



PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND

**THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF
NEWFOUNDLAND**

Volume 4

4th. Session

Number 40

VERBATIM REPORT

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1975

SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE M. JAMES RUSSELL

The House met at 11:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS:

HON. F. D. MOORES, PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret that I announce to this House today the Member for Carbonear, the honourable Dr. Rowe will be resigning as the Minister of Health in mid May. Dr. Rowe is resigning for personal reasons. He advised me of his resignation some three or four months ago. Upon my request he stayed on until this time.

Dr. Rowe will be later today representing the Province - he will be leaving to represent the Province at the Beaumont Hamel celebrations where the book or remembrance which was unveiled in Ottawa and here in the Province will be unveiled at the site of Newfoundland's greatest moment, I suppose, in war, for that matter regarding peace as well. At Beaumont Hamel he will be representing the Province there after which he will be in the UK recruiting dentists and then returning around the middle of May and at that time his resignation will become effective.

MR. NEARY: From the House or just from the -

MR. MOORES: No, just from the Cabinet. Dr. Rowe will be retaining his seat in the House of Assembly, hopefully for many years to come. However, the situation is that Dr. Rowe, Mr. Speaker, is a man who in many opinions, and certainly I share that opinion, was probably the best or certainly one of the best Ministers of Health this Province has ever known.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MOORES: He has been not only conscientious in his department, Sir, but a man who I think is probably without any certainly great degree, any more than normal degree of political bias, a man who looks upon health as something that applies to every Newfoundlander, a man who has been very dedicated to that purpose.

Since Dr. Rowe has been Minister of Health, he has been responsible, or it has been a department that has been responsible for many

programmes like the ambulance programme and a great many others. But particularly I think it is fair to say that during this past three years Dr. Rowe and the Department at that time will be remembered for having done a tremendous amount in the area of hospital construction.

MR. NEARY: Finishing programmes we started.

MR. MOORES: The Health Science Complex, the majority of the money that has been spent on that has been during the term of office of Dr. Rowe. The Bonavista Outpatients Hospital and the planning for the new extension was under his aegis. The planning and soon to be commenced construction of the Burin and the Clarendville hospitals are the work of Dr. Rowe, the completion of construction of the Carbonear Hospital, completion of construction of the Twillingate Hospital, the completion of the extension of Western Memorial Hospital, the completion and considerable extension, I think probably the one thing that gives him the most satisfaction, was the extension at Waterford Hospital and the recognition of the mental health problems in this Province. The planned and planning and the extension to the Grand Falls Regional Hospital, and you could go on and on with the planning for Channel, Placentia, and a great many other areas, Mr. Speaker, where Dr. Rowe has made a tremendous contribution.

As I say, we are, and I personally am very sad to see Dr. Rowe resign from the Cabinet. He is a very fine man and I think anything said to the contrary would be personal vilification of the sort that certainly we do not need. But I know members of my government are very sorry to see Gus Rowe leave and Sir it gives me - whilst it is regretful we wish him all the best of luck as he returns to medicine, as he practices the vocation which he practiced virtually all his life and on behalf of all the government we can honestly say that we are very sorry to see Dr. Rowe leave.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, let me first of all clear away the undergrowth by saying that despite the Premier's invitation to enter into a personal vilification campaign, he will be the only one who does it in this House if it is done at all.

Now, let me say, Mr. Speaker, that the announcement that the gentleman from Carbonear is to resign his portfolio as the Minister of Health is probably the least surprising announcement that the Premier could have made today or at any time. It has been widely known throughout the medical profession and throughout those who deal with the Department of Health, throughout those who are at all concerned with the Health services of this Province, that the Minister of Health, the gentleman from Carbonear was profoundly dissatisfied with his role in the cabinet, with the voice he had in the cabinet, with the results he was able to obtain. I have heard rumors for the past year. I have heard rumors, Mr. Speaker, for at least the past year that the gentleman from Carbonear intended to resign as Minister of Health. So, I would say that it is the least surprising announcement of all, the announcement which the Premier could have made this morning. I may add the Premier has done the House of Assembly his usual courtesy in making an announcement outside the House a half an hour before the House was to meet. That itself speaks of the Premier's feeling for the House of Assembly.

Now, Sir, I will be making a more extended comment at an appropriate time about the Minister of Health's decision to leave the cabinet. Let me say now two or three things very simply. First of all I do not intend to enter into a question of who was the best Minister of Health we have had, but I am quite prepared to say that the gentleman from Carbonear, whom I have criticized on occasion when I felt it was warranted, has made every effort within his power to carry out his plans in the field of health, to expand health services, to improve them, to extend them and to provide the people of this Province with better health services. The fact that he has not been able to do so, Sir, the fact that he has not succeeded in even one-tenth of his plans and his ambitions is not his fault. It is the fault

of his colleagues in the government who have consistently refused to support him.

I know whereof I speak, Mr. Speaker. There has been occasion in this House within the past two or three weeks to make that obvious. The people of Hopedale and Labrador heard a speech on Thursday past which gave that reason also. Sir, I think the minister has made a valiant effort. I wish him well whether he practices at Carbonear or here in St. John's or wherever he practices medicine. The Minister of Health, the gentleman from Carbonear is a first class doctor. I know he will put his heart and his soul into that just as he has put his heart and his soul into his ministerial duties. I hope and I believe that his medical efforts will be rewarded with more success and more satisfaction than have been his efforts as minister. It is not his fault, Sir. It is the fault of this administration.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROBERTS: Political obituaries are never pleasant things, Sir. But, I wish the Minister of Health had been able to leave office with a feeling - he will probably contradict me. I would expect him to in the circumstances. His colleagues certainly will. But, Sir, I know whereof I speak. I speak the truth. I wish he had been able to leave office with a feeling of satisfaction and achievement instead of the feelings of frustration and muted anger which he has had to contend with for the past while. That is why he is leaving the cabinet, Sir. That is why he is the sixth or seventh man to leave that cabinet in the past three years.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

DR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege. I would like to say a few words in my own defence at the pleasure and satisfaction that I might have achieved or not achieved. But, I would like to refute any statement that I am leaving with any unhappy memories of my association with cabinet or with government.

For the record I would like to state that in January of this year I requested the honourable Premier to relieve me of my portfolio as Minister of Health because of my desire to return to the practice of -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is a matter of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! While I certainly would appreciate the honourable Minister of Health wanting to make a few remarks, I certainly cannot consider it to be a point of personal privilege from a parliament procedure viewpoint. If the House would like to grant the honourable minister leave to make a few statements then I am certainly prepared to entertain that. Agreed? Agreed.

The honourable Minister of Health.

DR. ROWE: (First part inaudible.) - ministerial statement. Thank you.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

DR. ROWE: As stated I do not want to get into any arguments. I will let my record stand for itself on any question of criticism of my dissatisfaction or otherwise with my colleagues. But for the record, in January of this year I did request the honourable the Premier to relieve me of my portfolio as Minister of Health because of my desire to return to the practice of medicine. I indicated a resignation would be from Cabinet and I would retain my seat as member of the House for Carbonear. The Premier requested and I agreed to stay on until after the estimates at which time he would accept my resignation and I want to state again that it is not my resignation from Cabinet, it is not on the basis of any disagreement whatever with the Premier or with government. It is only because I am concerned about the lack of opportunity for clinical work in full time administration because I have been away from clinical practice and contact with patients for just over three years.

If I were to remain much longer in full time administration although it is within the health field I would have great difficulty in returning to hospital and clinic work. I would state that I have full confidence in the present government in the programmes which have been and are being developed and it is for this reason, Mr. Speaker, that I wish to remain a member of the House of Assembly. I assure the

people of my district that I will continue to exert every sincere effort that I can on their behalf and I would like to reiterate again my confidence in and my full support of the Moores P.C. administration and my decision to leave is to protect whatever I have with any professional status. Thank you.

REPORTS OF STANDING OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

HON. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling as required under section (15) of the Farm Development Loan Act all of the financial statements of the Farm Development Loan Board.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following bills, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Constabulary Act," a bill, "An Act Further To Amend the Registration Of Deeds Act", a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Retail Sales Tax Act," a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Tobacco Tax Act," a bill, "An Act Respecting The Newfoundland Association Of Architects And Governing The Practice Of Architecture In The Province."

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I will on tomorrow introduce a resolution to this House reading, "Be it resolved that this House hereby recommends to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council the appointment of Ambrose Hubert Peddle to be the Parliamentary Commissioner pursuant to the Parliamentary Commission(Ombudman's)Act."

MR. ROBERTS: Of all the cynical, political...

PREMIER MOORES: How about all the Supreme Courts - how about the district -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! Order, please!

MR. NEARY: We will give him the flick! Keep quiet!

MR. SPEAKER: If honourable members do not pay attention to the Chair calling for order, the Chair is likely to give some members the flick.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, -

MR. SPEAKER: Oh! I am sorry. The honourable Minister of Forestry and Agriculture on notice of motions.

MR. COLLINS: I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Further Amend The Crown Lands Act."

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. COLLINS: Yes. Why is it always on a small bit of paper?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Tourism.

HON. T. HICKEY: I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Wild Life Act."

MR. NEARY: You want to do it by leave?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. HICKEY: - do it by leave. I could not get up there two at a time.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! If honourable members would obey the rule that when a member is speaking he has the right to be heard in silence, maybe honourable members to my left and to my right could hear when the Chair is calling the various routine orders of the day.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

MR. NEARY: Inaudible. We have a Notice of Motion that is not in order.

MR. PECKFORD: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. HICKEY: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. PECKFORD: The Hon. Member for Bell Island persists in -

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

MR. PECKFORD: - interfering with the Chair, and I suggest and recommend, Mr. Speaker, that you take remedial action to see that while he is in his chair he remains silent.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker. I heard, Your Honour, call Answers To Question For Which Notice Had Been Given. The Minister of Tourism, Your Honour, got up and gave notice of motion. Now I would submit, Your Honour, that unless leave of the House is granted that his motion was out of order. Your Honour has to enforce the rules of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, to that point of order.

MR. NEARY: Send for the tapes.

MR. BARRY: First of all if the Hon. Member for Bell Island had a point of order to make, he should have stood in his place when he had the opportunity, the first available opportunity and made the point of order. Secondly, Your Honour, to the suggested point of order that he is now trying to make when it is too late -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. PECKFORD: That is what he is trying to do.

MR. BARRY: - to the spurious point of order he is now trying to make, it has traditionally been the custom, Mr. Speaker, that if Your Honour does not happen to notice when a minister is getting up and a second passes and Your Honour happens to move on and calls the next order of business that Your Honour is prepared to revert back.

MR. NEARY: By leave.

MR. BARRY: Not revert back by leave. If considerable time has passed, sure. But where it is a matter of His Honour, and he cannot see all areas of the House, particularly when he got to keep his eyes on honourable members opposite to try to keep them in order that the -

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. BARRY: - practice and tradition has been, Mr. Speaker, as honourable members opposite know that if it is a mere oversight and the Hon. Speaker has not seen a minister rising that he will permit -

MR. NEARY: Only by leave.

MR. BARRY: - reversion to the previous order.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, to that point of order let me just point out I attempted to rise three times. Your Honour could not see me because there was another minister up .

MR. NEARY: And because -

MR. HICKEY: I suggest the member for Bell Island -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. HICKEY: - if he wants to be Speaker of this House, he should wait until the appropriate time about twenty years from now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The Chair has already said that if members of this honourable House obeyed the rule that when a member is speaking he does have the right to be heard in silence then it would be more convenient and the proceedings of this House would run much smoother than they have been particularly over the last few minutes. It is very difficult for members either to my left or to my right perhaps to hear routine orders or anything else being said from this Chair if members persist in talking when they do not have the right to do so. Now perhaps the Hon. Minister of Tourism did rise. I did call, Answers To Oral Questions. However, the Chair is certainly prepared to accept, maybe that it is not

a parliamentary rule, a rule of common sense that the Hon. Minister of Tourism be given the right to give notice of motion of his bill.

MR. NEARY: It has to be done by leave.

AN HON. MEMBER: Do not be an ignoramus.

AN HON. MEMBER: Keep quiet.

MR. NEARY: I will grant the minister leave to introduce his motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!

The Chair has already accepted the notice of motion given by the Hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. NEARY: By leave.

AN HON. MEMBER: He does not need leave.

ORAL QUESTIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Hon. Premier, Sir, is prepared to put into action his words over the weekend that the high cost of living is the biggest problem in Newfoundland and implement some of recommendations of the Food Prices Review Board? Will the Premier do that, action instead of words?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Premier.

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, as the member for Bell Island well knows the remedial efforts that have to be made regarding inflation is one that is, I guess, exhausting the efforts of every government in Canada and every government in the world. And certainly it is without any question, the top priority of this government right now to do what we can. Now what we can do is limited but what we can do, Mr. Speaker, we will be doing.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Is the Hon. Premier aware that in the Food Prices Review Board Report submitted in November, 1974 that eight out of the ten recommendations made by the Food Prizes Review Board fall under provincial jurisdiction? And, if so,

MR. NEARY: would the Premier tell the House what action is going to be taken on implementing these recommendations?

MR. MOORES: Yes, in time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I am dissatisfied with the Premier's answer and I wish to debate it on Thursday afternoon at the late show.

MR. MOORES: That is good.

MR. NEARY: Contempt for the House.

MR. MOORES: Contempt for you.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable the Premier could tell the House, Sir, what is happening now concerning the strike by the liquor store employees? Are there any negotiations in progress at the moment? Is there a standoff, a complete impasse? What are the chances of getting these employees back to work so that the Province can get the badly needed revenue?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Mines and Energy.

HON. L. BARRY, MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Mr. Speaker, as I stated in this honourable House last Friday, the Liquor Corporation is prepared to negotiate, prepared to return to the bargaining table at any time. However, it takes two sides to negotiate, two sides to bargain and until the other side is prepared to get back, to sit down to negotiate, there does not appear to be anything that the Corporation can do at this stage or Treasury Board.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, supplementary question, Has word been sent or any request made of the other side to sit down to the bargaining table? Is the government prepared to negotiate in good faith, to alter their position? Are they prepared to make offers and counter offers and proposals and counter proposals in order to get this very urgent matter settled.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! The honourable Member for Bell Island in his way of asking a question the Chair feels he is making a speech in doing so and certainly out of order.

MR. NEARY: Supplementary question to the minister, Has word been sent to

the other party, requesting them to sit down to the bargaining table and negotiate in good faith?

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, there was a public statement made in this House of Assembly. There was a press release issued by the Corporation stating quite clearly, flatly and bluntly that the Corporation is prepared to negotiate at any time. Now with reference to the willingness of the Corporation to negotiate in good faith, that can only be taken to mean that the honourable member believes that up to now the Corporation has not been negotiating in good faith.

MR. NEARY: change their position.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. BARRY: The honourable member did not refer anything about the Corporation not being prepared to change its position. The honourable member asked whether the Corporation was prepared to negotiate in good faith, the direct inference being that he believes that up to now the Corporation has not been negotiating in good faith, which Mr. Speaker, is a scandalous -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: - is a scandalous approach for the honourable member to take. For the record, Mr. Speaker, up to now there have been three new offers, I am sorry, at least two and I believe three changes in the Corporation's position, improvements in the offer made by the Corporation. The Corporation feels at this stage it has moved all it can until it sees countervailing willingness to move on the part of the other side in that there is no such thing as an ultimatum being given, but the Corporation President has made it quite clear that he believes that the present demands of the other side, of NAPE, are just too far beyond what the Corporation is prepared to consider.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, supplementary, Just so I will not misunderstand the minister or the minister will not be misunderstood, is the minister saying then that the offer made on behalf of the Newfoundland Liquor Commission and on behalf of Treasury Board is final? That is it? Or are they prepared to sit down and make counter proposals?

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge there has never been any ultimatum given that this is the final, fixed, absolute position of the Corporation, Mr. Speaker, just the opposite, The Corporation has made it quite clear that it is prepared to negotiate. But it has also made it quite clear that it is not prepared to negotiate at the fifty-odd per cent level, which NAPE is looking for and that until NAPE is prepared to make a realistic proposal or get down to a realistic level, then the parties are going to unfortunately remain at an impasse.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Justice, In view of the fact that the liquor strike looks like a long one and bootlegging is on the rise, what is the minister doing about this increase in bootlegging?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! This question is out of order. It

is more a statement of fact rather than a question.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Tourism, Sir - he is not in his seat right now -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: He is gone to answer the phone but he will be right back.

MR. NEARY: Gone to answer the phone. Well, perhaps my colleague might want to ask his question while I am waiting for the minister.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Labrador North.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Rehabilitation and Recreation. I wonder if the minister is aware of the fact that there are some 18,000 to 20,000 pounds of salmon left over from last year's catch in the refrigerator at the plant at Makkovik. The community is quite concerned that by Spring the salmon will not be saleable. They consider it as a big debt on the plant now, and they want to know why the salmon is sitting there and have not been sold.

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

HON. T. DOYLE (MINISTER OF REHABILITATION AND RECREATION): Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to get the answer and supply it to the member this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Bonavista North.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Premier. Could the Premier inform this honourable House when his government is going to make funds available so that the Gander Hospital can open the extra forty beds that it has lying up at the present time?

MR. MOORES: Order Paper, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Justice could tell us whether the bail or not in the case of these gentlemen who skipped out has been paid?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. A. HICKMAN (MINISTER OF JUSTICE): Mr. Speaker, that question is improper, but let me - highly improper, totally improper.

MR. NEARY: It is in order.

MR. HICKMAN: It is beyond comprehension of any sane man. But, may I say

one thing, Mr. Speaker, so that there can be no misunderstanding, that as far as breaches of the Narcotics Act is concerned, you know, colloquially known as drug cases, I as provincial Attorney-General, the Government of Newfoundland, this House of Assembly has absolutely no jurisdiction, no knowledge, no right of knowledge. The responsibility for investigating and prosecuting under the Narcotics Act is the exclusive and absolute responsibility of the honourable Otto Lang, P.C., Q.C., M.P., Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. He does this without consultation with me. He does not use Crown prosecutors on my staff. He retains private practitioners in St. John's. It was generally the well-known Tory firm of P. Derrick Lewis and Day. He retains that firm to do the prosecuting. On the West Coast I do not know who it is.

But, in any event, Mr. Speaker, we have no knowledge of it. We do not have the right to see a file on it. The first time that we officially become involved as a Province is if a person is convicted and sentenced to less than two years. He or she has to be housed in our institution and we have to feed them.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Tourism, Sir, could tell the House if he authorized recently a publication of a newspaper or a tabloid known as the Tourist News?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Tourism.

HON. T. HICKEY (MINISTER OF TOURISM): I will have to take that under advisement. We have a number of pamphlets and pieces of literature and what not. I could not honestly answer the question. I would have to check.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I accept the fact the minister does not have the information. But, would the minister also find out for me who is having it printed, if it is being supported by advertising, if tenders were called and if the contract was awarded to the lowest bidder.

Could the Minister of Mines and Energy, Sir, tell the House whether or not the meeting that is being planned with the residents of Bell Island to try and figure out the disbursement of the special fund that was accumulated under the Liberal Administration has yet been held and if so, what will the money be used for?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Mines and Energy.

HON. L. BARRY (MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY): Mr. Speaker, there have been certain steps taken over the last few days to clarify various matters of red tape dealing with the amendment to various Orders in Council that had been previously passed that place some restrictions on what could be done with these funds, restrictions imposed, I might add, by the previous Liberal Administration. But, these restrictions have now been clarified and the honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I understand, will be making arrangements very shortly to meet with representatives of the Wabana Town Council to decide on the disposition of these funds.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Sir, could tell the House if he is yet in a position to tell the House whether or not arrangements have been made to finance the Town of Wabana to help them to maintain essential services and replace old worn out water lines.

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

HON. B. PECKFORD (MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING): Mr. Speaker, we are continuing as we have in the last two or three years to finance the Wabana Town Council. Needless to say, it has been on a sort of an ad hoc basis. This whole new arrangement, in light of the report done by H.R. Doane Company Limited and other reports that were done by the department, is well in hand. But, I am not in a position, I might be in the next week or two. It is difficult to assess an overall plan for financial assistance to the Town of Wabana. But it has not been definitively decided yet. But it is well in hand. At such time as I am ready to make such an announcement, I will surely inform the honourable Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a question to the honourable the Premier, Sir. In view of the record unemployment in the Province, is the Premier yet in a position to tell the House and tell the people of Newfoundland whether or not the expansion of the oil refinery at Come By Chance is going to go ahead this year? If so, what date do we expect to see construction get under way down there?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Premier.

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industrial Development has answered that question and obviously we are as anxious for the expansion to go ahead as anybody else. But until such time as the arrangements have been worked out with the British banks and others we cannot make any announcement, not a thing.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. SPEAKER: Motion No. 3.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Mines and Energy, a bill, "An Act To Impose A Tax Upon Income Received By Certain Persons Holding The Right To Mine," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Justice, a bill, "An Act Respecting A Plan Of Legal Aid For The Province," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations, a bill, "An Act To Control The Relationship Between Employers And Employees Within The Province And To Provide Uniform Minimum Standards Of Conditions Of Employment," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Manpower And Industrial Relations, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Workmen's Compensation Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Finance, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Gasoline Tax Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Mines and Energy, a bill, "An Act To Impose A Tax Upon The Land In Respect Of Which Persons Have The Right To Mine," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Mines and Energy, a bill, "An Act Relating To The Disposition Of Minerals Within The Province," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Justice, a bill, "An Act To Amend Certain Statutes Of The Province," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Mines and Energy, "An Act To Amend The Mining Tax Act And To Repeal The Mineral Lands Taxation Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, "An Act To Amend The Forest Fires Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Natural Products Marketing Act, 1973," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, a bill, "An Act Respecting The Transfer Of Certain Lands From Reid Newfoundland Limited And Mines And Forests (Newfoundland) Limited To Her Majesty In Right Of Newfoundland," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Health, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Hospitals Act," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

On motion of the honourable Minister of Health, a bill, "An Act Respecting The Provision Of Funeral Services," read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have a message from His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor.

