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MONDAY, JUNE 16, 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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Minister of Health.

HON. R. WELLS (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make reference at this time to the mobile dental clinic which members may have seen outside the Confederation Building. I am particularly pleased to refer to it because the van body was supplied as a gift to the Province by the Lion's Club of Weston, Ontario. The cost of the van body was \$19,000 which, as members will appreciate, is a very significant gift and I should like at this time, formally, to thank them.

The unit was handed over on Saturday past in a little ceremony out there. The total cost of the unit is \$46,000, of which the Province provided \$27,000, namely, the cab and chassis and the dental equipment which is going to be installed this week. As I say, the Lion's Club of Weston Ontario provided the body at a cost of \$19,000. A dentist has been found to provide services in this mobile clinic and the clinic will be, as soon as it is made ready for use, going first to the area of the Codroy Valley to provide mobile dental services. And I certainly wish on behalf of the government and the department to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Lion's Club of Weston Ontario for this valuable gift.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Member for Bonavista South.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the residents of the community of Salvage, the majority of the voters of that community. And they are quite upset in their petition and rightly so. They are protesting the actions of the Terra Nova Integrated School Board. The School Board, just recently, without consultation with the people of the community of Salvage, without my knowledge as the M.H.A. for the area, and without any consultation with departments of government decided to change the school bus system used

in that area. They decided to, without tender call, remove the two smaller type school buses on that route and to replace the two buses by one large 72 passenger bus.

Because the road is a rough gravel road, a dangerous road, and because there are dangerous sections of the road, especially during the winter months, a 72 passenger bus is not safe to use on that road. The parents of the children in Salvage were not consulted, and in conversations with them and through this petition I fully support their protest over this action. I am personally getting fed up with the attitude of school boards in not consulting government, in not consulting the people, in taking action of this type.

For example, in taking this kind of action without tender call to me leaves a big question mark. And the fact that in the same area the same School Board has issued a school bus contract to a School Board member again leads me to believe that it is, in my own personal view, a conflict of interest. That kind of action, to me, is unwarranted of any school board. So I strongly am in favour of this petition. I strongly support it and I am asking that the petition - maybe a bit of a different format this time - maybe a copy can be made and also submitted to a different department than the Department of Education.

The Department of Education, I think, can deal with the School Board matter, but also the fact that the Department of Transportation and Communications was not consulted prior to the decision made by the School Board in putting on the 72 passenger bus and now endangering the lives of all the school children this winter, because that road is not going to be reconstructed this year, as far as I know now, because sufficient funds are not available. And the fact that the road is the same dangerous road now that it was last year when the Department of Transportation and Communications felt then that the school bus system should not be one large bus, the road was not wide enough, it was not upgraded and reconstructed adequately enough to use a 72 passenger bus, and that two small buses should have been used then, The road is the same now and the fact

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that the Transportation and Communications Department was not consulted, I would like to see a different format this time with this petition,

that a copy of the petition, be also tabled and presented to the Department of Transportation and Communications so that two departments can look at this matter. And I would also like to see the minister consult with or to at least correspond with this school board, to question the fact about the issuing of contracts without tender call, number one, and also question the part of school board, executive members of the board who vote on different things in that school board being allowed to have school bus contracts, which I feel, in my view as a member of this Legislature, is a conflict of interest, and I am strongly opposed to it.

So, Mr. Speaker, I move that this petition be tabled in the House of Assembly and be passed along to, in this case, the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for St. Barbe North.

MR. F. B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my colleagues to support the prayer of the petition presented by the Member for Bonavista South, Sir, where the citizens of the Salvage area are protesting the actions of the Terra Nova Integrated School Board in changing the bus system to one large seventy-two passenger bus.

Sir, I think everybody in this House has to agree with the principle that school boards should consult with the government and these people in most, if not all, actions they are going to take regarding the administration of education in their particular area. Sir, I am quite surprised with the member for Bonavista South that he was so very harsh on the school board in question and stated that he was completely fed up with the actions of the school board. Because the honourable member, Sir, should know that in order to have any school bus route changed or modified or instituted it has to be approved by the Director of Bus Transportation in the Department of Education. So presumably, Sir, this has been done with the approval of the Department of Education and with the honourable member's very government that he is a part of.

MR. MORGAN: What about consultation with the people though? That is my problem.

MR. F. ROWE: Well, Sir, the honourable member said that there was no consultation, and he was completely fed up.

Now, Sir, with respect to consultation with the people I might add that the school boards of this Province are in a very difficult financial situation. And as a result of this, Sir, they are in an impossible situation and they are in a constant state of turmoil and they cannot do everything everyday to please the -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I certainly permit the honourable member to speak in support of the prayer of this petition but I have the feeling perhaps that he is now almost entering into a debate on the financial situation of school boards generally in the Province which is not the purpose of speaking specifically to the prayer of this petition.

MR. F. ROWE: Sir, I appreciate your comments, but it costs, you know, finances obviously are related to the whole business of operating school buses or operating any other aspect of the administration of the school board. And as a matter of fact, the running of school buses is a very expensive element, a financial element of the school boards operations. And I was simply stating that the very reason that this change has come about is probably a result of the financial situation of the school board. Sir, with - and I am replying to some of the comments made by the honourable member in the presentation of his petition.

Sir, the obvious solution to improving the situation, if the member is concerned about the danger that exists with a seventy-two passenger bus on that road, the obvious solution is for the Department of Transportation and Communications and this P.C. Administration to improve the very road in question, If that was done the problem would not exist.

MR. MORGAN: Until it is done you still need the two small buses.

MR. F. ROWE: Sir, that is - okay - well it is the government who is responsible, Sir, for improving the roads. It is the government who is responsible for approving this change in the school bus situation in this particular area, and cannot go ahead without approval. So it is up to the government, Sir, in these two

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approval. So it is up to the government, Sir, in these two instances to act.

And, Sir, in closing, in support of this petition,

the Hon. Member for Bonavista South said that he was shocked and horrified over the fact that tenders were not called for this particular contract. Tenders were not called. Sir, about the only reaction that I can have to that is that the school board is probably following the example of the government in this instance.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Education.

HON. G. OTTENHEIMER (Minister of Education): Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak briefly with respect to the petition. I think honourable members know, and it is obviously true that the school boards and indeed all groups, private and public in the Province, are in a very difficult position. That is true of school boards, it is true of hospital boards, and it is true of municipal boards and it is true of all. I think it should be realized as well, of course, that people on school boards throughout this Province, several hundred serve without any pay, without any remuneration, and they perform a very valuable public service. Frequently they are criticized and that is obvious too because any, if you wish, decision making body, any group with responsibility sometimes and certainly sometimes have to do things which cannot meet with universal agreement. I think that is a fact of life. But I do wish to point out that there are some provinces where school trustees, as they are called, are in fact paid. And we have several hundred people in this Province who are contributing their time and their effort and their interest in a very necessary and important function.

Now with respect to the specific mention, specific items referred to by the honourable member presenting the petition, the law does require that tenders be called for new contracts. Certainly any alleged conflict of interest would be quite improper and the law does require approval and certain safety measures. And all I can say with respect to those particular items is that certainly I shall undertake to be sure that the law has been complied with, that the law and the policy of the department have been complied with with respect to the safety factor, with respect to the calling of tenders and with respect to conflict of interest. Until I have done that obviously there would be nothing further I could say.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any other petitions?

The Hon. Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I want to present a petition, Sir, on behalf of over 300 residents of Whitbourne who are complaining about the increase in the town service fee in that community, Sir, from \$10 to \$30 per annum.

The general theme of the petition, Sir, is that the residents are not complaining about the council trying to get revenue but they are pointing out that this does create a hardship for people who are on old age pensions and other people in the community with low incomes, who have a limited income, especially the old age pensioners, and you might say that this petition is being presented solely on behalf of the old age pensioners in the community who say that if they had to pay \$30 a year it is going to create a severe hardship to them.

Now, Sir, I have to be honest with the House. This petition was given to the Minister of Rural Development several months ago to present in this honourable House. For some reason or other the minister has refused to present the petition. And the petition that I am presenting today, Sir, is a copy of the petition that should have been presented by the Minister of Rural Development -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - because he refused -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I shall permit the honourable member to continue, but he has just said that the petition he is presenting is really a copy and as such the Chair cannot accept a copy of a petition. It has to be an original.

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, I do not know why the Minister of Rural Development has refused but the people have asked me, Sir, on their behalf to present the petition, and I am very pleased to do so, Sir.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: If I do not present it -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - Mr. Speaker, it will never be presented.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The Chair is not prepared to accept a copy of a petition. It has to be the original.

MR. NEARY: Well I would like to table this copy, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member cannot table a copy of a petition. It has to be the original.

MR. NEARY: Well what can I do with it, Mr. Speaker? I will take Your Honour's guidance. I have the copy of the petition, Sir. I have been asked to table it and what can I do, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair has ruled that the honourable member cannot table a copy of a petition. It has to be the original. So I guess the honourable member cannot table -

MR. ROBERTS: If the minister will not, the people are cut off!

MR. NEARY: Is there any way we can force the minister to present the petition, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: That, of course, is not for the Chair to decide on.

MR. NEARY: All right, I thank Your Honour.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. CROSBIE: The Minister of Rural Development is not here, and I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that these statements should be allowed to go unchallenged. The gentleman has adopted the cowardly tactic of making these statements and trying to present a copy of a petition when the Minister of Rural Development is not here.

It is an unheard of breach of ethics, if a breach of nothing else. It is a breach of ethics of the members of this House for a member to do this when another member is not in his place.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, to that point of order, if I might.

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

MR. ROBERTS: It is to be regretted that the Minister of Fisheries as usual is being intemperate and so forth in raising his points of order. My colleague, the member for Bell Island, has three times gone to see the Minister of Rural Development to ask him when he will be presenting the petition. The minister, each time, has not answered. And I might point out that the minister has yet to be in the House this session. If there is any cowardice involved, Sir, it is on the part of the Minister of Rural Development who has consistently refused, over a period of two or three months, to present a petition in this House. And my colleague raised the matter here. Your Honour has ruled that he cannot present it. Well that is that. But he raised it only because the minister had refused despite three, Sir, private requests over a period of weeks to the Minister of Rural Development who apparently has not even got the courtesy to present the petition. If he feels that he could not support it, it is in order to present one and then indicate one's feelings on it. But the Hon. Minister of Rural Development would not even do that, Sir. So it is anything but cowardly of my honourable friend, he has followed the only course he could, and I submit that there is no point of order, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The matter, of course, whether the Hon. Member for Bell Island has conferred privately with the Hon. Minister of Rural Development is a matter between these two honourable members and not really for the concern itself of the Chair. The matter of the hon. Member for Bell Island's remarks re the honourable minister not being in his place, the Chair can really see nothing in a sense procedurally wrong with it. I am not saying that it is not in order procedurally but it may have been better if the honourable member waited until the honourable minister was in his

seat. But that perhaps is not for the Chair to decide on either. So I do not particularly think that the Hon. Member for Bell Island's remarks were unparliamentary.

ORAL QUESTIONS:

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Mines and Energy, Sir, would tell the House if the Newfoundland and Labrador Power Corporation is going to rent additional space in Montreal and employ 150 or 300 Mainlanders in that office rather than establish the office here in Newfoundland and employ Newfoundlanders?

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

HON. L. BARRY (Minister of Mines and Energy): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the rental of any additional space. I will take notice of that question and attempt to obtain information, if any such thing is happening. I think what the honourable member may be referring to is - I have noticed a couple of items in the press over the last couple of weeks. It may be to this that the honourable member is referring, items to the effect that a number of the consultants or employees of consultants who are involved with the Gull Island project may be operating out of Montreal. I will take a look at that and find out. It is a problem, Mr. Speaker, with this project because of the magnitude, the scope of the project. It is going to be a problem in ensuring that as many of the - and here I am not talking about the normal skills or normal trades that are available in the Province. I am talking about the specialist skills, the specialist trades as they are involved in a large hydro electric project. There are problems in ensuring that the policy of government is carried out. And that policy is, of course, that every job, every single possible job flowing from the Lower Churchill Development that can be carried out within the Province by Newfoundlanders is carried out within the Province by Newfoundlanders. But there is a difficulty in enforcing that policy when on the other side you have the suggestions being made that for the sake of efficiency, and that translates into for the sake of reducing the cost of the project, we get recommendations

that there be certain jobs placed in Montreal where the consultants are, where the head offices of the consulting companies are, where the people who are involved in some of the actual design are. And it is always a matter, Mr. Speaker, of reaching the proper balance between making sure that every signal possible job remains within the Province, and, on the other hand, making sure that we get the maximum efficiency and the maximum cost saving on the project.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Would it not make more sense to have the main office, both the engineering and the planning offices of the Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro Development Corporation, here in the Province where the head office is rather than in Montreal? Has the minister given any consideration to closing down the office in Montreal altogether and instead of kowtowing to the engineering firms and the constructing companies have them come to Newfoundland to our head office and set up their companies here in Newfoundland rather than kowtow to them and go up to Montreal and open up an office and rent space.

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

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, I have to confess that the honourable member's sentiments are - they contain a certain merit, there is a certain element there that I can sympathize with. However, Mr. Speaker, there is the danger of engaging in a course of bravado. There is the danger of cutting off one's nose to spite one's face. There is the danger of taking certain steps which not being fully thought out or fully considered can lead to an unnecessary escalation in the cost of this project, can lead possibly to unnecessary uncertainty with respect to the planning of the project, with respect to the delivery of essential supplies and so on.

All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that the honourable member is raising what, in my opinion, is a very serious question, a question that merits very close attention by this government, by the people of this Province. And as I say there is a certain element contained in his statement that I can sympathize with. And I have to confess that I am having some difficulty as minister and

I do not mind admitting that I have some difficulty in reaching in my own mind satisfaction that we are reaching the proper balance between, on the one hand, getting every possible job within the Province and, on the other hand, ensuring proper planning, a proper reduction of uncertainty, and proper cost saving in the project. And it is reaching this balance that is not that easy a job. I have to rely on, as honourable members well know, the best advice that I can find in this area, and that is not a matter of passing the buck, it is just a matter of quite frankly admitting that when it comes to questions, detailed questions relating to project management, the techniques of project management, when it comes to the more involved questions of cost accounting and so on that I am no expert in this area. But we are doing our best, Mr. Speaker, to reach the proper balance between, as I say, getting every possible job remaining within the Province and on the other hand having the maximum amount of planning, the maximum degree of certainty and the maximum cost saving for the project.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Is the minister saying that in the foreseeable future the head office of the Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro Corporation, the Churchill Falls part of it -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. CROSBIE: This is not a question.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, apparently this is an area where there is some confusion. There are two different things that we are talking about now, on the one hand we have the fact that there are certain employees of Churchill Falls Labrador Corporation still in Montreal. Now that is - I believe the figures were given the other day as about what, sixty odd people out of some 250, I believe is the percentage there. And again, Mr. Speaker, this has been a matter of phasing out

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the Upper Churchill project which has only recently been completed,
and where you still have a considerable amount of work involved in
tying up the loose ends of that project, and where you have the
fact that the project

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MR. BARRY: was managed out of Montreal, so that it is not possible, Mr. Speaker, overnight, just to say, that is it, that corporation's function is ended in Montreal and all the personnel must come to St. John's or anywhere else in the Province. Because, Mr. Speaker, you are not dealing with inanimate objects, you are not dealing with robots, you are dealing with human beings. And we have made it clear, Mr. Speaker, this government has made it clear -

MR. NEARY: It is being paid for by this government!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order please!

MR. MURPHY: Do you not remember the previous government?

MR. BARRY: - that over a reasonable period of time we expect to see the phasing out of the Montreal operations and all -

MR. NEARY: What period?

MR. BARRY: I said, over a reasonable period of time, Mr. Speaker. I am not prepared to give the honourable member hours, minutes or days even with respect to such a schedule, But I will say that with respect to a reasonable period of time we expect to see this office phased out and the entire operations of Churchill Falls Labrador Corporation carried out within the Province. But that is a separate thing, Mr. Speaker. That is Churchill Falls Labrador Corporation, and let that not be confused, as it was unfortunately done in the media some time ago, let that not be confused with respect to the planning and the carrying out of the Lower Churchill project. The two are not related. The two are not related, Mr. Speaker.

The honourable member's first question related to; how much personnel is it going to be necessary to have operate out of Montreal in order to carry out the Lower Churchill project? That, as I say, is a very real question, a very serious question that we had to take a very hard look at. And I cannot say at the present time that I am satisfied that we have all the answers here, but we are actively involved in looking very closely at it.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Would the minister -

MR. NEARY: -and the intemperate Minister of Fisheries need not get jumpy, I will be in order - would the Minister of Mines and Energy tell us what fringe benefits Mr. Groom receives while he is in Montreal? Does he have a car, a Cadillac at his disposal? Does he have an aircraft at his disposal? Did we buy a house for him in Montreal? What fringe benefits does the President of the Corporation have for commuting between St. John's and Montreal?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Minister of Mines and Energy,

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, I have no idea what fringe benefits.

MR. NEARY: You should know.

MR. BARRY: I do not know what the honourable member is referring to, Mr. Speaker -

MR. NEARY: Did we buy him a house?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Did we buy him a car? Did we give him an aircraft?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. BARRY: No, Mr. Speaker, we did not buy him a house, we did not buy him a car, we did not give him an aircraft. The aircraft that the honourable member is referring to is the property of Churchill Falls Labrador Corporation. The use to which that aircraft is put is subject to the supervision of the Board of Directors of Churchill Falls Labrador Corporation.

MR. NEARY: Does the minister have any control over it.

MR. BARRY: Yes, a certain amount, a certain element of control, Mr. Speaker, in that it -

MR. NEARY: It is the taxpayers' money!

MR. HICKMAN: No. No.

MR. NEARY: We do.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, if -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. BARRY: - the honourable member would like the answer to the question, I suggest that he sit back in his seat, attempt to close his mouth, which will reduce the volume of empty space in this room by -

MR. NEARY: That is not going to shut me up!

MR. BARRY: - about three-quarters -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. BARRY: - then I will answer it. The aircraft that is being referred to is used in the normal carrying out of the business at Churchill Falls Labrador Corporation as supervised by the directors of that Corporation. It has not been necessary for government to intervene in any way with respect to the directing of that aircraft, because there has been no reason brought to its attention why this should be done.

