staff are needed to form up management unit people.

MR. WOODWARD: This is a substantial amount -

MR. COLLINS: Yes, if you will just give me a moment I will be able to give you the full detail of it.

MR. WOODWARD: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: You can hold that if you want to and I will come back to it.

MR. HICKMAN: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: No, we are going to deal with that now before we move off that subject, Mr. Chairman, because we have another hour and a half in Committee.

MR. DOODY: We are having two minutes silence ....

MR. COLLINS: Yes. Mr. Chairman, those are people which are needed to set up the management units, and with the regional office concept St. John's, Gander, Corner Brook, and Goose Bay. All those offices will have so many management units to be responsible for. So you look at sections of the Province. The figure which the honourable

member refers to as well - a lot of the people whose salaries appear now in -

MR. WOODWARD: 1203-01.

MR. COLLINS: 1203-01. A lot of the people whose salaries appear there now appeared in other headings last year because a good number of them were temporary positions and they have been permanentized now in terms of - the position have been made permanent in terms of moving into permanent jobs in the forest management units.

MR. WOODWARD: How many people overall have you added to the forestry services, you know, other than ' as a result of the restructuring in the management areas?

MR. COLLINS: Approximately sixty.

MR. WOODWARD: Approximately sixty people.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 1203-01 carry?

On motion 1203-01 carried.

On motion 1203-02-01 through 1203-03-02 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 03 carry?

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, Protection Against Forest Fires, this \$161,000 that we are looking at here. Your aircraft are budgeted for under another subhead. What does this include? It does not include the bombers.

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): 1203-03-03.

MR. COLLINS: ... operation on maintenance of twenty-five ranger stations, one new station will be set up at Grand Falls to cover timber areas licenced, facilities will also be increased at Gander, the charter of aircraft, the maintenance of all fire protection equipment, vehicles, pumps and radio equipment, and the hiring of additional staff and required for firefighting.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 1203-03-03 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the water bombers were involved out in Ontario or out in Central Canada in the last few months, and would the minister give us some details on that little escapade.

MR. COLLINS: Is the honourable member referring to the fact that some of our bombers are performing services in Nova Scotia under an agreement around this time of year? Have we sent one?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: If it is not sent, it is just about to be sent to Nova Scotia under an agreement we have with them. The real fire hazard season occurs in Nova Scotia ahead of ours and we help them out for the months of April and sometimes depending on the season here. I think it is a monthly - is it one per month?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: One shift for the month of April as I see it.

MR. SIMMONS: For clarification - just for the month of April, I am wondering if it would extend beyond that. I am wondering in terms of our own capability to fight forest fires. Would we be in the situation where we would need the piece of equipment and have it on contract to Nova Scotia.

MR. COLLINS: The agreement, my A.D.M. tells me, is for a month, and in the meantime we could call it back on short notice in the event we should need it.

MR. SIMMONS: Did I understand that somewhere along the line some of the bombers were involved at some point in the last few months in some assignment in Ontario?

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I think what the honourable member is referring to is that a couple of bombers did go to Calgary - I think it is Calgary, Alberta - for a considerable refurbishing job. They probably went via Toronto, Ontario.

On motion 1203-03-03 and 04 carried.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, before we go on on 05, I asked a question in the House today of the minister on forest inventories. I have some

notes here taken back when the now Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations was giving a spiel in the House on forest management and global inventory and we were looking at some 33 million cords of wood, accessible wood, in four management areas.

Now, later on in the year we were given to - there was the Canada survey inventory being taken. On the Island portion of the Province the inventory was completed and then they were to go on to inventories of the forests of Labrador. I asked the question if the inventory was completed. Is it ongoing? Will there be any work done in that respect this year, and when the minister hopes to have a complete inventory on the Labrador forests the same as was done in the Island portion of the Province?

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure I understood the honourable member right, but I think I did. He is talking about the Canada Land Inventory work which was done on a cost-shared basis.

MR. WOODWARD: It was going on for a great number of years. The Liberals had it started when you came in.

MR. COLLINS: Yes. The Liberals giveth and the Liberals taketh away. I remember hearing that some years ago.

MR. WOODWARD: The Liberals did not take anything away. The Liberals gave you what you have got, and you have not had as many as you should.

MR. COLLINS: Well, in this case, the Liberals giveth and the Liberals took it away because the past administration were the people who cancelled out the work which was to have been done in Labrador in 1969.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, that particular arrangement with the federal government has now ended. We are trying to renegotiate another programme whereby we can do that work in Labrador. In the meantime with regard to forest inventory fieldwork that was completed last year and those details will be published this summer. And we are presently negotiating with Environment Canada and DREE for a Northern resources inventory in order to provide the information required for Labrador. But with regard to the Canada Land Inventory, I am afraid the honourable member will like to blame himself because, I think, he was part of the administration at the time which cancelled it out.

MR. WOODWARD: Before we go on, Mr. Chairman, I think that the minister is not fully understanding. This programme was going on up until last year.

MR. COLLINS: (Inaudible).

MR. WOODWARD: The year before in Labrador it went on. There was some work done in the Esker Park Lake area, because I had the opportunity to go up and take one of my friends, who was working on the survey and the inventory and use his boat to fish in Park Lake at one time. There was a substantial amount of work going on all throughout. Now maybe the minister is not aware of it. Maybe the previous minister is not aware of it. But the work was going on, because I saw it. Now I do not know what the results of that total survey were or what the findings were. But the question I am asking, Mr. Chairman, is if they concluded the inventory? What the previous minister was saying during his management policy, he was referring to the inventory as a global inventory of parks.

MR. COLLINS: Global inventory

MR. WOODWARD: Yes.

MR. COLLINS: That inventory has been completed.

MR. WOODWARD: That is done.

Now, what I am asking now, then, Mr. Chairman, in this respect is the programme is finished but when do we get the findings of the programme? And what were the results of the findings? When will this be made public, Sir? Can the minister tell the committee?

MR. COLLINS: The detailed report will be published this summer. It will be ready this summer.

MR. WOODWARD: It will be ready this Summer, to the work did go on.

MR. COLLINS: On that particular one, but the Canada Land Inventory concept was cancelled out by the past administration. That is another type of -

MR. WOODWARD: (Inaudible).

MR. COLLINS: The honourable member mentioned the Canada Land Inventory, for instance.

AN HON. MEMBER: The forestry industry -

MR. COLLINS: Right.

On motion 03-05 and 06 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dunphy): Shall 07 carry?

MR. WOODWARD: Before we go on to 07, Mr. Chairman, and the more impatient the committee gets, the longer the minister will be answering questions. I think that is a fair assumption.

On forest access roads, maybe the minister can tell us what type of programme, how many miles of forest access roads he plans to build this year, what areas the forest access roads will be built in?

AN HON. MEMBER: Maintenance.

MR. WOODWARD: No, no forest access roads.

MR. GILLET: Maintenance, over here see.

MR. WOODWARD: Oh, yes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible).

MR. WOODWARD: Okay, Mr. Chairman.

On motion 03-07 through to 04-01 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dunphy): Shall 02 carry?

The Hon. Member for Labrador North.

MR. WOODWARD: Yes, we are on 1203-04.

MR. GILLET: It is 1204-02.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dunphy): We are on 04-02, Sir.

MR. WOODWARD: Okay, if the minister does not care, I will repeat the question. If he got the information, I am primarily interested in the access roads from Cartwright to Paradise River, and the number of contracts that will be let this year, and the Labrador Linerboard cutting area in the Lake Melville area, and the number of access roads that will be built on the Island portion of the Province? How much of this money is going to be spent this year? How many miles of road are you going to build?



AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: Does the Committee want me to read all of this list?

MR. WOODWARD: Yes, go ahead.

MR. COLLINS: The whole bit.

MR. WOODWARD: The Minister of Industrial Development -

MR. COLLINS: This is the first list of roads that was ever given out in this honourable House, I think. I know we could never get one when we were sitting over there.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The time has come.

MR. WOODWARD: Everything changes with times.

MR. COLLINS: We propose to complete construction -

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): Order, please! The honourable minister cannot proceed with continuous interruption.

MR. COLLINS: We propose to complete construction on forty-three and a half miles of road which was started last year and carry out the construction of 188 miles of new road.

MR. MURPHY: 188.

MR. COLLINS: Green's Harbour, two miles.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: That a boy, Green Bay.

MR. COLLINS: Northern Pond, -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Where is Northern Pond.

MR. COLLINS: Just outside St. John's. There is a dozen Northern Ponds. I imagine every honourable member got a Northern Pond in his district. Lady Cove Pond, four miles; Terra Nova, two miles; Island Pond Ridge, one mile; Deer Pond, Baie Verte, two miles; Round Pond, Gander Bay, two miles; Notre Dame Junction, two miles; Rodney Pond, this is near to my heart, miles. That is where we grow the punts out at Gander. Crescent Lake, one mile; Northern Arm, Botwood, one mile; Weir's Pond, it is on the Gander Bay Road, one mile; Triton Brook, three miles; Norris Arm South, one mile; Boot Pond, one-half mile; Michael's Harbour, one-half mile; King's Point, two miles; Cashin's Pond, two miles; Osmonton Arm, I think that is Osmond's Arm, Osmonton Arm, that is near Botwood is it? -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: Two miles; Birchy Bay, three miles; Pilley's Island,

MR. COLLINS: Two miles; Birchy Bay, three miles; Pilley's Island, Green Bay, one mile; Conne River, five miles; Four Bay, Bay D'Espoir, two miles.

MR. SIMMONS: While the minister is on the Conne River one, would he indicate whether that is the road that will follow all the way up to the Harbour Breton road or not? It is about that distance but I am wondering if he is talking about the same road I have in mind. Will it actually intersect with the Harbour Breton road.

MR. COLLINS: Yes, between Conne River and Harbour Breton road, that should be completed this year.

Four Bay, Bay D'Espoir, two miles; Little River Pond, two miles; Main Brook, Hare Bay, three miles; Trout River, five miles; Bonne Bay Pond, four miles; Cold Brook, five miles.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Where is Cold Brook?

MR. COLLINS: Warm Springs, right along side. Frenchman's Pond, one mile, miscellaneous small jobs. Labrador, Caribou River, four-point-five miles, new construction; Roads for Labrador Linerboard is thirty-three miles and I am afraid I cannot give the honourable member much information of the location because -

MR. WOODWARD: You do not know the names of the rivers.

MR. COLLINS: They have not given us their submission yet but it is thirty-three miles planned there for Labrador Linerboard.

MR. WOODWARD: What about the Cartwright Paradise River? Is that being done?

MR. COLLINS: I cannot say that is included in - that would not be Labrador Linerboard, would it?

MR. WOODWARD: No.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: LIP programme did this winter, but there was supposed to be twenty-eight miles of access road built in the area to connect the two communities.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

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MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I might say that we also anticipate doing fifty miles of road in areas where Bowaters have the timber rights, twenty-two miles in the Price area.

and 10.8 miles on Crown Lands that is an addition to the places which I just read. Which works out to a total of how much money? \$6.1 million in access roads this year.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: No, it is going to be taxed. There is no doubt about that. I am doubtful if we will not have to let some of the contracts to Nova Scotia and to the Mainland outfits. Hopefully we will not, but everything in Newfoundland will certainly be working.

HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, before we move off the access road programme, and maybe the minister can enlighten the Committee as to if his department have any intentions of retrieving some of the wood that is in the area of the Gull Island Rapids, and where the flooding will take place? I understand there is going to be a considerable amount of timber, I do not know how valuable the timber is, what type of timber? A lot of people are concerned if the timber will be retrieved. Is it economical to do it? Will we build access roads to it? And immediately work on it to get it out of there. Is it salvageable? Maybe the minister can tell the Committee what is going to happen in that respect?

MR. COLLINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I can say this that the Department of Forestry and Agriculture did do a survey of the amount of wood which could be or might be harvested in connection with the Gull Island project. Much of the timber is very difficult to harvest because -

MR. WOODWARD: What is the inventory?

MR. COLLINS: - it is on steep slopes. I have not got that information with me, it is a study which was done -

MR. WOODWARD: 300,000 cords?

MR. COLLINS: 300,000 cords?

MR. WOODWARD: 300,000 cords.

MR. COLLINS: And that study was done. That work was prepared for the information of the people who are looking at the environmental aspects of that particular project. But certainly there is a vast amount of wood there but a lot of it is very difficult to harvest because of the steep slopes and things. But the work is done on it. What will happen in the

area I suppose will be decided by -

AN HON. MEMBER: The cost is high.

MR. COLLINS: The cost is high.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 04-02 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, before we pass this matter of forest access roads, I just want to make sure that the minister, the minister and I were talking about the same matter insofar as the Conne River access road is concerned. Will he indicate now or perhaps if he does not know now undertake to check whether that five miles of access road is to be an extension on the existing road in the direction of the Harbour Breton Road, and will it indeed intersect with the Harbour Breton Road? I would like him to undertake to check out that point.

While I am on my feet let us just again for the record note that there are large amounts of money in this vote, \$6 million compared to just over \$3 million last year. The breakdowns under related revenue just below do not indicate exactly what amounts from DREE are in respect of the Forest Access Road Programme. But I understand that of the - the minister can correct me on this if I am not right - I understand that of the \$6.1 million being provided for that access road this year \$5.5 million or \$5,486,900 were actually the DREE contribution to this particular programme. I think before we pass on from this vote it is worth noting that the federal government contribution in this particular area is what is making this whole programme possible.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: And it is another - oh far be it for me to criticize.

I am not criticizing at all. You are getting -

AN HON. MEMBER: Snarky.

MR. SIMMONS: They are looking somehow, Mr. Chairman, for the criticism. I know somehow it is tucked away in there somewhere.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, there he is again. The senior Member from Harbour Main.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: I will not say a word. I would not say a word. I never said a word about my speech writer the junior Member for Harbour Main. I am talking about the person who could not write a speech, the senior Member for Harbour Main.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is right, Sir.

MR. SIMMONS: But I will not get at that.

MR. F. ROWE: What is the use of writing them if you cannot read them.

MR. SIMMONS: Exactly! Exactly!

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, my colleague, my friend, my dear friend, the Minister of Rural Development comes to my assistance once again, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, of this \$6.1 million, \$5.5 come from DREE. So we must once again of course note -

AN HON. MEMBER: Pay tribute.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, we must indeed pay tribute to Don Jamieson and to the -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, they do not want to hear it. They do not want to hear it. The first little tussel we have had in the committee all night and as soon as we begin to point out that there is actually other people in this country doing things except that honourable crowd over there, suddenly they do not want to hear it. It is touchy. Hear! Hear!

MR. HICKMAN: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: The Minister of Justice is now beginning to draw on his background and quote some - almost a hymn he was quoting there I think.

MR. HICKMAN: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: Just a little fellow from Grand Bank.