MR. SPEAKER: April 25, 1975 to the Hon. Minister of Finance,
I, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Newfoundland, transmit estimates of sums required for the public services of the Province for the year ending 31st day of March, 1976 by way of further supply and in accordance with the provisions of the British North America Act of 1867, as amended, I recommend these estimates to the House of Assembly. Signed by His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dunphy): Order! Bill No. 39.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee rise and report that the message from the Lieutenant-Governor has been received together with the amended estimates and that the same be referred to a Committee of Ways and Means.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, that is a debatable motion, I think. I mean the minister, he says, "I move," and that is fair enough. That apparently is his entire speech. I do not intend to be very much longer. But let it be noted that this was the minister's speech in moving the Supply No. 2 Bill, the bill now before the committee. Is that a correct understanding of where we are at? I admit quite candidly, Your Honour, that the intricacies of the finance procedure followed in this House as they are amended from time and day to day and hour to hour never cease to astound me. But am I of a correct understanding now that we are debating the resolution which accompanies Bill No. 39, the Supply Act No. 2?

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, there is no question that it is debatable. The practice has always been in this House that the debate takes place -

MR. ROBERTS: In the committee.

MR. HICKMAN: - in the budget debate.

MR. ROBERTS: No.

MR. HICKMAN: But it has been the practice. But in any event if it is to be debated at all, it is my understanding that the debate takes place when the resolution is read in the Means.

MR. ROBERTS: Well -

MR. HICKMAN: We are now in Supply. The Committee of Supply reports back to the Committee of Ways and Means. The resolution is read in the Committee of Ways and Means. When the resolution is read in the Committee of Ways and Means, if anybody wants to debate it, it is debated then.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, Your Honour, I mean I asked the question. I do not pretend to know the answer. If I did, I would not ask the question. I am ^{not} asking it for a rhetorical effect. My understanding has always been that the Ways and Means Committee is a very seldom used committee. I see a clerk circling around towards me with a piece of paper, presumably with the procedure in it. It is the Committee of Supply that we have the debate in. Now our procedure, I think, now is firmly established that we do not debate both the resolution and the bill. We will debate the resolution normally and then the bill goes through without any further discussion. And we are now in Committee of Supply

which is where all the Supply Bills are considered and which is where they are debated. I mean if that is not a correct understanding, and I ask, Your Honour, for - it is no good referring to Beauchesne or May, I mean they are irrelevant to Ottawa, the way Ottawa has changed their procedure, and it is equally irrelevant here. Ways and Means normally debates only taxation bills, and I would say to the Minister of Justice that normally that is where we debate changes in taxation in the Committee on Ways and Means. We debate those resolutions and then they can be debated again when the enabling legislation comes before the House. We are not discussing now, Sir, raising money, which is the Ways and Means side of the procedure. We are discussing the expenditure of money, the Supply side, and accordingly we are in Committee of Supply. I would like to debate it here if it is in order. But, you know, I am asking Your Honour what the procedure is.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dunphy): The Chair requests a five minute adjournment for advice and consideration.

Order! Our own precedents indicate that the House go into a Committee of Supply, report to the Chair and the House resolve into Committee of Ways and Means and then debate the resolution.

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honour, I thank you but just so I am clear, in other words there is to be no debate on this motion in Committee of Supply. Is that what Your Honour is ruling? Your Honour is making that motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dunphy): That is correct.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay. So that is fine, fine by me.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, to get back to that motion that I had to make, I do not know if I used the correct wording, is that the House having passed estimates, amended estimates of \$709,754,200 that the Supply Committee report the same to the Ways and Means Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dunphy): Shall the motion carry? Carried.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dunphy): Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have considered the matters to them referred and have passed certain estimates of Supply totalling \$709,754,200 in addition to the initial sum of \$92,030,000 previously authorized and ask leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chairman of Committee of Supply reports that they have considered the matters to them referred and report having passed amended estimates of Supply totalling \$709,754,200 in addition to the initial sum of \$92,030,000 as previously authorized and ask leave to sit again.

On motion report received and adopted.

On motion committee ordered to sit again presently.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dunphy): Order!

A bill, "An Act For Granting To Her Majesty Certain Sums Of Money For Defraying Certain Expenses Of The Public Service For The Financial Year Ending The Thirty-First Day Of March One Thousand Nine Hundred And Seventy-Six And For Other Purposes Relating To The Public Service"

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dunphy): Shall the clause carry?

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to be very long at all due to the fact that I scheduled a meeting with the press for two minutes from now. I do want to make one point though in debating the Supply Bill. The amounts of money have been debated insofar as they could be within the procedures forced through by the change in rules a year or so ago, and there is no point going over that. What I do wish to say though is just a note, Mr. Chairman, that never in my - I guess this is the tenth session now in which I have sat in this House of Assembly - never have I seen a performance such as that put on by the ministry this year. I did some checking on the weekend insofar as Hansards were available. Almost without exception every question asked by a member on this side of a minister during the entire debate on the estimates, the money now before us, almost without exception every question was not answered or not answered in full or not answered accurately and almost

without exception every point in debate made by a member on this side of the House in the debate was not answered or evaded by way of answer by the ministers opposite. I can come to only one of two possible conclusions, Sir, Either the ministers have seen in their performance, and the estimates performance, Mr. Chairman, as Your Honour appreciates is a bit of a trial for a minister, a bit of an example for him to show his stuff, and if he has got his stuff, if he knows his facts, if he knows his facts, if he knows the programmes of his department, if he understands the problems with which he is supposed to try to deal, he can shine, If he does not then, Sir, he makes an utter fool of himself and we have seen example after example of that, even though the government deliberately held back some of the estimates, knowing full well that, for example, the gentleman for Trinity South was allowed to get on his feet and speak in estimates he would make an utter fool of himself, and he has on a number of occasions, the senior member for Harbour Main the same way. A number of ministers, the government decided, could not be allowed to defend their estimates publicly for good and sufficient reason.

But, Sir, the way in which the estimates procedure was carried out I think can support only one of two conclusions and it may be either. I do not know which, some of my colleagues might have an opinion on it. Either the minister just do not know what it is they are supposed to be administering, what they are talking about, what they are trying to do, with the departments which they are running on an interim basis, either that, Sir, or they are contemptuous of the House and afraid of the truth. It is one or the other and the estimates procedure this year has shown that as completely and clearly as anything could, and Sir, the present Cabinet have no intention of giving this House any information, and furthermore are unable to defend the vast sums of public money which they wish to spend.

As I say, Sir, in my ten years in the House, and that is not a long time in legislative history but it is a long time by comparison, Sir, to the present membership of this House, there are only four men who have been here longer, two of them on my side and two on the side opposite.

MR. NEARY: One on the side opposite.

MR. ROBERTS: No, the gentleman from Fortune Bay and the gentleman from St. John's Centre, they have both been here longer than I have. The gentleman from Fortune Bay had an interruption in his political career which will be coming to an inglorious end shortly in any event.

Mr. Chairman, never have I seen a performance as inept by the ministers, or as contemptuous, and I tend to prefer the latter feeling although I do not like it, because I think some of the honourable gentlemen opposite are capable, not all of them by any means, Sir, but some of them are capable of defending their estimates. I think if the gentleman from Green Bay had been given the freedom to debate the points in his departmental policies and his programmes I think he would have been able to make a good fist of it instead of the cod which he did make of it. Several other honourable gentlemen opposite in my view are quite capable of having put up a good defense in their estimates. Some of them, Sir, are not, but that is another story. What I am saying is that none of them did, none of the questions were answered, none of the points were debated and I checked back through the Hansards very carefully, I had a long time to do it, driving up to Bay D'Espoir and back to speak to a great Liberal banquet up there of 300 or 400 people, many of them who were formerly supporters of another political persuasion, but now have seen the light, have come back to the true faith, but Sir, it has been a very inept performance and it is the people of Newfoundland who will be the losers, and not the House of Assembly. The House will go on, Sir.-

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I am sorry, speaking of inept performances, it is the gentleman from Burgeo.

MR. EVANS: I think you are -

MR. ROBERTS: I am grateful, Sir, that the gentleman from Burgeo feels that way and I am, Sir, I think I will probably go and resign now if he thinks I am inept, I so value his opinion. Sir, if the gentleman from Burgeo were to tell me that today is Monday I would want a second opinion, a competent opinion. The gentleman from Burgeo, Sir, speaks for himself

because nobody else -

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: Because nobody else will take the responsibility -

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: Because nobody else will take the responsibility for speaking for the gentleman from Burgeo. But, Sir, I do not intend to debate this motion at any length. It is just the tidying up of the supply procedure, the final step in the procedure, but I think it should be noted that the government came into this House with a concerted plan, either to ignore the House or to try somehow to prevent any debate. I think they have shown their contempt for the House of Assembly and for the whole process. I think a reading of the Hansard of the seventy-five hours of the supply debate, the estimates debate, will bear that out. It is a very sad performance, a very shocking performance, very disillusioning for those people in Newfoundland and there were a few who still believe that this administration somehow intended to be men who lived up to their commitments and their promises, men who intended to try to do something for the people of Newfoundland, something good.

Of course, Sir, if there was any doubt left in the people of Newfoundland, the announcement earlier by the Premier that the gentleman, a defeated Tory candidate, a man with no competence whatsoever for the job of Ombudsman is to be appointed to that job, is the most cynical political payoff -

AN HON. MEMBER: Point of order, point of order, Mr. Chairman -

MR. ROBERTS: No, Sir, they can raise their points of order if they wish, there is a very old principle Your Honour that there is no supply before redress of grievances.

MR. PECKFORD: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. PECKFORD: As I take it the honourable Leader of the Opposition is completely irrelevant to the bill now before the House and I ask Your Honour to rule.

MR. NEARY: You have got to be kidding.

MR. ROBERTS: To that point of order, Sir, I find it hard to believe that even the gentleman from Green Bay, who attempts to be a student of parliamentary procedure and certainly is coming on in that field, does not realize that the very basic principle, and Your Honour I could find references in Beauchesne or in May or anywhere else, is that there is no supply without redress of grievance and a redress of grievance is certainly the proposal to appoint the gentleman who was named by the Premier earlier today on that motion. There is no point of order, Your Honour, I submit this is completely in order, nor is it an anticipation of debate because I do not intend to debate the matter at any length. I was merely using it as an illustrative example of the complete failure of this administration to honour their commitments, not to have dirty, filthy, patronage and the appointment of Mr. Peddle represents dirty, filthy patronage of the worst sort.

Now if Your Honour wishes to rule on the point of order of course that is something that Your Honour has to do.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): On that point of order since we are on this particular bill, payment regardless of the Ombudsman or other derived from that source so as a result will have to consider the honourable Member for St. Barbe North in order.

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honour, it is White Bay at least until the redistribution. It may or may not include St. Barbe North after the next election. That we will see. But I have largely said what I wanted to say Your Honour. I look forward to the Minister of Justice participating in a debate on the Ombudsman Bill. There is both a bill and a resolution so we will have ample opportunity to debate the matter at some length and I am very much looking forward to it because I think there is a very important principle. The whole integrity of the Ombudsman concept has been destroyed by this announcement by the administration.

But, Sir, to come back to the point I was making before, the government have completely failed to live up to their responsibilities under the supply process. They have either deliberately or by omission pushed through

the estimates without providing any information or without putting their policies to the test. The conclusion must be either that they are so arrogant that they are contemptuous of the House or alternately that they are so completely ill-founded in knowledge that they are unable to defend their policies. But either way, Sir, it has been a lamentable performance. The people of Newfoundland will be the losers.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I realize that we are not going to get into a debate but I simply want to draw to the attention of the committee two things, number one, seventy-five hours were allocated for the debating of these estimates. That is a long time. That is a much longer time than is used in most legislatures with budgets far greater than this, than the budget that is before this House.

I recall when the honourable Donald Jamieson was here a couple of years ago and he was then Minister of Transport, lamenting the fact that it took his estimates, from the Department of Transport and the budget of that department was equal that year to the total budget of this Province, it took them a whole day to debate his estimates in Committee. But the way the Committee works, you know, this is where the information comes out to the public. It is a question and answer.

Now in this particular case and before I go on to that may I draw the Committee's attention to the fact that the day after this House opened, the Legislature of Nova Scotia opened, Their budget is about the same as ours, maybe a little more, but not substantially more. With only two night sessions, and just sitting in the afternoons, they got their budget debate through, a fair amount of legislation, their Address in Reply and they followed their time honoured tradition of adjourning the day before Good Friday. Now are we suggesting that other legislatures -

AN HON. MEMBER: Six weeks is a record though is it not?

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, other legislatures are not competent and they are not disclosing and giving the kind of information? No, Mr. Chairman, it was a very simple formula in arithmetic. We have twenty departments, so

the Opposition decides how much of the seventy-five hours they want to spend. Nobody can accuse anyone on this side of the House of delaying it. There is no honourable gentleman on this side of the House spoke ad nauseam on a minister's salary.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Everyone.

MR. HICKMAN: This was where the - if the honourable gentlemen on the opposite side of the House choose to debate the minister's salary instead of getting down - my recollection is that the honourable the Member for Twillingate drew this to the attention of the Committee - of getting down to getting information, facts. May I also remind honourable gentlemen who have been in this House for a number of years, when the honourable Leader of the Opposition says that he is appalled at the amount of information that was given, I think I can recall the year that I was Minister of Health, the health estimates went through this House - it was a record - in twenty-seven minutes. That was the second largest spending department of that year.

MR. THOMS: That was after the Opposition walked out.

MR. HICKMAN: No, no. The Opposition were in their places. I have seen the whole, and so have the two honourable gentlemen opposite, the estimates go through this House in less than a week. Oh, far less than a week, the whole thing.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: I am not suggesting that is good at all. But, what I am suggesting is that seventy-five hours judiciously used, properly researched can bring before the people of this Province every iota of information, facts, f-a-c-t-s. Not to get up and talk for an hour and a half about what a stupid fellow the minister is, you know, or wander, rave on about districts when that can be talked about in the Address in Reply debate and/or in the budget debate. This is what happened. But, you know, that is not our fault.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, while it is true, Your Honour, that estimates have gone through this honourable House in a week or less, Sir, while that is true, I do not think that is a very great compliment to pay to the Opposition of that day, Sir. The Opposition at that particular time, the one the minister is referring to, just gave up

and seemed to be anxious to get out of the House and wanted the estimates to go through as fast as they could so they could get out for some reason or other. But, Sir, it is certainly no compliment for the Opposition of that day. If I were the minister I would not use that as an example, as a criteria for forcing the estimates through this House as fast as possible.

Under the new rules of this House, Your Honour - now we were told by the honourable the Premier both inside and outside of this honourable House that the estimates would be considered in the main by committees. These committees, Sir, up to this moment have not yet been appointed. We were told, Mr. Chairman, that fourteen days, we were told in December, fourteen days after the House resumed sitting a Public Accounts Committee would be set up. That was a firm commitment, Sir, made by the government, made by the House Leader on the government side, made by the honourable the Premier, fourteen days after the House resumed its new sitting a Public Accounts Committee would be established. I was to be, Mr. Chairman - maybe that is the reason they have not established it because the Leader of the Opposition indicated that both myself and the Member for Hermitage would be the two Opposition members on the committee. I beg your pardon?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Is that so?

MR. NEARY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is so.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, let me go back to what I said again so the minister will not misunderstand me as he usually does and just think of what I am saying. Back in December we were told, the administration made a commitment that a select committee of the House would be appointed within fourteen days after the House resumed its new sitting. Then the government came in -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: A select committee?

MR. NEARY: A Select Committee on Public Accounts, a standing committee, rather - a Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Then the administration came in, Sir, and decided to set up a committee to select the committees. That committee has not yet met to my knowledge. But, there was nothing,

Mr. Chairman, there was nothing in the Standing Rules of the House to stop the government, that administration, from setting up that Standing Committee on Public Accounts. This was just a red herring, a delaying tactic, Sir, that is all it was.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I know what the minister is going to get up and say, it is the Leader of the Opposition's fault because we have not been able to get together. Sir, the Leader of the Opposition - I have not discussed this with him - as far as I am concerned, could not care less. The committee should be set up according to him because the administration promised that it would be set up. Setting up another committee -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition back in December and right up to this very moment, this present day, has told the House and told the Premier and told the Minister of Justice that my colleague, the Member for Hermitage and myself would be the two Opposition members on that committee. Yes, Sir.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No.

MR. NEARY: Well, check the public statements. Check the Hansard. Check the - tell the Leader of the Opposition to come in here for a minute. That is so, Sir.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is not.

MR. NEARY: That my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition has made a statement inside and outside of this House, that my colleague, the Member for Hermitage and myself - and that message has been relayed to the Government House Leader.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Tell the Leader that Chop, Chop is here.

MR. NEARY: Yet, Sir, they have refused to appoint that committee. Why?

MR. WILSON: You were on one before and made a fool of yourself.

MR. NEARY: I was on what before? I was a member, Sir, of one Select Committee of this House that met twice and then we had to - my colleague was the chairman, the Member for Labrador North was the chairman - we had

to abandon the meetings because the government members refused to attend.

MR. REID: That made you happy.

MR. HICKMAN: Ah now, go on. You know better than that, "Steve".

MR. NEARY: No, Sir. I am making a statement of fact. If the minister wants to check it out, he is free to do so. The only one who attended two meetings, I think, was the present Minister of Finance. I think he was the only one. My honourable friend was on and only attended one meeting.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Every meeting. Every meeting.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, I concur with the statements made by my colleague this morning, Sir, that the government were afraid to call the controversial departments first. They called, Sir, the harmless departments first. They called Social Services, and they called Health. But, Mr. Chairman, in the process of doing these harmless departments, the seventy-five hours were used up. Anywhere from fifteen to twenty of these hours, Sir, were used by government ministers.

Mr. Chairman, I claim, Sir, I claim that under the standing rules of this House that ministers' time should not be deducted from the seventy-five hours.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Who is going to answer the questions?

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Who is going to answer the questions?

MR. NEARY: Therein lies the problem, Sir. You ask a minister a question and he filibusters. He takes forty-five minutes to answer your question. Sir, I have put questions to the ministers, I did during the estimates put very, very good questions to some of the ministers, and it took them twenty, twenty-five minutes, forty-five minutes. Then they would sit down and get up again, another forty - Wick said that the ministers took too long to answer their questions.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, ministers' time I think the Committee, Sir, next year should agree that ministers' answers to questions should not be deducted from the seventy-five hours. That, Sir, will not only get support on this side of the House but will be supported, I believe, by

a number of members on the government benches.

Now, Sir, what were the departments that were called last, left until the last in hopes that we would run out of time? What were the departments? Well, Sir, number one was Rural Development, deliberately - Mr. Chairman, do you know that it was virtually impossible for us to find out from day to day what departments of expenditure were going to be debated the next day, that government had no agenda, that we did not know what was going to be debated the next day. There was a deliberate attempt, Sir, on the part of the administration. And God it must be so obvious to people who sit in the galleries, a deliberate attempt, Sir, to force the House to run out of time before we got to Rural Development, for instance, where we could find out, where we could ask the minister for instance if it is true that an honourable gentleman who was defeated in the last election on Bell Island has gotten a second loan from the minister's department to buy a tractor. He already had one from the vocational school, brought it back. Was he given a loan by the minister's department, a second, to go and buy a tractor on the Mainland? These are the kinds of questions we would have liked to put to the Minister of Rural Development.

MR. REID: You can always ask them.

MR. NEARY: We cannot ask them now, Sir, because we have run out of time. That

department, Sir, that department was deliberately left off the list until last in hopes that we would run out of time because the Premier and the House Leader and the government knew that that minister could not stand up to being scrutinized by the Committee. He would have caved in, Sir. He would have foundered, caved in under the strain.

MR. REID: It is still not too late.

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, by leave, I am satisfied to debate the minister's estimates by leave but we cannot do that, Sir. Look, the Minister of Justice, the acting, acting House Leader, the acting, acting Premier now is getting kind of hot under the collar with his colleague and then, Sir, Public Works and Services deliberately left until last. Forestry and Agriculture, everybody in this honourable House knows that the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture could not stand up to being cross-examined, being questioned.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Why did not you do it?

MR. NEARY: Because it was not called, that is why we did not do it.

MR. BARRY: All you had to do was finish the other -

MR. NEARY: Sir, we could not finish them. That was the problem. Provincial Affairs - Wick Collins is right, Sir, that minister could not stand up to scrutiny.

MR. REID: If you did not screw around as much as you are now you could have probably got through every department.

MR. NEARY: And the Minister of Tourism would have went right of his mind, would have went berserk if we started questioning him about some of the goings on in the Department of Tourism, especially as it relates to George McLean. This morning, Sir, for instance, I raised a matter in connection with the minister's department concerning a little publication called Travel News that has been published by George McLean now for going on three years. I understand that it is running into a bit of financial difficulty, that the printers will not release the latest edition which is printed every quarter because Mr. McLean has failed to turn up with the cash to pay for that publication in

advance. What is the minister's reaction to that? The minister goes out looking for information, comes back into the House, tells me when Your Honour was out for a recess and he cannot find out anything about it. He definitely does not know anything about it. Neither does anybody in his department, do not know who authorized it, do not know if it is in trouble, do not know if it should be out now in circulation, or what is happening. These are the kind of questions.