With respect to other matters, Mr. Speaker, I can take that as notice but obviously the honourable member is in his normal, mischievous, provocative way attempting to throw out a few red herrings this morning.

MR. NEARY: It is the taxpayers' money I am -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - so I would appreciate it if the minister would get me that information at as early a date as is possible.

Sir, the honourable the Premier promised me some information concerning the cutbacks and the layoffs in various industries in Western Newfoundland. I believe the Premier has the information there with him today. I wonder if the honourable the Premier would tell us now what is happening to the economy of Western Newfoundland?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Well, it is very difficult, Mr. Speaker, to talk about what is happening to the economy of Western Newfoundland in total at a time like this. There were specific questions asked earlier by the Member for Bell Island and I will gladly, in as brief a period of time as possible, reply to those.

PREMIER MOORES:

The situation is that, as the gentleman well knows, the representatives of business and labour, Canada Manpower and others on May 22 this year set up a task force which was to deal with the problem of loss of employment and production down-time being experienced by companies in the Corner Brook and West Coast areas in general. This is the same sort of operation, Mr. Speaker, that dealt with the Newfoundland Steel closing, the Whalesback mine closing and others whereby new jobs were necessary to be found and placing people in those jobs. Special attention of that task force is to be paid to hiring of students for the Summer because this is of concern on the West Coast as it is throughout the Island and this is part of their criteria.

It should be noted, Mr. Speaker, that more than 350 jobs have been created in Corner Brook during the past year alone. But that was primarily from the construction at Western Memorial Hospital and also the regional college that is being constructed there as well. A few years ago Bowaters were directly responsible for the employment of some eighty-five per cent of the work force in the Corner Brook area. Now this number has been reduced to about fifteen per cent so the problem at Corner Brook, although the one we are dealing with is certainly not as serious as it would appear on the surface, at one time Corner Brook was eighty-five per cent virtually dependent on Bowaters. Today it is fifteen per cent.

MR. ROBERTS: That must have been forty or fifty years ago when it was eighty-five per cent.

MR. MOORES: I do not know exactly what year it was, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition says, forty or fifty years ago. He worked for the historian, I did not.

Other jobs have opened up in the area. Officials of this department in conjunction with the Economic Development Council and representatives of the city have scheduled a meeting with representatives of the three manufacturing firms that are concerned in the Corner Brook area, Bowaters, North Star and Atlantic Gypsum, Lundrigans Limited, Canada Manpower, the Chamber of Commerce and other interested people in the Corner Brook area.

They will discuss the entire situation and hopefully find ways of overcoming the problem with the help of any and all existing government programmes, both federal and provincial.

Regarding Atlantic Gypsum, Mr. Speaker, the general manager of Atlantic Gypsum advises that due to a down turn in the market place the company has scheduled a two week shut-down which came into effect on May 3. However continuing market problems forced the company to extend the shut-down period for an additional two weeks at that time. Fifty of the eighty-five men work force were directly affected by the cutback. However the thirty-five maintenance and office staff continue to work. And full production resumed on June 6, a few weeks ago or a week ago, just over a week ago, and no further down-time is anticipated in gypsum. Atlantic Gypsum presently supplies ninety-five per cent of the wall board requirements of our Province and the other three Atlantic Provinces. The fifty per cent decrease in the number of housing starts in this region to the end of March 1975 is the main contributing factor to the eighteen per cent decrease in the sales over the same period last year. I might point out here, Mr. Speaker, that this down turn in housing is in the Atlantic region and not specifically in Newfoundland.

In addition, two other major Canadian producers are suffering from major marketing problems and are attempting to establish markets in the Atlantic region, providing new competition for the Corner Brook firm. Company management is optimistic that the last half of 1975 will show a significant improvement over the first six months and indications are that housing starts will pick up during June and July and the company's sales will remain at the same level as 1974.

Regarding Bowaters Pulp and Paper Limited, the woods manager of Bowaters Pulp and Paper Limited advises us that the Corner Brook mill will be scheduled for a minimum twelve week production cutback for 1975 as a result of the general softening of the newsprint markets. The first two week period was scheduled for the end of May with the remaining ten

weeks spread over a five day work week for the rest of the year.

In addition the company had scheduled a number of layoffs in the mill work force. However at the insistence of union officials the company has now revised its original schedule and will remain on the seven day week schedule and will not layoff any of its mill employees. Instead the required production cutbacks will be achieved through down-time spread over the entire work force and as a result mill production decreased on May 21, 1975 and will remain down until June 24. And the remaining seven or eight weeks down-time necessary in 1975 will be scheduled later in the Fall. In addition to the scheduled cutbacks in the Corner Brook operation Bowaters has planned shutdowns for its more efficient and modern mills in the Eastern Seaboard of the United States. The Bowaters situation is similar to other paper mills in North America, all of which are facing significant down-time to decrease production levels which are presently running at about ten per cent of production levels.

Mr. Speaker, we have been approached by the mill unions to set up an Industrial Board of Enquiry regarding Bowaters. There is some considerable concern about the fact that Corner Brook may be having considerably more down-time than their other plants on the Eastern Seaboard, that was at the time when it was scheduled to have a five day operation in Corner Brook rather than a seven day operation. Since that time the five day has been changed to seven. I met with the unions last week here in the City, representatives of the unions, and they are still asking that this be carried out. Our government will be in contact with Bowaters, and having a session with them before a final decision is made, but certainly the matter will be followed through with and not dropped.

The North Star Cement Company - the company management has scheduled a four to six week shut-down in what they call a clinker production - I am not sure what that is, Mr. Speaker, but I am sure it is meaningful to those in the trade - effective May 9, 1975, directly affecting about thirty people altogether. This cut back is the first of several designed to eliminate two or three months production capacity in the various companies operations.

MR. NEARY: Are they producing too much.

MR. MOORES: The fact is - no. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, in the projected sales for 1975 are estimated to be about ten per cent below that of 1974, and this decrease again is because of the housing starts, and also because of the finishing of projections such as Atlantic Place and the Corner Brook Memorial Hospital and the college and so on. While the overall picture is not good for 1975 management is hopeful that the cut backs can be scheduled over the entire year's operation without undue hardship on the employees.

In the meantime markets for 1976 are expected to show significant improvements and the company should be back in full capacity in late 1975 or early 1976.

Mr. Speaker, that is a very brief resume of how the situation is. The recession in the industrial situation in the world is one that is pretty serious right now. It is affecting us I suppose less

than most places, but still a very real affect, and one of major concern. And the government is keeping in contact with these people regarding this particular problem and we will do everything we can about it.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, it reminds me of the latter years of the Smallwood era, tight -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - tight money.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Sir, would the Hon. the Premier get me -

MR. ROBERTS: The Vietnamese war!

MR. NEARY: I thank the Hon. the Premier for that information by the way. I have been three weeks now or a month trying to get it. I do not think it was spontaneous. Would the Premier get me the same information on Price (Nfld) in Central Newfoundland, to find out what is happening with that?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. the Premier.

MR. MOORES: Again the Central Newfoundland area, I will gladly try to accumulate the same sort of resume, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Okay. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industrial Development, Sir, now that he is back from the delights of France. Would the minister tell us what he was doing over in France?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Industrial Development.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I was in France doing what the honourable Member for Bell Island should have been doing a long while ago, trying to find some utilization for the Bell Island abandoned mine workings.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. DOODY: The company with which we met expressed a great interest in the project. They have demonstrated that they certainly have the technical ability to put the project together. However, there are a great many other areas that have to be explored, and a great many other facets of the problem that have to be looked at and examined before we can reach any decision on it. Certainly as the thing moves

along we will be informing the House, and informing the public, but the trip to France was a very worthwhile one, and I was delighted to have the opportunity to go.

MR. NEARY: There is no doubt about that. Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question: Would the minister care to tell the House whether he was invited by this company to go to France or if he invited himself over to France to look at this operation?

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I fail to see the relevance of what the social niceties of the expedition were. I do not know what the protocol should be. The fact remains that this company expressed an interest and we wanted to see if these things were possible. I might say that this is not the only company that is interested in this, Sir, nor am I - but I would like to give the House, Sir, the Province the indication that we have excluded other companies.

MR. NEARY: The minister needed a holiday.

MR. DOODY: The thing is that it was only a little while ago I heard the honourable member on the other side of the House caterwauling about the fact that we were not rushing around like the honourable ex-Premier, what is his name? Smallwood.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DOODY: We used to chase around - he used to be perpetually running around and the honourable Member for Bell Island was saying what a wonderful man he was and how he used to be constantly trying to sell the resources of the Province and interest people in its development. Well I would not want to indicate to the House that I am following in the footsteps of -

MR. NEARY: You invited yourself in other words for a holiday.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. DOODY: The former illustrious Premier.

MR. NEARY: You invited yourself over for a holiday.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: The minister needed a holiday.

MR. DOODY: The minister needed a holiday, Sir, yes, and most people in this administration have been working so hard that they

need holidays. But, Sir, we have not taken holidays. We intend to work just as hard in the future as we have in the past.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question for the minister. Would the minister care to identify the company that he went to visit in France?

MR. DOODY: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Well, I guess, we got that straightened out, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, seeing that I am going down to Burgeo on Wednesday, I wonder if the minister could give me some -

MR. ROBERTS: That is where the young ladies of the night were, according to Time Magazine.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: The minister was not in the churches where these young ladies were on strike ?

MR. DOODY: A supplementary?

MR. NEARY: No, I am asking the minister if he has any information or any news for the people in Burgeo now concerning the fish plant in view of the fact that the Government of Canada has made a commitment -

MR. DOODY: If they have I have not seen it.

MR. NEARY: - now will the Province be making a commitment in the foreseeable future concerning the construction of this fish plant?

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Industrial Development.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely delighted to hear the member for Bell Island make a commitment on behalf of the Government of Canada. If you could get me a copy of that in writing showing the amount and the specifics of it we would be only too happy to award a contract as soon as tenders can be issued. We have already indicated that the Province of Newfoundland has made its commitment. The estimates have demonstrated -

MR. NEARY: What is the Province's commitment?

MR. DOODY: The Province's commitment is to put a new fish plant in Burgeo as soon as we can get a commitment from DREE to help us with it.

MR. NEARY: How much? Mr. Speaker -

MR. DOODY: Just a minute now.

MR. NEARY: Yes.

MR. DOODY: Just a minute now.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. DOODY: Just a minute.

MR. SIMMONS: Another iffy.

MR. NEARY: That is a bit iffy, yes. How much?

MR. DOODY: Anyone else?

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

The Hon. Member for Bell Island asked a question of the Hon. Minister of Industrial Development. The honourable minister is attempting, I assume, to answer the question, and he has the right to be heard in silence by all members.

MR. DOODY: Sir, we intend to take advantage of the DREE programme, the incentives programme of the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion to the greatest extent possible to help defray the cost of the facility that is necessary to ensure the survival of the town of Burgeo. Now we cannot say at this time how much the offer is going to be from DREE. We cannot even make a commitment to go ahead with the plant unless we first get DREE's offer. A prior commitment negates DREE's responsibility and the way that they have been side-stepping and side-slipping on the thing for the past year and a half makes it painfully obvious that they are not that anxious or interested in getting ahead with it. We would hope that this is not so. And we look forward to being able to tell the people in Burgeo that the Government of Canada is participating. The member for Bell Island has indicated that they will and this to me is quite satisfying, and I am quite pleased.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. I am only quoting what I read in the press, Sir. Is the minister aware that the Government of Canada and Mr. Jamieson has already stated that the normal grants and incentives from the Department of Regional Development would be put into this plant and now it is up to the Province? What is the Province's commitment? How far is the Province prepared to go? We know what Ottawa's commitments are.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, the normal grants and commitments of the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion in terms of their incentives offers are demonstrated by the bone yards and graveyards of ill-formed and ill-started ventures that were predicated on the assumption that they were going to get these so-called commitments.

We have looked no further than Bide Arm to see what can happen on a so-called commitment from Ottawa. We can walk through Stephenville and look at the various sad states of industrial so-called development that started over there. No, Sir, we will not fool the people in Burgeo. We will not lead them down the garden path on a deal like that. When the Department of Regional

Economic Expansion puts it on the line how much they are prepared to put into that plant under their own terms of reference then we will be in a position to say, yes, we are going ahead with it.

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

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Premier. Could he indicate to the House, Sir, what reply he has made to the letter which he recently had dated June 9, in fact, from the President of the Federation of Municipalities, Mr. Hogan?

MR. MOORES: I will take notice of the question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, that is fine.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of supplementaries which may have to be taken as notice too. Could the Premier indicate to the House whether the government will accede to the Federation's request as put by Mr. Hogan that the House be given the opportunity to debate at this sitting, at this session, the approach of the Public Utilities Board with respect to the renewed applications from the phone company and the light company for increases?

MR. ROBERTS: No answer?

Mr. Speaker, silence is eloquent!

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, regarding that, I mean I have just told the honourable member that I would take notice of the first question which obviously, as he said himself, will also deal with the supplementary questions that he had to ask. Obviously what he is doing now is asking supplementary questions just to be on the record with the press rather than this House.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the Premier of all people should talk about being on record with the press-

MR. SPEAKER: Order please!

MR. ROBERTS: - in view of his record. Let me ask a further supplementary. Is the Premier willing to meet with the Federation? And that is not a matter we need notice of. Is he willing to meet with them to discuss this issue?

MR. CROSBIE: To have tea or what?

MR. MOORES: Always, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Speaker. There is still

MR. NEARY: time left in the Question Period, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the honourable the Premier and ask the Premier what time he intends to implement a promise made to the people of Bell Island to make the Bell Island ferry service a part of the Provincial highway system?

PREMIER MOORES: Order Paper, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of -

MR. ROBERTS: (Inaudible) on this ferry.

MR. SIMMONS: He does not know!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - Sir, could the Premier tell us what time the Minister of Transportation and Communications is going to be back in his seat? Is he ill or out of the Province or what?

PREMIER MOORES: I do not know where he is today but he is busy wherever he is.

MR. NEARY: He is busy?

PREMIER MOORES: Yes.

MR. NEARY: He has not been in the House since we met so will he be back -

PREMIER MOORES: That is not quite true.

MR. NEARY: No, that is true -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I want to find out about - let me see - oh yes! The Minister of Social Services; would the minister care to indicate now what the government's policy is on providing social assistance to miners in St. Lawrence who are locked out and what the overall government policy is on providing social assistance to people on strike, or people who refuse to cross picket lines? Has there been a change in policy recently? What is the policy now? Would the minister tell the House?

MR. MURPHY: No.

MR. NEARY: No answer?

MR. MURPHY: No change. You asked me there was a change and I said no. What do you want me to do?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Sneaker, I am dissatisfied with that answer, Sir,

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I am dissatisfied with that answer, Sir, and I wish to debate that matter on Thursday.

MR. MURPHY: I wish you were dissatisfied with the whole House on times.

MR. NEARY: No, Thursday I am going to be in Burgeo. I had better wait.

MR. MURPHY: Good!

MR. NEARY: Sir, I want to find out about potatoes. The Premier told the House that he would look into the possibility of government institutions buying the potatoes. I understand that no potatoes have been sold to any government institutions. Would the Premier care to look into that matter and see if these potatoes can be used in government institutions?

PREMIER MOORES: Put it on the Order Paper.

MR. MURPHY: Sit down, boy.

MR. NEARY: No, but what about the spuds, the poor old spuds that are going to be dumped?

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

I will permit the honourable the Member for Hermitage a question, then the time will have expired for the Question Period.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Provincial Affairs and the Environment. He undertook to check into the matter relating to Grand Falls, the Grand Falls mill. Has he anything to report to the House at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Minister of Provincial Affairs and the Environment.

MR. DAVE: The problem in Grand Falls near by the Price mill, Mr. Speaker, is caused by the piling of chip wood, which has been going on now, I understand, for six to eight years. It is only recently that some person out there decided to complain and kick up a fuss about the dust which is blowing around.

The company has informed me that this will be taken care of through natural attrition. The pile of chips there at the present time is being used steadily, and it is their hope that in the near future they will not have any necessity at all to pile chips on the outside, that they will be depending on other means of obtaining the chips. And, of course, when this pile has been depleted and used up there should be no dust problem.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. CROSBIE: Motion 5.

Motion, the honourable the Minister of Mines and Energy to introduce a bill, "An Act To Provide For The Reversion To The Province Of Certain Mineral Lands In Labrador," carried. (No.86)

On motion bill read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. CROSBIE: Motion 6.

Motion, the honourable the Minister of Education to introduce a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Memorial University Act," carried. (Bill No. 87).

On motion bill read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. CROSBIE: Order No. 36.

On motion second reading of a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Teacher (Collective Bargaining) Act, 1973." (Bill No.80).

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Minister of Education.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, in introducing this bill I think honourable members are quite familiar with its purpose, and indeed, with its background, and there would hardly be any need for me to go into any great detail because the matter, of course, was referred to a week or ten days ago.

As honourable members will recall, the collective bargaining, the negotiations with respect to teachers' salaries and working conditions went on for a number of months and came to a successful conclusion. The meetings, of course, initially and for a period of roughly two months were between the N.T.A. and the employers' group which, of course, is under Mr. Norris of Treasury Board, and also a representative from the Department of Education for the Newfoundland Federation of School Boards. Quite a large number of matters were settled at that stage and then, under the provisions of the Act, the services of a Conciliation Officer were requested and the matters were further narrowed down and quite a number of outstanding matters were settled there.

Then again, in provision with the Act, a Conciliation Board was established for the few, certainly comparatively few, matters still to be settled and the Conciliation Board made its report. There was one section in that report which was, I think, called 304, but there was one section in that report which the Federation of School Boards did not agree with and an alternate wording was suggested and on that wording there was no agreement. Then there were certain meetings and what was decided was to delete that section completely, and indeed, I think that worked out very well because this was then no longer a matter, you know, within the ambit of collective bargaining and I think that is quite proper. So 304 was agreed to by the Newfoundland Federation of School Boards, was agreed to by the Newfoundland Teachers' Association, that there would be an amendment to section 19 of the Act, and this, in fact, is what I am introducing now, which would and will, if and when enacted, more precisely, if you wish, more precisely express the intention of the legislation by the amending of section 19.