MR. SIMMONS: Hear! Hear! To that I say Amen. I think, Mr. Chairman, he missed his calling. Not a judge but perhaps a preacher he should be. He had better try being a preacher. He is never going to be a judge, but that is another story.

Mr. Chairman, what would we do at all in this Province without DREE? What would we do without the department that the Tories say is doing nothing in this Province? We would have no forest access road programme. The government is putting into this programme perhaps \$500,000 or \$600,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: The fastest speech of the decade.

MR. SIMMONS: You want to get them into the record. It is so rare that the minister says anything nice about the honourable gentleman perhaps he would like to get them into the record. But the minister has taken

on some strange ways, he has taken on Joey worship these days, Mr. Chairman, and so I am not surprised that he has said some unusually kind things about the Minister of DREE, unlike he normally does.

MR. ROWE: He has not got a split personality, he has got a fractured.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: Well, Mr. Chairman, as long as the boys are enjoying themselves I am. I got all the time in the world. I want dearly to get to your estimates.

MR. MURPHY: Inaudible.

MR. ROWE: That is right, but you will not go for it.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman -

MR. ROWE: He is psyched right up for his estimates. He is right excited.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I just cannot do it to the minister. He is so anxious to tell us what he has done to the poor people of this Province that I think, Mr. Chairman, I will restrain myself and allow us to get on so the Minister of Social Services can get on with his particular performance.

MR. COLLINS: Now in response to the honourable member I think what he is talking about is the five miles I mentioned at Conne River. There is a section of it about a mile or maybe a mile-and-a-half, close to a mile of road completed now from the Harbour Breton Road towards Conne River. There is about a mile-and-a-half or two miles completed from Conne River going towards the Harbour Breton Road. The five miles we are talking about would connect up those two roads. I understand the Minister of Transportation and Communications is not in his seat but I am sure he can listen, we do not want him to speak but I think that the Department of Transportation have agreed that when this work is done that they will look after that road and maintain it. These are the facts.

On motion (04-02), carried.



MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, under (04-03) the construction of buildings, I want to raise a question or two about the abattoir in Corner Brook, the capital aspect of it and I am wondering if this is -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: Does the minister want me to raise it here or under the Farm Products Corporation?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: Under the Farm Products, okay.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, before we carry (03) I think it might be worthwhile for information purposes to list some of the work which we propose doing this Summer in terms of a building programme.

Provision is made to construct the following facilities: -

MR. DOODY: Any of them in Harbour Main?

MR. COLLINS: No, the first one coming up again is Bay D'Espoir?

MR. MURPHY: Bay D'Espoir again.

MR. COLLINS: The first one last time was in the middle, but here it is in the first place. The first item is to add four offices to the present building to provide office accommodation for our management unit staff.

MR. SIMMONS: That is the Forestry Office.

MR. COLLINS: At Bay D'Espoir. Clarenville -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: Yes, it is. Especially putting it first on the list.

MR. SIMMONS: I would say there is another by-election coming up, but anyway, the Forestry Office extension, the Forestry Office, what is the dollar amount on that or did you want to make it public?

MR. COLLINS:

No, I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. It is not broken down on this list that I have here. While Mr. Brennan is looking for that, I will go on to Clarendville. At Clarendville the job is to complete construction of a twenty room office building to accommodate Forestry, Agriculture, Crown Lands and Wildlife. At Deer Lake, Pynns Brook -the Bay D'Espoir figure is \$15,000 - At Pynns Brook, Deer Lake, to construct an office building and garage to accommodate staff of two management units and for fire protection facilities; at Grand Falls, to construct an office building and garage to accommodate staff of three management units; at Goose Bay, to construct a ranger's station for summer use, plus some space for living and eating facilities for seasonal fire protection staff; in Gambo. it is to rebuild and modernize existing stations to provide office accommodations for two rangers; at Hampton, a new ranger's station to house fire protection facilities now located at Sop's Arm to move to Hampton and so on to give better coverage to areas of important woods -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. COLLINS: Port Saunders -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. COLLINS: I have not seen one yet.

At Port Saunders, to extend the existing building to provide office accommodations for staff of management units again.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. COLLINS: Roddickton, is Roddickton in a Conservative district?

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. COLLINS: Roddickton is in White Bay North.

MR. SIMMONS: It is going to be in a new Liberal district.

MR. COLLINS: We are going to extend the existing building to provide office accommodation for the staff of the management unit.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible).

MR. COLLINS: Sop's Arm is in the same district -

AN HON. MEMBER: The same district?

MR. COLLINS: Sop's Arm, yes, the same district, to modernize the existing station. St. George's -

AN HON. MEMBER: Ah, ha, somebody slipped up.

MR. COLLINS: St. George's, to complete extension to existing building; Springdale, to extend existing building to provide four additional offices; St. Catherine's - I thought it was Ontario, but it is Salmonier - St. Catherine's Salmonier.-

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. COLLINS: - to construct a new ranger's station to provide office accommodation. That is about it on office buildings. My goodness I do not know if we are going to find the time the Summer or if the sawmills will be able to provide the lumber or the materials to do it.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, before we move on from 04-03, maybe the minister mentioned the fact, but I think there is a new building programme for the Goose Bay Area.

MR. GILLETT: Yes, he mentioned that.

MR. WOODWARD: Is that going to be built this year?

MR. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. WOODWARD: It will be built?

MR. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. WOODWARD: And it costs some \$80,000 or something.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the minister did make a reference to the matter of local lumber. I would like him to just expand a bit because of a recent statement by one of the ministers regarding the use of local lumber. Would there be any stipulations here, for example, any requirement that local materials be used? Will it be just encouraged or will it be stipulated in the guidelines, the provisions?

MR. COLLINS: By all means, yes.

MR. SIMMONS: I am sorry?

MR. COLLINS: By all means, sure.

MR. SIMMONS: How? Encouraged or -

MR. COLLINS: Not encouraged. There will be a requirement of the tenderer. There will be an attachment to the tender agreement that local material must be used where it is available in suitable quality.

MR. SIMMONS: Who referees the question of when the local material is not suitable for the purpose? Who makes that kind of a decision? Is it the contractor himself or is it at his discretion or is there some kind of a policing method here to see that the maximum of -

MR. COLLINS: The contractor - the way I understand it, Mr. Chairman, is that the contractor would have to put up a pretty good case to show that local material was not suitable. As far as we are concerned they are required to use the material if it is available. When we talk about quality my interpretation of it is that if someone needs a piece of two by twelve and you cannot get it locally, well granted, naturally you got to get that from B. C. or New Brunswick or somewhere, but other than that if the property quality is there, they are supposed to use Newfoundland lumber.

MR. SIMMONS: When the minister indicates that the contractor would have to make a good case, is he suggesting that before the contractor can actually go outside the Province for materials he would have to make application or seek approval from the department, the department administering the contract, obviously?

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to pass the buck here, but I do not know if my colleague, the Minister of Justice, might make a comment on that. My understanding is that successful bidders on government jobs would be required to use locally produced lumber provided it is available in suitable quality, quantity and quality. Our Public Tenders Act deals with that. Would my honourable colleague care to comment on it?

MR. HICKMAN: I know as much now about building houses as the honourable Gentleman from Hermitage knows about shooting turrs. But, may I - you know, I do not know - there is not a fool-proof procedure that you could follow. But, the policy of this administration has been made very clear and it has been announced that local materials are to be used wherever it is feasible. Obviously if the local materials cost fifty per cent more than from outside, you could not enforce that rule. But, if it costs, say, ten or fifteen or twenty per cent more, you could.