The Norma and Gladys is another thing, Sir, we would have liked, gotten some answers from the minister on. Then, Mr. Chairman, the biggest department of all, the biggest spender was Transportation and Communications. That was deliberately left well down the line, Sir, hoping that we would run out of time.

So, Mr. Chairman, this was a deliberate plot on the part of the administration to leave the weak ministers, not to give us a chance to get at the weak ministers, the ones that the administration know, Sir, had gotten them in trouble before with their foolish public statements and the pronouncements and gotten them in trouble before, Sir, with being unable to defend the spending, the extravagance and the waste in some of their departments. So, Mr. Chairman, the House Leader very skillfully planned the calling of the estimates and then, Sir, when the House Leader did see that we were letting some of the departments go through rather quickly, the motherhood ones, the harmless ones, then what happened, Mr. Chairman? The ministers started getting up and making long winded speeches, filibustering, so that we would not get down to the likes of Rural Development and Public Works and Services and Forestry and Agriculture and Provincial Affairs and Environment and Transportation and Communications.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: No, we did not. No, no, indeed we did not.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Forestry. We did it, did we. But anyway, Sir, this was the plan. We could not get an agenda. So, Sir, I have a couple of

positive, constructive suggestions to make to the Premier and the administration. First of all, appoint your committees, appoint your Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Why not do it? We are entitled to two members. The administration knows who they are going to be. The Leader of the Opposition has told the House, told the people of Newfoundland, told the House Leader. My colleague and I are going to be the members on that -

PREMIER MOORES: Two members from the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Two members from the Opposition. Here we are.

PREMIER MOORES: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Yes, what about him?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. SIMMONS: The only man who has had any experience on this and that is because one of the Premier's spokesmen asked the Opposition, the official Opposition to appoint two, that is why.

MR. NEARY: The House Leader, Sir, -

MR. SIMMONS: Asked many months ago.

MR. NEARY: Sir, the Premier knows who the two members are going to be. They are afraid of that Committee. They are afraid. They are afraid, Sir, that we might get beneath the surface of government revenue and expenditure. We might, for instance, Sir, be able to get the logs of the government aircraft and see who has gone aloft in the last two or three years. We might be able to get the answers to questions that we have been asking in this honourable House. That is what they are afraid of, Sir.

MR. BARRY: We gave you the log -

MR. NEARY: No, they did not give us the log last year, Sir. There has never been a log tabled in this honourable House of the number of people, who they were, where they went and went aloft in government aircraft. It was a deliberate plot, Sir, to protect, to protect the weak-kneed ministers, to protect the incompetent ministers who handle these controversial departments.

PREMIER MOORES: You are rubbing you colleague.

MR. NEARY: On whose colleague?

PREMIER MOORES: The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee last year.

MR. NEARY: The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee last year could not get a quorum to hold a meeting. The government members bycotted it, Sir, and when my colleague, when my colleague wanted to employ the services of Baird and Baird which are very competent chartered accountants, very competent chartered accounting firm here in St. John's, when that was done, when we did manage to squeeze a few dollars out of Treasury Board, my colleague was all set to roll, Sir, we could not get enough members to constitute a quorum. I was there. My colleague was there and I believe the Minister of Finance might have attended two meetings.

Sir, set it up now. The Leader of the Opposition has told the House who the two Opposition members are going to be and who the Chairman of the Committee is going to be. Set it up and let us work during the summer. I am quite prepared, Sir. I will be Chairman of that Committee. There will be no trouble with my attendance I will guarantee you that. We will send for civil servants and we will send for information and we will send for documents and -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You going to be -

MR. NEARY: Chairman of the Committee.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir. That is why the honourable the Premier will not -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Yes.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, does the honourable Premier follow what is going on? My colleague, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It has always been customary. It has always been customary.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, it is customary for the Chairman to be an Opposition member, customary, traditional.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Where?

MR. NEARY: In this honourable House. My colleague and I are the two Opposition members. The Leader of the Opposition indicated I would be the Chairman and that is why, Sir, the Committee has not been set up. They are in deadly fear, deadly fear, Sir, the sting. They are in deadly fear, Sir, that there might be a few exposures.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: (First part inaudible) - in 1975.

MR. NEARY: Is that so? Try us out.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Try us out, Sir. That is why we have not got the Committee because -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: No wonder, Mr. Chairman, you are seeing resignations right, left and centre in the Cabinet. The roof is caving in. She is falling apart. But, Sir, it was a deliberate plot on the part of the administration to protect, to protect these weak ministers and not let us get down to departments where we could ask some very interesting questions and get some facts out to the people of Newfoundland. The Minister of Justice can get up now in his sanctimonious manner as he always does all he likes, Sir, but that is the truth of it. They were afraid. If not, Mr. Chairman, why did they not call Rural Development first? Why did they not call Transportation and Communications, the big spender, the one everybody is interested in? Could the Premier tell us why? Why was not Rural Development called first? We wanted it called first. We indicated to the government House Leader -

PREMIER MOORES: Any of the ones that were called, you did not want called?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, we indicated to the government House Leader, Sir, the order in which we would like to see the departments called. Does the Premier know that?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: And the government House Leader did not follow our recommendation, refused to give us an agenda, would not tell us what was going to be called from day to day, played a cat and mouse game with us and played a cat and mouse game with the people of Newfoundland. That is why, Sir, we did not make better use of the time of the seventy-five hours.

First of all, it was used, most of it or a good bit of it was used up by government ministers.

And in the second place, Sir, we did not, it was not us who set that seventy-five hour time limit. It was the administration, and it was a wrong move. Mr. Chairman, one of the biggest spending departments is Social Services and the Premier will agree with that, one of the biggest spenders, Social Services. It was called, and do you know what happened, Mr. Chairman, when it was called, the minister came in with a nine and one-half page statement written by a civil servant and stood in this House and read it out. Now go and check Hassard and get the tapes and see how long it took me, the member on this side who is shadowing Social Services, how long it took me to dispose of that department. Who took the most time?

MR. MOORES: Why did you speak for forty-five minutes on Education?

MR. NEARY: Sir, the Minister of Education was filibustering and so were all the other ministers filibustering on it. It took us thirteen hours, I think it was, fifteen hours to get through the Education estimates. I do not know whether it was fifteen hours well spent or not. I would say it probably was. But, Sir, we could not get any answers. And the minister every time he stood up spoke for a half an hour, thirty-five minutes, forty-five minutes, other ministers felt that they had to come to his defence. Anywhere from fifteen to twenty hours was used up by ministers trying to defend one another, trying to come to one another's defence and that is wrong, Sir. I do not think that time should be deducted from the seventy-five hours. And I hope next year that the committee will agree in advance so that we can get down to get a dart at ministers like the Minister of Rural Development. That would have been a very interesting department if we had been able to get at it. It would have been revealing. We would have found out -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible). You will not be here next year.

MR. NEARY: Is that so?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: - would have found out about favouritism, patronage, extravagance, waste.

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. HICKMAN: You are embarrassing your own member over there.

MR. NEARY: Embarrassing who?

MR. HICKMAN: The Hon. Member for Labrador North.

MR. NEARY: The member for Labrador North would like to get a dart at that department, too, I am afraid. So, Mr. Chairman, it was not our fault. Maybe we could better plan the time that we had at our disposal. We only had fifty or fifty-five hours at the most. Maybe we could. But I would submit, Sir, that no matter what we did, there was no way we could win.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are admitting that you did not -

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, maybe a few hours, maybe a few hours here and there, but, Mr. Chairman, the point I am trying to make to the committee is that there was no way we could win because if we let the departments go through as we did with Social Services and one or two others, word would go out then to the cabinet to filibuster, to use up the time. Do not let them get down to old conflict of interest's department. Do not let them find out about these big yellow bulldozers and graders and back ditchers.

AN HON. MEMBER: - suicide - but until it happens, you know -

MR. NEARY: The word, Sir -

MR. REID: Keep on talking. You are the best advertiser, the freest advertising I got -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. REID: I will tell you that right now.

MR. NEARY: Well, I wish the minister would go out -

MR. REID: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: I wish the minister would go out and settle up his differences with a certain gentleman in Whitbourne for knocking down his basement. I have been working on that now for the last couple of weeks and I cannot get the minister to move. Even though the minister is covered by insurance and the poor fellow is over there with no basement -

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

MR. NEARY: - the basement knocked down by the minister's bulldozer.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

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

The Hon. Member for Bell Island certainly is not being relevant to the resolution so I would ask him to become relevant.

MR. NEARY: I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, that I did yield to the temptation that time, Sir. I did answer some of the members. But, Sir, these are the real reasons -

MR. REID: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: - these are the real reasons, Sir, that we could not get down to brass tacks and get more information during the estimates. And I hope that after our few remarks this morning, Sir, that that will sink in, that the people who are following this House that they will report to the people of Newfoundland that one of the main reasons that we could not get our teeth into these controversial departments was because they were deliberately kept to the last, the ministers filibustered, and they would not give us a chance to ask questions and give us quick answers, rapid fire, machine gun like action. We could not do that, Sir. Because every time we tried that, if we tried it - we used to meet, Sir, in caucus and revise our strategy. Every day we would say, well, what would be our strategy today? Well, the Minister of Social Services represents a department that only concerns motherhood so we will give him a couple of flicks and let it go through. Well, lo and behold, he comes in with a nine and one-half page statement, thirty-minutes to read out his statement and then in about twenty minutes of questions back and forth, a little bit of cross-examining we let it go through,

No praise for that, Sir. But then when they saw our strategy -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: For instance the Minister of Mines and Energy, Sir, cannot stand in this House and give a simple answer, yes or no to a question. He has to get up and speak for twenty minutes, twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five, forty-five minutes every time.

MR. BARRY: Life is not simple.

MR. NEARY: Even his own members get bored with him.

MR. BARRY: Life is not simple.

MR. NEARY: Life is not simple. The minister is simple.

MR. BARRY: Are you saying that I do not give you information, and I do not give you the answers?

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Chairman, I will tell you what happens, the minister stands up, Sir, -

MR. BARRY: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: - when we put a question -

MR. BARRY: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: - when we put a question, Sir, it was his legal training -

MR. BARRY: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: - with his legal training, Sir, the minister will be evasive, general, vague, never give us a straight from the shoulder - he is trained, the minister is trained that way, he never shoots straight from the hips, give us the yes or no answer, give us the information we want, he has got to get up and bore his colleagues day in and day out. They sit over there yawning and moaning and restless in their seats.

MR. BARRY: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: And why does not the minister realize that?

So, Mr. Chairman, these are the real reasons and not the sanctimonious attitude taken by the Minister of Justice this morning, Sir, that we can put estimates through in a week, and they do it up in Ottawa, but they have the Committee system in Ottawa. That is why they put them through in Ottawa in such a short time. We were promised a Committee system here. There is no evidence of it yet, and apparently the government are afraid to appoint the Committees and set up that Standing Committee on the Public Accounts as we were

promised back in December. And that is the real reason, Sir, we were unable to deal with the estimates the way that we would like to deal with them.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Has yielded I think.

MR. HICKMAN: I will only be one minute. There are just two things; one, Mr. Chairman, may I draw to the attention of the Committee that a Committee was appointed by this House consisting of myself, as Chairman, the Hon. Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations, the Hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Member for Bonavista South, and the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition to prepare and report within twenty days lists of members to compose Standing Committees, and one of these Standing Committees is the Public Accounts Committee. Now I think that all of us would be to blame, I have tried, desperately tried almost every day to try and get a meeting in this Committee, and I cannot find the five members of this Committee - and I was away for one week - in this City, in this Province, in this building at the one time. Now may I announce -

MR. NEARY: But that is your own fault. The Leader of the Opposition has been here.

MR. HICKMAN: Not all of the time. I have talked to - the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition knows very well that I have asked him on several occasions -

MR. NEARY: who our two members are.

MR. HICKMAN: There has got to be a meeting for the Committee to decide, a Committee of five members. May I announce now that tomorrow there will be a meeting of that Committee some time tomorrow, either tomorrow afternoon or tomorrow night. So will the honourable members please take note. And these include not only the Public Accounts Committee but the Government Services Committee, the Social Services Committee, the Committee on Privileges, the Resource Committee, the Standing Orders Committee, etc. And once again may I, you know, I know the Hon. Leader of the Opposition he -

MR. ROBERTS: Not so high now.

MR. HICKMAN: Not the Leader. The Hon. the Leader, the Hon. the Member for Bell Island who stated and I welcome the news and on behalf

of all people of Newfoundland, and in particular the residents of Bell Island and Harbour Main, may I say how pleased I am to welcome the announcement that recently emanated from the pearl lips, the rubv lips of the Hon. the Member for Bell Island that he will be a candidate there in the next election.

MR. MOORES: Hear! Hear!

MR. HICKMAN: The record is clear. I thank him. I congratulate him, it shows -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: - it shows that he is a man of integrity, and a man who is now preapred for a good political fight, and we look forward to seeing the fight of the century in that district.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. HICKMAN: May I simply - when the Hon. Member for Bell Island talks about the public, and the public assessment, may I refer the honourable gentleman to the editorial which appeared in the issue of The Evening Telegram on April 24.

AN HON. MEMBER: Wick Collins.

MR. HICKMAN: Not Wick Collins, the editorial. I do not know who writes their editorial. "We do not know what the Opposition has in mind, but in its handling of the estimates in the House of Assembly it did allow valuable opportunities to slip by for questioning the government on its policies or what is more important its lack of them. Too much time was wasted on long speeches and generalizations that went unreported -

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. HICKMAN: - because they were repetitious.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: We are interested, read it all.

MR. HICKMAN: and merely a rehash of the supposed wrongdoings and weaknesses of the Moores Administration."

MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: ... say about the government. That minister is making a long winded speech.

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MR. CHAIRMAN (DUNPHY): The Clerk is presently checking the citation, but I do believe that the reading of newspaper articles in the House to aide in debate is not permitted.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I will not question your ruling.

MR. NEARY: You are right, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Perhaps I should not say this, Mr. Chairman, because I have no desire to prolong this debate, but the honourable Member for Bell Island has gotten up in defense of the Opposition in his remarks with respect to the way in which the estimates were handled in attempting to explain and justify and shield themselves from the criticism that is coming in from all quarters for their ineptitude in not being able to handle the estimates properly within the seventy-five hour limit.

I am not going to repeat the remarks I made in the budget speech to the effect that seventy-five hours is the longest time since Confederation, but one year, and it is quite adequate time. It is more time than has been allowed before, and it is more time, as I say, since 1949, and it is more time than in Alberta, in Saskatchewan, more time than in Ontario, more time than even in the federal government.

There is one thing I would like to bring to the honourable member's attention because I cannot allow this to go through without pointing it out, because it shows the abysmal ineptitude, incompetence and what have you of the Opposition itself. When the Opposition turns around and says it never had a chance to discuss Rural Development or Tourism or Public Works because this was brought up, everybody would like to hear these items discussed. The fact of the matter remains, Mr. Chairman - I think this should be pointed out - that interim supply was brought before the Committee of Supply, and at that particular time they had an ideal opportunity to have the various departments spin-off and they could have stopped the wheel at any given time for as long as they wanted to and discussed Rural Development, discussed Public Works and discussed all of the departments. So, in effect, these departments came up and in effect, because the honourable members of the Opposition who were over on the other side of the House following somebody and not enquiring into the rules, did not know the rules, did not know how to operate in this House as they ought to be, the people of this Province have been deprived of an examination of the estimates that the people of the Province were entitled to.

So, I would like to bring up the point, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable Member for Bell Island who is very good when he is cornered,

and he is speaking on behalf of the cornered Opposition because the cornered Opposition does not like the criticism it is getting which is justified, when he gets up and says there was filibustering and all the rest of it and these departments were not called, I would like to draw it to the attention of this Committee, that these departments, all of them actually, were called.

If the Opposition had not been so inept, incompetent, leaderless, incapable of really forming an effective unit in this Assembly, they would have realized it and we would have had these departments debated.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. NEARY: There was a gentleman's agreement with the Government House Leader, who unfortunately is not in his seat today, he is in Japan, there was a gentleman's agreement, Sir, that the order in which the departments would be called would be not up to the Opposition but would sort of - we would consult on a day to day basis on the order in which the departments would be called. So, the Government House Leader walsed on his agreement, Sir. Now, I know that we could have -

AN HON. MEMBER: All departments were called as they come.

MR. NEARY: There was a gentleman's agreement, Sir, that interim supply would go through the House without debate. But, Mr. Chairman, now that the government has not acted in good faith, has not lived up to their gentleman's agreement, then the next time interim supply comes in, Sir, - the member is quite right, the member who got the flick out of the cabinet is quite right, that we had the opportunity and we will have it again. I guarantee you this, Sir, that here is one member here who will not grant leave next time around.

AN HON. MEMBER: How about if your leader says you should?

MR. NEARY: I do not care what anybody says, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. NEARY: I do not think my leader will grant leave either.

MR. MARSHALL: You made a mistake in other words.

MR. NEARY: No, we did not make a mistake, Sir. We were acting in good faith. We were given a gentleman's agreement by the Government House Leader, the member who represents Japanese affairs at the moment, taking over

MR. NEARY: from the Minister of Tourism. We were given a gentleman's agreement, Sir, that the departments would be called in, you know, after consultation, in the order in which -

AN HON. MEMBER: They were all called -

MR. NEARY: No, they were not called, Sir, we ran out of time. They were all called under interim supply. But never again, Sir. I have not been in this House for thirteen or fourteen years and be that stunned.

AN HON. MEMBER: Well that is what happened.

MR. NEARY: But never again, Sir, as long as I am a member in this House and as long as that honourable crowd is sitting where they are, will I agree to leave, to let the interim supply bill go through without debate, never again, Sir. Because we will have our chance then next time interim - maybe we will have interim supply before another election is called and then I will be able to get at all these departments that were held back, left down at the bottom of the list, so we could not get at the ministers of these departments.

On motion, Schedule I, Consolidated Fund Services - \$220,000, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule II, Legislature, \$1,708,000, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule III, Executive Council - \$2,182,100, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule IV, Finance - \$6,826,700, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule V, Manpower and Industrial Relations - \$2,441,000, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule VI, Education - \$195,678,800, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule VII, Justice - \$15,881,200, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule VIII, Social Services - \$53,001,700, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule IX, Rehabilitation and Recreation - \$26,630,000, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule X, Health - \$130,411,600, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule XI, Mines and Energy - \$18,284,000, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule XII, Forestry and Agriculture - \$20,252,700, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule XIII, Tourism - \$20,737,400, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule XIV, Fisheries - \$16,445,700, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule XV, Industrial Development - \$2,705,100, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule XVI, Rural Development - \$4,030,700, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule XVII, Transportation and Communication - \$1,948,700, call items carried.

On motion, Schedule XVIII, Public Works and Services - \$47,302,200, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule XIX, Municipal Affairs and Housing - \$42,469,700, all items carried.

On motion, Schedule XX, Provincial Affairs and Environment - \$1,906,800, all items carried.

On motion a bill, "An Act For Granting To Her Majesty Certain Sums Of Money For Defraying Certain Expenses Of The Public Service For The Financial Year Ending The Thirty-First Day Of March One Thousand Nine Hundred And Seventy-Six And For Other Purposes Relating To The Public Service."

On motion clauses (1) and (2) carried.

On motion preamble carried.

On motion title carried.

On motion title to the Resolution carried.

On motion Resolution without amendment, carried.

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 Ways and Means reports having passed the resolution in relation to the granting of supply to Her Majesty and recommends that a bill be introduced to give effect to the same, and ask leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means reports that they have considered the matters to them referred, have passed a resolution in relation to the granting of supply to Her Majesty, recommend that a bill be introduced to give effect to the same, and ask leave to sit again.

On motion report received and adopted. Committee ordered to sit again.

On motion Resolution read a first and second time.

On motion, a bill, "An Act For Granting To Her Majesty Certain Sums Of Money For Defraying Certain Expenses Of The Public Service For The Financial Year Ending The Thrity-First Day Of March One thousand Nine Hundred And Seventy-Six And For Other Purposes Relating To The Public Service " read a first, second and third time, ordered passed and that its title be as on the Order Paper.

MR. HICKMAN: The Address in Reply, Order (1)

MR. SPEAKER: Order (1), the Address in Reply. The honourable the Minister of Justice adjourned the debate on Friday.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I only adjourned the debate because the honourable the gentleman from Labrador North had to leave and he had indicated he was going to be the last speaker and asked if I would keep the debate open until today and did not want it to go to a vote on Friday afternoon. So, I have nothing to say.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Labrador North.

MR. WOODWARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Minister of Justice for doing me the courtesy of allowing the debate not to adjourn and giving me the opportunity to speak. Mr. Speaker, as I stand in my place in the House, this is the third time that I have spoken on the Address in Reply in the Throne Speech debate. Today

I have the same type of frustrations and the same feelings that I had when I first spoke three years ago.

I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure that the people of this Province of Newfoundland and Labrador are indeed concerned, we are concerned with the high rate of unemployment, and we are concerned with the lack of projects that are going to go into effect this summer. I think the big concern of all the people and especially the people who are on unemployment is the fact that are they going to find jobs this coming season or this construction season.

We have gone through the government estimates. Although we see a large amount of expenditures, but the expenditures are largely in areas that are not job creating, the expenditures are in areas such as the increase into the civil service, such as the increase into the number of civil servants who have been brought into jobs in the Province, and also over the last two years we have seen a thirty per cent increase in salaries last year in the civil service and this year we are seeing again another thirty per cent increase.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this indicates that the money has got to come by a way of some type of taxation in order to compensate or pay the civil services in this respect. So I am very concerned, and I am not only concerned about that. I think that, Mr. Speaker, because of the fact that there are so many benefits that are now offered by way of unemployment insurance and by way of other federal programmes that we have seen maybe the level of employment has not increased, the benefits have not increased drastically to the unemployed. But the big concern of the people, as I talk to people throughout this Province, and the big concern of all the people in the Province is, are we going to find jobs this coming season so we can qualify for the unemployment insurance benefits during the Winter.