The actual wording is there in the bill. There is no need for

me to refer to it. The Previous wording referred to the same matters. It was, however, the opinion of the Federation that while the intention of the legislation, with respect to the protection of the rights of term 17 of the terms of Union, while the intention was quite clear, it felt that the wording did not as accurately or as precisely as desired, or as possible, convey that intention. And therefore a proposed wording, a new wording was agreed upon and it is indeed this proposed wording as an amendment to the Act that I am now asking the House to concur in. I repeat that this has the agreement of the Newfoundland Federation of School Boards and the Newfoundland Teachers' Association.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable the Member for St. Barbe North.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I certainly endorse and agree with this particular amendment to the Act, which will be, I understand, section 19 of the Act.

Sir, we witnessed, as the minister referred to, we witnessed long, hard, reasonable negotiations between the teachers and the Treasury Board. And we had our little crises and semi-crises and then everything seemed to be moving along quite smoothly. Then we had the Conciliation Board appointed, Sir, which made a very reasonable and a very responsible report considering

the settlement made a number of years ago with regard to teachers' salaries, Sir, and then all of a sudden a major crisis developed, quite unexpected by the general public of Newfoundland. So suffice it to say, Sir, that this amendment is certainly the right thing at the right time, and I am glad to see it before the House, and we intend to support it wholeheartedly. Sir, before - I am only going to spend a very short period of time on this - before sitting down, however, Sir, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate the teachers of this Province and in particular the negotiating team for the responsible way in which they conducted negotiations and the whole procedure. Sir, I guess everybody knows that there was a militant group amongst the teachers, a very militant group in the N.T.A., that is the total membership, and the way that the executive of the N.T.A. and the negotiating team handled the whole situation throughout is something for which they should be commended, Sir. And the same thing goes too for the conciliation board.

Sir, this bill would afford one an opportunity to get into the whole question, the whole controversial question of the so-called denominational educational system in this Province and the weaknesses thereof and the strengths thereof. And we could spend hours and days and possibly months debating this thing. Sir, I would like to make one thing perfectly clear from my own point of view, and one does not speak personally in public office, but, Sir, we graduated in this Province, we evolved from a purely denominational educational system to what is now not a denominational educational system. We have a state denominational educational system or denominational state educational system. It is partnership between government and the various denominations in this Province. Without the contributions over the hundreds of years of our history of the denominations we would not have had an educational system, period.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. F. ROWE: That is point number one. And point number two, Sir,

we have evolved a system where a partnership exists, and a good partnership exists, between government and the denominations. Sure there are weaknesses. The government, whether it be Liberal or P.C., shows weakness from time to time. The churches, no matter what denomination is being represented, from time to time to time show weaknesses. But in the total, Sir, when you look back at it all if you had to add up the pluses and minuses in education and the pros and the cons and look at the benefits and the disadvantages or the advantages and disadvantages I think you will find, Sir, that we have evolved a system of education in this Province where the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages, the pluses far outweigh the negatives, the positives far outweigh the negatives. And, Sir, no matter what kind of a system of education you have anywhere in this world, there are states in the United States and provinces in this nation of ours that claim that they do not have a denominational system of education, but, Sir, do they have problems? They have problems. They have denominational problems in a non-denominational educational system. They have racial problems in a non-denominational educational system. They have social problems and economic problems. Sir, we got an evolving, or we have had an evolution from pure denominationalism, as far as education is concerned, to a

a workable state denominational education system. And I say, Sir, as for those who criticize the denominational educational system they are only looking at the weaknesses of such a system, and they are not looking at the advantages of it. And until we see the day, Sir, where the disadvantages of the system that we have, the partnership that we have, until the time that where we see the disadvantages outweighing the advantages it is foolish, it is silly, it is people trying to get publicity for the sake of publicity, People in some cases who are not native Newfoundlanders, who criticize the system without truthfully and sincerely and analytically looking at the advantages and disadvantages. And I say no matter what system we have, Sir, you will find faults and weaknesses and trouble spots. The system that we have at the present time, Sir, is a workable partnership, and it is almost like a business where you have two key men. We got two key components in our educational system and I do not think this Province at this present time can do without either partner in this particular educational system that we have.

So, Sir, I will just say then in closing and simply say further, that we think that obviously this amendment was a crucial amendment particularly with regards to the settlement and we certainly fully endorse it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Social Services.

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, if I may, and I do not wish to delay the House any length of time. But I would like to avail of a moment or two with this particular act - but first of all congratulate, and I think he is worthy of some congratulations, the Minister of Education for the prompt action that was taken in this matter, and to agree one hundred per cent with the Hon. Member for St. Barbe North for the attitude that was taken by both sides in this agreement. And also, Sir, for those people who negotiated this agreement that we have ready to sign, I imagine if it is not signed already.

But, Sir, again I would like as the beneficiary perhaps of the educational system as it pertains today, and thankful for what I got for practically nothing because we had nothing to pay for, and

I hear people talking about nationalizing -

MR. NEARY: Did you get as far as Tom's dog?

MR. MURPHY: - education now. As I say, they were trying to nationalize everything else. You know, let us not lose sight of the fact, Sir, of the years that have gone and what contributions were made by all denominations, because as I think the honourable member again said, that without these people I think our education would have been practically nil if anything at all in the hard years and we can go back.

But it does give me a chance, Sir, to refer to a tremendous event that is to take place beginning in the Fall of this year, is the celebration, Sir, of the hundredth anniversary of the arriving in Newfoundland of the Irish Christian Brothers. That is going to be a gala occasion, Sir, and as a graduate of the Christian Brothers system I would like to offer my congratulations at this particular time, I am very actively connected with that celebration, and to say again how fortunate we have been to have had the denominational education with us for all the years - so many of us who perhaps today are not recipients of what we call the modern day of education. There have been many frills added. I do not think the denominational education solves all of the problems nor can government solve all of the problems. But, I think, Sir, it is a matter of getting on the same track and do what we can to the best of our ability for those who need a good solid, at least, elementary and high school education.

So again, Sir, I would like to say how happy I am that this matter has been resolved. It was a very, very ticklish matter, Sir, at the time. And when we thought that everything was underway with the Teachers' Association and those responsible for signing the agreement, this ugly matter reared its head, and for a few hours it was a very, very serious matter, Sir. And I would like to again congratulate all those concerned, and particularly, Sir, the Minister of Education who I think handled it in a very, very proper manner without becoming incensed or upset about the whole thing, and to all those who did arrive at this agreement, Sir, my congratulations.

June 16, 1975

Tape 2301 (Morning)

PK - 3

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): If the minister speaks now he closes the debate.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his kind

remarks and indeed to thank the honourable the Member for St. Barbe North for his and the Opposition's support of this bill.

Certainly there is no doubt, and I think the public of Newfoundland know, that the way in which the collective bargaining proceeded, the various stages through which it went is a credit to all involved. It is a credit to the Newfoundland Teachers' Association, it is a credit to the government bargainers, the Federation of School Boards' representative, the Chairman of that group who is Mr. Norris of Treasury Board staff.

All of the negotiations which were lengthy, complex, very complex, were carried on in a mature, professional and responsible manner, which indeed is a credit to all concerned, and is I think, an example for the way in which collective bargaining can be carried on, and hopefully, will be carried on.

MR. NEARY: Do not forget to thank the Conciliation Board.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: No. They did an excellent job, the conciliation Officer and the Board. Indeed, all who were involved in the lengthy, and complex, and difficult, and delicate negotiations did excellently, with a maturity and a professionalism and a sense of responsibility to their memberships, to their constituency, if you wish, and to the Province, to the general public, which it is a great pleasure to point out and to put forward as an example of how these negotiations, indeed, can and should be carried out, and the kind of attitudes and professional, and responsible attitude which should be brought to this important process.

So, Mr. Speaker, I really do not wish to say anything else. The main difference, actually, between the two wordings is that in the original wording the word "conferred" is used. There is the suggestion that term 17 - of the Terms of Union - conferred rights, or if you wish, you know, made them up, created them, conferred them whereas, certainly, the spirit was and the fact is, that it "preserves" rights. So there is certainly a distinction there between the conferral and the preservation, and this, I think, was one of the main factors. But I thank honourable gentlemen for their comments and I am pleased to move second reading.

On motion, a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Teacher (Collective Bargaining) Act, 1973," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House presently by leave.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Order 7.

Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Workmen's Compensation Act." (Bill No. 44).

MR. SPEAKER (Stagg): The honourable the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations.

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, this bill is mainly to upgrade the benefits paid by the Workmen's Compensation Board to injured workmen or their dependents. In various cases it is an exercise that is done nearly every year or one that has been carried out annually for the last two or three years at least. It is an attempt to try to bring the benefits of the Workmen's Compensation Board, payable in Newfoundland, up to more or less the national standard or as close as we can come to the national standard. I think with the present Act there will probably only be two provinces, I believe British Columbia and Ontario, that will be slightly ahead of Newfoundland in the benefits paid. All the other provinces will be behind Newfoundland - less benefits than Newfoundland - but it is certainly something that is necessary because of the increase in the cost of living. It is something that we will have to do, no doubt, nearly every year as we have in the past two or three years.

The bill also has a couple

of other sections, one dealing with automatic coverage for employers in the pulpwood logging industry. And we have found over the past few years that employers have assumed in lots of cases that they are automatically covered because the assessments in the pulpwood industry are based on cordage as opposed to hours of work or the amount per hour, and a lot of employers, especially the smaller ones, have not made an application to be covered under the Workmen's Compensation Act, but we have found that they do want to be covered so this will provide an automatic coverage so that when a workman is injured in the logging industry there will be automatic coverage for that workman.

The act also reflects the decision some time ago of government to restructure the composition of the Workmen's Compensation Board in the appointment of two advisers to the board, one representing labour, one representing management. This new structure, I believe, will benefit the Board and help it to be more representative of all segments of society. The new people who have been appointed to the Board will certainly add a great deal to the progress of workmen's compensation in the Province of Newfoundland. There has been quite a review going on in the last few months regarding benefits paid, the method of workmen's compensation in Newfoundland, to try to bring it up to a standard of all of Canada.

The bill further rewords a section in the act regarding the setting up of a committee of medical referees to look into various diseases, industrial diseases that are appendices scheduled to the act and to advise on which diseases should be included in the schedule. It also adds a couple of new diseases to the schedule, or newly designated diseases to the schedule in the case of the St. Lawrence miners, mainly silicosis and carcinoma which the Workmen's Compensation Board has found was necessary. This is for former employees of the St. Lawrence mines. I do not know if there is much else I can say in relation to introducing the bill except to reiterate again that the main purpose of it is to upgrade the allowances paid and to bring

them in line with most other jurisdictions in Canada and somewhat ahead of most of the jurisdictions. I, therefore, move second reading.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the minister pointed out in his few introductory remarks, Sir, that this bill is primarily designed to increase the rate of compensation to those who are either on permanent or partial disability. Well, Mr. Speaker, this is, I suppose, to be expected in a time of galloping inflation. I would have hoped myself, Sir, that the bill would go a step further and include in the bill a COLA clause, a clause based on the cost of living so that year after year the minister would not have to come into the House, year in and year out, asking for an increase in the benefits to be paid to recipients of Workmen's Compensation. I think it should be automatic. The increases should be based on the cost of living, and it would have been a very simple matter, when the draftsmen were making this bill, to include a COLA clause the same as now we are seeing in agreements between labour, between employees and their employers. Unfortunately this particular group we are talking about here, Sir, have nobody to bargain for them. They have to take just whatever the government or the Workmen's Compensation Board passes on to them and in this case they are going to up the maximum from \$9,000 and bring it up to \$10,500 which on the surface would appear to be an increase of \$1,500. This, I assume, and the minister can clarify this when he closes the debate, is a maximum.

There are a lot of recipients of workmen's compensation who do not come near that amount because it is based on their income over - I do not know what period it is - over a certain period before they were injured or went off on workmen's compensation. So there are a lot of people drawing workmen's compensation who do not come near that \$10,500 amount. So I would - the point I am making here is, Sir, that a lot of recipients of workmen's compensation are still below the income that one is expected, or the head of the house is expected to have in order that his family may live in dignity.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are two or three other aspects of the bill that I would like to touch on briefly. And I suppose - incidentally before I get off this matter, Sir, of benefits to recipients of workmen's compensation, Mr. Speaker, it was always a source of annoyance to me that people who were injured, partially or totally disabled, received so little compensation from so wealthy an organization. I am told, Mr. Speaker, that the Workmen's Compensation Board is one of the wealthiest institutions in Newfoundland! The Minister of Mines and Energy smiles!

MR. BARRY: Get serious!

MR. NEARY: No, but it is. It is true.

MR. BARRY: Oh absolutely!

MR. NEARY: It is true, Sir. It is a fact.

MR. BARRY: What?

MR. NEARY: They are one of the wealthiest institutions in Newfoundland, the Workmen's Compensation Board.

MR. BARRY: Who gets the profits then?

MR. NEARY: That is exactly the point, who gets the profits? The injured party, the people who receive Workmen's Compensation do not get the profits. They are building up a huge fund, and they have tremendous, they have millions of dollars invested. As a matter of fact a few years ago they were talking about putting up their own building, they were going to go in the real estate business. They buy government bonds. They buy a lot of the bonds that this government sell.

MR. MURPHY: The Opposition sopped that. That was their fault.

MR. NEARY: Stopped what? Stopped the building?

MR. MURPHY: The people wanted us to put up a building -

MR. BARRY: Get serious.

MR. NEARY: The minister is confirming what I am saying, Sir.

They are. The Minister of Mines and Energy can say, "Get serious", all he likes. They are a wealthy institution.

MR. MURPHY: I do not know how wealthy they are.

MR. BARRY: That is a misleading way of putting it, "They went and built up a fund."

MR. THOMS: What is that if it is not wealth?

MR. NEARY: Sir, they are wealthier than some of the banks in this Province and that is saying something.

MR. MURPHY: The Grand Banks.

MR. THOMS: I think you are right.

MR. NEARY: And the -

AN HON. MEMBER: He is laughing at you, Sir.

MR. NEARY: - and the benefits of that, Sir, the benefits should be passed on to the recipients.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. BARRY: Are you serious?

MR. NEARY: The people who are - yes, the employees - it is the employer who contributes. I do not think the employee contributes anything. The employer is the one who is assessed.

MR. BARRY: Where does the money come from?

MR. NEARY: Well I do not know how they get it, but I do know that they are very, very wealthy. And so I would not -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: I would not boast about the fact that you are going to raise the ceiling and the dependents of these people who are on workmen's compensation are going to get increased benefits. It does not go far enough to my liking, because these are the people who should be getting the benefits, and not letting this huge fund build up while we have recipients of workmen's compensation living below

the poverty line, and that is the point that I am making.

MR. AYLWARD: Hear! Hear!

MR. NEARY: There you go. My friend agrees with me. But that is an absolute fact, Sir. An absolute fact. And-

MR. MURPHY: What do you mean by poverty line?

MR. NEARY: The poverty line? The Minister of Social Services does not know, does he?

MR. MURPHY: Carry on!

MR. AYLWARD: For the first time I think he is making sense-

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. AYLWARD: You are making sense. Go ahead.

MR. NEARY: That is right. It does make a great deal of sense, Sir, and as far as I am concerned the bill does not go far enough. I do not know what they are ever going to do with this huge fund, Sir, they are building up. Maybe some day they will put up their own building, I do not know, and rent out space to the government rather than go outside. But they are a very wealthy organization, Sir. And as far as I am concerned more benefits should be passed on to the recipients of Workmen's Compensation.

Now, Sir, as far as including the workmen in the St. Lawrence Mines who suffered from silicosis or carcinoma, covering them under this act, now I would say that is a good thing. I do not think that anybody would object to that. But again, Sir, the bill does not go far enough.

MR. HICKMAN: It did at the time.

MR. NEARY: Oh no it did not, Sir, As it happened I was the minister who instituted a special fund in St. Lawrence.

MR. MORGAN: Did not Mr. Hickman?

MR. NEARY: No, Sir! Mr. Hickman did not have a say, a finger, no input, none whatsoever. He tries to get a little mileage for it down there, but the people of St. Lawrence know that when I was Minister of Social Services and

MR. NEARY: Gerry Power the Director of Social Assistance. he spent two weeks in St. Lawrence, and the formula for that special fund, Sir, was worked out by none other than yours truly and the officials of my department.

MR. BARRY: Did that not wipe out the fund there or some of the Workmen's Compensation funds at the time?

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, the benefits of the special fund in St. Lawrence was stacked on top of Workmen's Compensation and stacked on top of Social Assistance.

MR. BARRY: Yes, but it could be the fund that had been built up. the Workmen's Compensation Board had funding and -

MR. NEARY: No. No, Mr. Speaker, the special fund I am referring to, fifty per cent was contributed by the Province and fifty per cent by the company. It was supposed to be a three way deal between the company, the Government of Canada and the Province of Newfoundland. The Government of Canada have not to this day put one cent, one red cent into that fund, and it is being paid out now through contributions on behalf of the province and the company, Alcan. Even the former company in St. Lawrence, Sir, - forget the name of that company now -

MR. MURPHY: Newfoundland Fluorspar.

MR. NEARY: No, not Newfoundland Fluorspar, no. Yes, probably it was but I do not remember the owner's name.

MR. BARRY: Siebens

MR. NEARY: Who?

MR. BARRY: Siebens.

MR. NEARY: Sieben? How do you spell it?

MR. BARRY: S-i-e-b-e-n-s.

MR. NEARY: Yes but anyway -

MR. AYLWARD: Siebarts.

MR. NEARY: Siebarts. That is it, Siebarts. I wrote the former owners of that company. I wrote them several times and they did not even have the courtesy to acknowledge my letters.

MR. BARRY: They probably could not read them.

MR. NEARY: They could read them. Not only did I write, but

my predecessor also wrote. I do not know if they could read his letters or not. I think I had a pretty efficient and capable secretary who was able to type. But they did not even acknowledge the letters. So it ended up that the province and Alcan built up this fund and are now paying out benefits to the survivors and families of that dreaded disease in the St. Lawrence mine.

Now I might say that it was a recommendation that was made by the Aylward Royal Commission. We were merely following out one of the recommendations made by my friend, my learned friend from Placentia East. But, Sir, it is only now that the workmen in St. Lawrence are going to be included under the Workmen's Compensation Act. But, Mr. Speaker, when all the disclosures, startling disclosures, I might say, shocking disclosures of the past couple of weeks, and I presume this bill was drafted before the Minister of Mines and Energy made his startling disclosures outside of the House of the number of cases of silicosis in Labrador City, twenty-five, I think, the minister said had been discovered - I think ten or eleven confirmed and research being done on the other eleven or twelve -

MR. BARRY: Fourteen.