If the contractor, after the bid has been awarded to him, goes ahead and uses non-local materials, obviously he does so at his peril if he does it without the approval of the building inspector from the department involved or if it is the Department of Forestry and Agriculture, without the approval of some engineers from that department.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is in violation of the tender.

MR. HICKMAN: It is in violation of the tender. But, if you get into a judgement decision, any contractor who would proceed to use non-local material without first getting the written approval from the appropriate inspector would do so at his peril. I think it is a reasonably easy regulation to enforce. I have never heard of any real reluctance on the part of contractors to use local material. Their complaint up to a couple of years ago was that they could not find the local material, that it was not available. Now it is available.

You know, it is something like - let me give you a very good example. An example is the use of local brick in the Health Science

Center. I do not think it is a military secret. The original plan for that building did not call for local brick. One of the first decisions that this administration had to take was in effect to overrule the design and specifications and insist that local brick be used in that building.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: That is right. The thought was - I will not say it was the easiest decision to make because the brick on the southside, the buildings on the southside of the campus, the original buildings, are not local brick. There was a school of thought which said that the brick in the Health Science Center and in the Engineering Building should be the same color and should be imported from, I think, Nova Scotia. We decided that as there was a local brick company operating just west of Clarendville, in Milton, that this would create a great deal of employment in that area and it would be a shame to go outside, and we did it. It looks to me as if the buildings are just as attractive and just as firm and as tight and staunch as the buildings on the other side. We had no real difficulty enforcing that once we made the decision even though some people may not have wished it.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, to the minister's earlier comment about building houses and shooting turrs. If he has built as many houses as turrs that I have shot, well he has built a lot of houses.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: I know what he said. I know what he said. I know he was not talking about the honourable minister. He was talking about turrs without any "d's". Mr. Chairman, before we pass on, now, I do not think the Minister of Justice has at all answered the question because he did say -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ask it again.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, I will. Because he did at one point you see, Mr. Chairman, say that if the cost is twenty per cent above the Mainland cost is one thing but if it is fifty per cent above it is another. That is my real question. Is this business of local lumber which is being talked about, is it lip service or is there a decision,

is there an Order-in-Council. Otherwise, is there some kind of decision which has been taken which will not only encourage this business of using local materials but which will enforce it? What is the status of this thing? Is it just, you may, or, we hope you do, or, you will be on the good side of us if you do? Or are there some stipulations? Are there some attachments to the actual tender, the contract documents that would require the contractor to use materials, or if for some good reason, be it an economic one or a reason of access to the materials he needs, if for some

good reason he can give he has to go outside of the Province and has he first got to seek approval from, I presume, the Department of Public Works or whatever department is administering the contract? That is my question really. Is it just a matter of encouraging people to use local lumber or is it a matter of stipulating that they use it and cannot use outside materials without prior approval?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: Is the minister going to answer the question?

MR. HICKMAN: (Inaudible) The Hon. Minister of Public Works would you have a word.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Yes, I have a word.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROUSSEAU: The situation in respect to the government position on the awarding of tender from a local content point of view is what the honourable member is asking, I think. I was not here for the original question. On the awarding of contracts to local as against Mainland firms bidding on a job, is it?

MR. SIMMONS: May I? The use of local lumber as opposed to materials brought in from the Mainland: Is it a matter of the government saying we encourage you to do it, or we order you to do it? It is part of your agreement with us, your contract, and you must do it, unless you get prior approval to bring in outside materials for a good reason?

AN HON. MEMBER: This is not outside wood now, this is just small wood.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Just small wood. Oh, yes.

AN HON. MEMBER: Smallwood would say look -

AN HON. MEMBER: Chips! Chips!

AN HON. MEMBER: Chips!

MR. ROUSSEAU: First of all I can appreciate that the honourable member can understand that once a tender is awarded you cannot tell anybody to do anything, You can encourage them. Now I can see possibly what the honourable member is worried about. You know, if a firm is going to do business here, I do not think the need is for the heavy hand. If they are going to do business in the Province, and if they bid on



a job in the Province, then one must assume that they are going to bid on further jobs. And we encourage them to use local products and local labour, as I suggested today in my answer to the Member for St. Barbe North, the honourable member who raised a question about another item apart from lumber in his district. But the encouragement is there. And to say that somebody is going to be awarded a contract and then not follow the encouragement that government wishes to give them in respect to local materials, especially those local materials that are produced that provide jobs in a province, not just local material that is sold necessarily and manufactured on the Mainland, but locally manufactured materials, the encouragement is there.

Now you cannot again force them. Once they are awarded the tender, then that is it. They are masters of their own faith in respect to putting up whatever the building or the road or whatever they happen to tender on. But, of course, people do have to come back, or they do come back because there are companies within this Province and bid on other jobs. If, of course, government felt that there was, for example, lumber, if the honourable member would like to be specific, and it was the feeling of government that where local lumber could have been used at a fair and economical price, and the local lumber was satisfactory from a quality point of view, then that would certainly be a consideration in the award of any future tenders that would be considered.

As the Minister of Public Works or as any minister here we must award the lowest tender always. In order to award any but the lowest tender we have to have the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and, of course, they have to be tabled in the House within fifteen days after the opening of the House or within fifteen days of the award if the House is open.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Am I?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROUSSEAU: So we cannot award any but the lowest tender.

We will consider a Newfoundland and Labrador based company who is within a certain percentage of a Mainland company and award the second highest

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tender if it is a local company. But that has to be approved, again, by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and again must be tabled fifteen days after the opening of the House or within fifteen days if the House is opened. So

the only safeguard that we have there is the fact that for companies who are continuing to do business in the Province, and are continuing to bid on business in the Province, if they do not play, if you want to call it, the rules of the game in respect to materials where they are of sufficient quality to insure a good job, be it construction of roads or what have you, and where local labour is not used and they go outside and bring in labour, that is not used that would certainly be a consideration of the awarding of future tenders.

So, while there is no strong arm of government saying you must do this, you must do that, that is again the free enterprise system. There is certainly a strong encouragement by government and where government felt that any company who was awarded a contract was not playing what we call the fair rules of the game within the Province and certainly that would be a consideration in any future tenders.

I do not know if that sufficiently answers the -

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Justice has been keeping tally and I think he indicated that perhaps I had asked the question nine times. Well, I believe it has just been demonstrated that I needed to ask it nine or ten or eleven or more times because I finally got the answer. The answer is what I inferred when I first asked the question, that on this one it is just a matter of lip-service, that there is no muscle in it, that there is nothing to require the contractor. There is a lot of public statement about how we are going to require people to use local materials and thereby support local jobs and that kind of thing, but the fact of the matter is that it is just strictly a matter of lip-service. The acting Minister of Public Works goes on to say that if, of course, the contract is awarded and the guy goes off to the mainland and gets his materials, I think this is in essence what he said, well then there is going to be another time when he is going to want another contract. But then, even in that example he goes on to say, but we cannot really award any tender except the lowest one without approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council,

and so on. So, really, he talks himself out of the only possible lever they have, the implication that future contracts might not get awarded if the fellow does not keep his nose clean on local materials the first time around.

Now, look, it is lip-service and let us call it lip-service. There is no muscle in it. There is no way- I have asked the minister. The acting Minister of Public Works says that, well, once the tender is awarded then the contract is announced. I am aware of that, but I am asking about before the contract is announced. I am asking is there any provision, is there any condition in the contract, any appendix to the contract which would not encourage, would require a contractor to use local materials when they are available.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Okay, but I am sorry, I did not get the original question. Yes, we can write into a tender specification that local lumber would be required, yes,

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Oh, yes, yes, that is the right of government. But now, one second now, so do we have it straight now, yes, we can write anything into intended presentation, anything.