I think that the time is slipping by. When we think in terms of if there are not sufficient jobs for the number of people who are unemployed, a lot of the people will not be eligible next winter to get the benefits of unemployment insurance. I feel at that time if this is to happen, and there are not sufficient jobs provided for the work force in this Province, that this is the time that we are going to revert back to seeing for the first time, and it can happen this Winter, we are going to see for the first time the poverty, the standard of living slipping away, people not being able to afford to keep their homes in shape, people not being able to afford to cloth their children properly. They will have to revert to the welfare system.

This area is a big concern. I have noticed throughout the Province this year there are more people looking for jobs than every before. My colleague here who is having a small ship, the honourable Member for Twillingate is telling me that there are a number of people looking for work this year. There is also a number of people throughout rural Newfoundland that will not be probably fishing this summer, are looking for seasonal work. If the government programmes are not providing the jobs and they will not qualify, they cannot get the seasonal jobs, will not qualify for unemployment insurance benefits, Mr. Speaker, then we are going to see a lot of people that are going to revert back, not

necessarily back to the days of the dirty 1930's and the Depression, but we have seen it this Winter. I noticed there are a lot of people who are not eligible for unemployment insurance. There are a lot of people throughout this Province who did not qualify because they did not get sufficient work last Summer to qualify for unemployment insurance. These are the areas where we are going to revert back to the type of poverty that we saw in the late 1930's and the early 1940's in this Province.

There is another recourse, Mr. Speaker, that the Newfoundlanders then can again go abroad and seek jobs in other parts of the country, if there are jobs available for them. I do not think that the people in this Province, and I do not think the government of the day, would want to see that happen. We have not seen, Mr. Speaker, we think in terms of the major projects going back to the Liberal administration during the Summer months of the last seven to eight years there was always a number of large construction programmes sufficient to take care of the seasonal workers in the Province. This year, although we have heard some great talk about the beginning of the Lower Churchill and the large hydro development that would employ a number of people, I am to understand, Mr. Speaker, and checking with the people who are actively involved in the consulting work, the government's agents on that project, that we are not looking at any more than sixty or seventy people to be directly employed on that project this coming summer.

Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Mines and Energy is not aware today there are a number of people in the Goose Bay Happy Valley area that moved in, six or seven people who are planning the work load for the summer and I have personally talked to -

MR. BARRY: They are not planning a work load -

MR. WOODWARD: Well, Mr. Speaker, if this is not the case maybe the minister should check with his officials and find out what really is going on. We are led to believe, Mr. Speaker, that this year there will be the same type of work that was carried out last year by the

same people and there will be as many as sixty or seventy people employed on the project.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I recognize the honourable member who is speaking at one of the clock. It now being one of the clock until three of the clock this afternoon.

The House resumed at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! When we adjourned for lunch at 1:00 o'clock the Hon. Member for Labrador North was speaking, and I recognize the Hon. Member for Labrador North.

MR. WOODWARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, before I go on in the debate, I would first like to move an amendment to the debate, and the amendment reads as follows: To amend the motion that the Address in Reply, and seconded by the Member for White Bay North, to amend the motion that the Address in Reply be presented by striking all of the words after that, and replacing them with the following "This House regrets the failure of the government to do those things which they ought to have done and further regrets that they have done those things which they ought not to have done."

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: I suggest it is a good motion, Mr. Speaker, or amendment.

MR. ROBERTS: You are not yielding the floor....

MR. WOODWARD: No.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: The wording of the amendment seems a little vague. There is nothing procedurally wrong with it, and the Chair will accept the amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: Carry on.

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honour to a point of order. It is clearly understood that this is a motion of no confidence by its language is a motion of no confidence, which means that my colleague, among other things, my colleague has unlimited time, so have -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: I would have so.

MR. WOODWARD: 1st. of August to the 1st. of November.

Mr. Speaker, when we recessed for lunch I was speaking on the large percentage of unemployment in the Province. And I mentioned the fact that there is a great concern throughout the Province among the work force that there will not be sufficient jobs this Summer to go around -

MR. CARTER: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not wish to interrupt the honourable gentleman but I did receive word on the way in that his headlights were left on. And since he is speaking there is no other way for me to get this attention other than to get up on a point of order. If he would like to send someone out to turn them off it will probably save his battery.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WOODWARD: If I may, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for St. John's North but that little problem has already been taken care of. But I want to thank him very much for bringing it to my attention and to the attention of the House.

Mr. Speaker, we have now concluded - and I may differ with the Minister of Mines and Energy on the development of Churchill Falls or the Lower Churchill, if you talk in terms of the number of jobs that will be provided this Summer. The people of this Province have been led to believe that this particular programme will employ a number of people in seasonal jobs for a period of five to seven years. In talking with the government's agents, the people who are doing the consulting work, and the preliminary work on the Falls and the sites this year I was led to believe that there will be approximately sixty or seventy jobs provided this Summer.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I may not be right but I am led to believe that contracts, local contracts are now being called for the different phases of work on the Lower Churchill. The only work that is involved on the Lower Churchill, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the erection of a camp site, a causeway to be built across a particular river which is namely, the Penis River.

MR. NEARY: They drill a few holes.

MR. WOODWARD: A few holes will be drilled down stream from the drilling that took place last year. This will involve the employment of sixty or eighty people. Mr. Speaker, that will be the extent of the work on the Lower Churchill Hydro Development site this Summer.

We think in terms of - it was brought to the attention of this House although the honourable Minister of Mines and Resources may not agree, that we have heard from the Minister of Fisheries, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, the Minister of Finance, and we are led to believe, or at least this House has been told, that the financing on the Lower Churchill will not be concluded or finalized before October of this year. So, in that respect, Mr. Speaker, I am led to believe, and indeed the people of Labrador and I suspect the people of the Island portion of the Province are led to believe, that the financing will not be concluded nor the deals made for the financing of the project until October. Then there is little chance of seeing any real construction started this year other than the preliminary work that is going on and which has been financed by the corporation through the means of getting sources or funds from the revenue that is coming in from the Upper Churchill.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Interim financing.

MR. WOODWARD: No, there is no interim financing. There is only a matter of some \$17 million and that is all has been allotted for it. I understand now, Mr. Speaker, that they are siphoning off some of the revenue from the Upper Churchill to help to get started on the Lower Churchill. This is the means whereby this is where the financing for the preliminary work that is going on today is coming from.

Maybe the minister can tell us different, but as I understand it from the sources that are employed by the minister and his government that

this is the case.

MR. BARRY: You have got everything about half right, but everything is half wrong as well.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, then when we think in terms of what is going to happen as far as the second phase of the refinery in Come By Chance, there is nothing, no definite decision has yet been taken as far as the expansion on the Come By Chance refinery. I understand this could probably be delayed further. If we are going into any substantial jobs for this season, Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the people of this Province were looking at the expansion of the refinery and the development of the Lower Churchill.

If this is not the case and those two projects as we understand it now will not be going ahead, then as I understand it there are a number of people throughout this Province who will have to go abroad this Summer to seek employment. Now, this is what I am told. You know, I only believe in what I am told.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Inaudible.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: By who?

MR. WOODWARD: By the people throughout the Province. The government is not saying anything.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: I will repeat, Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the Premier, seeing he just came back to the House and has taken his seat, that I am led to believe and I have been told by the agents of the government that there will be approximately sixty or eighty people this year employed on the construction phase of the Lower Churchill.

Now, maybe the Premier can differ with this. I have known tenders that have been called for small portions of the jobs, such as one causeway across a small river, and the other work that has been called is moving camps and erecting camps. But, there is no real construction work that is going to be started.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: They will drill a few holes down stream.

MR. WOODWARD: They will drill a few holes down stream from where they drilled a few holes last year. Instead of having three holes, they will

probably end up with six holes. If six holes are going to be more beneficial than three, maybe this will give them some indication if they should go ahead with the job or not.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. WOODWARD: But, as we understand it, Mr. Speaker, that is the case and the people in this Province are not relying on jobs that are going to come from the development of the Lower Churchill. I do not see any great government announcements going out and soliciting people to go to work on that project.

MR. WOODWARD: We all know this time in the year, especially May and June when a lot of our seasonal workers are very anxious to go to work and if they do not secure jobs in that period of time then they will more than likely not end up with enough stamps at the end of September or October when the season closes down to qualify for unemployment insurance.

And these are the areas, Mr. Speaker, these are the areas where we will see what is happening, if we do not consider a depression taking place in this Province. If we have to see a percentage of our eligible work force this winter, to go through the winter without getting the benefits of LIP programmes into the communities or getting the benefit of unemployment insurance, they will have no other resort but to go to welfare. And this Province as we will see next Winter if there is not some major works programme we will see a large number of our able bodied men on relief.

Now if that is not a depression, Mr. Speaker, and we are not heading back to the dirty 1930's and the early 1940's then maybe the government can tell me different. But I know now a fair percentage of people in this Province, that their unemployment insurance benefits have run out and they cannot secure jobs. And they are very concerned if they will be able to secure jobs over the summer months.

MR. NEARY: They are going to send them home to Japan.

MR. WOODWARD: So, Mr. Speaker, on the surface as I have said, we are looking at two major programmes and maybe the Premier or his ministers can tell us of some other significant development that is going to put a number of our people into the work force. If there has been the people throughout this Province do not know about it.

Industry today and business is plagued with people looking for jobs. It is the first time for a long period of time that we have had a number of people throughout this Province concerned about getting work. Now maybe we will see the same things that happened in previous years where a number of our work force will be siphoned off into Ontario or into Alberta to get jobs or on the Great Lakes or some other area.

But, Mr. Speaker, these are the problems that we are faced with and I suspect that there is no remedy. The government in the Throne Speech Debate had some platitudes of what was going to happen but then again there is no evidence of it. As has been mentioned in this House, we are going to do a number of things, we are going to get a number of programmes going. When you travel, Mr. Speaker, throughout the Province there is no evidence, that has not surfaced, the people can not see it, and they fail to understand why the government is saying that there will be programmes going when there is no such thing as programmes going.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a very few comments on the fishery. We have had a great set back with the strike and the trawlermen's strike, which no doubt left a lot of our trawlermen - depleted the reserves or resources that they had built up during the three month strike. But, Mr. Speaker, we have not seen anything happening from a provincial point of view other than a Select Committee of this House, once again going throughout this Province and asking the fishermen what is wrong with the fishery, will you tell us what is wrong with the inshore fishery.

Mr. Speaker, I suspect that if one could pay attention to the media over the last couple of year through one means and another, we have probably seen on television at least fifty per cent of our prominent fishermen on one programme or another telling the government, telling the people of this Province, what is wrong with the fishery. We have neglected to pay any attention to what those people are saying and consequently this House has seen fit to put together a select committee to go around and once again, to hear the

same story, Mr. Speaker, the same story over and over again that we have been hearing for the last ten to fifteen years. The people in the Province are getting fed up, as the Labrador people were fed up with people coming around asking questions and being harrassed by commissions, by one person or another. Tell us what is wrong? What have we done wrong? What have we not done? The fishermen in this Province have told the government, they have told the Minister of Fisheries, and what has happened? What has happened, Mr. Speaker, as a result of the trawlermen strike? Once again, the Province, the Department of Fisheries did not have the financial reserves to come to the rescue of the fishermen. So, consequently, once again Ottawa were forced to come in to bail them out. Ottawa again is seeing the problems that are developing and which is largely out of the control of the Provincial Government with regards to the development of the inshore fishery.

So, Ottawa again, Mr. Speaker, have come in with a two and a half cents per pound subsidy on fish just to maintain that level of income for inshore fishermen. But these are not the problems, Mr. Speaker, that are facing our fishermen today, are not the problems of pernetual subsidies. Our people have known subsidies for short periods of time. They have know subsidies for long periods of time. What have we done as a Provincial Government? What has the Provincial Government, the Department of Fisheries of this Province done with regards to fishery?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Burned their boats.

MR. WOODWARD: I do not think they have burned their boats, Mr. -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: That is what they were going to do. I was there.

MR. HEARY: Do not be so foolish, boy!

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: I was there.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WOODWARD: I know areas that are very vital -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WOODWARD: I know areas that are very vital to our fishermen and if there is any lack of regional representation in any department of government it lies with the Department of Fisheries. There are areas of this Province that never ever saw a fisheries officer. We talked in terms of the regional offices that would be distributed throughout the Province, but what has happened to those regional offices? What guidance have the fishermen in those particular areas received from the regional fisheries officer? We have not seen any regional fisheries officers, Mr. Chairman. We have one of the most viable fisheries in Canada today, as I have mentioned in this House on a number of occasions. It can be as valuable as the salmon fishery in British Columbia. But what have we done to develop the salmon and char on the Labrador Coast? As far as this government is concerned the only people, not from the Department of Fisheries, we have retail store managers who have no expertise. You cannot blame them. They are good people. They are good in their own field. They are good at running retail stores. But they are looking after the fisheries. They are charged with the responsibility of developing the fishery which is far out of their field, Mr. Speaker. As a result of that we have not seen from a production point of view, we have not seen any programmes that are offering our fishermen any encouragement to go out and get more fish, neither are we offering them the technique or the technology to go out to produce more fish.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that there -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: I suggest, Mr. Speaker, if we can retail salmon for ten dollars a pound in Denmark and in Sweden and in European countries, that that ten dollars a pound - that we can at least build a viable industry from a production point of view and from a marketing point of view. I just mentioned this morning to the Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation who is responsible for Labrador services the fact that we have some 18,000 or 20,000 pounds of salmon that is sitting in

a refrigerator in Makkovik that have not yet been marketed.

AN HON. MEMBER: What you are saying is you should get \$10.00 a pound for it.

MR. WOODWARD: No, We can get, the industry can get \$10.00 a pound for fresh salmon.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Now, Mr. Speaker, there is a market, there is a very valuable market. Well what are our fishermen getting for that merchantable fish, the salmon and the char? They are merely getting fifty-five to sixty cents a pound. You can go into Montreal in any of the better restaurants in Montreal or Toronto and if you are going to get served char from the Arctic or char from the Labrador Coast it is going to cost you \$4 to \$5 a pound.

MR. MOORES: Will you permit a question?

MR. WOODWARD: Of course, I will.

MR. F. MOORES: I would like to ask the honourable member a question, Mr. Speaker. If we give him the agency - he is very active on the Labrador Coast - if we give the honourable member an agency for salmon will he guarantee to pay the fishermen \$4 to \$5 a pound?

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, I will not say to the Premier that I will pay the fishermen \$4 to \$5 a pound. But what I will say to the Premier that I will pay more than the sixty-five to seventy cents a pound than they are getting today.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: And now, Mr. Speaker, -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: what we are thinking in terms of -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: - now you can treat this subject very lightly.

Mr. Speaker. And regardless of how we look at it we are producing, somewhere off the Labrador Coast, somewhere in the vicinity of 600,000 to 700,000 pounds of salmon and char a year. That is a very viable industry. That industry properly developed, Mr. Speaker, can provide a standard of living for our fishermen that is much higher than what they are receiving today. But what are they getting? No, Mr.

Speaker, it is the curing and the processing methods that we must change, as we must get that fresh salmon and char to the market as soon as it is caught. And the government have not seen fit, Mr. Speaker, to make a study. We have had a number of studies done, as I mentioned in the House last year. We had one, I think our only visitor from the Department of Fisheries who came up to Hopedale with some hare-brained scheme as to - they were going to develop, and they were going to get into the beluga whale.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where?

MR. WOODWARD: Up in Hopedale.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: I do not know what a beluga whale is. But, you know, this is the extent - rather than going in -

MR. NEARY: Go get the Member for Burgeo. He would be a whale, I do not know if he would be the beluga whale or not.

MR. WOODWARD: - rather than going in, Mr. Speaker, and helping the fishermen with the salmon and char - the codfish no longer exists in that part of the coast, but we do have a very viable salmon and char fishery, and if properly promoted and properly developed it can be a worthwhile industry, a very viable industry, a beneficial industry both to the fishermen and this Province. But, Mr. Speaker, as I have said the people who are dealing with that particular industry are not people who have any knowledge of the fishery. The Department of Fisheries have not gotten involved, they are leaving it up to a few civil servants whom they have given the responsibility to. Now, Mr. Speaker, I will say that those civil servants, they are good administrators but they have very little knowledge of developing the fishery.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. WOODWARD: We have a food technologist. A properly smoked number one grade salmon from the kilns in Nain can produce \$10.00 a pound on the European market, Today we are flogging our char for as little as fifty cents to sixty cents a pound.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, I would be more than happy to take on the agency to market the salmon

and char, off the Labrador Coast. I will even go as far as to charter an amphibian aircraft to go in and fly it direct to the market fresh.

MR. MOORES: \$10 a pound.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

AN HON. MEMBER: At \$10 a pound.

MR. WOODWARD: I did not say \$10 a pound, Mr. Speaker, I said there is a market, They are paying for smoked char in Europe, they are paying up to \$10 a pound.

MR. MOORES: Do you mean to say you cannot get the best price?

MR. WOODWARD: So, Mr. Speaker, if the Premier wants to take this thing lightly I suspect that that is his prerogative. But indeed, it is the only fishery in this Province that we can indeed do something with, but what have we done? We have wasted three years. I must admit there was a number of years wasted before but then again, Mr. Speaker, must we go on forever and ever without taking any action. You know, Mr. Speaker, it is immaterial it was twenty-six years, do you not feel it is about time we started now?

MR. MOORES: I agree with you.

MR. WOODWARD: But, Mr. Speaker, the three years have gone and they are past and there has nothing been done. Now we are going into the fourth year, the fourth season and still nothing has happened. And the fishermen are in the same plight as they were twenty years ago. We still have people who we are dealing with that do not know anything about marketing fish, neither do they know anything about catching fish.

Mr. Speaker, when we think in terms of the - I heard this morning that the Minister of Health was resigning from that portfolio. Knowing the Member for Carbonear I felt that was - you know, I liked the person. I thought the honourable member was a very good man. He is indeed a good man.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have seen for the first time in the last fifteen years a cutback in medical services along the Labrador Coast and in Northern Newfoundland. We have asked for an expansion to the nursing station at Nain.

Nain is a very unique community. It is a community that very few people know of in this Province. A number of our people refer to it as Main, instead of Nain. No one has gotten around to pronouncing the word properly. It is a community of ninety per cent Eskimo people and it has got a population of some 800 people. The community has grown from a mere couple of hundred people to about 800 people in the last fifteen to seventeen years, Mr. Speaker.

The hospital facilities that we had in 1957 are the same hospital facilities that we use today. They are very inadequate to say the least. We ask for a mere \$230,000 to help with the expansion of the nursing station in Nain. A large portion of the funds in this respect would come from the federal government, Mr. Speaker, under the federal provincial agreement with regards to native people, but we have been told that that expansion is shelved for this year.

It would have cost the provincial government, when we look in terms of if they are putting up sixty per cent of the cost, about \$180,000, less the fact that they would get a grant of another fifteen per cent, it would cost them less than \$40,000 out of the Provincial Treasury to go ahead with that programme this year.

The medical health

people, the management people of the Grenfell Mission have come to the Premier, they have come to the Minister of Health with no results, Mr. Speaker. The people in Main, when you think in terms of the native people, that is a responsibility of this Province. But as far as funding is concerned, largely all of the funding going into the native communities is shared by the Federal Government. We have a cost sharing programme in the Eskimo, the designated Eskimo communities where the Federal Government is paying 66 and 2/3 of the cost and in the Indian communities they are paying up to ninety per cent of the cost of developing these communities. But the Provincial Government, the Treasury Board, the Minister of Health along with his colleague, the Minister of Finance have not seen fit to improve that medical facility.

There has been a long stream of correspondence both from myself, from the principals in the IGA complaining about the conditions, the rundown condition of the facility but the government have not seen fit to try to improve it. Mr. Speaker, there is another when we think in terms of the Paddon Memorial Hospital in Happy Valley, I understand there will be some improvement and we are very grateful to the Premier for that. We would like to see the programme go ahead this year. We are lead to believe that it will ahead. When you think in terms of the Grenfell Mission as mentioned in the House during the Health estimates asking to cut back on the operating budget by some \$400,000 this year that we are going to see a curtailment in medical services along that coast. This is the first time - we have had a gradual improvement, Mr. Speaker, over the years. We are very happy. This is one of the fields in Labrador that we advance with. We had air ambulance service. We are adding new cottage hospitals or nursing stations but this is the first year that we have seen a cutback and a cutback to the extent of some \$400,000 in operating budget.

Mr. Speaker, during the estimates on education I am sure that the House is aware and indeed a number of people throughout this Province

are aware that a lot of the funding going into education is coming in the Labrador North and the designated communities that we share with the Federal Government that are designated as native communities. In the budget this year we see in excess of \$1 million for capital works on schools. Mr. Speaker, but we do, we do have very serious problems as my colleague, the Member for St. Barbe North has pointed out and listening to the media going back only a couple of, a week ago, we think in terms of a large percentage of our school boards in this Province are going into bankruptcy. Now, Mr. Speaker, what does that say? If our school boards are going into bankruptcy and I know for a fact, I have had the experience, that a number of boards throughout this Province are in debt, in debt not to the government, Mr. Speaker, but in debt to a number of suppliers which is causing hardship on a lot of the local businessmen throughout this Province by not being properly funded by the government to meet their bills. I know for a fact that there is one particular board that has outstanding bills for as much as two years and have not been able to meet their commitment. But the government have not seen fit, Mr. Speaker, to bail them out.