MR. NEARY: Fourteen. And then we hear - not only do we hear rumours, Sir, but the Minister of Health, the former Minister of Health confirmed for me in the House on a number of occasions that cases of silicosis had been discovered in Buchans.

MR. BARRY: Under study.

MR. NEARY: Not confirmed but they are -

MR. BARRY: You know, these are cases that arose prior to the working conditions

MR. NEARY: No, no, no, Sir. No. Mr. Speaker, -

MR. MURPHY: What was happening when we came in eh, with all this stuff? It did not happen in two years.

MR. NEARY: I am coming to that. I will tell the minister what happened prior to their coming in.

MR. MURPHY: Did it all happen overnight?

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir. One thing, Mr. Speaker, I am intellectually honest and I think members of the House -

MR. DOODY: You got a heart of gold.

MR. NEARY: I may not have leadership qualities but I certainly have a brilliant heart.

MR. MURPHY: That is right.

MR. NEARY: Never, ever made the top five because of my -

MR. STAGG: You are the best leader over there "Steve".

MR. NEARY: I got a brilliant heart but I do not have the leadership qualities.

MR. DOODY: It is not much of a compliment but it is the best we have.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir, never ever made the top five, Mr. Speaker, but certainly had a brilliant heart.

But getting back to this matter, Sir, which I consider to be a very, very serious matter, I do not think the bill has really gone far enough. I think in view of all the disclosures and the dust problems and the health hazards now that have been confirmed by both the former Minister of Health and by the present Minister of Mines and Energy and various other members of this House, that the bill should have included workmen in Buchans, and workmen in Labrador City. And, Sir -

MR. MURPHY: Baie Verte?

MR. NEARY: Oh, I am coming to that. Now just take your time now.

MR. NEARY: Send me over a candy. I am dying this morning for something sweet.

And, Mr. Speaker, with the present controversy, confrontation in Long Harbour where we are told that despite the fact that on a number of occasions in this honourable House and outside of this House steps have been taken to try to improve the health hazards and the working conditions at Long Harbour that one of the reasons given today by the men, and I understand they barred off the roads in Long Harbour this morning, that all the issues there are not monetary issues. One of the big issues worrying and tormenting the workers at Long Harbour and making them sick to their stomachs, not only literally either but they are getting sick on the job, being advised by physicians and their medical advisers to get out of that plant down there, to find a job somewhere else. And the reports we hear emanating from the university that did studies on Long Harbour and a report I saw last week in the newspaper that the trees, the countryside, the vegetation around Long Harbour and down in that general vicinity is all dying.

MR. MURPHY: You are not surprised at that are you?

MR. NEARY: No, I am not surprised, Sir.

MR. MURPHY: We debated that in the House of Assembly before the blooming thing ever went there.

MR. NEARY: So what! So what! I am debating it now. I am trying to draw attention to it now. Mr. Speaker, because there is an industry in Long Harbour, a phosphorous plant does not necessarily mean that I was the one who danced from the roof tops when they put it there. It does not necessarily mean that. It does not necessarily mean that, Sir. The honourable Premier looks at me rather quizzically and says, well why did you agree with it? Who said I agreed with it?

MR. MURPHY: You did one hundred per cent.

MR. MOORES: Well, who was calling the tunes?

MR. NEARY: I was not calling the tunes. I was only a little messenger boy, a backbencher. I was right down there where the Minister of Rural Development sits now. Half the time I did not know what was going on. I am like half the crowd over there now. I never ever

know it until I see the Premier on television or pick up a newspaper.

MR. MOORES: We have another one now.

MR. NEARY: There we go. I presume it is on Western Newfoundland. I gave you the opening this morning. You should give me ten per cent.

Mr. Speaker, the fact remains, Sir, that the industry is there and how it got there, how it landed down there in Long Harbour is of no real significance at this moment. But the fact remains that there are people in this Province, experts, and the workers in the plant down there say that there are still health hazards, and conditions are not what they should be. Now, Sir, if this honourable crowd do not do anything about it, then they are equally as guilty as the ones that they are saying that went before them who did not do anything about it.

MR. MURPHY: Who wants to clean out the barn after a bunch of horses?

MR. NEARY: But, Mr. Speaker, this is the crowd who were going to clean up everything, Sir. They were going to clean out all the manure. No favouritism, no patronage, no extravagance and no waste and no borrowing. They were going to do it all.

MR. DOODY: No executive assistants.

MR. NEARY: No executive assistants, nothing.

MR. BARRY: No debts.

MR. NEARY: So I am merely reminding the House, Sir, and I hope the people of this Province, that this is the honourable group of gentlemen who were going to correct all the misdemeanors and all the illnesses and all the badness, if you want to put it that way, and all the -

MR. DOODY: Slieveenary.

MR. NEARY: - slieveenary and corruption of the past.

MR. MURPHY: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: All attributed sometimes to mistakes of the heart.

But, Sir, here it is. We still have that situation now. Here is a golden opportunity, Mr. Speaker, for the administration to show their sincerity, Sir. They are bringing in a bill now, and it is only a matter of the Government House Leader making a minor amendment to this bill. The Minister of Manpower and Industrial Development cannot do it, because it is his bill. One of his colleagues can, and go a step further

and provide not only the workmen in St. Lawrence but the workmen in Buchans, the workmen in Long Harbour, the workmen in Labrador City and the workmen in Baie Verte be included under this act for the purpose of determining silicosis and carcinoma.

MR. MAYNARD: They already are.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir! Well, the minister did not make that clear. Maybe I am just tilting at windmills here.

MR. MAYNARD: They are now.

MR. NEARY: They are now? Well why are we making a special provision for St. Lawrence workmen?

MR. AYLWARD: Legal action -

MR. BARRY: They have a special arrangement.

MR. NEARY: I am just getting the minister's -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Are they included now under this section that will provide for recognition of the workmen in St. Lawrence?

MR. MAYNARD: They are recognized.

MR. NEARY: They have been, so it is not necessary.

MR. MAYNARD: St. Lawrence is a special case.

MR. NEARY: The reason St. Lawrence is being brought in is because of the special fund, is that it?

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.

MR. NEARY: I see. So the Workmen's Compensation benefits, Social Assistance benefits are stacked on top of the special fund.

Now, Sir, Okay! That is fine. So, Mr. Speaker, my concern for having these people included, Sir, under the Workmen's Compensation Act, then is really not as great. The only thing that I can say now, Sir, is this, and I think I have said it in this honourable House before, is the fact - I know the honourable Member for Harbour Grace would not like to hear this because he may be trying to drum up a little business for himself - but, Sir - and the honourable member is not supposed to speak in the House from other than his own seat - but, Mr. Speaker, we are going to have to keep a close watch on Buchans, Baie Verte, Long Harbour, Labrador City and St. Lawrence.

MR. DOODY: ___ And Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Not, Bell Island, Sir, although the honourable the Minister of Social Services a few moments ago said, "Well, what happened before? What happened before?" Well, what happened before, Sir, that the medical people who are really the ones who determine, you know, whether you have a condition, a respiratory condition or not, the medical people - maybe they were quite justified at the time because we did not have the technology - said that it was very difficult, it was almost impossible, next to impossible to discover silicosis.

I was born and raised in a mining community, Sir, and I lived there for the first - let me see - the first thirty-eight years of my life I lived in a mining community. Sometimes I was underground, most of the time I was on the surface. But the dust on the surface was

almost as bad, I would say that sometimes it was even worse - the dust from the stockpiles and the cars and the trucks, the ore cars dumping and the trucks dumping -

MR. MURPHY: The only place in the world where they had red sheep.

MR. NEARY: That it right. We had red sheep, red bucks and red goats. I remember a story one time they told us, this Syrian Priest came down from Sydney and they used to have Mass there once a year in St. Peter's Church on the Green. And the Syrian Priest would come down from Sydney to have Mass once a year and preach a sermon, and all the Syrians and all the people of Bell Island would go. But I remember this old Syrian guy was sitting up in the front seat - there was just props under the Church, it was a real old church like you see around various Newfoundland outports- and he was hard of hearing, this old gentleman, this old Syrian who was sitting up in the front, And the Priest started off by saying, "Hark! I hear a voice!" And the old guy in the front seat said, "Father, that the bad boy drive the red goat under the Church."

So, the minister is perfectly right. We did have red goats and red sheep on the Island. It is a wonder, Sir, that all the people of Bell Island did not have silicosis. But the doctors -

MR. DOODY: Red goats and pink members.

MR. NEARY: I was not a member at the time. There was a Tory member there at the time, by the way.

MR. YOUNG: You were his campaign manager. You were his campaign manager.

MR. NEARY: No, I was not his campaign manager.

MR. DOODY: You were Jim McGrath's campaign manager.

MR. NEARY: Who?

MR. DOODY: Jim McGrath.

MR. NEARY: I campaigned for Jim McGrath on a personal - that was a personal thing, because I met him when he was bellhop down at the Newfoundland Hotel.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The honourable member wanders far afield but then he manages to get back to the topic. I suggest to the honourable member that he might be more pertinent persistently.

MR. MURPHY: Be nice now, Mr. Speaker is not nasty today.

MR. NEARY: But, Mr. Speaker, this dust problem has always been there, to answer the minister, but the X-rays would not show up silicosis.

My answer to that is that I would say that there are men walking around Bell Island today suffering from chest conditions, from respiratory conditions. I would say that if they do not have silicosis, by God! I tell you you could fool me. They are there now today walking around. I do not know but I got a bit of a chest condition myself. I do not smoke cigarettes

but I got that hacking cough once in a while, and a little bronchitis and a little -

MR. BARRY: It went to your head instead of your chest.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, it did not. No, Mr. -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (STAGG): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: But, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of men not only on Bell Island, you will find it in Buchans too because we heard recently that some of the residents in Buchans who live on the surface, who have never been underground, they have silicosis, and this is a very serious matter and I hope that the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations and my learned friend the Minister of Mines and Energy will laid special emphasis on this serious problem in the future, and the Minister of Health, the new Minister of Health, it is something that we are going to have to watch, Sir, very, very carefully.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is not much else I can say about this bill except the increases in the rate, Sir, are due to come in force on, I think, paragraph (a) Section 2 shall come into force on the 1st. day of January 1976, (There goes that hacking cough again), and that is to bring the maximum up to \$10,500, Sir. Well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to see the act amended to make that retroactive to the 1st. of January this year. The Workmen's Compensation Board has the money. It is not like they are a poor outfit. They have the money to do it. And then Section 4 shall come into force on the 1st. day of July 1975. Let us see what Section 4 is, Subsection (1) of Section 18 of the said Act is amended by deleting from paragraph (c) the words "one hundred dollars" and substituting "one hundred and fifty dollars". Not a very generous increase. But I think at fifty dollars a month—but I think it should be made retroactive to January 1st. 1975 rather than come into force on the 1st. day of July. And Sections 9 and 11 shall come into force on the 20th. day of July 1975. Let us see what Sections 9 and 11 are—9 and 11, to increase the amount from three hundred dollars and one hundred and fifty dollars, these are all reference to the previous sections

of the bill, wherever they appear wherein and substituting thereof five hundred dollars and two hundred and twenty-five dollars respectively. That is to come into effect on the 20th. day of July, and I think, Sir, that also should be retroactive to the 1st. of January 1975. No reason why it could not be, Mr. Speaker. The money is there. The workmen themselves have made a major contribution, the employers have paid, it does not cost the taxpayers of this Province one cent. A lot of recipients of Workmen's Compensation are living below the poverty line. And I think that the humanitarian thing to do is for the minister and the administration, if they are sincere in this matter, to make all of these increases retroactive to the 1st. of January 1975.

Now as far as the minister's reference to restructuring the Workmen's Compensation Board is concerned, well, Sir, we saw again what happened in this particular instance. We heard a lot of criticism about political appointments and favouritism and political patronage, and the minister had the opportunity to get away from that, could not resist the temptation to appoint party supporters to the Workmen's Compensation Board, and then have the gall and the nerve to say that they were the representatives of management and labour, when in actual fact, Sir, labour was not consulted. One of the gentlemen appointed to that Board as a matter of fact is a supporter and party worker for my honourable friend the junior Member for Harbour Main.

MR. DOODY: He is very sensible.

MR. NEARY: And I would -

MR. DOODY: That sounds like a great qualification.

MR. NEARY: - I would say, Sir, that - to me, the minister may think it is a great qualification. Too much of a coincidence, Sir.

MR. DOYLE: He is also the business agent for the Iron Workers.

MR. NEARY: But not the one that was recommended by the Newfoundland Federation of Labour.

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MR. DOODY: Who did they recommend?

MR. NEARY: They did not recommend anybody because they were not asked.

MR. DOODY: Oh I see.

MR. NEARY: They were not asked. And yet the minister stands in his place in this honourable House and has the gall and the nerve and the face to tell us that these people and the advisors who are going to be appointed represent management and labour.

MR. MURPHY: A confirmed Liberal.

MR. NEARY: Who is a confirmed Liberal?

MR. NEARY: Who?

MR. DOYLE: You should know.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, these representatives that have been appointed to the Board are political appointments. It is just as well to lay it on the line and face the facts. But it does not make any difference, Sir, what I say in this honourable House about political appointments, about political patronage or favouritism, it is not going to change the situation one bit, because we have too many people in this honourable House, Sir, who will stand up and tell you right to your face, stand up and tell you that, "Oh, political patronage has been going on ever since we have had democratic government and is going to continue to go on immaterial of what government you have." So when you hear, Sir, responsible people, influential ministers - you hear the Minister of Fisheries, for instance, making a statement of that sort - what would expect from the juniors, like the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations, who have no influence at all in the cabinet? Just sitting there like a stick of furniture on the eighth floor, what else would you expect?

The Minister of Fisheries says, "Oh political patronage is a thing you must accept." I say it is not a thing you must accept, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. DOODY: You fought against it long and hard.

MR. NEARY: I certainly have. All my life I have fought. All my adult life, Sir, I have fought against it.

MR. MURPHY: He put a member on the Workmen's Compensation Board. He did not even know the chap at all. Right?

MR. NEARY: If the honourable minister is referring to a former member of the Workmen's Compensation Board, then I can tell him now -

MR. MURPHY: A good man.

MR. NEARY: Straight to his face, that if he got the job it was on his qualifications, not on my recommendation.

MR. MURPHY: No!

MR. NEARY: No. No. And the Minister of Fisheries can sit over there and make his snide remarks and his -

MR. MURPHY: Any others? Carry on.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - silly grin on his face.

AN HON. MEMBER: Onward.

MR. NEARY: That appointment was not made on my recommendation.

MR. PECKFORD: It was against your recommendation.

MR. NEARY: Against it? No, Sir, I had no say in it. None whatsoever.

MR. BRETT: But you fought against it, you say.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to accept that principle, that political patronage is here to stay.

MR. MURPHY: To the victor belongs the spoils.

MR. NEARY: I am not prepared to accept it. I think that people should be appointed to a position on their merits, on their qualifications -

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. NEARY: - and not because they are brown nosing with the minister or hobnobbing with the family compact, or supporting one party or the other. This is what is causing half the trouble in the world today, political corruption.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hurray! Hurray!

MR. NEARY: And ministers can laugh in this honourable House if they like, but this is where it all begins. The corruption starts with the little thing. We saw it in Southeast Asia, we see it now in India -

MR. CROSBIE: I expect to see a bolt of lightning come through the window.

MR. NEARY: No. No, Mr. Speaker -

MR. YOUNG: Want a glass of water?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations would cease to appoint, make political appointments to such an important board as the Workmen's Compensation Board, where people have to make decisions on whether or

not a workman is, first of all, entitled to Workmen's Compensation and then the amount that he should get. Are they going to make a decision on whether or not he is a P.C.? Whether or not he can afford a lawyer? Whether or not he has pull with one minister or another? Whether he has political pull with the administration in power? All these decisions should be completely made impartially Sir, by members of the Workmen's Compensation Board. I am not saying that they are not, but there is that danger, that weakness in what the minister is doing, the policy he is following.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: The policy he is following is a very dangerous one.

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

I just want to interrupt, if the honourable member will permit, before the group leaves the galleries. I have just been informed that we have in the galleries a group of Young Voyaguers from the Province of Saskatchewan who are here on an exchange visit. On behalf of all the members of our legislature I certainly welcome you to the Province and specifically to our House of Assembly, and hope that your visit here is most interesting and informative.

MR. NEARY: You know, Mr. Speaker, I am very happy that these young students are here today from the Province of Saskatchewan because our Workmen's Compensation Act that we are amending here today and our Labour

Relations Act, and most of our labour legislation was copied from legislation that was introduced into the Legislature and passed by an N.D.P. Government in Saskatchewan. And I want to offer my congratulations to Premier Blakney who was recently returned to the Legislature of Saskatchewan, maybe with a smaller majority, but the people still have faith, Sir, in the N.D.P. Government which in my opinion, which in my opinion, Sir, is the only party in Canada today that has a social conscience.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh,

MR. BARRY: Your party? But your party?

MR. NEARY: - has a social conscience.

AN HON. MEMBER: What your party?

MR. NEARY: My party is the closest that you can get to having a social conscience.

MR. YOUNG: They have no conscience. They have no conscience.

AN HON. MEMBER: The N.D.P.

MR. DOYLE: The N.D.P. are all at the university.

MR. NEARY: But until we get away from -

MR. DOYLE: They are headquartered over there.

MR. NEARY: Until, Mr. Speaker, unless and until we get away from going with out hand out for contributions to run our campaigns and our elections, then I am afraid that we are going to have a corrupt system.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: They are changing that in Saskatchewan.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The honourable Member for Bell Island has gone on for sometime now, being very irrelevant to the principle of this bill.

MR. NEARY: However, Sir, I am sure that out in the Province of Saskatchewan you will find today that they do not make political appointments to their Workmen's Compensation Board, They think too highly of it. They think too much about that Board. But here in Newfoundland, here in Newfoundland, Sir, the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations is following a procedure and a technique that was used by a man, a former Premier of this Province who was much

maligned and criticized, but they must think that that technique was all right because now they are doing it themselves. They were going to change all of that.

MR. MOORES: Who was that?

MR. NEARY: No I do not have to mention the name, Sir, of the former gentleman who occupied -

MR. MURPHY: He is back in Town, I was talking to him a day or so ago.