MR. SIMMONS: Are you going, is the minister intending to?

MR. ROUSSEAU: Yes, oh yes, yes.

MR. GILLET: Mr. Chairman, do I understand now that if and when a contract is let, it will be a condition on the part of the contractor to use Newfoundland lumber? Is that not completely doing away with competitive bidding and competitive business? Is that not giving an open invitation to any sawmill operator, whether he is myself or anybody else, to say no matter what my price is they must use it, so that we could end up in Newfoundland as being the highest, not only in Canada, but in the world, having the highest buildings produced? Is it not, surely goodness, the onus is on the sawmill operators here to compete with mainland production or as one of the members of the union said today, they have no business in it.

Did I not hear on the radio today, the question was asked how about the little small shops and the little small businesses around, could they afford to pay \$4 an hour, and his answer was that if they cannot, they should not be in it. But what happens now?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. GILLETT: Pardon? It is ridiculous to say the least.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. GILLETT: Well, it is possible, Mr. Chairman, to be able to import better quality lumber from Vancouver and deliver it in Newfoundland cheaper than you can get lumber which is not of such a good quality landed from a mill only fifty miles away. This has happened.

A friend of mine in Twillingate told me not long ago that he can land a carload of lumber from Vancouver, which is on the Pacific Coast, in Twillingate cheaper than he could land it from the mill in Gambo. Surely goodness you are not going to say to that man, you must buy it in Gambo. How much is a house going to cost our people if they have to build it in that sense.

Mr. Chairman, there is something wrong if we cannot compete. I do not care what it is, if it is in the fisheries or in the lumber.

MR. ROUSSEAU: That is a much deeper problem you are into now.

MR. GILLET: I know. But what I am saying is - you know, I understand, and the question I am asking is this, do I understand that if and when contracts are let, that the condition of that contract will be that Newfoundland produced lumber must be used?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 03 carry?

MR. ROUSSEAU: No. You know, in suggesting to him, I say we can write anything into a specification.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROUSSEAU: One second now. We can write anything into a specification of a tender. Now, I said to the honourable member down there, providing the quality is proper and adequate, you know, you are not asking somebody to use lumber where the quality is not adequate. Okay.

Number two, where the price is competitive; now, you are not talking about three times or four times as much money. You know, we are not talking about throwing money away. We are talking about some amount of percentage that would give them some preference. We do that in government bidding now, as I just told the honourable member. We give local, Newfoundland firms some preference in bidding and when there are bids on jobs that include Newfoundland firms and non-Newfoundland firms, we give a certain range. If it is twenty-five or thirty per cent, certainly it will go to the Mainland firm. But where it is within a reasonable amount that has to be dictated by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, a reasonable amount and where the quality is reasonable, well then we think that the locally manufactured goods should have a preference.

You know, again like you say, you are not going to do it if it is

going to double your price or put your price out of reach. But, where there is a preferential treatment where we can give within a certain limit a preference to a company employing and manufacturing in the Province. Okay. Well, that is what I am saying. That is what I say.

On motion 03 to 04 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 05 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, just an explanation perhaps from the minister about what is involved in this figure. It is a fairly substantial one. 05 we are on, I believe. Yes.

Could the minister just indicate what is being done with that amount?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: Survey mapping, 05 at the bottom there.

MR. COLLINS: Survey and Mapping. The following areas were under survey contract for controlled surveys and are now ninety to 100 per cent complete. We are talking about controlled surveys in Port au Port, in Clarendville, the Southern Avalon, three areas of the Southern Avalon, St. Anthony, Bonavista, Bonavista South and the following areas were under contract for mapping and are fifty to seventy-five complete. That is the Northeast Avalon and Stephenville area.

The programme for this year consists of calling tenders and awarding contracts for aerial photography, for maps and different scales, for mapping

approximately 5,000 square miles, and the second order is for approximately for a similar amount, two tenders being called.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 05 carry?

On motion 05 carried.

On motion 06 through 1205 -03-03 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 04 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Maintenance of Pasture Lands before we move on. Just perhaps a brief explanation. The amount is up here substantially from last year. Could the minister indicate what is going on under this particular subject during the year?

MR. COLLINS: Now, Mr. Chairman, that is the maintenance cost on community pastures. The pastures which were maintained last year, I can mention those, I think it will be of interest to the Committee. The pasture at Cochrane Pond, the total cost of maintenance of that one last year was roughly \$28,000; Ferryland was \$8,500; Peter's River \$9,500; St. Shotts \$5,000; Riverhead \$12,000; Harricott \$975.00; Colinet \$17,500; Gaskiers \$10,500; St. Brides \$14,000; Long Harbour \$16,000; Foxtrap \$23,356; St. John's East \$24,000; Brigus \$16,000; Bay Roberts \$17,500; Salmon Cove \$13,700; Swansea \$3,000; George's Brook \$11,500; Port Rexton \$6,000; Spencers Bridge \$17,000; Winterland \$13,000; Lamaline \$12,680.85;

AN HON. MEMBER: That is just the maintenance.

MR. COLLINS: That is just the maintenance.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: No, no.

MR. COLLINS: No, no, it is just the maintenance.

Point May \$8,600;

MR. HICKMAN: Did you say St. John's East?

MR. COLLINS: St. John's East, yes.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is two press releases.

MR. DOODY: Where is it? Is that the Church of England Cemetery?

MR. COLLINS: St. John's East \$24,000;

AN HON. MEMBER: St. John's East Extern.

MR. COLLINS: That is Shoe Cove.



AN HON. MEMBER: Shoe Cove.

MR. COLLINS: Now where was I? Lamaline \$12,680; Point May \$8,650;

AN HON. MEMBER: Wait now. Two press releases ....

MR. MURPHY: Howie is up there, I think, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COLLINS: Port Albert \$9,707.00; Comfort Cove \$11,447;  
Wooddale that is getting near home, -

AN HON. MEMBER: That is out in the honourable minister's district.

MR. COLLINS: \$13,000;

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. COLLINS: Micmac \$15,000;

AN HON. MEMBER: Ha ah! Hurrah!

MR. COLLINS: Cormack, -

AN HON. MEMBER: .... rotten paper bulletin.

MR. COLLINS: \$21,000 roughly - \$20,729;

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: Robinsons \$9,900; Searston \$9,400; O'Regan's \$16,200;  
West Bay \$10,632; and Long Point \$69.00 -

AN HON. MEMBER: That is it.

MR. COLLINS: And development cost at our pasture at Bay de Verde  
\$72,000; and the Northern Peninsula \$1,347.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. COLLINS: Now I might say, Mr. Chairman, that notwithstanding  
an accusation which was made by the honourable Member for Bonavista  
North some time ago that the pasture fees has been increased, no  
such thing has been done, The pasture fees were \$5.00 the year before  
last, and last year it was still \$5.00, and this year.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman,

MR. SIMMONS: I noticed the Minister of Justice perked up his ears when they talked about pastures down in Lamaline.

MR. HICKMAN: Point May.

MR. SIMMONS: And Point May, I can assure him that it has nothing to do with his going to pasture. It is going to cost us a lot more than that when the time comes, I am sure.

MR. MURPHY: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: I have not said anything to the contrary and would not. Mr. Chairman, the question really I ask the minister is why the increases? Is it additional staff or running into some extra expenses? The vote is up considerably from last year. Is there some obvious explanation for it?