Mr. Speaker, when we think in terms of justice and going back a couple of years ago - it is unfortunate that the Minister of Justice is not in his seat today - we talked in terms of, and the people of the Labrador North and indeed the whole of Labrador have been promised and talked about a correctional institute for native people. I have mentioned in this House when I have spoken the problems that are involved by taking native people out of Labrador and bringing them down and placing them into an environment where they have no means of communication with the people on the outside.

We have in a number of our institutes now here in St. John's, and indeed in some of our federal institutes, we have a number of native people who cannot speak the English language. They cannot communicate with the people in those institutes. We have talked over the last two years - there has been correspondence between myself and the Minister of Justice. There has been correspondence between the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General for Canada.

We had hoped, Mr. Speaker, that we would see a start on such an institute this Summer. But as we see it now there is no evidence of it. The people are again disillusioned and saying, we do not know what will happen. So, we are faced with the same problems that we have been faced with for a number of years. We will bring a number of people out of the North Country. We will place them in an environment that is very strange, no communication, and we will leave them in isolation in our institutes for long periods of time.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, as I have suggested to the Minister of Justice, and the Royal Commission on Labrador also made the recommendation that not only should we have interpreters who can speak the Indian, the Eskimo language in our institutes but we should also have in the community that are served by the R.C.M.P. special constables who can interpret for the police, special native people trained to act as interpreters and serve in the role of special constables.

MR. BARRY: Do they not have these now? I thought they had them in Nain.

MR. WOODWARD: We have one person in Nain, but it is the only community. But, that is not particularly for to serve as an interpreter. The

person in Nain has been used largely as a skidoo driver to take the constable around on skidoo. He has served to operate the boats during the Summertime and that type of thing.

MR. BARRY: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Right. His name is Dick Panic.

MR. BARRY: Are you sure it is the same one?

MR. WOODWARD: I think it is the same one. It is the only one that they do have.

Mr. Speaker, we have brought this and the Royal Commission have brought this to the attention of the government, to the attention of the Minister of Justice, but no action has been taken in this regard. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is not in his seat.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: He is here.

MR. WOODWARD: But, he is just coming back. I was very pleased going back to six months ago, Mr. Speaker, when the minister saw fit to appoint a friend of mine, a personal friend of mine as a regional supervisor for the West Coast of Newfoundland and Labrador to look after the municipalities and to visit frequently the municipalities and to monitor the system of municipal government.

We agreed that there was a great need for such a person or a person plus the staff to do an adequate job. To date, Mr. Speaker, we have not seen that regional supervisor in Labrador. So, Mr. Speaker, I think that if I may suggest to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, maybe we should take it a little bit further. Maybe Corner Brook is not even as close to Goose Bay or Labrador as St. John's. Maybe we should think in terms of establishing a regional office in the Goose Bay-Happy Valley area. You are more accessible to the communities. You have more communications with the communities and indeed I think this would serve a far better purpose.

No doubt that the regional supervisor on the West Coast takes the problems that are close at hand and deals with them first. Maybe the nature of the problems and a number of problems, Mr. Speaker, that that particular gentleman is involved with, maybe it is going to take a long period of time before he sees fit to getting around to deal with the Labrador problem.

MR. PECKFORD: He is going down there this week or sometime soon.

Mr. Woodward:

Well, I suspect that it has been well over six months or maybe longer since the appointment has been made, and he has not made a visit, to my knowledge and to the knowledge of a number of the community councils, Mr. Speaker, that he has not made a visit to Labrador, not to the Goose Bay-Happy Valley area and indeed not to the coastal communities.

Mr. Speaker, we have had a federal-provincial programme going which was considered as a five year programme for a number of communities concerning water and sewerage. This was not under the Department of Municipal Affairs. But I understand that it was shared by the federal government and the Department of Recreation and Rehabilitation. I understand that as a result of the conference that was held on the combined community councils in Hopedale last week that there has been a cutback in that programme of some \$400,000.

So, Mr. Speaker, when you think in terms of the problems that I have brought before this House, I am sure the minister is aware, I am sure the Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation is aware of the problems that we are faced with with regards to having clean, potable water in the Labrador coastal communities. We have had a number of letters from the Department of Health. We have had correspondence from the community councils. We have had recorded a number of cases of one disease and another as a direct result of it. One community had as much as seventy-six cases in one year. And then the government has seen fit - when largely, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before, that most of the funding is coming from the federal government. It is a very large programme. The federal government have seen fit this year to pump into nine designated communities in which we are dealing with native people the sum of \$4.5 million. I am led to believe, Mr. Speaker, I am led to believe that in the government's programme this year that they are not even spending that total amount. I am led to believe that they are budgeting for some \$400,000, and that there will be a half a million dollars forfeited because of the fact that the government and the administration have not got the programmes in place to take advantage of that \$4.5 million.

So, Mr. Speaker, if we are offered money such as the funds that are coming under the federal-provincial agreement and then we do not have the administration, the machinery to set up the programmes, then we have to forfeit the money. We are doing a grave injustice to the communities that have been so neglected over the years, especially the communities in Northern Labrador. I am led to believe that there will be a half a million dollars forfeited out of that federal fund of \$4.5 million.

MR. PECKFORD: What programmes? I do not understand this (Inaudible).

MR. WOODWARD: Well, Mr. Speaker, I suspect that this is one of the cases where we have not had much help over the last few years. We have the minister who is admitting that he does not know of the federal-provincial agreement concerning native people.

AN HON. MEMBER: Which one? Is it the deal just for housing or the deal -

MR. WOODWARD: It is not a deal for housing, Mr. Speaker. It is a programme that is largely involved in the development of the community, both from a municipal point of view, both from an educational point of view and both from a health point of view and both from a housing point of view.

Mr. Speaker, there is \$1 million being spent this year in housing for native people which is coming out of that particular programme. It is quite obvious that the minister is not aware of it and he is dealing with housing and is responsible for housing in this Province.

MR. PECKFORD: I was not saying I was not - on a point of order.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. PECKFORD: I never said I was not aware of the housing programmes for Labrador peoples. I am not aware of this particular agreement of \$4.5 million.

MR. WOODWARD: Is that a point of order, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. PECKFORD: Well, it is a point of clarification.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member rose on a point of order but the Chair submits it was not a valid point of order but a reason for the honourable minister to make a point of clarification.

MR. WOODWARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is quite obvious, Mr. Speaker, when you look around that the ministers are not getting together with their colleagues and they are not fully familiar with the development programmes. As a result of that someone has to suffer and the person that suffers in this respect is the person in the community in Northern Labrador.

MR. BARRY: What are you talking about?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You are flipping your lid.

MR. WOODWARD: I have never flipped my lid and I never have any intentions of flipping my lid, Mr. Speaker. The honourable minister may flip his lid but I will never flip my lid because I am not flipping. So, Mr. Speaker, if that is the case I suggest, I make one suggestion. I attended a meeting of the Federal Provincial Committee that is dealing with native spending. There was not one minister - yes, the Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation came in for a brief period of time - but the Minister of Municipal Affairs was not involved and I will get

back to another very crucial problem, Mr Speaker and when you think in terms of discrimination in this Province maybe we should take another look at the minister and see who is responsible for what particular programme. I am of the belief, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has the total responsibility for housing and municipal affairs in this Province. I may be wrong. But we have seen no evidence of the minister's department in a number of Coastal communities, the reason being, Mr. Speaker, that the Labrador Services Division which is now under Rehabilitation and Recreation is dealing with the development and administering that programme. So the minister and his officials saw fit to wipe their hands clear of the responsibility.

MR. PECKFORD: It is the same way in Ottawa. You have got the Northern Affairs dealing with housing -

MR. WOODWARD: Northern Affairs are not dealing with housing in this Province. Northern Affairs, the Federal Government on the terms of union did not accept the responsibility for native peoples. It is a provincial responsibility and in turn the Federal Government saw fit to do, allocate funds for a number of years. We are getting \$1 million a year. Last year the Federal Government saw fit to pump in \$4.5 million but the minister is not aware of this happening. It is taking place in nine separate communities throughout this Province, nine separate communities throughout the Province.

MR. PECKFORD: I am aware of (Inaudible).

MR. WOODWARD: I suggest you probably contact or have some communications with the Minister of Rehabilitation and Recreation and you will probably learn, Mr. Speaker, that there is funds available.

Mr. Speaker, another very important subject and something that I feel that this government have not been living up to is the fact of Intergovernmental Affairs. We have a situation, I mentioned in this House when I discussed with the minister on his estimates, we have a whole community, the fifth largest community in this Province which

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is the community of Goose Bay-Happy Valley. The people have been waiting for three years to have the land transferred from federal reserves to the crown in order to get on with the development of the community.

This has not been done, Mr. Speaker.

We also have a work force of some 800 people, and come July 1 or June 30, 1976 we could quite conceivably, unless there is some alternate means to maintain the level of the economy, some alternate means other than the withdrawal of the American Air Force in Goose Bay we could conceivably see as many as 700 of those people being without jobs. We depend largely on federal government departments in Labrador due to the fact that we have, I suspect, the only military establishment that is in our Province today. We are heavily involved with transportation and communications, but, Mr. Speaker, we have had - there has not been any communications between the federal people and the provincial people. Now we are not wards of the federal government. We are wards of the provincial government. We are provincial citizens the same as the citizens in St. John's, Corner Brook, Grand Falls, Gander, or what have you, and we deserve, we have the same rights, we deserve the same attention. But we have seen no indication, Mr. Speaker, that there is going to be any improvement with regards to the employment situation, with regards to the economy of Goose Bay-Happy Valley.

The Premier have told me privately, 'Mel' you do not have to worry Goose Bay-Happy Valley is going to be - it is a growth centre. There is going to be a lot of activity. But if those activities do not soon come about and we see some real action, Mr. Speaker, come eighteen months from now you will see a large exodus from the Goose Bay-Happy Valley area. Ninety per cent of the population will be left unemployed. No one has taken any steps, Mr. Speaker, to correct that situation.

We will go a little bit beyond that, Mr. Speaker. And it is unfortunate that the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs is over in Japan. The DREE minister going back to a year and a half ago asked the provincial government if they would enter into a subsidiary agreement with regards to infrastructure, road building, water and sewerage in the Happy Valley-North West River area. As little as a month ago, Mr. Speaker, I sat with the Minister of DREE in North West River when he spoke at a public meeting, and said at that time that he was quite prepared to enter in to a subsidiary

agreement with the province with regards to infrastructure in the Goose Bay-Happy Valley area.

MR. PECKFORD: The problem is it would have to come through (Inaudible).

MR. WOODWARD: No, it has to come through the Province. Up until two weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs has not yet sat down, let alone to negotiate with DREE with regards to such an agreement. He has not yet got around to sitting down.

AN HON. MEMBER: Infrastructure?

MR. WOODWARD: Infrastructure, causeway, water and sewerage, upgrading and building of the road from Goose Bay to North West River. Goose Bay-Happy Valley there are over 12,000 people, the fifth largest community in this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, we have what is considered as an international airport.

MR. COLLINS: Gander.

MR. WOODWARD: No, Mr. Speaker, Gander is no more an international airport than Goose Bay.

MR. COLLINS: The only international airport in Eastern Canada.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. WOODWARD: We have far better facilities at Goose Bay. We have far better weather conditions than Gander ever dreamt of having and I am sure that the minister is quite aware of that.

MR. COLLINS: Nice weather in Goose Bay, yes.

MR. WOODWARD: You are quite aware of that. We have and we are still having, Mr. Speaker, a number of international flights through Goose Bay.

MR. ROBERTS: Prince Philip went through Goose Bay one time.

MR. WOODWARD: Goose Bay is a regular port of call for Prince Philip. He normally goes fishing. He comes in in the Andover with a fishing rod sticking out of the cockpit.

But, Mr. Speaker, what have we seen with regards to the negotiations, the federal government have offered the Province that they would enter, they would have a cost sharing agreement but the Province have not seen fit even to sit down and to negotiate.

Mr. Speaker, we think in terms of Municipal Affairs and Housing, maybe the minister is aware, he appears to be aware of some of the problems that are taking place in the Province. Looking at the Labrador Linerboard operation in Goose Bay, I do not know if the minister is aware of the federal concern, the federal government's concern with regard to a number of studies that they have made in order to make that a viable continuous operation, the wood harvesting in Goose Bay, so that the community can have some stability other than the military economy that we are depending on.

The first thing, the first recommendation of a study that was made by the management consultive group of DREE, came in and spent a substantial amount of money and looked over the first thing, the first recommendation that they made was that in order for that harvesting operation to become a viable operation they must first build in Happy Valley some 500 houses to retain a permanent work force in the community. Know what we received today, Mr. Speaker, I know the Speaker is on the far extreme of the Province, he does not get up to Labrador very often, but Mr. Speaker, we had last year some twenty mobile homes that went into the Goose Bay - Happy Valley area, twenty mobile homes.

There is a big concern for housing. Our Newfoundland people today are not prepared to move away from their families, and neither should they be prepared to move away from their families for long periods of time. There should be housing provided for them. There are jobs available in the woods operation but a number of people from the Island will not come in and leave their families behind in the rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, nothing has been done with regards to providing a housing programme. Twenty mobile homes, when the report, the study is recommending that we make some 500 homes and in this respect we will bring to the industry, to the Labrador Linerboard industry some permanent work force, something that they can depend on, something that will make it viable.

We have had and heard going back to 1971 when the Premier swept through Labrador making promises of a Trans-Labrador Highway.

I understand - now it is three and a half years later, Mr. Speaker, three and a half years later - I understand that the Province along with the Province of Quebec have made a presentation to Ottawa with respect to a Trans-Labrador Highway. That was made going back some two months ago. I have been in continuous contact with the Minister of Transportation and Communication. To date we have not heard anything in respect to if this development will take place.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am very much aware of the cost of a Trans-Labrador Highway. Last year the cost of a Trans-Labrador Highway was estimated to be somewhere around \$500 million. Today you are probably looking at a cost of some \$600 million. But, next year you are looking at a cost of maybe some \$650 to \$700 million. So, when do we make that decision, Mr. Speaker? When do we make that decision? The big problem - I do not think the people of Labrador are looking for an immediate highway, something that they are going to start today and six months from now is going to be completed. People of Labrador are looking for recognition with regards to a highway. The longer we put it off, the more we are going to have to pay.

I feel, Mr. Speaker, a programme of five to seven to ten years to construct that particular highway is maybe the best approach to it. We should take out of this \$100 million highways budget that we have here in this Province, we should take some \$25 to \$30 million for roads in Labrador. Mr. Speaker, we are twenty-five years behind, and we have a lot of catching up to do. We should take some \$20 million. If the government was serious about the Trans-Labrador Highway, they would put some funding in there. They would put in - instead of doing 17.8 miles as I see in the paper today when I was looking at it - the Port au Port Peninsula, a number of other areas. I saw a tender here, of course, paving of approximately 17.8 miles of highway on the Port au Port Peninsula and paving of a highway from George's Brook towards Harcourt, approximately five miles. Twenty-five miles there, Mr. Speaker.

If we could get a mere \$10 million to \$15 million, \$20 million, just a recognition. But, there is nothing. It is excluded from the

budget this year. Last year there was a token vote in the budget of \$100.00.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The federal government is going to...

MR. WOODWARD: We are not wards of the federal government. We have our own government and we are an integral part of this Province. We deserve the same rights and the same road programmes and the same housing programmes as you do here on the Island of Newfoundland. But, this is what we are not getting.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The federal government are paying for it -

MR. WOODWARD: But everything must come from the federal government. It comes via the Province, from the federal government to the people of Labrador, to the people of Newfoundland. That is the way it is structured in.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Do not throw a tantrum now.

MR. WOODWARD: I am not going to throw a tantrum. I can throw a block of ice instead of a tantrum. But, Mr. Speaker, this is the problem. The Minister of Transportation and Communications knows very well how serious this is. He made a presentation. I went to Ottawa. Some friend of mine slipped it underneath the table and said, Mr. Woodward, here is the presentation from the Newfoundland government with respect to a Trans-Labrador Highway. It was a mere seventeen pages of generalities. There were no surveys. There was nothing serious about it.

So, what happens? The minister comes back and the new minister now takes the whole programme. I do not know how much money they spent. They put together another programme. It was a laugh for the Department of Transportation and Communications. It was a laugh for DREF.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Your party was in for twenty-three years but they did nothing.

MR. WOODWARD: I do not care if my party was in for the last 700 years, Mr. Speaker, or the last 1,000 years, we are not thinking about the past. We are thinking about now. We need some action now. We do not need it in twenty-five years. When we see in terms of a provincial budget of some

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\$100 million for roads this year and we are thinking in terms of getting what, in Labrador where we have that land mass of 112,000 square miles versus the 43,000 square miles that we have on the Island when we are blossoming and blooming with wealth that the Province can take advantage of, and we think in terms of 48,000 people, and we think in terms of out of that \$100 million, that we will probably end up this year with less than maybe \$20,000 for road expenditure in the whole of Labrador.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Do you not want federal funds?

MR. WOODWARD:

Mr. Speaker, I cannot go to Ottawa for federal funds. The minister went to Ottawa with his little book of generalities and set it out before the Minister of DREE and they laughed at him. Consequently- how long ago was that? How long ago was that?

MR. ROBERTS: Great plan, was it?

MR. WOODWARD: How long ago was that? When I saw a route, a pencil mark drafted all the way through Quebec down to the North Shore of - or the Straits portion of Labrador, just a mere pencil mark on some map that was taken out of an atlas or some geography or grade eight -

MR. ROBERTS: Should have hired Joe Brown -

MR. WOODWARD: It was an aerial survey. So, Mr. Speaker, what do we have today? What do we have? We do not have a start on the Trans-Labrador Highway. If the government saw fit to say, yes, we will put in even five, ten, fifteen million which is a small portion of the budget. There is nothing that has been spent over the last 200 years. There is nothing that has been spent, but no recognition, there is nothing there.

MR. BARRY: Have you seen the road work that has to be done in connection with Gull Island? Have you looked at that at all?

MR. WOODWARD: Road work in connection with Gull Island.

MR. BARRY: Yes.

MR. WOODWARD: I would like to tell the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. -

MR. BARRY: Energy.

MR. WOODWARD: Mines and Energy, you know, that I have travelled, not only seen the roads from Gull Island, I have travelled the roads from Gull Island and I have travelled the roads, every road on the Upper Churchill project. I, in 1967, made the first haul in the Spring of the year from Esker through to Churchill when there was no road there at that time, Mr. Speaker. I have seen - I made the first haul from the campsite to Sail Lake in the Spring of the year, some sixty-seven miles.

I know what the roads are -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: So what? I do not know anything about it. I know about the road programme that you have. What are the road programmes? To date on the Churchill - Gull Island portion of the road you have let contract for one particular culvert and you withdrew the tender. The price was too high.

MR. BARRY: (First part inaudible) you believe will be done -

MR. WOODWARD: There is nothing else - Mr. Speaker, I do not believe what - I should not say I do not believe what the minister is telling me. Maybe I should believe what the minister is telling me. But it is very difficult for me to believe unless I see. People are not believing anymore. This is what the minister is not understanding. We have been believing for three years. We believe when the Premier went through the Province in 1971 that we would get a start on a Trans-Labrador Highway. We believed then that there would be a start, that next year or the following year. But what have we seen to date, Mr. Speaker? We have not seen any evidence of any construction on a Trans-Labrador Highway.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: We cannot hear you over here.

MR. WOODWARD: We have seen the bulldozers. Well, maybe they will hear me 'Haig' up in Labrador.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: I think I -

MR. ROBERTS: They might hear him, but they cannot understand -

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, this is what we have seen. This is all that we have accomplished. Now, if that is not deceiving people maybe I should not use the word deceiving, Mr. Speaker, but if that is not deceiving people, what is deceiving people? It is a misconception. We are going to do something but it never comes about.

MR. SPEAKER (Dunphy): Order, please! Order, please! The honourable member is using the word deceiving which implies a lie. It is certainly unparliamentary and I ask him to withdraw them.

MR. WOODWARD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be more than happy to withdraw them. I have no reservations about withdrawing. Maybe it is not misconception. Maybe we should refer to it as being misleading, Mr.

Speaker, and I hope that that word is not unparliamentary.

So, Mr. Speaker, we go back to the people. What will the Tory Government go back to the people of Labrador with in the event that there is an election come June or October of next year?

What can they go back to the Labrador people and offer them the same thing over again.

AN HON. MEMBER: - each part of the Trans-Labrador Highway.

MR. WOODWARD: There is no Trans-Labrador Highway.

AN HON. MEMBER: Do not be talking so foolish.

MR. WOODWARD: There is no Trans-Labrador Highway, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WOODWARD: What can -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

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

MR. WOODWARD: What can the Tory Government go back into Labrador with?

MR. NEARY: Nothing.

MR. WOODWARD: Nothing.

MR. HICKEY: (Inaudible).

MR. WOODWARD: Nothing, Mr. Speaker.

While the Minister of Tourism -

MR. ROBERTS: He is going to sail the Norma and Gladys to Nain.

MR. WOODWARD: -is getting ready to sail the Norma and Gladys to Nain knowing - he is going into Makkovik. They are installing refrigerators to pick up that 18,000 to 20,000 pounds of salmon that is sitting in the refrigerator up there.

MR. ROBERTS: We are hiring Joe Brown to sell it, are we?