MR. NEARY: No he is not, he is gone to Ottawa.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is gone again.

MR. NEARY: He is up seeing if he can get some assistance to build that fish plant down in Burgeo.

MR. MURPHY: Gone to see Don Jamieson?

MR. NEARY: So, Mr. Speaker, here you have a situation where in two provincial elections the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations went down in St. Barbe South and probably in other districts all around this Province and said that if we are elected, and this has to do with advisors and appointments to the Workmen's Compensation Board, the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations said if we are elected we will not make political appointments to boards or agents, government agencies or crown corporations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Now how can the minister explain that now?

MR. YOUNG: Sit down and listen to him!

MR. NEARY: That he has fallen right into the trap.

MR. THOMS: Went with the old ways.

MR. NEARY: Yes, followed the old tradition, the old routine that has gone on down through the years that has been so highly criticized and made political appointments to that Board. Why did the minister not go to the Newfoundland Federation of Labour and say to the Federation of Labour will you make a recommendation or go to the Board of Trade or the Chamber of Commerce, whoever represents the employers, and ask them to make a recommendation. And these advisors now that the minister is making provision to set up, will they be party flunkies and party hacks or will the minister, as he said there a few moments

ago, in his introductory remarks, that these will represent management and labour. Will they be truly representative of management and labour? Or will they be political appointments? I think the minister, Sir, owes it to this House and owes it to the people of this Province to clarify that situation. No. They said there is going to be no witchhunt.

MR. MURPHY: Carried.

MR. NEARY: There is going to be nobody fired. But the minister himself went about it in a roundabout way. There were times when he was away down off Australia. He did not go straight for the jugular. He did not steer a straight course, and man-fashion throw out the people who were appointed by the former administration he went about it in another way as we saw happen in the case too of the Public Service Commission and the Newfoundland Power Corporation. Instead of going for the jugular in man-fashion and saying, look your political appointments - no they had to get consultants and studies and they had to go out and try and find out -

MR. DOODY: Who was doing a good job!

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, they had to try and do a smear job, that is what they tried to do on some of the members of that Board. And they pensioned some, and they did not pension others. One, I think the Chairman, got a pension,

One of the gentleman was sick and probably would not have come back to work anyway, who was entitled to go off on pension. The chairman was pensioned. But one gentleman was not pensioned. I would like for the minister to explain that.

So, Mr. Speaker, it really does not make any difference what I say because sometimes I wonder, Sir, if there is anything you say in this House taken seriously any more. People are becoming cynical and disillusioned and disenchanting and discouraged and it is hardly worth your while to get up to say anything any more in this honourable House. I do not think anybody pays any attention to you. Not me now. I am not talking about me personally. I am talking about members of the House and the Premier and the ministers. Who pays attention to what the Minister of Fisheries says any more? Nobody in this Province. It is a waste of time. And I get up and I spend ten or fifteen minutes criticizing political appointments and extravagance and waste in connection with the Workmen's Compensation Board and what use is it, Mr. Speaker? What use is it, I ask you? Because they are going to go on doing it anyway as if I never said a word about it. The press will accept it. Newspapers, radio, television will accept it as just a matter of fact. It is something you cannot change.

MR. MURPHY: Go all day for \$150.

MR. NEARY: And they let her go on and on and on, let her lurch from one political appointment to the other and nobody seems to care, Mr. Speaker. Have people given up? Sir, it is time, Mr. Speaker, that we got an administration in this Province that had a social conscience like the one just elected out in Saskatchewan. And the nearest that you can get to that in Newfoundland, in Canada, the nearest you can get is the Liberal Party. And my colleague the Leader of the Opposition, who is sincere, conscientious, has a social conscience -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. YOUNG: Tell the truth now.

MR. NEARY: I am telling the truth, Sir.

MR. DOODY: You do not mean it. You know, you do not mean it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the polls that have been done recently indicate that. Mr. Speaker, payment for these advisers that are to be appointed, I would like for the minister to clarify that. I have been going through the bill with a fine-toothed comb trying to find out -

MR. DOODY: You are lousy enough.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. DOODY: You are lousy enough.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: According to the reports that I heard down in Conception Bay South the other day the minister will find out how lousy we are,

MR. DOODY: It is all firsthand.

MR. SPEAKER : Order , please!

MR. NEARY: It is all firsthand, that is right. And I heard it firsthand. You should have heard the comments out in the audience. That is the place to be, out with the ordinary people.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know what these advisers are going to be paid. How much will they be paid per meeting? Will they be paid a salary? When they are being reimbursed for their travel, what travel allowances will there be, the same as the Civil Servants? Give us a few more details, Sir. Then after we hear the minister maybe he can persuade us, he can convince us that everything is rosy, no problems with the Workmen's Compensation Board since this honourable crowd took over, no political appointments, no favouritism, no political patronage, everything is going along fine and everybody is happy, including the recipients who are getting enough income to live on. The Workmen's Compensation Board is building up a huge fund, richer than any bank in Newfoundland and yet the poor old recipients are not getting enough to live on.

MR. MURPHY: That is how they did it three years ago.

MR. NEARY: Not how they did three years ago, Sir. Times have changed.

Oh, if they keep provoking me I will - the Premier should silence some of these. You know there are a few people over there I like but there are some that I cannot stand. And when I get an interruption and an interjection from one that I cannot stand I just have to plow on. But anyway, Sir, I will be looking forward to what the minister has to say in reply to some of my questions.

MR. MURPHY: Will we go through the dinner hour like this, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: If the honourable minister speaks now he closes the debate.

MR. AYLWARD: Mr. Speaker, if I could have a moment to reply to the gentleman?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I was about to say that it is difficult to see the clock from here but it appears as if it is one of the clock. I shall adjourn now until three o'clock this afternoon.

The House resumed at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! When I left the Chair at one of the clock I think the honourable Member for Placentia East was about to speak on bill number (44). So I recognize the honourable Member for Placentia East.

MR. AYLWARD: Mr. Speaker, I had just a few brief remarks on this and I would certainly like to compliment the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations for bringing in this piece of progressive legislation. I think that an increase in the amount due either disabled miners or people receiving compensation or the widows or deceased individuals is very, very important. I listened with interest to the remarks from my honourable friend from Bell Island this morning who was Minister of Labour in the previous administration. While I do agree that he certainly played a prominent part in the establishment of that special fund at St. Lawrence, but, Mr. Speaker, that fund, as far as I was concerned, created more problems than it solved at that particular time. The fund was good but what the disabled miners of St. Lawrence and the widows and orphans of deceased miners at that time, what they wanted was implementation of the recommendations of the royal commission which reported in 1968 to extend the coverage to miners who were suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases. Up until 1972 the only industrial diseases were covered were silicosis and carcinoma of the lung. But what the commission found was that a large number of individuals in St. Lawrence had been suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disability and they were not entitled to Workmen's Compensation. So what the commission recommended in 1968 was that the Workmen's Compensation Act be amended, the schedule, to make that one of the industrial diseases which should be covered by the act.

My honourable friend knows full well that that was not brought in until 1972 and I think the Premier of the Province is to be really complimented for this progressive piece of legislation back in 1972.

I understand on his first visit to St. Lawrence the Attorney General told me he took him to the hospital and he was very, very concerned as so well he should be as was anybody who was close to that. He made a commitment that the recommendations of that commission would be one of the first items of legislation brought in if he should win the government. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, that is one promise that certainly was fulfilled because in 1972 the Workmen's Compensation Act was amended and it was amended to provide that any workman who had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and who worked in the mine, they would be entitled to compensation.

That was a great, great step because that covered a large number of miners and widows and orphans who were not, before that time, entitled to compensation.

MR. NEARY: That was done in 1971.

MR. AYLWARD: That was done in 1972.

MR. NEARY: No. - If the member will -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. AYLWARD: Here is the act, Mr. Speaker. No, that was done in 1972.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. AYLWARD: No, Mr. Speaker, the legislation is "An Act Further To Amend The Workmen's Compensation Act" and this was passed in 1972. This is the amendment I am referring to.

MR. NEARY: We included the St. Lawrence group as recommended by the Royal Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. AYLWARD: But also, Mr. Speaker, in addition we set up what we felt were our own, what the act should provide and who under our recommendations should be entitled to compensation. At the same time, the legislature in 1972 included a provision in the act that said, "Every workman or dependents of deceased workmen in St. Lawrence who were recommended for compensation would receive it." This was brought in by this government in 1972.

MR. NEARY: That was a different one.

MR. AYLWARD: No, that is the same act I am referring to, 1972, Mr. Speaker. So as far as the social conscience is concerned I think that this government, and it is too bad the Member for Burin is not here, Mr. Speaker, because I know he is very, very close to that situation and he did a great deal for trying to get this legislation before the House, and I am very, very proud and pleased to see that this government took that step immediately after its election.

Then it went further, Mr. Speaker, because in 1973 it was felt that there were a large number of individuals in St. Lawrence who had never worked in the mines who had contracted diseases which were related to the industry. So in 1973 the act was amended to provide for any workman, whether he worked underground or whether he handled the fluorspar. That meant

that the individuals in St. Lawrence, who had never worked underground but who had contracted the diseases mentioned in the schedule to the Workmen's Compensation Act, would be entitled and should receive compensation.

MR. NEARY: And industrial accidents, too.

MR. AYLWARD: Yes.

And not only that, Mr. Speaker, but it even went further than that because what this legislation did in 1972 and 1973 was it gave the injured workman and the orphans and widows of deceased workmen rights that no other group in Newfoundland had received, because we did not have a Workmen's Compensation Act until, I think it was, 1951. The mines in St. Lawrence had started before 1951 and this legislation in 1973 made it retroactive to the date when the mines started. So anyone who contracted these diseases even before 1951 were entitled to compensation.

MR. NEARY: No. That is not so, they say.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: There are miners today who -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - have been refused -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. AYLWARD: Mr. Speaker, what makes me disagree -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. AYLWARD: - with my honourable friend is that perhaps he does not realize -

AN HON. MEMBER: Sit down, "Fint".

MR. AYLWARD: Oh, I am sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: On two or three occasions the Hon. Member for Bell Island has seen fit to interject when he certainly does not have the procedural right to do so. And if he continues to do so, the Chair will have no choice but to name him.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I know of two or three cases myself, so I would like to ask the member if he would tell us whether there is any miner now, because I had a couple of cases recently -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - where - no, the member is permitting a question, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: The member is permitting a question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The member may have very well -

MR. NEARY: Do you want a dart in the chops;

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The Hon. Member for Placentia East may well have acceded to the honourable member's request for a question. The Chair was not aware of it -

MR. NEARY: The member took his seat.

MR. SPEAKER: - when the Speaker stood up to make a ruling.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I just want to ask the member if he is aware that there are some cases where they contracted the disease before 1951, and they have been rejected by the Workmen's Compensation Board? I had a couple of cases recently.

MR. AYLWARD: I do not know what the decision of the Workmen's Compensation Board has been with respect to any application before it. But what I can say is that the legislation on the books of this Province now, and this was brought in by this administration first in 1972 and amended in 1973 which gives these people the right, and I will read the section for the honourable member, that they never had nor does any other group of workmen in Newfoundland have. And here is what it says: Section 93 (b) of the said act, as enacted by 91 (b) in 1972 is amended by deleting certain sections, etc., the expression, 'such workman worked underground in the mines at St. Lawrence at any time during the period from January 1, 1951 to December 31, 1960,' and substituting therefore the words, 'such workman was employed at any time whether before or after 1 January, 1951 in the fluorspar extraction or handling or both at St. Lawrence.'

So what this means is, Mr. Speaker, that anyone who has contracted any of the industrial diseases mentioned in the schedule to the Workmen's Compensation Act, whether they worked any time before 1951 or not is immaterial. And that, Mr. Speaker, is an exception because no other workman in Newfoundland who had any rights, of course, before

the Workmen's Compensation Act was brought in. But this government gave the injured workmen or the disabled workmen and the widows and orphans of deceased miners this right, that no matter what time they worked in the mine in St. Lawrence they are now entitled to compensation, and they never ever had that before. And as I said before, Mr. Speaker, as far as that fund was concerned that fund was good. But what the people of St. Lawrence wanted was not the fund, which would give some money to people who are already receiving compensation, but what the injured workmen or disabled workmen and what the orphans and widows of deceased workmen wanted was that they wanted coverage first and then go in for the pension. And the previous government did not afford that coverage and this government in 1972 amended that act to include the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. And then, of course, they also went further in 1972 and said, everyone who the commission recommended should receive compensation should receive it, and then they found that there were a large number of people who had worked in the mines prior to 1951, when there was no Workmen's Compensation Act, and they were not entitled, and in 1973 that was amended and said that no matter when they worked in the mine they would be entitled to compensation.

MR. NEARY: I will have to check on that.

MR. AYLWARD: Well, my learned friend can check on it - or my honourable friend.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what this act does is that it goes even further still. What the commission found was, when we conducted that investigation, that there are a large number of cases, of course, of carcinoma of the lung which had been recognized and accepted and people were paid for. But there was a higher incidence of other types of cancer in St. Lawrence than in any other communities of a similar size on the Burin Peninsula, indeed anywhere else in Newfoundland. But cancer, of course, is not an industrial disease and covered except in St. Lawrence, and then it was only carcinoma

of the lung. But we had certain miners who died with carcinoma of the esophagus, carcinoma of the intestinal tract carcinoma of the bowels, and other types of carcinoma. And all these people were not entitled to compensation. And what the medical science would say, of course, that the numbers were so small that they were not large enough to draw scientific conclusions. And you could go in with all of the doctors you like and they could not say for certain that this particular type of cancer was related to the occupation.

But now, Mr. Speaker, this Legislature is saying in effect, regardless of what the medical doctors say or do not say, if an individual in St. Lawrence worked in these mines, or not alone in the mines, or indeed if he handled the flourspar at all, and if they contract cancer - and I hope the Hon. Minister of Manpower is listening, and I think this is correct - that they are now entitled to compensation. And this, Mr. Speaker, I think really rounds out as far as dollars and cents in legislation can go to compensate these people for the terrible tragedy which they experienced.

But I certainly want to compliment, Mr. Speaker, the present Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations, and I say this government for going as far as they did, and I am not saying, Mr. Speaker, that any amount of money would really compensate a widow for the loss of her husband or the father or the young boy or girl for the loss of his father or men for loss of brothers and sisters. But insofar as dollars can go, Mr. Speaker, the Workmen's Compensation Act under this administration has gone very, very far and indeed has met practically every recommendation that the royal commission made to provide compensation to these miners.

MR. NEARY: You have laid a good foundation.

MR. AYLWARD: The foundation, Mr. Speaker, was to have that commission appointed, and to have the commission bring in their recommendations. But the commission reported in 1968 that these recommendations - the Act was not amended until 1972. Now I agree with my honourable friend as far as that fund is concerned, he certainly played his part, and he went out and established it. But I objected to that fund. And you

might remember the former Premier who was with us at the time, and I said that that fund is absolutely no good because the fund, unless and until you provide more coverage for more people -

AN HON. MEMBER: You were a Liberal.

MR. AYLWARD: - you are only - yes, but see what happened since I changed.

MR. DOODY: Yes, social conscience

MR. AYLWARD: But, Mr. Speaker, I told the former Premier and I told my honourable friend that this fund was really no good because all the fund did was give the people who were getting compensation more, whereas the residents of St. Lawrence, what the union, what everybody needed - and I have no doubt but my honourable friend probably tried to push as hard as he could, but he was not that powerful in these times to get that amendment in.

MR. NEARY: Well the Premier at the time what he said was what you told him to say.

MR. AYLWARD: Oh indeed he did not say what I told him. He was a week coaxing me to go out and I would not go out with him until he guaranteed me that he would bring in these amendments, but he never lived politically to see whether he would. He was very angry with me that night, you might remember, very angry because I did not go along with him. Because I said, Mr. Speaker, what I am saying now, that what we wanted and what we now have, of course, is the act amended so that there is broader coverage provided. And that is excellent, Mr. Speaker. And as I said before I am not trying in any way to say that we are compensating them for their great loss, because no dollars can put - you cannot put a price on the disaster and all of the difficulties, the troubles and turmoil, and, you know, how can you measure the loss of a father of six or seven children.

But in as far as money could go I think this government has done a great deal by amending the Workmen's Compensation Act. And this amendment now to include all types of cancer, I think, is another great step forward. And while I am on it, Mr. Speaker, my

honourable friend for Bell Island mentioned the occurrence of industrial diseases in Labrador and in the Baie Verte mine.

MR. NEARY: Long Harbour, and Buchans.

MR. AYLWARD: Long Harbour, and Buchans. We gave a great deal of thought - we had some top medical men. We brought in a pneumoconiosis expert from England, a very, very knowledgeable man; we brought in people from different parts of Canada to bring us up to date on these different industrial diseases. And we did recommend - and it is unfortunate that the Minister of Health is not here - but we did recommend the setting up of a Department of Industrial Health within the Department of Health. And I think today with such an expanded industry it is something that my honourable and learned friend could give consideration to. And this division of the Department of Health then, of course, would concern itself with the

industrial diseases throughout the different industries in Newfoundland.

All I want to say again, Mr. Speaker, is that this is a very, very wonderful piece of legislation. I congratulate the minister for introducing it and, of course, I commend the government for going as far as they have gone on Workmen's Compensation for the people of St. Lawrence who deserve it so desperately. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable minister speaks now, he closes the debate.

MR. E. MAYNARD: I will just reply to a few of the things that were brought up by the honourable Member from Bell Island. The first point I think he made was that there should be a COLA clause in the legislation. I am not too sure I agree with that. I do not see any problem with us coming back here each year with a bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act and increasing the benefits payable under all the various headings. I see no reason why the act cannot be reviewed from year to year and the benefits payable reviewed from year to year and then the appropriate bill brought into the legislature. It does not cause me any problems and I am sure it does not cause any of my colleagues any problem.

So, the track that we will take from now on, at least for the time being, is that we will do this on a yearly basis instead of just adding a COLA clause and letting it go at that. There may very well be a lot of other things that are necessary for review and the amendments to the act would quite possibly have to come in in any case, either to amend the schedules for various industrial diseases that may be made compensable or for some other sections.