MR. COLLINS: It is generally, Mr. Speaker, the increased costs in maintaining the pastures, plus the fact that many of them have been enlarged in terms of the size, etc., and that is the main cost.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I had meant to let this one pass quickly and I will just be a minute or so, but the minister did respond to something my colleague from Bonavista North had said about the fees not being increased. Well of course the minister is correct in saying that the fees were not subsequently increased, but let us not lose sight of the fact, Mr. Chairman, which the minister did not mention, that last March 6 the then Minister of Forestry, the present Minister of Manpower, did issue a statement which gave notice that the pasture fees - indeed, it read as a fait accompli, as something that had been done. It said, "Pasture fees were increased as follows, from \$5 to ten cents per head and so on and so forth. So there was an increase contemplated and there was an increase announced as a result of the furor that the minister and his colleagues got from various parts of the Province, subsequently the increase was not enforced.

MR. COLLINS: Well, I contemplated going south for a week but I did not make it.

MR. SIMMONS: I am sorry.

MR. COLLINS: I contemplated going south for a week but I did not quite make it.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I am not talking about dreams. I got dreams about going places and that kind of thing too, as the minister does, and I would have -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: You are right on. You are right on. I can dream of some other places I would rather be tonight but I am -

MR. DAWE: There are a lot of places we wish you were too.

MR. SIMMONS: Hear! Hear! Mr. Chairman, if I have no more success with my prayers than the Member for Harbour Main has with his, I -

MR. DOODY: The senior member.

MR. WOODWARD: If the minister is going to speak he should speak from his own seat and not from someone else's seat in the Assembly.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Forestry interjected a minute ago that he has contemplated doing things that he has not done, too, I am not talking about things which are dreamed up or contemplated, I am talking about a decision that was made and there is a document signed by the then Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, the present Minister of Manpower, there is his signature right there on March 6 last year. It was not just a question of thinking about what they were going to do. The decision had been made.

MR. COLLINS: Well, it was not done.

MR. SIMMONS: And this is the point.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: This is the point, Mr. Chairman, that my colleague from Bonavista North has been making.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please! The Chair suspects that possibly the matter the honourable Member for Hermitage is trying to introduce may be somewhat controversial, and the Chairman actually was not following the debate, although he was trying to follow debate, and there was some chatter to my left there and actually I was somewhat lost as to what the Member is trying to

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introduce. So possibly if he would be kind enough to go back somewhat to familiarize me with what he is proceeding with then possibly I can follow the debate. I just arrived on the scene. I think he can understand what I mean.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are under 1205-03-04 which is maintenance of pasture lands and I am reading from a document which I submit is very relevant to the point at hand, a document labelled "Changes in Regional Pasture Regulations." The minister said earlier that there were no increases, and I left the impression with the Committee, I believe, that my colleague from Bonavista North may have been saying something that was not true.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I just want to qualify on behalf of my colleague who cannot be here tonight because he is out on the Select Committee business,

that my colleague from Bonavista North was talking about a document which was signed on March 6 by the then Minister of Forestry which says, in part, I will not repeat it all in the interest of time, some changes have been made in the regional pasture regulations for 1974. Changes and the reasons for same were summarized below. "It is hoped that this information will assist you in answering any questions you may get from pasture patrons in your district." It is addressed to members of the House of Assembly, the document is. And then they summarize the decisions that according to this - not the dreams or the contemplations as the minister infers but the decisions, the changes that have been made according to this document. And it goes on to - the first is not pertinent to what we are talking about here but number two, pasture fees were increased as follows. For cattle over nine months of age the fee is increased from \$5.00 per season to ten cents per head for sheep and so on.

The point I want to make without getting any further into that document, Mr. Chairman, is that the decision was made -  
AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: - was made -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, could we have the Senior Member for Harbour Main follow the rules like the rest of us have to do. If he wants to speak, let him do so from his own place or be silent, which I would much prefer. Mr. Chairman -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please! Order, please!

When any honourable member is speaking from his seat, I think the rules of this honourable House stipulate that he is to be heard in silence. So that we can extend that courtesy to the Member for Hermitage, I would ask all honourable members to my right and to my left to abide by these rules and possibly we can get through these estimates a little sooner than we are doing.

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Chairman, I cannot guarantee that we will get through the estimates soon. That depends upon the co-operation I get from the Committee while I am speaking. It is true, as I have said before, that the fees were not increased. The decision to increase was not enforced. The point that my colleague from Bonavista North has been making is that a decision had been taken to approximately double the effect of fees that would apply for cattle and sheep on the regional pasture lands. That decision was taken.

Because of the furor, I would assume, because of the kickup from people who would be directly affected, the decision was not subsequently put into effect. I just mentioned that, Mr. Chairman, to put the matter of increases in the regional pasture fees into its context.

On motion heads 03-04 to 1207-05-01 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 02 carry?

The honourable Member for Labrador North. Are you rising?

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, while we are talking about blueberries -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Shut up, Teddy Bear. Go back to your drinking hole.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, -

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): Order, please! Order, please! It is difficult to decide whether the honourable Member for Labrador North was being facetious, derogatory, what have you, but the Chair feels that his remarks were not what you could classify as parliamentary. Perhaps he would be kind enough to withdraw these remarks.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, I want to assure the Committee I have no reservations about withdrawing the remarks. They were not meant in a derogatory fashion. It was in a jesting way. I am sure that the - but if the Chairman so desires, I will withdraw the remarks and I will discipline myself to the extent where I will promise myself that I will never do them again.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): Order, please!

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, I think in 1207-05-02 and we are thinking about blueberries and I want to get the relationship of blueberries and bakeapples. And I suspect that I am close enough in this heading that I am going to be relative to the debate when I talk about bakeapples instead of blueberries.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: No problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): A berry by any other name smells -

MR. WOODWARD: And partridgeberries, blueberries and partridgeberries. During the summer, I understand that in Labrador South there was some experimenting and some access roads put in to some of the bakeapple patches. Maybe the minister can tell the Committee what the results of those experiments were and if we can see maybe some productivity in the way of producing bakeapples on the commercial level along with

partridgeberries in the Labrador South area. There is a substantial crop of bakeapples that come out every year. No one has been doing it on a commercial basis. I see all the CNR people that come down in September month on the coastal boats bring along their jars and distribute them along and then they pick them up on the way back with the bakeapples.

Now, there is not too much money change hands - an exchange, a barter system. You can go to the drinking hole but in turn you get bakeapples. So, Mr. Chairman, maybe - and I am very serious on this matter, there was some experimental work went on. We are thinking in terms of this could be a viable industry, in a way, for the Labrador South area, especially the Spotted Island, Square Island area and the Port Hope Simpson and around - primarily the Spotted Island and Square Island area. Maybe the minister can tell the Committee what success they had in that experiment.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, there was some work done last year on the Southern part of Labrador, L'Anse au Clair which was more or less an experimental project. I think they spent in the order of \$9,000, \$10,000 on developing roads, access roads for partridgeberry pickers. I am told that the partridgeberry wine, is it called clodberry wine?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clodberry.

MR. WOODWARD: That is the Norwegian one.

MR. COLLINS: Clodberry wine, I understand, is much more potent than the blueberry.

MR. WOODWARD: Not the one that the minister drank tonight, the other one.

MR. COLLINS: It is a liquer. Whatever it is, it is good stuff.

We did spend in the order of \$10,000 at L'Anse au Clair last year and my ADM here tells me we are continuing that work in Labrador this summer and I agree with the honourable member that there is some great possibilities for people to be able to increase their earnings through the picking of those very nice berries.