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, while we are talking, we can go a little bit further. Going back to the last couple of years ago, we had, a courtesy of the federal government, a survey with respect to a park. It is not determined as to what type of park it will be, but it will be a national park, whether it would be a wilderness park or some other type of park. As I understand it, Mr. Speaker, the provincial government was approached and asked to make application for such a park to be located in Labrador. We have not heard - I asked the minister a question in the House the other day, and he said - I never heard of such a park, Mr. Speaker, but he was going to look into it.

MR. HICKEY: That is not true (Inaudible).

MR. WOODWARD: What did you say?

AN HON. MEMBER: Can I tell you now?

MR. WOODWARD: You get me the information.

As I understand it the survey was done. The provincial government was approached and said, look, let us make application, and we are going to have a national park somewhere in Labrador. I think they looked at three to four different sites throughout the Province, or throughout the Labrador. We at one time thought in terms of having it between the Upper Churchill-Happy Valley. Maybe this would provide us with a good road, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. HICKEY: It is a fifty/fifty kind of deal.

But there has been no final decision made on it that is all.

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. Speaker, last year and again this year in the Throne Speech that the Premier had mentioned the Labrador Resource Development Corporation. The Labrador Development Corporation, Mr. Speaker, is a mystery. It has been promised in the last two Throne Speeches but no one has seen any evidence of such a development. No one has seen it. There have been questions asked. The Premier came into the House one day, and it was mentioned in the Throne Speech debate. I asked him where the headquarters for the corporation would be put, and at that time he said, in Cartwright, in Southern Labrador. I went on in the next couple of weeks to try to siphon some information out of the Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation. He informed me that he was not responsible for it. And then in turn he said that the Minister of Industrial Development was responsible. I went on, Mr. Speaker, to find out how the mechanics of the corporation would be set up, where the headquarters would be. People in Labrador are waiting very anxiously for such a development that has been promised for two years. But there is no evidence. This is the Tory Government, Mr. Speaker, all promises but when you go out to look for something you cannot find it. It is not visible.

So, Mr. Speaker, we will get back to the Minister of Mines and Energy. I do not know if the minister read the weekend Telegram. There is a very interesting letter there from a David Lowe with regards to the development of the Lower Churchill. I do not know if the minister had read it or not. Maybe he has or maybe he has not.

Mr. Speaker, when I took my place in this House last year, I said at that time that any development that has taken place in Labrador, the people in the region where the development has taken place should first be consulted.

MR. ROBERTS: David Lowe.

MR. WOODWARD: David Lower is working for

CYC, the Company of Young Canadians. But, Mr. Speaker, I think there is a lot of merit to the letter that Mr. Lowe had in the weekend Telegram. You know what are the results? What are the benefits for Labrador, when one asks himself, what are the benefits? What are Goose Bay - Happy Valley going to benefit by the development of the Lower Churchill? What are the benefits involved? What are the benefits as far as the enticement for industry to that particular area? You know the Government have put the emphasis on the - Before they initially started the development there was a big cry for a transmission line down to the Island of Newfoundland.

I have no quarrel with putting a transmission line down to the Island of Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker. I think in terms of being a fellow Labradorian, a fellow Newfoundlander, I think we should work together. We should be united in the development of the industry. But I do not think that one portion of the Province should rape the benefits at the expense of another portion of the Province, Mr. Speaker. I do not think that is fair. I think that in term of, if there is some inducement to industry as a direct result of that development it should be in the areas where the development is taking place.

MR. BARRY: What do you think of the transmission line to Goose Bay - Happy Valley?

MR. WOODWARD: The transmission line to Goose Bay - Happy Valley is going to provide what, Mr. Speaker? It is going to provide electricity, possibly at a cheaper rate, by the time the development is concluded and if it does, if and when it does go ahead, in five to seven years from now, we may, we just may get a cheaper electrical rate than we are getting today from a diesel power. We just may. There is no guarantee, Mr. Speaker. The government have not come to the people of the Goose Bay - Happy Valley or the Lake Melville area and said, look, we are going to develop this hydro project but you in turn are going to get industry as a direct result of that. We have not heard that. We have never heard that the government is going to sell electricity to Happy Valley - Goose Bay and to industry in the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area cheaper than they are going to provide it in Bishops Falls, Deer Lake, St. John's.

We have not heard that.

MR. BARRY: No, and you will not hear it either as long as I am minister.

MR. WOODWARD: We have not heard that.

MR. ROBERTS: That may not be for a long time "Leo" we are not worried about that.

MR. WOODWARD: We have not heard that.

MR. BARRY: (Inaudible.) same rates in all parts of the Province.

MR. SPEAKER (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. WOODWARD: Why should we pay the cost of a transmission line and a tunnel underneath the Straits of Belle Isle to the extent of some \$500 million, \$600 million, \$700 million.

MR. BARRY: Is this the Liberal policy? Is this the Liberal policy?

MR. ROBERTS: Why do you not get into the debate, "Leo"?

MR. BARRY: Is this the Liberal policy?

MR. ROBERTS: Why do you not get into the debate?

MR. SPEAKER (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. BARRY: This is the Liberal policy.

MR. SPEAKER (DUNPHY): Order, please! I would like to remind certain members both to my right and to my left that when a member is speaking he has the right to be heard in silence. I would like these rules to be obeyed.

MR. WOODWARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good Liberal policy, Mr. Speaker. I will tell you the reason it is good Liberal policy, The fact is that when the transmission line from that hydro site goes into the Island of Newfoundland we are, from a development point of view, if the rate of electricity remains the same, one unified rate, we are at a disadvantage immediately.

MR. BARRY: Why?

MR. WOODWARD: Because of the fact that it is easier for an industry to settle in the Island if they have the same source of power, much easier than settling in Labrador.

MR. BARRY: Why?

MR. WOODWARD: Because of the economic and climatic conditions and the minister is quite aware, Mr. Speaker, I should not, Mr. Speaker, have the interruption from the minister that I am having.

MR. NEARY: Keep quiet.

MR. BARRY: If you can not take the heat do not be in -

MR. WOODWARD: I can take any heat. I can - Mr. Speaker, I do not have any problems, but now the minister may not be aware of this particular problem but I am sure there are a lot of people in Labrador, and there are a lot of people in industry, I think, in the same way - why should you at the source of the energy pay the same price for the industry as if you were involved in the expense of building a transmission line at a cost of some \$500 million, \$600 million, \$700 million.

AN HON. MEMBER: The minister does not care.

MR. WOODWARD: Why should we be penalized?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Why should we be penalized in that respect, Mr. Speaker?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Why should we be penalized?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. WOODWARD: Industry is looking in that same regard, Mr. Speaker. And I suspect that if there is a Liberal policy, any Liberal policy, or any policy of any government that is relating to people should think in terms of developing, putting into the area something that is coming out, and in this case, we are entitled to cheap electricity. We are entitled to cheaper electricity, because we should not be involved in the cost of transmission lines, tunnels and something else. And with this cheap electricity there should be an incentive to offer industry that rate to locate in that particular area.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: Now if the minister -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: I realize - Mr. Speaker -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: - in this House last year -

MR. NEARY: Who is speaking? Name him, Sir. Name him.

MR. SPEAKER (DUNPHY): Order!

MR. WOODWARD: In this House last year, Mr. Speaker, I said to the Minister of Mines and Industry, I said to the Premier, the panic for the development of the Lower Churchill is indeed in order to bring electricity to the Island portion of the Province. That was the government's aim at the time. They were not concerned about developing industry in Labrador, they were not concerned at the time about going in and providing jobs, building smelters to smelt the raw ore that is coming out of there. No, Mr. Speaker, there is no thought given to that. It was a pure political decision so that you could bring the power to the Island to develop industry in Bay D'Espoir, Port au Port or some place else on the Island portion of the Province at the expense of Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, I suspect that things have been relatively smooth. I do not see the people in - we see a number of letters, we see a number of complaints coming out of the area. People are not really upset, I think people are now evaluating as to what we will get, what the people of Labrador, and rightfully so they should, what they will get in return for the development of the hydro. And I suspect, Mr. Speaker, in the event that the government are not prepared to develop some type of policy that relates to the local area, that relates to the people in the area then maybe there are rougher seas ahead. I suspect that there will be rougher seas ahead. I do not think in terms of going in - and the community getting the benefit of a five to seven year construction programme, and after that everything is wiped out, all your incentives are gone, then it is relatively cheap and easy, more attractive for people to relocate industry some place else. I do not think in terms of our people looking at it in that light, Mr. Speaker. I think in terms of our people making it - the government coming and saying, yes we are, we are going to offer cheap electricity to industry that is going to relocate or that will relocate in your particular area, much cheaper, cheaper in terms of some \$500 million to \$600 million over a long period of time. And we should not be saddled with the burden of bearing the cost of that

the information to the minister. But, Mr. Speaker, what is going to happen? What have we seen? Over the last two years we have seen the Pelican drilling off Cartwright in Southern Labrador. How many people from Labrador have been involved in that particular programme? How many people from this Province have gotten jobs in that particular programme, Mr. Speaker? Do you know? I wonder if the minister is aware of the number of people involved? How many jobs did it create for Labradorians?

MR. BARRY: The number of people involved, where? From Labrador?

MR. WOODWARD: From Labrador. How many people were involved? How many?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Not very many?

MR. WOODWARD: How many?

MR. BARRY: I will get the figures for you if you want a copy.

MR. WOODWARD: Do you know how many people were involved, actually employed by Eastcan in the Cartwright area, how many people? One person for the last two years, Mr. Speaker, one Mr. Frank Kelly from Cartwright.

Now, we are going to see the great spin-off that is going to go into the Coastal areas. How many are we going to see, how many people are going to get involved, Mr. Speaker? How many people are going to get involved when we have three ships drilling off the coast? I suspect we will have the same number of people employed. We will probably have one person.

transmission line down to the Island portion of the Province. We should not, Mr. Speaker. We should not. Mr. Speaker, the minister went on, the Premier coming back from the Energy Conference in Ottawa, and saying that we have been offered some funding from Alberta. They would probably throw a few bucks our way to help us in the development of the hydro-electricity in Labrador. Then going on to say that there is a greater potential than the Lower Churchill which we are looking at some 400 to 500 horsepower and going on to develop the other potential rivers in Labrador and looking at it in terms of maybe some 8 million to 10 million horsepower.

Mr. Speaker, I suspect that maybe the Premier and his government should indeed consult with the people in the region, in the area, and at least develop some type of policy that relates to their problems and maybe to give them some insight into what the future holds in store for them. I do not think they should be completely ignored. We had a conference and we will go on beyond that, Mr. Speaker. The attention is focused not only from a provincial point of view, but from a Canadian point of view and also from an international point of view. We have had some great attentions focused on Labrador, not only the hydro potential. We have had some great attention focused on the offshore oil and gas exploration.

Going into the Labrador Coast this year will be four, I understand, three of the most modern self-sufficient, self-contained drilling ships along with another ship that is going to be drilling in the area by the British Petroleum or B.P. Now, Mr. Speaker, I will get directly back to the minister and his department with regards -

MR. BARRY: Two ships with Eastcan, and one with B.P.

MR. WOODWARD: Three with Eastcan as I understand it now. I do not know if they got the - they were looking for the third option on another ship. I do not know if it came about or not. I have all the information. Some of it from the minister's department and more of it coming out of Ottawa, Mr. -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: (Inaudible, pass the information along.

MR. WOODWARD: Yes, and more from people who are actively involved in the industry, and maybe some of the people would be more reluctant to give

It is a great benefit, Mr. Speaker. It is a great benefit to the Coastal community. The minister and his department have seen fit to go to the exploration companies and the concessioners and the people that are drilling and say, look, we do not want you to get involved, we do not want you to hire our people, leave them alone, do not give them jobs.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: That is not true.

MR. WOODWARD: If it is not true it might as well be true, Mr. Speaker. There is no one involved. There is no one involved. There is one person involved and there is no indication that there is going to be more than one person this year. There is no indication that there is going to be more than one person this year, Mr. Speaker, involved in that industry. I have more clues than the minister, Mr. Speaker. You heard the comments that I have been hearing after his sojourn along the Coast. I consider I have a few more clues than the minister. But, Mr. Speaker, you know, if the minister - these are facts, Mr. Speaker. The House knows that they are facts. No one has been told. There is no programme. It is so loose. It is no programme. There is no programme this year. The minister went around with a geologist, his executive assistant, went around with a few visual aids showing a few movies that were made by some company over in Norway telling the people on the Coast, this is what is likely to happen. But it is no programme that is related to the people. That is nothing. The oil companies go into Cartwright, flying in a Canso aircraft. There is a helicopter immediately waiting for them on the wharf. They whip them off to the ship. They bring them back in. They take them in a Canso, fly them into Gander, take them over to France, Callais, I think, the cruiser. So that is the extent. That is the benefit that we are getting from the exploration.

MR. BARRY: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: That is the benefit. But the minister is saying,

oh yes, we are going to see some big development, we are going to see some programme. I would like to see the minister instead of doing that, maybe our people do not have the skills, the trades that suit that particular type of development, Mr. Speaker, but why does not the minister and his government, as I said to the minister, bring in a curriculum into our trade schools. We think the minister is very optimistic about the programme. He thinks there is going to be a number of people employed over the years. Why do we not bring in some sort of a curriculum? I understand that Alberta has got a school that is training the roughnecks, the people who go out in the Arctic on drill rigs and things of that nature. Why do we not take fifty or sixty Newfoundlanders and train them?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: I never got it from you. I got it from one of my spys that work for you. You would not give me that type of information, "Leo". You know the difference of that.

MR. BARRY: Inaudible.

MR. WOODWARD: But, Mr. Speaker, these are the problems. This is what people are waiting to see. Why does the Minister of Mines and Energy not come up and tell us that we are going to have "X" number of jobs. Maybe he is not aware of the programmes that are taking place. What are we going to do with the gas and oil? What are we going to do with it when we discover it? Has the Federal Government worked out a programme, a plan, a feasible, viable plan to bring gas and oil out of the high Arctic? Has this been done? Have we worked out a plan? What benefit? Do we go in? You know, we have not determined what the reserves are. Maybe they are - at a rapid rate of extraction maybe we can deplete the reserves in a period of twenty years. How do we do it? How do we go about doing it? The minister has not commented. What effect is it going to have on the inshore fishermen? How is it going to affect the ecology? How is it going to affect the social, cultural life of the communities and the people?

These are the questions that the people are asking. What has the

minister done? Mr. Speaker, these are the important issues to Newfoundland. We have heard the minister get up on his long-winded spiels in this House. You ask half a question and it takes him forty minutes to answer it. But what are we seeing? Some big, elaborate plans down in the office with nothing in the field, nothing at all. We will go through - I am told and maybe the minister can tell me it is wrong. I am told that it costs the exploration companies for the ships that are going in to drill on the Labrador Coast this year \$150,000 a day. Now, you multiply that by four and then you count the number of days we are going to be involved which could conceivably be anywhere from eighty to 120 days.

That is a substantial amount of money. But you calculate out, Mr. Speaker, the amount of that revenue that is going into Labrador and indeed into this Province, I suspect that we will come up with a measley, maybe, \$8,000 to \$10,000. But the minister feels that the government is doing well, the people are doing well, We will leave well enough alone, Let the people from France, let the exploration companies from Alberta do their thing and let us forget about it. These are the areas I mentioned in the House, Mr. Speaker, the fact that the Newfoundland company, Petroleum Drilling Associates or something like that had applied for some Crown land in the Cartwright area. People in Cartwright are very concerned about the airstrip not going into the community, going some twelve miles away from the community which will serve very little use to the community. They are concerned about that. I would like to bring that to the attention of this House. I think that the minister, in his wisdom, and no doubt that the federal government, along with Eastcan - I have seen correspondence of letters concerning the Cartwright airstrip going to the Minister of Transportation, the Federal Minister of Transportation, Mr. Marchand. I have contacted our own Minister of Transportation and Communications. He suggests that he has received copies of the correspondence but I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the airstrip itself will be of use and benefit to the community, that they will not be put it in some remote isolated area just to serve the rigs for a period of two or three months of the year and then will close it down and will not benefit and serve the community of Cartwright. I hope that the minister in his wisdom will see that that does not happen to the Cartwright people. Even though if they are not getting such benefits as jobs, employment or are not playing a part in the service industry, at least if there are public federal funds or provincial funds going into an airstrip something should be done in that respect.

When we think in terms of Transportation and Communications, Mr. Speaker, going back some three to four years ago, this government had assured the people of Labrador that they would make application to the federal government, and they would assist in the funding of some airstrips

in the remote parts of Labrador. What have we seen to date? Nothing has happened. Three and one-half years has gone by. There is not one airstrip, Mr. Speaker. There is not one airstrip. The people are aware of this. There is not one airstrip. And it was one of the promises of the Tory Administration going back some three and one-half years ago. And what have we seen to date? We have seen the Electoral Boundaries Commission set up. We have seen the distribution of the electoral seats in Labrador, which are considered deplorable and shameful to the people. They have protested to the Premier. They have protested to me, their member. They have protested to everyone they feel that makes sense. We have a seat, the Eagle River seat, Mr. Speaker, that extends from Marys Harbour to Nain, some distance of about 800 miles. It is physically impossible for one member to serve that seat. It only has a population of about 4,700 or 4,800 people. But indeed when you look at the travelling, it will take you at least three weeks just to cover the district if you are going to do it adequately.

So, Mr. Speaker, these are a few points, these are a few promises that the government has made which I want to draw to the attention of this House. We have had - we spent some - I do not know what the final figures were on the Labrador Royal Commission, the Snowden Commission.

It was a big document, some six volumes. I think it was pretty well done. There are some 288 recommendations. I have consulted with people. I am in the process now of corresponding by letter to community councils, to ministers asking them when the particular recommendations are going to be implemented. We have not, Mr. Speaker, seen any results of one recommendation of that Royal Commission. It cost in excess of some, I do not know, we first looked at a half a million dollars. The Commission has been made public now and presented to the government about eighteen months ago. Not one single recommendation have been implemented.

MR. BARRY: Do you have to roar stuck -

MR. WOODWARD: I would like to roar you up to Labrador like a jet whiz, whiz, whiz then maybe you would pay some attention to it. If you cannot stand the heat get out of the kitchen, 'Leo'. Go back to your law practice.

MR. BARRY: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WOODWARD: So, Mr. Speaker, these are the problems that we are faced with when we think in terms of a government that were going to - I was very impressed, maybe very naive. We need one thing in Labrador -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. WOODWARD: - we need a regional system of government.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. WOODWARD: We cannot any longer be operated from remote control from St. John's. We have to bring civil servants, we have to bring responsible people to that portion of the Province in order to give us effective, an effective administration of government. The Moores Administration coming out in their political platform and said we, this government will bring government to the people. Mr. Speaker, if there was a letdown, if there was ever one letdown on the part of an administration I think that vague promise, that promise, that empty promise that they made. I think this is one of the biggest letdowns of the Moores Administration. When you travel throughout Labrador and you see - what do we have in government? We have literally nothing. There is no administration of government, Mr.

Speaker. It has been one big neglect. And I suspect, Mr. Speaker, that when the Premier next goes back to Labrador, which he will no doubt in maybe the next six or eight months, maybe before then, he has to go back within a year and a half - I suggest to the Tory Administration and to the Premier and to his ministers, Mr. Speaker, if they are going to at all delay they should try and make some amends to the people of Labrador, some amends that can rectify, if not now over the next year and a half, maybe some of the vital things that people have been looking for. But what have we seen? We have not seen a minister, we have not seen senior civil servants, they have been in their shells in the Confederation Building with their little planning and priorities. But what have we seen in the rural areas? Absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker.

So I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that a word to the wise - you cannot go back to the same people with the same old empty promises. So if you are planning to go back in the next six or eight months please change your policy. Something, Mr. Speaker - I am very disappointed. I am disappointed. Three and a half years have gone and nothing has been done. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that - and I know that the people of Labrador are very much aware of the neglect, of promises not been kept.

And I hope that if this government is going to carry on in office for a longer period of time, say another six months, a year or a year and a half, that they will see fit to try to implement some of the recommendations of that Royal Commission on Labrador. People of Labrador are expecting it.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to have a few words on the amendment.

Sir, we were all impressed I think with the remarks made by my honourable colleague, the Member for Labrador North, Sir.

MR. BARRY: Who was impressed?

MR. NEARY: We were all impressed with his -

MR. ROWE: We realize you were depressed.

MR. NEARY: - with his -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - with his feeling. We could not help but being impressed, Sir, with the strong feeling that my colleague had about the administration neglecting his constituents in that great land mass of Labrador, Sir, and what my honourable colleague was really saying in effect, Sir, is something that was a part of the philosophy, a part of the ideology of the former Liberal Administration and let me explain to you, Sir, let me tell the House what that philosophy was. I heard the honourable Minister of Tourism make a snide remark during my colleague's speech, when my colleague was accusing him of just taking a pen and drawing a line, showing a road across Labrador, a Trans-Labrador Highway. That was the honourable minister's version of the Trans Labrador Highway, just take a pen and run a line. No surveys, no research, no engineering work done on it. Nothing. Just go up to Ottawa, like writing a letter to Santa Claus, go up and ask him for a handout to build the Trans-Labrador Highway, with a little brief, nothing to back it up, no research, no engineering drawings, nothing. Just a brief asking the Government of Canada to throw in \$600 million or \$700 million into that highway with nothing to back it up. That is what my colleague was saying when he was rudely interrupted by the Minister of Tourism.

But, Sir, what were the other things? What message did this House

pet from what my colleague was saying? Well, Sir, what my colleague was saying was this, that the two great land masses, the Island of Newfoundland and the Mainland part of the Province, Labrador, should be linked. That is a concept, Sir, that was developed twelve, fifteen years ago. It is as plain as the nose on your face. It is as obvious Sir, as day follows night that the two land masses should be linked.