The amount of compensable earnings under the act is stated as \$10,500 and I assume all members are aware the maximum amount that can be received by a person who has total disability, whether it is temporary or whether it is permanent, is seventy-five per cent of the \$10,500 set out in the act. As I stated at the outset, this is more than any other Province presently has with the exception of British Columbia and Ontario. It is fairly close to British Columbia as well and it is

considerably ahead of most of the other Provinces such as Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia. It is even ahead of the great NDP Province of Saskatchewan and the other one in Manitoba. The honourable gentleman was talking so much about it, I was very surprised, Mr. Speaker, to learn that our Workmen's Compensation Act and our Labour Relations Act was patterned after the Saskatchewan Act because I find that the NDP Government has only been in power in Saskatchewan for four years and our Workmen's Compensation Act dates back to 1961.

MR. NEARY: No, they are ten years old out there in Saskatchewan.

MR. MAYNARD: The NDP Government?

MR. NEARY: Yes. Tommy Douglas was there, my son, when you were in knee pants.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Tommy Douglas brought in all this legislation.

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, the NDP Government in Saskatchewan did not bring in any legislation which we pattern after at any time and any amendments that we are making now or at any other time are not patterned after legislation of other Provinces. We have our own unique situations here in this Province and we devise our legislation to suit these situations and we will continue doing that. Certainly we will read and look at and study all other legislation but we will not only study it from the NDP Provinces, we will study it from the Provinces that have good government such as Ontario, for instance, and New Brunswick and Alberta, to mention a few, a few of the better ones I might say. One of the Provinces, I understand, is going to have the next Prime Minister of Canada coming from its ranks and this sort of thing. So, we are in pretty good hands, Mr. Speaker.

Now, the honourable gentleman made some comments about the Workmen's Compensation Board being the wealthiest institution in the Province. I am all together sure where he gets that nonsense but of course then he did babble on for about an hour and a half or whatever time he could scrape

saying very little talking about reserve funds and the amounts that had been invested, and this sort of thing. I wonder where the honourable gentleman feels that the funds are going to be paid out in twenty years from now, or what they are going to be paid out from for the people who have total disability now or partial disability or to the widows if the Workmen's Compensation Board does not have any funds to work on.

MR. NEARY: We will be pouring them in.

MR. MAYNARD: It would seem to me appropriate that they do have funds to work on, and the Workmen's Compensation Board makes a report each year to this legislature and which all their financial arrangements are set out and set out quite properly. There is no secret about it. They are operating on a basis that has been set in many other jurisdictions, that is sanctioned by the international community in paying out Workmen's Compensation benefits. There has to be a certain amount of reserve fund. There has to be a Reserve Disaster Fund for any unforeseen things that may happen.

MR. NEARY: They have that in addition to the regular funds.

MR. MAYNARD: They have it in addition, but they also have the reserve funds for the many millions of dollars of increase that they are going to have in the pay out to Workmen's Compensation Board throughout the years.

MR. NEARY: But there is revenue coming in all the time.

MR. MAYNARD: I realize there is revenue coming in. The revenue coming in it goes mostly towards paying for the accidents that are happening from year to year and a small bit is put back for pensions and this sort of thing. It is in no way indicative that the Workmen's Compensation Board is a rich institution. If it was a rich institution or if it is a rich institution now, it certainly was three years ago or four years ago and I am surprised that the honourable gentleman did not do something about it. But I certainly see no problems with the way that the Workmen's Compensation Board is acting in administering its funds. They are being administered in the best way possible.

It is impossible for the Board or for anyone to extend the complete benefits that would be necessary to keep everyone having everything they want. But the benefits that are being extended to the people who have been injured, or their widows or orphans, certainly while they may not be totally adequate are enough to at least give them a decent chance to live in society.

Now, there were a few comments made about the appointments to the Workmen's Compensation Board, the new Board, and there was a lot of babbling about the political appointments and all this sort of thing. Mr. Speaker, I have no apologies whatsoever for the appointments that I made to the Workmen's Compensation Board. I do not intend to apologize at this time to anyone, including the honourable Member from Bell Island. The people that were appointed are competent people. I have not heard any public outcry from either labour or management about the appointments and when I hear some public outcry from labour or management about the appointments that were made, well then I will sit down and talk to them and find out what their problems are. But certainly there has been nothing in the press that I know of, and usually when these people want to complain about something they do manage to get a few items in the press, a few paragraphs from time to time.

So, I am quite happy and presumably the other people in the Province are fairly pleased with the appointments that have been made. All of them have great experience in all facets of society and life and they will bring a lot of experience to the Workmen's Compensation Board. And I am confident that the Board will function in its proper manner and it will be progressive and we will see many changes that will be made over the next few years while these people review the various benefits available under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Again, there are no apologies. If these people are members of the P.C. Party, well then that is fine. I do not mind that at all and I am not going to apologize to the honourable Member from Bell Island for it. As a matter of fact that makes me more happy that they are appointed to the Workmen's Compensation Board. They are not being done as political appointments.

If I did not appoint someone that is affiliated with the Progressive Conservatives I would have to appoint someone that is affiliated with the Liberals, and I do not see how else you could find people in Newfoundland that are not identified with some party or another, Progressive Conservatives, the Liberals or the N.D.P.'s. So whatever it is, it is a political appointment to a sense. And it just so happens that these people have been known to support the P. C. Party and that is fine in my books. I have no reservations about it whatsoever. The other thing that, I think, the honourable gentleman probably spent about a half an hour on is trying to point out the necessity of the Workmen's Compensation Act covering all these industrial diseases in the mines and this sort of thing and that surprised me a bit, because for a former Minister of Labour not to have read the act before he got up and spoke on it or criticize it is quite surprising. If the honourable gentleman would care to look to the schedule attached to act, there are twenty-nine industrial diseases covered under the act, including carcinoma, silicosis and many others that I cannot even pronounce at this time. There is carbon monoxide poisoning, carbon dioxide poisoning, the whole bit and piece is covered.

And, Mr. Speaker, if there are any other industrial diseases that are brought to our attention at any time, and the medical authorities tell us that they should be covered as part of the Workmen's Compensation then we will amend the schedule. We are looking at it all the time. The Department of Health and the Department of Mines are always looking at it for new diseases. And anything that is in this schedule covers any person who works in any mining or manufacturing industry in the Province. The reason for the amendment, section 93 (b) is specifically related to St. Lawrence. That is one section in the Workmen's Compensation Act that is related only to ~~one~~ specific mining operation.

As my friend from Placentia East pointed out the amendment that was brought in 1973, I think it was Bill No. 115, amended the previous wording and deleted certain words and added on words, "such workman was employed at any time whether before or after 1 January, 1951 in fluorspar extraction or handling or both at St. Lawrence."

And that act was proclaimed shortly after it was passed through the Legislature.

There was one other question, I think, Mr. Speaker, on the travelling allowances for the advisers to the Workmen's Compensation Board. There is a schedule set up by government of payments, of remuneration to all members of all boards in the Province. And the advisers to the Workmen's Compensation Board, who will be known as members, will get the same normal daily stipend as other people on other boards.

MR. NEARY: Will they be on salary or -

MR. MAYNARD: No, that is not on salary, Mr. Speaker. I just said that it was a daily stipend. When they are called in to a meeting, they will get normal out of pocket expenses the same as people who serve on other boards. They may be called in once a month. They may be called in twice a month. If they are working for a day, they will get the same normal amount of pay as the member of the Regional Tenancies Board or a host of others which is \$105 for a normal day, \$50 for a half day. And they will only be paid on the days when they are actually in meeting or doing work for the board. I do not know if there were any other questions. In any case, Mr. Speaker, I think this is a progressive piece of legislation.

MR. NEARY: What about the retroactivity problem?

MR. MAYNARD: What?

MR. NEARY: Back to the first of January this year.

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I -

MR. MURPHY: Not 1976. He wants to know if it will be retroactive 1 January, 1975.

MR. MAYNARD: Oh, the compensation. I thought he was talking about the amount per day for the members. I was wondering how that was going to be retroactive.

MR. NEARY: Additional benefits make them bring it back.

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, the Workmen's Compensation Board people have looked over this very carefully.

and they advised me that the appropriate time to bring in the increases in the various allowances is when we have stated in the act, and after considering it carefully I tend to agree with them. It is, I believe, approximately one year after the last increases were brought in, and that makes it more or less on a yearly basis which we intend to continue to do from now on.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am quite pleased to be able to introduce this legislation. And I hope that in the months ahead that we will have the opportunity to completely review the Workmen's Compensation Act, and all of the compensation for disabled persons that are paid out from the Board funds, and that it will continue to upgrade these as the cost of living increases over the next year or so.

On motion a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Workmen's Compensation Act", read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House presently by leave.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Motion 1 - Committee of The Whole.

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Bill No. 22, and there is a resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

RESOLUTION: That it is expedient to bring in a measure further to amend The Local Authority Guarantee Act, 1957, the Act No. 71 of 1957, to provide for the advance of loans to and the guarantee of the repayment of bonds or debentures issued by or loans advanced to certain Local Authorities.

On motion Resolution carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall the preamble carry?

On motion preamble carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall the title to the Resolution carry?

On motion title to the Resolution carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall Clause (1) carry? The Hon. the Minister of Finance.

MR. EARLE: Mr. Chairman, by way of explanation this is the usual yearly bill which gives legislative sanction to the various loans and guarantees given to all the municipalities and local authorities throughout the Province. The surprising thing about this particular bill, if you look at it, is that it covers some sixty-nine separate guarantees covering just about as many settlements in the Province, and has a total in dollar value of approximately \$24.5 million. This covers all of the water and sewer projects and road paving and some town halls and other specific works which were done under government guarantee during the past year. And it shows a very, very extensive programme indeed, I think probably the largest one we ever had in any single year.

I have here a complete list of the projects which were undertaken. They are outlined in the bill where it shows that some of these loans in the case of water and sewer projects are for forty years, and in the case of street paving it is for twenty years. But if there are any questions needed I have the information on each particular loan here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, if I could say a few words on the bill and on the principle of it, you know, the whole matter taken together. You know, I have no specific questions on the particular loans. As the minister said,

the schedule to this act has been amended in every session since the original act was passed back in 1957 and I would think it will be a long time yet to come facing annual bills in both senses of the word, a bill in a sense of the act and a bill in the sense of the invoice for work done, and so we should be. My concern and my comments, Mr. Chairman, I direct to only two points. The first is, and I am not sure that the minister can deal with the first because it has more to do with Municipal Affairs than it does with Finance as such and in reality, although this bill stands in the name of the Finance Minister, it really should be introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. I regret that he is not in the Committee today to deal with it because it is a Municipal Affairs bill. All of these local authorities, it is another way to describe town councils and local improvement districts and city councils and what have we. All of this money has been spent by municipal governments here in the Province.

The first point I wanted to make is the fact that as of today, the sixteenth of June, the people of Newfoundland still have no idea what programme the government proposed to carry out this year with respect to municipal developments. We know of a number of projects because tenders have been called for a number of projects and they appear in the newspapers or the construction association has notice of them and that is well and good. But we still have no indication of exactly what is the government's programme. Of course, I know why the government are delaying an announcement. It is to try to get a little political advantage here and there and I suppose one should not begrudge them that. Heavens knows they need all the help they can get, Sir. But I would point out that to municipalities and to councils throughout the Province it is a very disturbing matter. You see, the way it works, Your Honour, is every municipality in Newfoundland, I will wager and if that wager is wrong, ninety-nine per cent of the municipalities in Newfoundland are looking to the government of this Province for help, help of this sort, capital loans. These loans are guaranteed initially at the bank, I believe is the

procedure, and then subsequently the Newfoundland Municipal Development Finance Corporation, a crown corporation, raises the money on the bond market and the money is subsequently used to pay off the bank and the long term bonds are serviced by annual grants from the government, taken together with amounts of money from the municipalities. I would imagine, I do not know if the minister has a figure, but eighty or ninety per cent of the total dollar value of the repayments come from subsidies from the government of the Province.

Now, that is the way the system has evolved over the last two decades in this Province, the last twenty years or so. I could see some major changes that I think should be looked at but this is not the point to go into them, not right now.

My concern is that the municipalities have come in. They have stated their requests. There have been engineering studies done on any number of projects and the municipalities keep getting put off. Now, I will not say that in a partisan sense. I suspect when the Liberals were in power in the past that the same gambits were used. The fact remains that the new look, the Tory administration - You know, Mr. Chairman, it is significant, that there are only two, four, five, seven, nine members in the House who are discussing \$24 million worth of expenditure. I do think that we should have a quorum call, Sir, and make sure that there are enough of the members present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ring the bells.

We have a quorum.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am very glad we have got a quorum and I -

MR. MURPHY: The first five minutes he put in the House today. He is running Liberal Headquarters from the other side of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: I thank the gentleman for - I thank -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Gentleman, this is the beginning of a fairly lengthy afternoon. I suggest to honourable gentlemen that

they confine their remarks to the paper perhaps, to themselves, swallow their smoke and we might get down to the business of the House.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Sir. Your Honour has obviously had an interesting weekend cuddled up with a thesaurus or a dictionary of phrases. Well said.

Now, Sir, as I was saying, the town councils come in and they state their requests and it is gone over and the minister's life is a succession of meetings with delegations and phone calls and letters and that is all well and good. The great answer that is given when these councils would like to know, is our project going ahead this year, Sir, is, well, wait until the budget comes down, as if somehow decisions as to which projects are going to be undertaken awaited the approval of the budget by the House. I for one, and I venture the other thirty-nine members of this House, there are only forty at present out of the forty-two men and women who should be here, but the thirty-nine others, Sir, I know share my feeling that that is at best a polite put-off and at worst a very rude rebuff.

In any event, the budget came down - was it the end of March? - the

budget came thundering down the end of March, disappeared without a murmur into the public concensus, has been digested, debated, legislation passed, His Honour has signed the necessary documents and the money is being spent left, right and centre. But still no indication of what is the government's programme. Oh, we are getting little dribbles and drabbles. The odd M.H.A. dribbles and drabbles out a little dribble and drabble. We get the minister's public servants, not the Minister of Finance's but the Minister of Municipal Affairs' public servants going around the Province telling councils, oh well, it is up to the member to decide. I must say I was quite flattered, Sir, to be told by a number of councils in my district that they had been told that I was to decide whether the water and sewer would go ahead, and I may say I gave my full and wholehearted support. I am willing to do it in writing that I decide that everything in White Bay North that needs to be done should be done. And if the gentleman opposite feel that they can play a petty little political game + it is too bad the minister is not here - but if they feel that they can play this game of having their public servants pass this word on, then I, for one, am happy to play in that game. And my decision, communicated to every council in my district, was that my decision is that we should go ahead immediately. If we do not go ahead immediately well, of course, it will be Her Majesty's ministers who have to answer.

MR. BARRY: All this happened because of us?

MR. ROBERTS: I am sorry?

MR. BARRY: All this happened because of us?

MR. ROBERTS: I will table every letter I have written, and I am quite willing to have any conversation accurately reported that I believe that every project in White Bay North which needs to be done should be done. If the honourable gentleman, the temporary member for Placentia West feels that I somehow said something to the contrary, perhaps he would be good enough to state exactly what is in his mind.

MR. BARRY: Is that what you say with respect to these problems generally that -

MR. ROBERTS: I am speaking as the member for White Bay North at this stage, but I will go further. Sure I think in the Province that everything that needs to be done should be done, but I am dealing with -

MR. BARRY: That is being responsible.

MR. ROBERTS: - within the physical capacity. Sir, I will come back to that, because I had an interesting chat the other day with the minister, not with the gentleman from Placentia West but with the member for Green Bay, who unlike the gentleman from Placentia West has some idea of what is involved in the municipal needs of this Province.

Now, Sir, as I was saying, as the member for White Bay North I learned within the past fortnight or so from members of councils in my constituency that they had been told - maybe other honourable members have, I do not know - that the member was going to decide which work was going ahead this year. Now this is a new gloss on responsible government, Sir. No longer is it the cabinet which decides these matters, subject to the approval and ratification of the House of Assembly -

MR. NEARY: The member for Harbour Main.

MR. ROBERTS: - but rather it is the member who decides. Well and good. And I suppose honourable gentlemen opposite, Sir, ministers and members alike will try to grovel out a vote or two by dispensing a mile of sewerage pipe here, or a drop of water there or a half foot of pavement somewhere else. That is well and good. I mean, that is their problem. That is their problem. I am just saying what I said as the member for White Bay North. All I said to the council there was, look, if it is me to decide, it is done, and if it is not done take up the matter with the ministry who bear the responsibility. But the point I am making, Sir, is that here it is 16 June. the municipalities of this Province have no idea of what programme is to be carried out this year. The bill before us now, Mr. Chairman, is for the money which was committed last year, most of which, I think, was spent last year. Some of it may be spent this year on ongoing projects. That is point one, Sir.

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Point two is the fact that this government - and
when the Hon. Minister of Finance was Minister of Municipal Affairs
he did nothing to change it - this government

have perpetuated a sham, a charade. They used to talk about planning and long range planning in municipalities, and I would say to the Minister of Finance and to his colleagues that they have no more of a long range plan now for development of municipal services in this Province than the average three year old has for his educational career. They just have no idea what they are doing. They are staggering along from political crisis to political crisis. Your Honour, I could look through almost every single loan in this schedule, the sixty-nine, I think the minister said, sixty-nine separate councils involved and I could relate to the House, I am reasonably sure, and I have no, I am privy to no confidential information, the political realities which dictated each of these loans. There is no other reason why most of these loans are here. The ministry have developed absolutely no method of measuring the need. Communities large - I am sure each of these is needed in itself and I have often said that when one needs water in particular, it cannot be any lesser or greater need from community to community. I mean, a person who needs water needs water. You either need it or you do not. If you have it you do not need it. If you do not have it you do need it. But in almost every instance, Sir, the money that we are being asked to approve here, the expenditure we are being asked to approve here, the expenditure of that money was decided upon for the narrowest, meanest, partisan considerations without any thought being given to the needs of the Province as a whole or the needs of the people in these communities or in other communities.