On motion 1207-05-02 to 1208-03-02 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 03-03 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Just a question -

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): 03-03, the honourable Member for Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On 03-03, perhaps the minister will indicate why the substantial drop here from \$30,000 to \$5,000 this year on this vote.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, the money spent, or the reason for the decrease in the vote, is that last year a considerable amount of money was spent on an experimental basis. It is something relatively new in Newfoundland. That work has been completed and it is going to be up to the farmers now to indicate to us what they plan to do themselves and what sort of a programme they would like to see put into place. I might assure the Committee that these are estimates only. In the event that farmers do want to get involved in that particular endeavor this year, we will certainly consider what they do have in mind. It is something which is very worth-while especially when we look at the tremendous cost which they are faced with in terms of importing hay, etc.

But, the reason for the reduction here is that the experimental programme was completed last year.

On motion 03-03 to 1208-05 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 1208-07-02 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, before you move on, once again we would like to know what explains again the very substantial drop from \$160,000 last year in the revised estimate down to \$100,000 this year. Would the minister indicate why the reduction there?

MR. COLLINS: Yes, I suspect, Mr. Chairman, that one of the reasons for the reduction is that that vote is for farm access roads and flood control. Of course, there is a limit on how much you can do in building roads to a farm or how much you can do in flood control. This is the one you are talking about, is it not? 1208-07-02?

MR. SIMMONS: Yes.

MR. COLLINS: Last year agricultural access roads were constructed in seven locations. The following provides a breakdown of location, distance and expenditure. Victoria, which is Victoria, Carbonear, I

presume, 1.2 miles, at a cost of \$19,000. Adams Cove, 0.75 miles. Wood Dale, 1,500 feet and 1,200 feet for a total of 2,700 feet.

Burnt Berry Brook, half a mile. Gambo, one mile. Searston, 1,500 feet. So, these were projects which were completed. The only reason I can see where the figure is down now, the requirement is not there for that type of work. Under this vote they also did some blueberry access roads in Bonavista North. They did two miles and on the Avalon and Bonavista we did six miles.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, right.

On motion 07-02 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 03 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, 03, the regional pastures. Perhaps the minister would indicate whether some additional pastures are being developed this year and if so, where and perhaps, I would assume, there are some expansions to present pastures. Could he give us some details on this particular vote?

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Shall 03 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I think the minister is looking for some information with respect to 07-03.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, the listing given for 1975-1976 will probably require further adjustment. This is from the officials. It is noted that there is no provisions for new pastures, although we have some several representations from various districts for new pastures in various areas of the Province. These have not been decided on for some administrative purpose. I do not know exactly what it is at the present time, but we have not decided where the new pastures will be located as yet.

We are extending the St. John's East pasture this year at a cost of \$37,000. Cochrane Pond, a similar cost. Swansea, \$35,000.

MR. SIMMONS: Where is Swansea, by the way, except in Wales?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Carbonear.

MR. COLLINS: In Carbonear. Bay de Verde, \$72,000. Micmac, \$8,000. Cormack, \$23,000. Robinsons, \$25,000. Searston, \$2,000 and the Northern Peninsula, \$15,000.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I gather from the minister that that does not account for the total vote, does it?

MR. COLLINS: That is not the complete list, no.

MR. SIMMONS: Because I understand that some discussions have been held with -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SIMMONS: Well - you mean room in Francois or room in the vote.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Room in the vote.

MR. SIMMONS: Room in the vote. Okay.

Mr. Chairman, I was about to ask the minister about whether the vote might include, make some provision for a pasture land in the Bay D'Espoir area. There has been some discussion between Mr. Wood at his Grand Falls Office and persons interested in agricultural development in the Bay D'Espoir area. There has been some discussion about the possibility

of setting up a couple of mini-pasture lands or small pasture lands, I believe. I wonder would the minister want to comment on that or whether he would indicate what the chances are of having that included in the amount voted.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I can tell the honourable member that we have received a request for a pasture in that area. We have received several others. But, the whole thing is being put together in the department bearing in mind what pastures we have, where they are and on so. It is going to be some days, very likely, before we can really make an announcement of where the new pastures will be developed this year but there will be some new pastures.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): The honourable Member for Labrador North.

MR. WOODWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Maybe the minister can enlighten the Committee. I am very foggy on farming. Why is it necessary to have a community pasture? Why are pastures developed and how are they controlled? How do you put cattle - are they fenced? How are they managed and controlled. You know, I am very ignorant of the fact. I am not being facetious. I would like to have the information as to why we need a community pasture. I have never heard of it before. I have heard of large tracks of farm land but not community pastures. Maybe things have changed since I went to Labrador.

MR. COLLINS: - came about for two reasons. Number one, as more and more communities brought in regulations -

MR. WOODWARD: What do they use, crown land?

MR. COLLINS: - prohibiting the roaming of animals, people were faced with problems in terms of getting them off the street with nowhere to put them. Secondly, very many people with dairy cows and so on found that they - not much in beef cattle, dairy cattle - found that they did not have the proper feeding grounds for them. The government became involved. The areas are fenced. We do have caretakers on them.

MR. WOODWARD: Does the government pay? The community?

MR. COLLINS: Yes. They are part-time people, of course. They are only

on during the Summer months.

MR. WOODWARD: During the time that they are grazing.

MR. COLLINS: That is right.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): The honourable Member from Harbour Main.

MR. DANE: The reason why there are community pastures of course is because in many area progress has caught up to certain areas in this Province and has destroyed the natural pasture areas in which farmers in various parts of this country, this Province, have pastured their animals for many, many years. And, particularly where I live in Conception Bay South,

it was the custom to let animals roam freely in areas called the Grassy Gullies and Noah's Nose and various other very amusing names which were placed on the -

AN HON. MEMBER: Up the head of the Bay.

MR. DAWE: Oh, yes! Up the head of the Bay, always, even today, they take them up to what we call the head of the Bay, in Conception Bay South and turn them loose where they are often a nuisance to motorists and residents and so on. But in the particular area of Grassy Gullies, back of Foxtrap -

MR. DOODY: Thousand Acre Marshes.

MR. DAWE: Thousand Acre Marshes another one, like I said, Noah's Nose and Grassy Gullies and there are several names that are very amusing. The Trans-Canada Highway went through, and of course when that high speed highway was established there they could no longer put their cattle in there in safety and they experienced in the first year or two that the highway went through many fatalities, cattle fatalities that is, as well as human fatalities. The government then very wisely, even though it was not the P.C. Government, very wisely decided they were going to establish a community pasture. And well they should because they took away the natural pasture from the farmers and I think that was the least that they could do, was to establish a pasture, fenced, and well managed because it is on the border, on the southside of the Conception Bay Highway, and they should have and they do have a well managed pasture and well maintained. It has received considerable and generous amounts of monies, since we took over, to continue the programme, to keep it well fertilized, to cultivate the pasture lands -

AN HON. MEMBER: There is a lot of that around.

MR. DAWE: We get most of it from the other side of the House, fortunately enough. In that respect we are happy to have you here.

AN HON. MEMBER: The cheapest way you can get it.