My colleague I think passed out a word of advice or a word of caution that this could not be done overnight, that it had to be done over a period of time, over a period of years. Well, Sir, I think anybody with any common sense will agree that that is so but in the interim, Sir, in the interim period, the Mainland part of the Province should be linked, in my opinion, by surface transportation at two points. Number one, the Island of Newfoundland should be linked with my colleague's District of Labrador North by surface transportation, by ferry, between the Island of Newfoundland and Happy Valley and the Straits of Belle Isle from St. Barbe, down in my other colleague's district, across to Blanc Sablon or across to some place in Newfoundland, should also be linked while we are waiting for the Trans-Labrador Highway because my colleague pointed out, Sir, that there is great urgency in this matter and the Minister of Mines and Energy, who could not seem to grasp what my colleague was saying, should wake up, wise up, Great things, Sir, will happen in the next five or ten years in Labrador. Great things have happened, great things will happen. We are on the verge of a big discovery offshore, as I told the House the other day. It is only a matter of waiting for the drilling to be complete this year when the Premier will take to the television, make the announcement of the big discovery, leave the impression that everybody in Newfoundland is going to become an instant millionaire and then somehow or other, as he said today on radio, tried to say, well here is our record now. We have discovered oil and gas offshore. We have built a few roads. We put in a few feet of water and sewerage. Here is our record. We are prepared to stand on our record.

But, Sir, that oil and gas will be there whether it is NDP, Liberal, Tories, Social Credit.

AN HON. MEMBER: But you would give it away.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir,

we will not give it away no matter what government is here. That gas and oil and any minerals off our coast are going to be there whether the Tories are there or not.

MR. BARRY: You gave away everything else.

MR. NEARY: So, what we have to do, Sir, we have to establish a surface contact at two points, across the Straits of Belle Isle and from the Island of Newfoundland to Happy Valley while we are waiting for the completion of the Trans-Labrador Highway. The Trans-Labrador Highway, Sir, was a concept that was developed years and years ago by the former Liberal Administration. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of presenting in 1968 to the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Transportation and Communications a ten year programme for road building in Newfoundland, not only for road building, Sir, but for all modes of transportation in Newfoundland. Included in that great concept, Sir, was a tunnel underneath the Straits of Belle Isle which would eventually be built, a Trans-Labrador Highway to round out, Sir, our entry into Confederation. This is the only way that Newfoundland can truly become a Province of Canada and enjoy all the benefits of Confederation.

So, what is the concept, Sir, in a nutshell that my colleague outlined for the House today. It is a tunnel, Sir, underneath the Straits of Belle Isle. Not only to bring the transmission line but to transport people and supplies and material back and forth, and a Trans-Labrador Highway, right, Sir, from L'Anse-au-Clair right on across to the Quebec border.

MR. BARRY: What about the higher rates, power rates for the Island as opposed to Labrador? Do you go along with them?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleague on one thing, that that electricity should first of all be used in Labrador if it is feasible and possible to use it there and bring on the surplus to the Island of Newfoundland.

MR. BARRY: I am talking about the higher power rates now. What about the higher power rates?

MR. NEARY: That power, Sir, should be used to try and attract industry -

MR. BARRY: But what about the higher power rates?

MR. NEARY: - to Labrador. Mr. Speaker, it should be used to attract industry to Labrador first. Then the surplus should be sent to the Island of Newfoundland. But, as my colleague pointed out, Mr. Speaker, the big problem in Labrador is transportation. You can only ship out of Labrador for four or five months out of a year. That is where the tunnel comes in, Sir. Even -

MR. BARRY: You agree with the higher power rates.

MR. NEARY: Even, Mr. Speaker, if you connected the Island of Newfoundland at two points to the mainland part of the Province, you could still only ship a few months out of a year. That is not good enough, Sir. If we are going to develop the great resources that are left on the mainland part of this Province in Labrador, then we are going to have to build a Trans-Labrador Highway. Whether or not it is built in stages, Sir, is another matter. But, it would make a lot of sense first of all to build the part of the Trans-Labrador Highway, say leading from L'Anse-au-Clair up to Cartwright, because there is where one of the big developments is going to take place if there is a discovery of gas and oil offshore. It is going to take place in Cartwright.

You have to have rapid transportation, Sir, and move people and equipment and supplies and material in and out at a fairly rapid pace. Then the other big development that will take place will be at Churchill Falls providing, Sir, we can ever get this crowd out so we can get on with the development of the Lower Churchill because it will never be developed, Sir, while this honourable crowd are in power.

Then the other thing is the possible discovery of gas and oil up near Makkovik. This is going to make Happy Valley, Sir, going to make the Goose Bay area a fairly busy spot. But, you cannot do it all by air, Mr. Speaker. My honourable friend was talking today about the housing problem in Labrador. Well, the only way you can get factory built houses in there at the moment, Sir, or the only way you can get mobile homes in there is to put them on the deck of a ship and bring them in,

slow transportation. What you need, Sir, is a big ferry to ferry the heavy equipment and the trucks and the cars and the houses and the mobile homes back and forth. And this should be a part of the planning of this administration. But apparently, Sir, we are not seeing this and I do not blame my colleague for showing the great concern that he has shown in this honourable House today for the neglect of the mainland part of this Province. We are going to have to - Sir, as I see it what should happen in Newfoundland, what should be given top priority in Newfoundland over the next five to ten years, Sir, is first of all completing the road reconstruction and the road paving up the Great Northern Peninsula right up to St. Anthony. Then, Sir, an adequate ferry service across the Straits of Belle Isle for the time being while the tunnel is under construction. And then the commencement of the Trans-Labrador Highway, and at the same time, Sir, the commencement of the Trans-Labrador Highway on the upper end from Happy Valley into Churchill Falls and from Churchill Falls on and then down to connect up with Labrador City and Wabush and then on to the Quebec Border.

Now this is the Liberal concept, Sir. It has been Liberal policy for the last fifteen years.

MR. BARRY: Which way are you going from the Straits to Goose Bay-Happy Valley?

MR. NEARY: Go from the Straits? Go from the Straits up towards Happy Valley?

MR. BARRY: Which way?

MR. NEARY: Well I do not know, Sir, I am not an engineer. I do not know what - I do not know, Sir, if we are going to follow this river or this valley or this, you know.

MR. BARRY: Are you going to under or over the Mealey Mountains?

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, I do not know, that is a job for the engineers to figure out. But, Sir, maybe you have to go through it. I do not know, They did it out West with picks and shovels and when they built the Canadian Pacific Railway. We have come along way since then. But, Sir, there is no evidence whatsoever that any engineering

work has been done on the Trans-Labrador Highway. The only evidence that we have is that a brief was brought up and presented to the Minister of the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion, without any back up material whatsoever, Sir. And so, Mr. Speaker, if the people of this Province ever see fit again to elect a Liberal Administration, a Roberts Administration,

MR. EVANS: Oh, oh, what a line!

MR. NEARY: I can tell this House now, Sir, what the Liberal concept will be when it comes to Labrador - number one priority, complete the paving of the Great Northern Peninsula.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. NEARY: Number two, put an adequate ferry service across the Straits of Belle Isle while a tunnel is being constructed, under the Straits, start the Trans-Labrador Highway at two ends, the lower part down the Straits area and up in the Northern part in the Happy Valley area.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: And at the same time operate a ferry service back and forth between Happy Valley and the Island of Newfoundland. This is the Liberal concept, Sir, always has been -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: -and it will be. I submit, Mr. Speaker, it will be finished, that the great march forward that was started back in 1949 will commence again the moment, Sir, that we have a Liberal Administration here in Newfoundland.

AN HON. MEMBER: You will not get in.

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, what have - the amendment says that this House regrets the failure of the government to do those things which they ought to have done and further regrets that they have done these things which they have not ought to have done. Well, Mr. -

MR. BARRY: Direct yourself to the resolution.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. BARRY: Direct yourself to the resolution.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, that is the amendment.

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Tape 1874 (Afternoon)

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MR. BARRY: All right the amendment.

MR. NEARY: The amendment, Sir, that is what I am directing myself to. Mr. Speaker, what are some of the things that this government ought to have done? Well, Sir, number one, I think

they should have dealt, Sir, with some of the key issues in this Province in the last three years. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the member for St. Barbe North, the other day dealt at some length with the Food Prices Review Board Report. But, Sir, what are the big issues, what are the big issues in Newfoundland in the last three years? What are the issues? Was the issue simply an adoption of an anthem for the Province of Newfoundland? That got to be about the biggest joke of all, Sir, that rates such high priority in this honourable House.

Do you know, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice the other day told us that he was shocked when he suddenly discovered that the anthem, that the Ode to Newfoundland, was not enshrined in legislation. Well how much more shocked, Sir, must he have been when he discovered at the end of last month, by the statistics that were released by Statistics Canada, that 45,000 of his fellow Newfoundlanders had no job and had no hope of getting a job. He did not rush in then with a bill to enshrine that in the laws and the legislation of this Province. And then he rushes in with, An Act Further To Amend The Companies Act and An Act Further To Amend The Summary Jurisdiction Act. It is all very interesting legislation, Sir, but I would submit, Your Honour, it is nothing that would rate or rank priority in this Province at the present time. Every bill, every piece of legislation, every discussion, every debate that has gone on in this honourable House, Sir, in the last three years have been completely unrelated to the problems and the needs of the ordinary people of this Province.

Mr. Speaker, what is the number one problem in Newfoundland at the present time? What is the number one problem, Sir? The number one problem in Newfoundland, Sir, at this very moment and has been for the last three years since the administration took office is the cost of living, inflation. That is not the only number one problem in Newfoundland but in Canada and in North America. That, Sir, is the number one problem. And, Mr. Speaker, have we had any proposals on behalf of the administration, the Tory Government, to deal with our number one problem, which is the cost of living? No, Sir, we

have not. We have had all kinds of foolish legislation. We have wasted more time in the House, Sir, forced to debate issues that have nothing to do with the ordinary people of this Province, that will only make millionaires out of people. We have had more discussion on big wheeling and dealing that the Premier thinks is more important than debating the cost of living in this honourable House. We have punched in more time on foolishness, wasting the time of the House, expensive time of the House at that, and which the taxpayers have to pay for, not coming to grips with the problems of the ordinary people of this Province. And number one on that list, Sir, in my opinion is the cost of living.

Mr. Speaker, back in November, 1974, Beryl Plumtre and the Food Prices Review Board submitted a report to this government and made in public back in November after much bellyaching by the Provincial Minister of Provincial Affairs, who is responsible for Consumer Affairs in this Province, who said that he could not get the report - every other day he was on an open line programme complaining, bellyaching, chawing, lipping off about Mrs. Plumtre not giving the report. Well, Sir, they were given the report back in November, 1974, at a press conference up at the Battery Motel. And I must say, Sir, I was disappointed. I was the only member of the House of Assembly who attended that press conference. I was the only one there to receive the report.

The gentleman from Halifax who presented the report had to come down to Confederation Building and bring it in and give it to the Minister of Provincial Affairs after all his bellyaching about not being able to get the report.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what about that report? Well, Sir, the honourable the Premier up to that time had been trying to con the people of Newfoundland into believing that the cost of living, inflation, the cost of food, the cost of automobiles, the cost of gasoline, the cost of heating fuel was all the responsibility of the Government of Canada. Well, Sir, what a disclosure, what a setback, what a rocking back on his heels the honourable Premier must have gotten if he had read this report that was done after very close scrutiny and very careful research in Newfoundland.

Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that eight out of the ten recommendations in this report fall under provincial jurisdiction, eight out of ten, Sir, and the report has been in the hands of the government since November, 1974, and there is not a single thread of evidence, Sir, that any action has been taken on any of the recommendations of this report that fall under provincial jurisdiction? You know, Mr. Speaker, the honourable the Premier had the gall over the weekend to go out to Grand Falls and get his glib voice on tape again on one of the radio stations, saying that we agree that the big problem in Newfoundland today is the cost of living. We agree and we are concerned about it, and we would like to do something about it. Everybody heard the Premier's glib voice this morning telling us that. He did not say what he was going to do about it. He did not say whether he was going to implement any of the recommendations of this report.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: I am coming to that. No, Sir, the honourable the Premier did not give any hint, any specific details, any information at all of what they were going to do about it apart from saying that they are concerned about it. Well, Sir, we have been trying to get this message across in this honourable House for the last three years, we who sit over here in Opposition who have our fingers on the pulse and know what is going on in this Province, that we have been trying to tell the Premier and the administration, Sir, this for the past three

years. Now, suddenly the Premier has come to the conclusion that it is a matter about which he and his administration should become concerned.

Well, Sir, I will believe the honourable the Premier when I see some of these recommendations that were made in this great report put into effect, when action is taken on some of these recommendations. Then I will believe that the honourable the Premier is concerned. The honourable the Premier has it in his own hands. Beryl Plumptre and the Food Prices Review Board said, Look, Mr. Premier, you are bluffing the people of Newfoundland. Eight out of ten recommendations in our report fall under provincial jurisdiction. So, why do you not clean up your own house? Why do you not put your own house in order before you start pointing the finger at Ottawa?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You do not believe it, do you?

MR. NEARY: Ah, Mr. Speaker, here it is in black and white, and the honourable members, it would be worth their while to get this report and read it. I have had it since November, 1974. I had the first copy that was passed out.

Listen to this, Sir. Listen to this, Sir. The Premier says Ottawa is to blame. Pass the buck to Ottawa. Listen to this, item No. 2, the provincial government should encourage the development of a more integrated and more competitive system of food marketing within Newfoundland, particularly the development of an efficient system of wholesale distribution. The board strongly supports the recommendations of the 1967 Royal Commission on the Economic State and Prospects of Newfoundland and Labrador, (a) the encouragement of voluntary chain groups of retailers to improve purchasing and other marketing functions,

a complementary programme of training for managers and specialists in food marketing.

Item number four, the provincial government again, not the federal government, the provincial, p-r-o-v-i-n-c-i-a-l, provincial government should improve the facilities for the distribution, handling and storage of food throughout the Province. This would require the upgrading of roads on a systematic basis to meet the needs and distribution at all communities, and improve a regional system of storage, including particularly storage with control temperature for perishable goods.

Item number five - recommendation number five - listen to this, the provincial government, not the federal government, Sir, this independent, impartial, non-political report says the provincial government should reassess the potentials of local food production and processing and encourage the expansion of agricultural production.

Listen to this, Sir, item number seven, recommendation number nine. The provincial government should enquire into the marketing of eggs in Newfoundland, especially the margin between producer prices and retail prices.

And listen to this, Sir, the last recommendation, probably the most important one of all. Recommendation number ten, to respond to the strong consumer concerns communicated to the board by residents of the Province it is recommended that consideration be given to the establishment of a separate Ministry of Consumer Affairs in the provincial government.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Sir, what I would suggest is that the Hon. the Premier wipe out five or six government departments that are presently redundant -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. NEARY: - superfluous, that are not worth their salt, that are making this a lame duck government, wipe them out and replace two or three or four of these departments with one Department of Consumer Affairs. You could wipe out, Sir, the Department of Provincial Affairs and Environment, wipe it out, shift Environment over to the Minister

of Mines and Energy, and take the other responsibilities and toss them in with some other department, Sir, Finance, and it would not be missed. You could take the Department of Rehabilitation and Recreation, Sir, and put it back where it was under the Department of Social Services, and it would not be missed. You could take the Intergovernmental Affairs bureaucracy and wipe that out and it would not be missed. And you could take the Department of Forestry and Agriculture, Sir, and put it in with another department of government, it probably would come more efficient, it probably would function better than it is now under that present minister. And you could juggle around, Sir, five or six departments, and instead of creating an additional Department of Consumer Affairs reduce the number of ministers, reduce the number of departments, Sir, and set up as recommended in this Food Price Review Board Report a separate Department of Consumer Affairs and try and implement some of these recommendations of the Food Prices Review Board. That would be something worthwhile for this government to do, Sir, instead of wasting the time of this honourable House on foolishness and trashy legislation, and having the Minister of Mines and Energy come in with a big grandiose scheme to set up another empire, another big crown corporation with \$100,000 a year Chairman and President, and all kinds of expensive board members and expensive employees with posh offices, with wall to wall carpeting, creating another burden for the taxpayers of this Province.

MR. BARRY: Did I do that?

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir, the minister did that in setting up this Power Corporation -

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: - this corporate monster

Sir, that the minister created. It would be far better, Sir, far better if they brought in a move to deal with the cost of living in this Province. Then they would be doing something worthwhile, Sir. I would say the second item of priority, Sir, in this Province is the development of our natural resources, the development of our energy resources. My colleague pointed out to the House today, Sir, that it looked very unlikely that any worthwhile work this year would be undertaken on the Lower Churchill.

But, Sir, it may sound like a pessimistic attitude but it is true, Mr. Speaker, apart from a company in there doing a little bit of drilling, drilling a few holes, testing the soil, and apart from a little upgrading maybe on the road that is already there, the road that already exists, maybe widening it and putting in a few culverts, apart from maybe moving a couple of mobile homes or something like that in there, Sir, that no work of a worthwhile nature will be undertaken this year, Sir, on the Lower Churchill. This is indeed, Sir, a shocker. This is a shocker to the unemployed of this Province who were looking forward to finding a job this coming Summer either on the Lower Churchill or down at Come By Chance, on the expansion of the oil refinery at Come By Chance. Neither one of these projects, Sir, are going to get off the ground this year to any worthwhile extent.

So, Mr. Speaker, all the men in this Province who have been following the construction industry for the last twenty years or so are now facing a hopeless situation. For instance, Mr. Speaker, I am getting word from the new part of my district up in the head of the bay, Harbour Main, that all these men up there, Sir -

MR. DOODY: You will get a message from the head of the bay you will never forget.

MR. NEARY: All these men up there, Sir, are used to working on construction. They work at road work. They are heavy equipment operators. They are riggers, painters, iron workers, steel workers, and carpenters, and construction workers. Well now, Sir, every year since Confederation up to 1972 these men could look forward to finding a job sometime during the Summer on construction. This year, Sir, they tell me they have nothing to look forward to. Some of these men, Sir, who have not been

out of a job since 1949, since the year we went into Confederation, have not worked, Sir, for two or three years. For two or three years they have been unable to find a job. It is getting more difficult all the time. It is very unlikely this year, Sir, that these men will be able to find employment.

The only jobs that are on the go, Sir, so they tell me - I think even if they did not tell me, I was aware of it anyway - the only jobs that are on the go, Sir, are jobs that were started by the former Liberal Administration. The Health Science Complex, the hospital at Carbonear, the engineering building over here at Memorial University, the Lower Churchill, Come By Chance, and a few other projects, Sir, that I cannot think of at the moment, but these are the major ones. Every one of these projects, Mr. Speaker, was started by the former Liberal Administration. All this honourable crowd are doing, Sir, are completing the projects that we started.

Now, I know this may sound like old hat to the House and to the members of the press who are covering the House, but, Sir, it has to be said. It has to be repeated over and over and over again so that the message will filter through. You know, Mr. Speaker, the coverage of this honourable House, Sir, on the CBC in the past few weeks has been absolutely, Sir, deplorable. No fault - I am not blaming it -

I am not going to launch into my attack on the CBC because if I did - I guarantee you the last time it made headlines from here to Vancouver. This time it would really shock them out of their shoes.

AN HON. MEMBER: They are not giving you enough coverage.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, I get my share of coverage. I am not complaining about that. I get my share, Sir. I am not complaining and neither am I blaming the gentleman in the press gallery, Sir, because he does his homework. He is one of the best newsmen in the press gallery.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who are you blaming?

MR. NEARY: I will tell you. I am blaming the producers and the directors. Mr. Speaker, for the last several weeks, Sir, you would swear, Mr. Speaker, according to CBC, none of the rest of the news media, the rest of the news media who are not being paid by the taxpayers of this Province are doing a pretty good job, but the CBC is being paid by the taxpayers of this Province, and you would swear, Mr. Speaker, if you watched the coverage, watched the news, the early news, the early evening news on television and the late news, you would swear that this House did not exist. And do you know what they say? They turn around, the directors and the producers and some of the people who I have talked to over at CBC, and they will say, well there is nothing going on in there. There is nothing for us to report. If some director of Cultural Affairs broke wind, there would be something for them to report, but not the House. They will not report the House. Why? I do not know what they got against the House, Sir. Maybe they are anti-establishment, I do not know.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, as a matter of fact I get more coverage - I will probably get less now - but I get more coverage on CBC probably than any other member of the House and maybe I am not the right one to be talking about this. But it is true, Sir. And the point I am making here is,

and I am using that as an example, that they say, oh, you know, we heard it all before. There is nothing new. It is only a rehash. Well, if it is only a rehash, they have not used it yet. The message has to filter through to the people of this Province, Sir.

MR. BARRY: Filter it through, hire some time.

MR. NEARY: Well, if I had the money, I would, but I understand that CBC is going to get out of commercials. They have on radio and it might be a good idea - well, no, I do not think it would, because then they would not have any boss. They would go hog wild over there then. But, Sir, I want to make it abundantly clear, Mr. Speaker, that my remarks at this point in time are not against the cameraman or against the newsmen who come in here day in and day out, dedicated people trying to report the news to Newfoundland, putting their film together -

AN HON. MEMBER: That is not what you said about CBC a few years ago.

MR. NEARY: What I said about CBC a few years ago, I am saying it about the same people now. The directors and the producers, who are completely out of touch with reality, they do not know what is going on around them.

MR. EVANS: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: They have lost their sense of identity. And that is why, Sir, we have to keep repeating and repeating over and over again what is going on in this honourable House hoping that the hard working member of the CBC in the press gallery will get the odd ten or fifteen seconds on the newscast so that the people of this Province will really know what is going on.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I believe the honourable member's time has expired. If it has not expired, the members of this honourable House are going to expire.