I say that to the minister. I am not prepared to say it is entirely new although the present administration, Sir, have brought this to a new height or a new depth as Your Honour may wish, narrowness, vindictive partisanship that they are using in this whole field of municipalities. All of these projects are needed. All of them will be put to good use but there is no rational scale being used by the Minister of Finance and his colleagues to decide which goes ahead and which does not. Because as needed as these sixty-nine are, there are

sixty-nine more and maybe 169 more, Sir, elsewhere in this Province that are just as needed. In most cases, Sir, it is coming out, the way to get anything out of this administration is blackmail, is political blackmail. Councils threaten to resign, or they tell the member that his day of reckoning cometh close, and the member scurries, literally, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs or whoever his friend may be in the Cabinet and says, I have got to have it. And sometimes it comes and sometimes it does not. Councils do this, Sir, in desperation. They do it because there is no rational process. These were the group of men who three or four years past talked with eloquence of developing new plans, new methods in the field of Municipal Affairs.

Here we are now, Sir, the same methodology that was used twenty years ago when there would be three or four or five projects done in a year, and the considerations now are much more vindictive and much more narrowly partisan and petty. There is no rational planning done, Sir, and there should be. The Minister of Municipal Affairs told me the other day, and while it was a private conversation I do not think this information is privileged, that within the order of \$50 million to \$60 million would finish all of the work that is needed to be done in municipalities in Newfoundland now with the exception, and it is a large one, of St. John's, the regional water supply here, Conception Bay South, Clarenville, Gander, Grand Falls. These are DREE. DREE will - Mr. Jamieson has announced that DREE is willing to enter into this type of infrastructure agreement. I believe they have announced they are going to go ahead with seventy per cent of the cost of the St. John's water supply.

MR. NEARY: Rose Blanche.

MR. ROBERTS: Rose Blanche; that is a special - but Rose Blanche is a good example of squeaky wheels getting greased. So, we are not talking large sums of money. We are only talking a sum of money that is approximately twice the amount in this bill. I must say the figure

quite, quite, quite took me. I thought it must be much higher but apparently a sum of the order of \$50 million or \$60 million would meet the needs.

Now, Sir, if that is so and I do not doubt the minister's word for a moment, then let the word go forth from this time and place that within a year or two or three all of the needs of communities

in Newfoundland for water and sewer supplies can be met at the present levels of expenditure. I am not talking, again, about the St. John's area, but that is underway. Conception Bay South, DREE will participate, Clarenville, Gander, Grand Falls. That is quite a step forward, Sir. And I would hope that the government will make it possible, if they do not their successors will.

MR. NEARY: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROBERTS: That is the second point to make with respect to this bill, Sir. It is the same old thing. The minister has not - neither the Minister of Finance nor the present Minister of Municipal Affairs, nor his predecessors in that office, the gentleman from Gander, who served without distinction as Minister of Municipal Affairs, the gentleman from Fortune Bay who served, well who served as the Minister of Municipal Affairs - who else has been in that portfolio? Just three of them in three years?

MR. MURPHY: Three.

MR. ROBERTS: We have had three ministers in three years. They are hardly able to get their feet in the sewers down there, Sir, before the Premier moves them. But they have not come to grips with this. No town in Newfoundland knows on what basis the priorities are drawn. They reason from the evidence, and I think correctly so, that it is done for narrow, petty, little partisan reasons. I have nothing against partisanship. It is the pith and substance - the parliamentary system as we have it, in the British system. But, Mr. Chairman, it is not good enough. And I had hoped that the administration would come to grips. I had hoped that when they left office at the end of their term they would have something they could point to in the administration of the affairs of this Province with some pride, something which had helped the people of Newfoundland. And this is a very good place to start, because while water and sewer systems, Mr. Chairman, are not very exciting, they are very important. And communities that do not have adequate water and sewer systems it is probably the most important problem with which those people must deal. These, Mr. Chairman, are issues that should be of concern and if any ministry was the least bit concerned with the welfare of

the people of this Province they would be of concern. But the fact remains, Sir, that through all the money that has been spent there has been little thought put into it by the minister that anybody can judge on any of the available external evidence. It is a disappointment, Sir.

And finally, Mr. Chairman, let it be noted that the ministry are increasing tax rates this year by making the municipalities increase their tax rates. I can see a certain rationale in it. I am not suggesting that we get free rides. I think the people who want services have to be prepared to pay for them. But I would like the minister, if he would, and any other honourable gentlemen who wish to take part in the committee debate, but I would like the minister, if he would be so kind as to indicate the thinking, it is more of a finance question than anything else, because, of course, it bears heavily on expenditure, the thinking of the government as to where tax rates should be. Should they be set arbitrarily? Should they be set with relation to the cost of the project? Because, of course, we all know that taxes, the water and sewer rates really are the smallest part of the cost. If the Town Council of Victoria are spending \$2.3 million to install a water and sewer project to be repaid over a forty year period, I would wager, and they are no different there than anywhere else in Newfoundland, that the annual rate that the citizens of Victoria will pay for water and sewer services will just about cover the annual operating costs - whatever electricity is needed, whatever the maintenance costs are of, you know, a machine and men to make repairs and so forth. That \$2.3 million will be paid off almost entirely by grants from the government of the Province. And I have long felt that we might be further ahead to take these matters directly on the provincial debt instead of going through the extra stage we now go through of the Municipal Finance Corporation. The bond markets are not the least bit deceived nor is anybody intending to deceive them. These matters are guaranteed by the Province. That is the whole point and substance of this bill, to enable these to be added to the matters which have been guaranteed by the government of the Province, the loans, and

they are directly on our credit. Because not only do we guarantee them we are going to have to pay them off.

So the minister might indicate just what is the ministry's feeling. His colleague, as he knows, have sent out a circular to town councils of all sorts, and municipalities of all sorts saying, we must raise our rates, we must separate water and sewer from general revenues. And I think that is a good move. The standards of municipal government in that regard have sometimes not been what they should be. But, Mr. Chairman, just what is the ministry's thinking? What is a fair rate for people to pay?

And what is the ministry's thinking with respect to which areas get water and sewer? Are we going to go on in this Province with squeaky wheels getting grease. It is one way to do things. It is a way to do it. And it has the merit that it has worked over a number of years. But I do not think it is the way we should go ahead, anymore than I do not think we should pick lawyers to act for bond issues, whether we pick them out of our payroll or pick them indirectly out of our payroll in that they act for the institutions and, of course, that nominated them by the government in every sense of the word. We should not pick them purely and simply on their partisan considerations.

MR. NEARY: A family compact.

MR. ROBERTS: A family compact, my colleague suggests, and that may be a very good phrase for it.

So, Mr. Chairman, just a few remarks on the bill. The bill itself will obviously be supported by all. It is largely a formality in any event because the money has been spent. In each case I have no doubt spent on a needed project, a badly needed project. So I will just recapitulate to the minister. I see that he has been kind enough to make a note or two. What standards are being followed? How does one determine? When will the municipalities know what assistance they are going to get this year, what projects are going ahead? Finally, would the minister indicate the tax level? What is a reasonable tax? What does he and his colleagues think is a fair share for the people to pay directly? They are already paying indirectly because, of course, they pay their provincial taxes which in part are used to pay the cost of these bond issues, the interest and the repayment of principal. But just exactly what has the minister, you know, what has he to say? What is his thinking? What is the policy of the administration with respect to these things? So I raise these points, Sir, in a very constructive spirit. I could be very negative, if the minister wished, on this bill. But I think we would be a little further ahead for the nonce if the minister would respond in a positive way and indicate exactly what he and his colleagues think of these points. We will see where the debate goes from there, Sir. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable the Minister of Finance.

MR. EARLE: Mr. Chairman, a few constructive remarks. There is no point in being non-constructive, because the honourable the Leader of the Opposition knows quite well that this is not a simple question which he is trying to get direct answers to. In many cases we cannot give definite and direct answers to some of the questions which he asked. I am sorry that the Minister of Municipal Affairs is not here to outline his own programme this year. But I might say that the way that this water and sewer and all previous programmes developed, there are many projects which in this list here were mainly started a year or two ago, which are ongoing and there are so many projects to consider this year and probably next year that we will still continue with them.

It may have been that the first and second phase was done last year and probably the third and fourth phase will be done this year. So these are commitments which we have to meet each year. There are a number of these projects which have to be carried on with. And then, of course, there are always new projects coming up. I guess I can say in passing that one indication of government's sincerity in this particular problem area, which is costing the municipalities and councils a tremendous amount of money, is that during the past year we have increased the street paving subsidy from a share basis of fifty/fifty to a share basis of forty/sixty. In other words, the government is now paying sixty per cent of the cost where before they were paying fifty per cent of the cost.

MR. NEARY: We made it fifty/fifty.

MR. EARLE: Fifty/fifty was the old basis. Incidentally that fifty/fifty was dropped for a number of years under the former Liberal Administration.

MR. NEARY: No, indeed it was not.

MR. EARLE: Yes, it was. It was in constant doubt. And when this government came into power it reinstated it. Not only did it reinstate it but last year it changed it to the better basis of sixty per cent payable by the government and forty per cent by the municipality.

The honourable the Leader of the Opposition asked what if any planning is going into these things. I can only speak for the period which I was Minister of Municipal Affairs. There are a number of criteria on which the installation of a water and sewer are judged. I think it is a terrific insult to the staff of the Department of Municipal Affairs, to try to say to them that this is just done on a pure and simple political basis. That is not so. I would defy anybody to prove that statement. Because what the staff members down there do, and they do to the best of their ability, is look at all of these projects. First of all they look at the population of a settlement. Then they look at the preliminary costs of what a job would cost to put water and sewer in that particular settlement. Then they look at the pollution and health hazards which are effective in that settlement.

MR. EARLE: Now taking all of these things together, and for the benefit of the community, we recommend to government which projects should be done in any one year.

Now invariably there may be a number of fairly small projects which the government feels it should get out of the way, and they sometimes start jobs of \$50,000, \$60,000 or \$100,000 which may not have a direct relationship to that measure of need. But these, generally, are comparatively small jobs. The major ones, which cost several million dollars, are judged on the criteria which I mentioned - that is to say, the population, the cost of the project and the health hazard involved, to try to work out some sensible form of procedure.

As the Leader of the Opposition mentioned, most of these projects are eventually paid for out of government subsidies because the tax base in most of these places is comparatively low and the government has had to subsidize these systems very heavily over the years. In fact, some of these projects which we picked up when we came into office were at a disgracefully low rate. We had projects costing over \$1 million for which the tax being collected in the settlement might have been as low as two or three dollars per month.

The present Minister of Municipal Affairs has stated, I think publicly, that it is his effort to try to get all of these systems up to a monthly rate of \$12.00 per month. Even that will not go anywhere near paying for these systems. There will still be a very, very heavy government subsidy involved. In fact, today in doing these particular works, the cost has escalated to such a point that a job which you could do two or three years ago for approximately \$900,000 is now coming out at \$1 million. So, in effect, you are only able to do about half the work with the same money that you spent previously, because these particular jobs in water and sewers have escalated beyond all reason.

But nevertheless the programmes outlined in these loans last year is a heavy one - \$24.5 million - and it is safe to say there

will be a very substantial programme this year. As the preliminary engineering and designs are completed, the Minister of Municipal Affairs will announce, as has always been the case, to the various community councils whether or not their system will be done this year. But many of these projects are in ongoing stages. Either they are preliminary engineering jobs, or detail design, or other considerations, which come in for his judgement as to when he is ready to say that this project will go ahead. And it is extremely unfair and not correct to say that this is just being held back for purely political announcements.

There is no way that any Minister of Municipal Affairs can take a whole season's work and not say publicly what he is going to do with any one particular project at any time. The fact is, as I have mentioned, that these things are attentively planned in some sort of an orderly sequence. But then again there are complications which could make certain projects impossible. I do not believe, for instance, that the present Minister of Municipal Affairs would say at this stage that with another \$50 or \$60 million they would clean up all the projects that need to be done. Nobody can judge that. What is happening in all of these towns? You get new subdivisions, new building developments - if you go anywhere in this Province and look at what is happening in the towns and villages around here you finish a project or think that you have finished it this year and before you can stop that thing and really salt it down as finished, there is a new building development going up, new housing going up demands for water and sewerage.

I think if anybody wanted to really take a prime example of that, they can go out and have a look at Bay Roberts. Bay Roberts started off, I think, with an original estimate of something over \$1 million and now it is \$5 million. This is what is happening all the way along the line with these projects. You start and do the centre of town. Then it spreads. I think this will be ongoing for as long as any government is in office. Certainly nobody could put a price tag on it at this stage.

this stage.

These are the only comments that I have to make at this time but as I said earlier, the details of all of these guarantees are here and I will answer any questions.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister's dynamic rebuttal to the Leader of the Opposition, Sir, has provoked me into saying a few words on this particular bill.

Sir, the first point that I would like to make is that the minister has

tried to make or get it or maximize the political advantage, to his political advantage the fact that the formula has been changed from a fifty/fifty cost sharing agreement with the municipalities to now a forty/sixty, I believe, with paving only.

Well, Sir, if you look at the paving grants, if I am looking at this correctly, we see that the amount this year is only \$220,000 more than it was last year, if I am looking at the right subhead there in the estimates. Sir, such is the case for many other subheads under grants to local government administration. What I am trying to say, Sir, is it should be explained to the honourable House and to the people of Newfoundland that you can change a formula, a cost sharing formula from forty to sixty, to thirty to seventy, to ninety to ten. That does not mean a single thing if you do not have a substantial increase in the actual concrete grant, the amount of money that is made available to the estimates for use by the local government throughout this Province.

The same thing, Sir, was done in another budget speech by this administration a number of years ago, I think with respect to school bus allotments and other costs sharing agreements. The formula was revised to show that this administration was paying a greater percentage compared to the local input, but the amount of money coming from this government had not increased substantially for the particular things in point. In fact, Sir, the amount of money made available, the actual increase for water and sewerage or for pavement, the actual increase in the estimates did not overcome the increase in costs because of inflation. It has been entirely wiped out by inflation. In fact, if you were to look at it and figure it out the relative amount of money going to the municipalities from the Provincial Government, relatively speaking, taking costs into consideration, increased cost of labour, increased cost of materials, inflation generally speaking, the relative amount coming from this administration to the various communities is less than the previous year.

Now, one can fool - I would not have brought that up, Mr. Chairman, except for the fact that the minister tried to get a little bit of

political gain out of making reference to this change in the formula for the cost sharing agreement for the purpose of paving streets in communities. Sir, when I am speaking on behalf of the district of St. Barbe North, about to be wiped out by this administration through redistribution, and not see one single inch, not an inch of pavement on the highway, not an inch of pavement in any community, forty-three communities, one -

MR. MURPHY: After twenty-three years.

MR. ROWE: After twenty-three years the rural minister for St. John's Centre gets back, after twenty-three years. Sir, when I was in University, if I may reply every so briefly to the minister, I had the privilege of being on a geological survey in 1958 or something on the Great Northern Peninsula when there was not a - well, there were a few miles of road. There was no road. The Liberal administration managed to drive

a road up the Northern Peninsula the length of the Trans-Canada Highway - now, Sir, I see you are getting restless so I will get away from that point. But a road was put through.

MR. NEARY: Hear! Hear!

MR. F. ROWE: There would be more pavement up there now -

MR. NEARY: Hear! Hear!

MR. F. ROWE: Except for a -

MR. YOUNG: The member.

MR. F. ROWE: - a certain thing that happened. If is the member, Mr. Chairman, it was not because of the lack of representation that was made to the honourable crowd opposite.

MR. YOUNG: Do your job!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. F. ROWE: I can assure them.

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please! For the second time this afternoon I am intervening immediately to prevent a squabble that might mar the temperate proceedings for the day. So I would suggest to honourable members that the member speaking has the right to be heard in silence, if other honourable members have points, pertinent points to make they can do do in the proper order.

MR. F. ROWE: Thank you for your protection, Mr. Chairman.

Sir, I will dispense with this political fraud of using this new cost sharing agreement, and saying that it is to the advantage of the local governments.

Now, Sir, I would like to come to another peculiar strategy that this government is using with respect to money spent by the local governments in this Province, the local improvement districts and the community councils. And I will use my own deceased district, Sir, as an example, a rural area with forty-three communities, one of the smallest districts, but forty-three communities. And I get a letter or a request from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and

Housing asking me to list off the priorities for water in the various communities in the District of St. Barbe North. Now, Sir, I know there are exceptions, but generally speaking there is not a satisfactory water system in any community in St. Barbe North.

MR. BARRY: You cannot list priorities for him?

MR. F. ROWE: I will come to that in one moment. And if Mr. Chairman wants to allow the Hon. Minister of Mines and Energy to provoke me we can get into a pretty rip roaring battle here this afternoon. Forty-three communities, Sir, none of which have a satisfactory water system, with one or two exceptions. Now, Sir, how - either you have water going into a community or you do not have water going into a community. People drink water and people are people. Sir, what is the criterion for establishing priorities for water in the various communities of St. Barbe North or any other part of this Province? Do - I am asking the government, what are the criteria for establishing the priorities? The depth of the soil? The topography of the area? Do I go to the results of the last election and find out which communities voted P.C.? Which ones voted Liberal? Do I do it on a denominational basis? This year I am going to give it to all of the R.C. communities, next year all the Wesleyan communities, next year all of the Pentecostal communities? Do I do it on the basis of the Genges of Flower's Cove or the Genges of Anchor Point or the Mitchellmoores of Green Island Cove or what? What is the criterion that one is supposed to use when people need water? Is it based, Sir, on the number of unemployed people in a community with a lot of hair on their chests or the number of virgins in the community or what? Sir, it is such a crazy idea for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing -

MR. NEARY: That is not unparliamentary, is it?

MR. F. ROWE: - to hand over to the member for the district asking him to list off a priority list for water in his district.

MR. BRETT: Talk sense.

MR. F. ROWE: It is pretty obvious, Sir, what the problem is. After all of the ranting and roaring about the planning and priorities of this honourable crowd, after three and a half years

with the seventh floor down there with its orange chairs - it was remarked one day by one of my constituents when he was coming up in the elevator and we opened up at the Planning and Priorities Floor -

MR. NEARY: Red carpet.

MR. F. ROWE: - he asked me if this was the barber shop for the Confederation Building, it was so attractively designed, Sir, after all of the talk about planning and priorities

and royal commissions and the Whelan Commission, the minister comes back to the member and asks for a list. We all know what the problem is. There are no plans, Sir. They have not established their priorities. They have not been able to set up a financial base in this Province to afford, to construct these water systems in this Province and I am just talking about water, Sir. I am not even talking about sewage systems or pavement or street lights or sidewalks. I am talking about a district that does not have a satisfactory water system. A little bit of pavement or a street light or a sewage system would be paradise - excuse the pun - relatively speaking for the district of St. Barbe North and we get a request from the minister asking for priorities. The priorities, Sir, in St. Barbe North and many other districts in this Province is to get water into those communities that do not have water or do not have a satisfactory water system.