MR. DAWE: And the farmers on the Shore of course look forward, they say, okay, you took away our natural pasture and it is only right that you should provide another pasture, And the subject of increased fees came

up here earlier tonight on an earlier subhead. I did not rise to speak upon it but I vigorously opposed the increase of fees to the community pastures last year, I do not think it is fair and I still do not think it is fair, It might some day arise whereby the increased fees will come about, I do not know, But it was proposed and of course various things are proposed to the government do not always come into effect, But these are ideas which are presented to government, most often they are good ideas and accepted, this was one idea which was not accepted because the farmers today experience many difficulties. It is not an easy Province in which to establish a farm and make a living from the farm and it is because basically we really have to tear a living from the ground in this Province. We are not as fortunate as they are in P.E.I. and New Brunswick, Nova Scotia. We have very rocky terrain and even the best of lands here that are presentable for agriculture still contain many rocks and many obstacles to farming, Most often many chemicals have to be added in order to make it adequate.

But I do not agree with increased fees in the pasture because farmers even now experience many losses of cattle, sometimes from negligence but otherwise through accident, and in many instances they are not compensated and this too basically I do not agree with, I think that the farmers should be compensated and I think there should be some programme brought about, if it is not in the workings now it should be brought about whereby farmers will be compensated for loss of animals on the pastures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable Member for Labrador North.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Chairman, I think that the honourable minister is very enlightening -

MR. SIMMONS: The expert on bull.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. WOODWARD: -to the committee but I regret the fact that

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): Order, please!

MR. WOODWARD: the highways ruined a lot of community pastures in the Conception Bay area. I was wondering at the time, and the engineering, why they did not elevate the highway up so that the cattle could feed through underneath or go underneath by a tunnel. All I want to say on this and I am very serious, I was not joshing at all when - the development of community pastures is entirely new to me. I am not from a farming country, other than polar bears. But I want to thank the minister for his comments and I appreciate them very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dunphy): Shall 07-03 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, while we are on regional pastures, before we move on, I want to come back to the Bay D'Espoir situation again. I do not know how clearly the minister got the message but I want to refer him to the study that was done by the council in New Brunswick, the RPC in New Brunswick a copy of which report the Minister of Industrial Development was kind enough to give to me a few days ago. I would certainly refer the minister to that particular subject because it deals at some length with the matter of agriculture.

Bay D'Espoir is an area that is going to need a shot in the arm economically. I am aware that in the short term we have got the expansion of Boggy, the power generating station there. That is going to provide jobs for the next couple of years or so. There is going to be highway construction there on the Bay D'Espoir Highway again this year and that is going to provide some more short term jobs. The Bay D'Espoir area is one of the areas which does not have really any long term job opportunities. There are some. There are sixty or so in the generating station. There is a number of small sawmills and of course, the minister reminds me, of the Ralland Forest Products which will provide a number of jobs, thirty or



so at the start and so on. But it is an area, Mr. Chairman, which badly needs some input in terms of jobs and what better area than the area of agriculture. I would certainly make the point to the minister once again, that in deciding where the rest of his vote goes for regional pastures that he, before making his final decisions, give particular attention to the Bay D'Espoir area. It is not an area that has been talked about for many years in terms of agricultural potential. It does have a fair amount of very suitable land for root crop and pasture purposes. It is an area that, you go back to the turn of the century, had a fair tradition in terms of root crop and cattle farming. It is only in later years with the availability of jobs in the forest industry, particularly the logging industry that many of the people have gotten away from farming.

Now, it was never the total occupation of the majority of the people. I am not suggesting that. But there were a fair number of people who were involved in agriculture either on a part time basis, mostly part time in around the turn of the century. I would hope that the minister will look very closely at this because it does need jobs and it does have the available lands. It is not land that is snarled up in terms of grants and that kind of thing. It is crown land, by and large, that I am talking about in the two areas, the area of Southeast Brook on the one hand and the area behind Swanger Cove and St. Alban's on the other hand, than triangle there, if you like. Those two areas have been farming areas in the past and have the potential to be again in the future.

There are a number of people who are quite anxious to get into farming and I may say in passing that the minister's people in Grand Falls to date have been most helpful and most co-operative in that

regard. The Bay D'Espoir Development Association in particular has taken some initiatives in this regard. I do hope then that the minister will see fit to send a little money our way in terms of regional pastures.

On motion 1208-07-03, carried.

On motion 1208-07-04, carried.

MR. HICKMAN: 1209-01 and 1209-02 or 03 is it, 04, 1209-02, 1209-03, 1209-04, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Tourism Act requires that the responsibility for administering parks and the responsibility for administering administrative responsibilities with respect to national parks must vest in the Minister of Tourism and this vote erroneously is under Forestry and Agriculture and I move that 1209-02, that is \$220,000 -

MR. SIMMONS: Point of order, Mr. Chairman, we have not skipped over, we have not dealt with 1209-01 have we? Because I want to come back to it.

MR. HICKMAN: Oh, well could I get the other ones out of the way.

MR. SIMMONS: Sure. Yes.

MR. HICKMAN: 1209-03 and 1209-04 that \$220,000, \$1,665,000 and \$9,431,000 for a total of \$11,316 and then 1209-10 related revenue, 1209-10-01 Government of Canada - \$118,000; Government of Canada (Capital) \$8,685,000, for a total of \$8,803,000 and then it will be transferred to Tourism and it will be shown under Tourism as head 304-05, Gros Morne National Park, 304-05-01 Operating Expenses, - \$220,000; 304-05-02 Development Capital - \$1,665,000 -

MR. SIMMONS: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: It will be 1304-05 Gros Morne National Park, and then 03 - Park Development DREE - \$9,431,000, for a total of \$11,316,000, and again 1304-10 will be related revenue, 01 Government of Canada Capital - \$8,685,000; and 02 Government of Canada \$118,000 for \$8,803,000, and the totals in each department will change accordingly. I so move.

On motion amendment, carried.

MR. HICKMAN: "Roger" how long are you going to be on -

MR. SIMMONS: Well I just wanted to suggest to the Chairman that it is near eleven o'clock and I have some comments I want to make on 01.

On motion that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again, Mr. Speaker returned to the Chair.

MR. DUNPHY: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have considered the matters to them referred and wish to report having passed the following heads of expenditures, Head VII - Justice, and ask leave to sit again.

On motion report received and adopted.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that the remaining Orders of the Day do stand deferred and that this House on its rising do adjourn until tomorrow, Friday, April 11th., at eleven o'clock, and that this House do now stand adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG) It is moved and seconded that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? Those in favour "aye", those against "nay", carried. The House is adjourned until tomorrow, at eleven o'clock.

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Oral Questions	
Awareness of a promise by the Premier to the people of Bell Island in 1971 and 1972 that the ferry service would be made part of the provincial highway system. Mr. Neary, Mr. Rousseau.	3705
Mr. Neary gave notice of dissatisfaction with the answer and gave notice he wished to debate it on the adjournment.	3706
Actions taken to increase rental allowances to the handicapped, ill, widowed and the unemployed. Mr. Neary, Mr. Murphy.	3706
Increased rental allowances to people residing in apartments owned by Omega Investments and apartments at Pleasantville and Churchill Square. Mr. Neary, Mr. Murphy.	3707
Report on the strike at Wabush Mines. Mr. Neary, Mr. Maynard.	3707
Canada Lands Inventory Programme for Labrador. Mr. Woodward, Mr. Collins.	3708
Request for partial list of highway projects for the present year. Mr. Rowe, Mr. Rousseau.	3711
Mr. Rowe expressed dissatisfaction with the answer and gave notice he wished to debate it on the adjournment.	3711
Government efforts to have highway contractors use local labour and hire local equipment as much as possible. Mr. Rowe, Mr. Rousseau.	3711
Start of construction on the Clarenville hospital. Mr. Roberts, Dr. Rowe.	3713
Mr. Roberts expressed dissatisfaction on the answer and gave notice he wished to debate it on the adjournment.	3713
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