MR. NEARY: That is not a point of order, Mr. Speaker. My time has not expired, Sir.

AN HON. MEMBER: Your time is up, sit down.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I know that they would like for me to shut up and sit down. Mr. Speaker, this crowd seem to be more interested, Sir, appointing their friends and buddies to commissions and to corporations and looking after their friends by giving them high paid jobs. And we saw an example of that today in the House, Sir, with the appointment of a former P.C. candidate, Member of Parliament at one stage, member of this House, I sat in this House with the honourable gentleman, the appointment, Sir, of a P.C. candidate as the Provincial Ombudsman. This, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion is the death blow to any hope that the people of this Province may have had in the Moores Administration, Sir, that they show some real judgment, Sir, in making an appointment that has such terrific importance for every individual in this Province, Sir, especially, Mr. Speaker, those who either run into conflict with the bureaucracy or who disagree with the political party in power. Sir, this has to be the death blow. It is the unkindest cut of all to our people. After the platform on which this honourable crowd campaigned in two elections, Sir, you would expect better from them. I do not know, Mr. Speaker, if they are expecting this defeated political candidate to rise from the ashes of humiliation. I do not know if they expect that to happen to them. And that he be chastened, Sir, by his resurrection by becoming pure and becoming fair

and becoming the type of Ombudsman that an Ombudsman really should be.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is a non-partisan man.

MR. NEARY: The odds against this happening, Mr. Speaker, the odds against this happening are very, very remote indeed. And I would say, Sir, the odds probably are tremendous against this happening. Surely, Mr. Speaker, we can do better for our people. We can see that they get a fair shake, that if we are going to have an Ombudsman in this Province that he would be appointed in an impartial manner. It would be a person who has no affiliation whatsoever with any political party and that he would be a gentleman thoroughly qualified to do the job.

MR. SPEAKER (DUNPHY): The honourable member has, if he would permit, three minutes.

MR. EVANS: Inaudible.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I think that we can do much better in this Province in our appointment of an Ombudsman to pick a gentleman who is more qualified, to pick a man that we are sure will be a champion of the problems of the ordinary people of this Province rather than, Sir, letting this job fall to one of their political hacks.

MR. EVANS: I suppose we could get Vardy back.

MR. SPEAKER (DUNPHY): The honourable Member for Burge-LaPoile.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to make a further speech in this session, or not a major speech at least. But after hearing what I have heard for the last couple of days, especially this so-called amendment that was brought in by the Member for Labrador North, which reminds me of the Anglican Confession, that I grew up in in the Anglican Church when I was a kid, not doing those things we ought to have done and doing those things we ought not to have done. That is pretty cool coming from the bunch across the floor after the twenty-three years that this Province suffered under their administration. They cannot remember that, of course.

And to bring in a motion of non-confidence against this government after the Speech from the Throne that was read in this House in this session and after a presentation of the first \$1 billion budget in the

history of this Province and I have heard remarks from across the floor that this budget was only designed for the rich and all that sort of thing. There are not too many people that I can see in Newfoundland who will not benefit by this budget.

We see provision there for all kinds of road construction, paving this year and also a start is to be made on the development of the Lower Churchill which could be the lifeblood of this Province in years to come and this also, as we have seen, received the sanction of the federal government. They are going to invest heavily into it as well as the great P.C. Government and the great P.C. Premier of Alberta. Therefore, these people know that we have something that is really sound or they would not be investing the money of the Province of Alberta or the Government of Canada.

Today we see the discovery of offshore gas off the Labrador and we have heard some dire predictions over from that side that it is going to be ten, fifteen years, probably never when we will see the development and the brining to shore of these resources. Well, thank God the people who have made these utterances over there are not experts. The experts have predicted that it would be sooner than that and I think any member of this House, regardless of whichever side he sits on, should be praying every night that the sooner this is brought to shore the better it will be for all of our people.

MR. ROBERTS: Would the honourable gentleman permit a question?

MR. EVANS: No. You would not know how to ask it.

I could answer it, but you could not answer it.

This year as I have said there will be major highway programmes. They talked about all they did in the twenty-three years. They had about five miles of goat track built in Burgeo, on the Burgeo Road. Go and see it today and see what is scheduled for this year. The people in Burgeo - I was talking to a member of the Council not long ago, this afternoon, and they are more than proud of what was accomplished last year by this government in regard to building their highway and what is anticipated for this year as well. Next year at the rate we are going Burgeo will be linked up to the rest of Newfoundland.

And this morning I have to remark on the fact that the greatest Minister of Health in my estimation that ever served in this Province announced his intention of retiring from that portfolio. I worked very closely with him and -

MR. NEARY: You used to take his advice too.

MR. SPEAKER (DUNPHY): Order, please!

MR. EVANS: Better than from you. - and the results of his work are already seen in my district, and they will be more apparent with the next year or two. Our medical services have improved enormously from one to two doctors in Channel Hospital or in the town itself up to seven or eight at all times within the last year or two. And there is also \$100,000 set aside in the budget this year for engineering for a new modern hospital in that area. And there are areas in the Province that have been criticising this government, they are not getting it fast enough and all that sort of thing. But when the announcement was made that we were to receive \$100,000 for our engineering for the hospital at Port aux Basques or Channel the people there were really tickled to death with the news. They know that it takes time. They had twenty-three years of getting nothing so they certainly had to know how long it did take them.

As to Education there were a lot of moves made this year. The grant to the University is bigger, student aid has increased. A lot of our young people will be quite happy with that.

There are a few remarks that I would like to address in regard to the fishery. We have heard remarks from across the floor there that to someone who is as conversant with conditions in the fishery as I am that it is sickening. People talk about fishery when they do not know enough to be even a good farmer. I grew up in the fishery, and no doubt there are miles of improvement in regard to the fishery from the days that I knew even when I fished myself. But the fishermen's lot will always be a hard one. You can bring in all of the measures you like to improve conditions and to improve income but it is still a hard, risky life. No doubt the involvement by the federal government which has been declared recently, the additional bonus of two and a half cents per pound to our shore fishery are going to help a lot of our fishermen to realize a better income and it may attract possibly a few more of our younger people into the fishery.

You know this is something that I have found and I never had it driven home to me so seriously until a few years back when the seiners started to come in here from British Columbia. There were a lot of fishermen from British Columbia came in on these boats, some of our own, we have fishermen here in the Province who got on them but at first they were mainly crewed by, well, Nova Scotians and people from the West Coast. I might add that quite a number of the fishermen from the West Coast came out here were Indians, native Indians from British Columbia and there was one expression that I heard from these fishermen, from the West Coast, that would make any of us think. They said, now it is a strange thing. Out on the West Coast where we come from a fisherman is considered one of the most upstanding citizens of the Province. He is looked up to more than anyone else. Down here a fisherman is only thought of as trash. And that was true. A lot of people, I mean, especially if they had

a little bit of education, they thought, well, disgraceful for a man to go fishing. Of course, it was disgraceful to the point -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what that - I am sorry. I do not mean to interrupt the honourable gentleman but we are listening intently to a speech. Someone in the press gallery is broadcasting the latest brawl at the stadium, I think. Could Your Honour direct the Sergeant at Arms to arrest whoever it is and bring him before the bar of the House so we can try him please, Sir?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Yes, get the handcuffs.

MR. EVANS: But -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker -

MR. SPEAKER (Dunphy): That is being taken care of.

MR. ROBERTS: Is it? I mean, if it is being taken care of, Sir, then nothing has happened with respect. Perhaps we could take care some more.

MR. EVANS: But, Mr. Speaker, I might add that most of the degradation of our fishery and the fishermen themselves was a net result of the previous administration. I have mentioned in this House on previous occasions I attended the first convention of fishermen back in 1951 representing the whole Southwest Coast at that time, 1,400 fishermen from Rencontre West to Port aux Basques out of which was spawned the Newfoundland Federation of Fishermen. The great dictator himself got up and stated -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Who is that?

MR. EVANS: Joseph.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Joseph.

MR. EVANS: Smallwood some call him. I call him Dagwood, the comic strip character. But at that time, he said we have 28,000 fishermen here in Newfoundland and our aim is to get 10,000 of them out of the boats immediately. There are too many fishermen. But he said that is only a temporary measure. Then he goes on to say, in two or three years from now when we get our new industries established, you know, the rubber boots he coated with Adler's chocolate and all that sort of thing, when this is completed we will not need any fishermen because there will be two or three jobs for every man in Newfoundland.

He succeeded for a while in almost completely destroying the fishery. Hardly anybody stayed in it and then I think it was in the 1962 election he came up with the grandiose idea, now we are going to bring back the fishery after driving all the men away and destroying the boats and burning them and he says we are going to bring in a \$100 million programme in conjunction with the Federal Government. At that time John Diefenbaker was the Prime Minister of Canada and I wrote him because I had quite a bit of correspondence with him from the time that he took over the leadership of the party up to the present time. He says he has never mentioned anything to me in regard to receiving assistance from the Federal Government at Ottawa in connection with the fishery of Newfoundland. He said the man is just pulling a bluff on the public. Of course, it worked and continued to work until 1971. I think history will speak for itself that it is probably due to the gentleman we now have as Premier of Newfoundland that this was brought about. It took the advent of someone who was a few notches above the average to upset someone who was so firmly entrenched in power as Joe Smallwood was here in Newfoundland, the same as it took someone of Diefenbaker's stature to upset twenty-odd years of Liberal Government in Ottawa.

As I say today, there is a possibility that with the new aid from Ottawa, and if we get a revised system of fishermen's unemployment insurance or something to replace that insurance for the slack periods of the year which will have to be at different periods in different parts of the Island to correspond with the different climatic conditions, I think that our fishery can come back and I cannot help repeating again what I have said here so many times that it will be more contingent upon the destruction of the gill nets in this Province than anything else, because as we have had brought out here previously no doubt the 200 mile limit will be of benefit to us in more ways than one. But that will never bring one more fish into our waters. Our fish breed in our own waters here from the Hamilton Bank on our own bays and,

the gill net has been the main implement of destroying the fishery of this Province. Now, we have heard so much in the last, not this, this is the last amendment so far, but the previous one that was debated here a couple of days ago concerning vandalism in the Province. Well, what do we expect after twenty-three years of being under the vandals who were even more destructive than the vandals who invaded the Roman empire. What they could not take for themselves or scuttle, they gave away. We tried to buy it back.

I do not mind saying that in the case of my own district vandalism is on the decrease. It never was very high.

MR. NEARY: Only when you go down there, then it is on the increase.

MR. EVANS: I will take you down there the next time, Sir, for a football. But, anyhow as far as I can see it the more money that we can spend in recreation in any of our areas the less vandalism we have. I have seen that happen before the Stadium was built even in Port aux Basques. We had a bunch of kids there who were active in sports. They started with hockey. They went on as time passed into baseball, softball and so on. As a matter of fact, we have taken a few cups back to the place where I live in Isle aux Morts. Vandalism, I would say, is almost an unknown word in the community.

I can remember first when I went in the area to live. That was in 1953. It was nothing strange to get up in the morning and you would hear where somebody's store had been broken into the night before. They had probably stole a few cigarettes or a few dollars that were in the till or something like that. But since we got into organized sports in the community and the kids ninety-five per cent of them are in organized sports and they have known what discipline is which a lot of them did not even know anything about in their homes, we have really licked the vandalism problem. Even the place the size of Port aux Basques with about 7,000 people, vandalism is very, very low. The incidence there is almost not worth mentioning.

We have heard so much from across the floor there about this government's inability, the do-nothing government. Go around this Province, go to my district, the one that a fellow like John Cabot found, and see the difference in it today. After this year is over go

and have another look at it, after the programmes that are ongoing this year are completed. They come up with the bright idea every day or so over there demanding an election. Well, you have all heard of the Battle of Armageddon I guess. If there are any survivors left over afterwards, they will tell us about it.

But, for anybody in this Province to think of changing from this government, the best government that was ever in Eastern Canada as far as I am concerned, not only in Newfoundland, for people over there to talk about changing that, and what have they got to offer in return for it. The Leader of the Opposition, every time he opens his mouth he loses 1,000 votes. The only thing I am scared of is if he keeps it up, well the vote will be unanimous for us, unanimous.

I remember one time last year my little grandson, my son Jack's boy was watching television, a Saturday afternoon. Bugs Bunny was on. Jack, my son, turned it over on the other channel and of course here was the Leader of the Opposition, and Michael says, no Daddy, turn on the other Bugs Bunny.

MR. NEARY: And Fred could be the road runner.

MR. EVANS: This is the alternative that is offered to the people of Newfoundland. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if the membership opposite had any regard for the people of this Province and for the taxpayers - they have even gone far enough to say that the taxpayers should finance election expenses and all that sort of thing. God forbid. Because I would suggest that if they ever are confronted with an election within the next year or two or three or whatever it may be under the present leadership they have, that they would come out and say to the Premier, no, Mr. Premier, we will not even oppose you. Go in by acclamation again. And they will save face enormously, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear! Hear! Well said.

MR. NEARY: Will the Premier go down and resign now?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, again honourable members opposite have provoked me into saying a few remarks during the course of the afternoon.

MR. ROBERTS: The Premier cannot even stand the thought of it. He is leaving.

April 28, 1975

Tape 1883 (afternoon)

IB-3

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, I suppose that rarely in the course of human events has so much garbage been spewed out by so few members in such a short time. We started with the honourable Member for Labrador North. The honourable member, I think, showed very clearly how a person can go through life being half right and totally wrong. Because on just about every item that he referred to

in his remarks there was a germ of truth, an element of truth, just distorted, just twisted, just enough to completely change the logical conclusion that one can come to.

The honourable member got off on the Trans-Labrador Highway, suggested that this government has done nothing more than submit a brief to Ottawa. He complained about the brief because it only had fourteen pages. He ignored totally, Mr. Speaker, the facts that have been set out time and time again with respect to the road work that will be an integral and necessary part of the Gull Island Development. Road work that will see -

MR. NEARY: That road is there.

MR. BARRY: Road work that will see improvements, reconstruction of the road between Goose Bay-Happy Valley and the Gull Island site and the road between the Lower Churchill-Gull Island site and the Upper Churchill development. And that in itself, Mr. Speaker, when that road is built, areas will only involve reconstruction, other areas will involve rebuilding, when that is done, Mr. Speaker, anybody who cares to take up a map of Labrador will see -

MR. ROBERTS: What is there to be reconstructed and rebuilt?

MR. BARRY: There will have to be new sections of the road built, I am saying.

MR. ROBERTS: - reconstruction and rebuilt. That is not what he meant.

MR. BARRY: No. No. Reconstruction will be where there is a path or a track now present, building is new construction of areas where there are either gaps at present or the existing road is just totally impassible or totally unacceptable.

But, Mr. Speaker, this Gull Island Development and the necessary road work that will go along with this will see a significant portion of the Trans-Labrador Highway in place and this government, Mr. Speaker, has taken positive measures over the last two years to ensure that this Gull Island project will go ahead. Only several months ago, Mr. Speaker, we received confirmation that the federal government was prepared to back this project and they are aware and they know that an integral part of the project is road construction in Labrador, road construction in Labrador.

MR. NEARY: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: So, Mr. Speaker - that is right, they are only doing the same for Newfoundland - they have not done as much as they have done for Manitoba for example. They have not done as much as they have done for some other provinces.

MR. NEARY: There is nothing new in that.

MR. BARRY: Nothing new in that, but Mr. Speaker, we have reached the stage where the Gull Island project has gotten off the drawing boards. We have reached the stage where the federal government has said this is not just an idea that the province has come with that we are looking at. We have reached the stage where we have received the good housekeeping seal of approval from the federal government, Mr. Speaker, and they have shown that they accept the concept by putting their money where their mouth is and they have committed some \$343 million which with interest during construction, Mr. Speaker, will amount to considerably in excess of \$400 million. But we hope to get further funds from them as well.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is an example of how an honourable member can get up and just by showing part of the picture can leave the completely wrong impression. Also, the honourable member goes on about all these rumours, all this hard information he has gotten through rumours in the Goose Bay-Happy Valley area about the fact that there is only going to be sixty or seventy people employed. Rumours, hearsay, Mr. Speaker, and this is what the honourable member puts forth as hard fact.

I have not seen a letter. I have not had a request from the honourable member with respect to any information concerning

the plans of the corporation for development. The honourable member is obviously not interested in getting the facts and supplying them to this honourable House or to his constituents. He is only interested in attempting to downgrade and downplay this project and the contribution that this government has made to Labrador, to his constituents by getting this project moving. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to go into the details of this project at this time. That will be done very shortly. But I might indicate, Mr. Speaker, that there are two crucial decisions that will have to be made, two crucial periods coming up this year when major contracts will have to be let. We will first have a time in June when we will have to make a decision on what they call the initial project release. Now this initial project release will involve the Province committing itself to considerable numbers of dollars, Mr. Speaker, and this will be done before the final financial package is put into shape, but it will be done on the basis of interim financing. It will be done knowing that the Province is incurring some risk. If for some reason over the next three or four months something happens to prevent the project from going ahead, the Province will be committed to these initial contracts that are necessary and would have to be let in the early Summer in order to avoid losing a full year's construction. But this government is prepared to take that step, Mr. Speaker, and later on in early May, the middle or mid-May, we will be analyzing thoroughly these contracts. We will be analyzing thoroughly the standards of the project at that time with the understanding that by June we will have to make decisions on this initial project release and the letting of some of the major contracts.

The next stage, Mr. Speaker, will be in October, when we will have to make a decision with respect to what is called the final project release. And at that time, Mr. Speaker, it will be all out. There will be contracts then let left, right and centre and the action will be coming hot and heavy and at that stage, Mr. Speaker, the Province will be committed to the project itself, and we will have to make sure that we follow through with this. Now before any decision is made with

respect to the major contracts or the major financing for the project, there will be legislation introduced with respect to authorizing the expenditure of certain numbers of dollars for the project in this coming year. And then probably it will be some time in the next session of this honourable House, whenever that may be, before or after certain public events that may be taking place, it will then be that we will have to look at the total financial package. It may be that the House will have to consider the total package for over the next four to five years that the project will take, or it may be that we will merely proceed on the basis of each year getting approval for an extra or additional so many hundreds of millions to cover that following year's expenditures. The final decision has not been made on that yet, and we cannot make it until we know just how the financial package is going to be put together.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is to give a false impression to this House to say that nothing will be done on the Lower Churchill project this year. That is misleading. That is wrong. That is shamefully inaccurate. The honourable member has nothing on which to base the statements that he has made, nothing except rumour or hearsay. And I challenge him or I challenge any honourable member opposite to rise and deny that.

Mr. Speaker, another point that should be quite clearly brought out, and the challenge should be flung in the teeth of honourable members opposite with respect to this point, and I ask the Hon. Leader of the Opposition as to whether or not he is going to clear the air and tell us whether it is a policy of the Opposition, the Liberal Party of Newfoundland, whether it is their policy to have higher rates for power on the Island of Newfoundland than we have on the Labrador portion of the Province?

Now this government have accepted the policy that there should be uniform rates for electricity for all areas of the Province, uniform rates. But I heard the Hon. Member for Labrador North get up today and submit that there should be higher rates for the Island of Newfoundland than for Labrador. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not deny, I do not deny that certain incentives may be necessary or may be desirable to encourage industry to locate in various parts of our Province, whether it be in Labrador, which because of certain climatic or geographical problems, or whether it be on the Great Northern Peninsula, or whether it be on the Burin Peninsula or on the West Coast, I do not deny that certain incentives may be necessary and desirable. But I submit that those incentives should be considered and applied directly rather than indirectly through power subsidies which can result in the sort of fiasco we saw the previous administration, the Liberal Government, get into with respect to ERCO, where we have millions and millions and millions of dollars, of the dollars coming out of the pockets of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador going into this every year because of that very policy, because of a hidden subsidy on electricity.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, it is this government's policy that any industrial incentives or any subsidies that they be given directly, we can see what is being given, you can see the amounts that are given. We do not subscribe to the idea of given hidden subsidies by way of subsidized electrical rates or anything else. And we ask the Leader of the Opposition and we challenge him to reply and tell us whether this is still the policy of the Liberal Government to give these hidden power subsidies that will likely result in further ERCOs being imposed on this Province. We ask the Liberal Leader of the Opposition whether this is Liberal policy. We ask whether it is Liberal policy to charge higher rates in areas outside of Bay D'Espoir, or outside of Holyrood, to charge greater rates on the Great Northern Peninsula or to charge higher rates on the West Coast of the Province because the customers here are further

removed from the sources of power than are people around the Holyrood thermo plant or around the Bay D'Espoir dam site. Is this the progressive forward looking policy of the Liberal Government? Is this what we can expect if the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and his honourable clique get elected? Mr. Speaker, I submit that the right policy is the policy of this government namely that there should be uniform power rates throughout the entire Province -

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Island, Newfoundland. I withdraw that. I got carried away. I withdraw the phrase clique, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe even honourable crowd should be applied, the honourable members opposite. Is this the policy of honourable members opposite? Is this the policy of the Leader of the Opposition? That we should get away, that we should destroy this policy of having uniform rates and we should get back to giving the people where the power is the immediate benefit?

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, I adjourn the debate seeing that it is getting on to 6:00 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Mines and Energy adjourned the debate, it now being 6:00 o'clock.

MR. BARRY: I believe the motion is in order, Mr. Speaker, I move that the remaining orders of the day do stand deferred and the House at its rising to adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 29, at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: It is moved and seconded that the House do now adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 29, at 3:00 P.M.

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