Sir, this honourable crowd have simply reneged and shirked their responsibilities utterly and completely and now are desperately sending off letters to members asking for priorities so that they can say, they can take that letter or take the -

MR. DOODY: What did you say in your letter?

MR. ROWE: I did not send any letter off to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing listing any priorities. I sent it off two years ago saying any community in St. Barbe North or any community in any other district in this Province that does not have water, that is the priority. Get it in there as quickly as possible. And it is this crowd, it is this P.C. Cabinet, it is their responsibility to decide where the water is going and where the pavement is going and where the water and sewage systems are going and where the street lights are going and where the sidewalks are going if necessary. But instead, Sir, they would rather say on the hustings, they would rather go there in St. Barbe North and go into Anchor Point and say "Ah! Fred Rowe recommended water and sewage for Flowers Cove."

And they go into another community that was not recommended as a priority, "Oh! Fred Rowe did not recommend water for you guys. He recommended it for Flowers Cove or he recommended it for Cook's Harbour." We can see the trickery, Sir, that is going on. They would like nothing better than to have a letter from certain honourable members on this side of the House to show that we did not list a particular community as a priority.

Sir, this government was elected for one simple reason. The people of the Province were dissatisfied, tired, fed up to the gills with the so-called or alleged inaction of the previous administration. This crowd, Sir, honourable crowd were elected because the people of Newfoundland sincerely felt that they would do a better job. Sir, the fact of the matter is is that they are not doing a better job. After three years of so-called planning, paying expensive civil servants, getting consultants from all over and from without the Province to come in, they have not come up with a plan of attack to solve the problems of the various municipal or local governments in this Province.

The only places, Sir, where there have been significant break-throughs have been where this government have claimed that they have gotten an agreement from Ottawa. The fact of the matter, Sir, is that the joint steps forward in arterial roads, water and sewage, school construction in communities, paving in communities, paving between communities, etc. has come as a result of federal-provincial agreements, most of which were ninety/ten agreements. Now, Sir, they are parading throughout the country, or the Province,

trying to claim credit for the expenditure of Federal Government monies. Sir, the people of Newfoundland are not that green.

Sir, these were the only two points that I wanted to make - the sham, the political misleading or camouflage of taking credit for this fifty/sixty formula.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROWE: Forty/sixty, I am sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A sixty/forty percentage agreement of \$100,000 is the same as a fifty/fifty agreement when you take inflation into consideration, when you take inflation into consideration, and when the total base subhead has not increased. We do not look at formulas, Mr. Chairman. We look at the amount of money put in this little document here. That is what we look at, not percentages or formulas.

The second point is, Sir, I appeal to this government to stop sending off fancy little letters asking members for priorities -

MR. NEARY: How come I did not get one of them?

MR. DOODY: They did not know what district you are in.

MR. ROWE: - asking for priorities when it is -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please!

MR. NEARY: What was that little remark there?

MR. ROWE: - when it is absolutely impossible to establish criteria in order to establish the priorities because it is a simple case of, "No water. We want water." There is no way that you can say that Plum Point deserves water more than Bird Cove or Savage Cove or Flowers Cove or Cook's Harbour or Barr'd Harbour or anything else. That same example, Sir, holds through for any other community or district in this Province.

So, I say to this government, Sir, save a few cents on correspondence and get on with the job for which they were elected. They certainly have not come through with the type of action that they were talking about yet.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, before the Minister of Finance, Sir, counters some of the excellent points, the magnificent arguments

put forward by my colleague, the Member for St. Barbe North and my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, Sir, I think it would be appropriate if I had a few words to say on this particular bill.

Mr. Chairman, despite what the Minister of Finance said, Sir, earlier there is no rhyme or reason to how the administration selects a community to get water and sewerage. The Leader of the Opposition indicated, Sir, that it is done strictly along partisan political lines. Your Honour, I am half inclined to agree with the Leader of the Opposition because in the past three years, Sir, in my own district of Bell Island, not a red cent has been spent to extend water and sewer lines and to replace worn out DOSCO water lines. Lines that were installed by DOSCO, Sir, about fifty years ago, and the employees of the company and the residents of the Island had to go out under cover of darkness and bootleg the water from the main lines. They actually were not allowed to connect on to the main lines. And some did manage to get water in their home by going out after dark and that meant, Sir, if you lived, say, a couple of hundred yards from the main line that you had to be able to get enough of your neighbours to dig a ditch and finish it all in the night because if you did not finish it in the one night and DOSCO security heard about it the next day you were likely to be put in jail. So you had to finish it. Once you started it, it had to be finished. So you got a group of your neighbours to come out and give you a hand, but it did not always get down deep enough in the ground to resist the frost.

MR. DOODY: DOSCO security did not work at night.

MR. NEARY: They certainly did work at night. I was one of the victims of a DOSCO security officer one time. But, Sir, -

MR. DOODY: Tell us about it.

MR. NEARY: Yes, it is a very interesting story. But, Mr. -

MR. DOODY: It will not take long to tell.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. DOODY: That will not take long.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, not a red cent has been spent in the district of Bell Island. I would submit, Sir, to this House that that is the price, the penalty, the punishment if you will, to the people of Bell Island for voting Liberal in the 1972 election.

MR. MURPHY: Oh yes!

MR. NEARY: And the Minister of Social Services nods in the affirmative. He is saying yes.

MR. MURPHY: And in St. John's Centre.

MR. NEARY: That is so. In St. -

MR. MURPHY: - for voting P.C.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, despite the fact that there has been numerous representations to the government, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs by the Town of Wabana they have fallen on deaf ears and the only water projects that have been carried out on Bell Island in the last three years were carried out under LIP projects, LIP projects. They managed to scrape enough money together to extend a few water lines, not very much, Sir, not near what should be done, but they managed to get LIP grants to -

MR. HICKMAN: What about the Valley?

MR. NEARY: - No, there was nothing put down in the Valley - to run a line here and there, Sir. Looking at the community on the whole, Sir, I would say that at least fifty per cent of the community today is unserved. We made a pretty good stab, that is the former Liberal administration, made a pretty good stab at putting water and sewerage into the community of Bell Island in the town of Wabana. I would say that we probably spent somewhere in the vicinity of three-quarters of a million dollars to put water and sewerage on the Island. The total cost of giving water and sewerage to all the residents in the town of Wabana probably would have been in the vicinity of about \$1.5 million. But the whole thing was curtailed, stopped dead in its tracks after the 1972 election and not one cent has been spent by this government to extend water and sewer lines on Bell Island. And you could multiply that, Sir, 200 times

throughout Newfoundland. Communities all over this Province are being punished because they voted Liberal in 1971 or 1972. Mr. Chairman, if there was ever an example of favouritism, Sir, it is under this particular bill. All you have to do is go down, go down over the list and it stares you right in the face, Sir. It is obvious what has been happening.

Mr. Chairman, having said that, you know I do not know where everybody in this House gets the idea that water and sewerage is such a popular issue anyway. Water may be an issue, Sir, providing water to people, drinking water may be a big issue. But, Mr. Chairman, any poll that I have ever seen done in Newfoundland by either political party since I have been active in politics, and that has been since 1958 when I first ran. I was active before that. I was a member of a town council for fourteen years. Mr. Chairman, I do not know where the members get the idea that that is such a popular issue. Water is, yes, but sewerage, no. It has never shown up. It has -

MR. DOODY: Everybody is against it.

MR. NEARY: No, no, I will come to that. It has never shown up on a poll as being a popular issue.

MR. DOODY: Impossible.

MR. NEARY: No, it has not.

MR. DOODY: Never shown up on the polls.

MR. NEARY: Never shown up on any of the polls. If the Minister of Industrial Development will go to the Premier and ask to look at the poll, as a matter of fact the Premier had two polls done.

MR. DOODY: Are you talking about a light pole?

MR. NEARY: The Leader of the Opposition had a poll done. P-o-l-l, poll.

MR. DOODY: Oh! Not utility poles.

MR. NEARY: No, these are opinion polls. If any member, if any member in this House would ask to see the polls for the last twenty-five years, he would discover much to his amazement that water and sewerage would

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neither elect nor defeat a government. It is not one of the real popular issues. It is well down the line as a matter of fact, well down the line. Roads, you can get more mileage out of roads -

MR. DOODY: A lot of mileage there!

MR. NEARY: - than you can out of water and sewerage. Look, the big issues today, the cost of living, unemployment, problems in the fishery, industrial development.

MR. MURPHY: It is going to get you elected. What about productivity?

MR. NEARY: No, no!

MR. YOUNG: What about the fishery?

MR. NEARY: Work interruptions, you know, work stoppages may be a big issue. But water and sewerage never shows up on any of the polls unless it is in an isolated community where they have no drinking water. So it is neither going to win or lose an election.

MR. HICKMAN: That is not relevant.

MR. NEARY: It is relevant, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EVANS: If that does not, our record will.

MR. NEARY: So, Mr. Speaker, if the government think that they are going to win an election, Sir, by going out now -

MR. MURPHY: You are the people saying we are going to do that.

MR. NEARY: - by going out and throwing out a few goodies here and there. Now in Rose Blanche it may be a big issue. Water may be an issue because I saw some pictures on television sometime ago with the insects crawling around in the pots, in the pans.

MR. MORGAN: Where was this?

MR. NEARY: In Rose Blanche.

MR. BARRY: We are going to have to launch a savage attack on you if you do not stay relevant.

MR. NEARY: I am relevant. I am as relevant as any other member has been in this debate so far.

MR. MURPHY: Four Liberals have spoken so far.

MR. NEARY: But, Mr. Speaker, the reason I would suggest, Sir, that sewerage - water is a big problem - sewerage is not the problem that members think it is, because most people cannot afford to buy the bathroom set anyway. If you do put in sewerage it means that they have to start then to figure out where they are going to get the money to put in the bowl, to put in the flush box and the bowl and to put in the bathtub, and then to hook on, and then they are going to be charged a tax.

MR. DOODY: I will give you another candy if you will shut up.

MR. NEARY: I am almost tempted, Sir, but - such an important topic.

MR. MURPHY: Yes, you really think it is important.

MR. NEARY: So, Mr. Chairman, the administration will neither win nor lose the election on this particular issue, as important as it is. It needs to be done. And I am afraid, Sir, that the government, despite the fact that they are now trying to force the municipalities into a position of collecting \$12 a month, water and sewer rates, despite the fact that they are trying to do that, that the government will have to continue for a long time in the future to finance these water and sewer projects. The communities themselves just cannot afford -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could hardly hear myself talk over here.

MR. MORGAN: You are lucky. We can hear you over here.

MR. NEARY: Are you staying or going?

MR. MORGAN: I cannot stay.

MR. NEARY: Come back and tell us about the crab industry, boy, an extra four cents or what, five cents, four cents?

MR. HICKMAN: Is this relevant?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the government will have to go on financing these water and sewer projects despite the fact that the Minister of Finance almost had us in tears there a few moments ago, moaning about the amount of money that had to be taken out of the Public Treasury, the government had to pick up the tab. I say, so what! So what if it gives people a little comfort, a little comfort that they are entitled to! So what! It is better to spend it that way than to spend it on jet planes and sending the Norma and Gladys to Japan, and all sorts of the other examples of extravagance and waste that we see, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DOODY: A big party for John C. Doyle.

MR. NEARY: No, you are going to take back Mr. Doyle's property now and then we will hear the screaming and then the scandals will start to come out.

MR. DOODY: You are a great -

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, there is no rhyme nor reason, Sir, to what the administration is doing. They are awarding contracts for these projects strictly along partisan, political lines. And it just as well for them to face up to it, admit it. They think because the former administration did it that it is okay for them to do it.

MR. MARSHALL: What is it that is worrying you? Mention it again.

MR. NEARY: For water and sewer projects.

MR. BARRY: They are open tender, boy.

MR. NEARY: Open tender, my eyeball.

MR. MURPHY: What?

MR. NEARY: Do not be talking so foolish. Open tender.

MR. BARRY: What are you talking about, the companies doing the work or what?

MR. MURPHY: Do you want the councils to do it?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I realize, Sir, that members of this House would like to have this House closed at this particular moment. I love the House. I would move my bed in here if I had to. I would stay here night and day. I am not anxious to get out of this House. I would stay here forever. I love the House. And I know members are getting uptight. It is a fine day, and they want to get out. Well what did they offer themselves for election for in the first place if that is what they want? Get up and make a few speeches and anything you got on your chest, get it off.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: That is what I do. I sit here and I look across, and I get so frustrated and angry that I have to get up and make a speech. I let it out of my system.

MR. DOODY: What about the rest of your colleagues?

MR. NEARY:

The rest of my colleagues will be in to make their little contribution to the House. But, Mr. Chairman, despite the fact that we have spent a large amount of money on water and sewer projects and we will spend a lot more this year, and we are approving a lot now in this bill, there is still, Sir, a great need in this Province for water and sewer and sewerage projects. I do not know where all of the money will come from. We will have to get it somewhere. Personally, Sir, I have - and this is a suggestion that I throw out - I think, Mr. Chairman, that more money from Ottawa that comes into this Province via the LIP projects should be used for water and sewerage. Because there is a situation, Sir, where the Government of Canada pays one hundred per cent of the labour costs -

MR. DOODY: And what else?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I can see the honourable gentleman could go on for quite a while on LIP projects.

AN HON. MEMBER: No I am not going -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Relevance.

MR. NEARY: It is relevant.

MR. HICKMAN: The man does not know what the word means.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I thank Your Honour for his ruling. The point that I am making, Sir, is this, that mainly the amounts that we see in this bill would not be as great if the money coming from Ottawa on Lip projects -

MR. DOODY: You are a lip!

MR. NEARY: - was used to -

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - help install water and sewer systems. We could cut down the amount substantially, and every year we would not have a bill coming in for \$69 million.

MR. MURPHY: Did the honourable member try for one for Bell Island, a LIB project for water and sewer?

MR. NEARY: Yes, we did.

MR. MURPHY: Did you get it?

MR. NEARY: And we got one or two small ones, not enough.

MR. MURPHY: A good job though, 'Steve'.

MR. NEARY: No, but there is a lot of money wasted on, for instance,

MR. MURPHY: Yes, there is.

MR. NEARY: - graveyards and on, you know, foolish stuff when it could be used -

MR. MURPHY: No doubt about it.

MR. NEARY: - when it could be used, Sir, - the money could be used to help the Department of Municipal Affairs to install water and sewerage. And it is something worth considering, Sir. And the Government of Canada is reviewing its Opportunities for Youth and its LIP projects right now and the Province may be able to make some input into that and get some money - a hundred per cent of the labour cost. and I forget now the amount that is spent on material - and cut down the amount of money that has to come out of the Provincial Treasury for water and sewer projects. In my opinion, Sir, this would be very worthwhile indeed. And not only that, Mr. Chairman, but any work that is done should be done in the Summertime not in the Wintertime. But some how or other - I do not know how the bureaucrats got this thing mixed up in their minds that you can go out and put in water and sewerage by hand with pick and shovel in the Wintertime, so that people can get enough stamps to get their unemployment insurance and stay off all Summer. Why not work in the Summertime and stay off all Winter? They are just doing the reverse of what they should be doing.

MR. EVANS: The great economist.

MR. NEARY: But it is - that is true, that is what is happening now, Sir, They are some how or other up in Ottawa looking at Newfoundland from the vantage point there of Wellington Street in Ottawa, they are saying, well down there in Newfoundland and the Atlantic Provinces high unemployment in the Wintertime, So they put everybody to work on LIP projects in the Wintertime and then they get enough stamps and they spend the Summer drawing unemployment insurance. It should just be the reverse, and you cannot do any work worthwhile. How can you

put in water and sewerage in this Province with a pick and shovel in the middle of the Winter?

MR. AYLWARD: You can go to the Straits of Belle Isle, you can dig it there, what happened?

MR. NEARY: You can do what?

MR. AYLWARD: Inaudible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. AYLWARD: If you are going to dig a tunnel across the Straits -

MR. CHAIRMAN: I interrupted this so that I could give the honourable gentleman the right to be heard in silence. Now some honourable gentlemen seem to think that when the Chairman stands that it means nothing. Well, I assure honourable gentlemen that that is not the case.

MR. NEARY: So, Mr. Chairman, if the Government of Canada is going to open this whole matter of creating work, making work projects to try to take care of her unemployment the Province should make some input into it, and try to use some of the resources from the Government of Canada to put in water and sewerage in every community in this Province, and cut down the - that will be something useful - cut down the amount of money that comes from the Provincial Treasury. There is a lot of work that remains to be done in this Province, Mr. Chairman, even though we have made gigantic strides forward, there are still a lot of communities that do not have drinking water and do not have sewerage. A lot of communities

are not kicking up a fuss about it except when they find themselves in a position where they do not have any drinking water. There are still a lot of people in this Province, Sir, forced to use the slop pail and the outdoor privy and to carry water in buckets. My own constituents, every Winter water lines freeze up. They have to go out, draw water from an oil tank in the back of a truck, bring it in and fill up a tank in their house. Now, in a lot of cases they are not grumbling too much about this and we feel as elected representatives of the people that this is not good enough for our people, not good enough, and we are going to have to make a more strenuous effort to try to overcome this situation, even though, as I say, a lot of these communities are not kicking up much of a fuss. The squeaky wheel, as the Leader of the Opposition said, gets the grease. Well, that is what is happening today. There is no rhyme or reason as to how the communities are being selected. When you put the political pressure on, when you get a council that is sincere and conscientious and really wants to do a job, well, one of the biggest feathers in their hat would be to put in water and sewerage.

I was down Saturday afternoon for the opening of the town hall here on the South Shore of Conception Bay in a community where we appointed a council. I think the former administration appointed the first council there in the face of adversity and all kinds of opposition. Now they are talking about water and sewerage. They have their beautiful community hall. DREE, the Government of Canada, carried out a study of the area to see the feasibility of putting in water and sewerage there.

MR. DAWE: No. They did not.

MR. NEARY: Oh yes, they did. The Government of Canada, Sir, DREE paid for that study.

MR. DAWE: What nonsense!

MR. NEARY: Ah! Yes they did. And now the Government of Canada, Sir, is being called upon, rightly so, to help to a large degree to

finance that water and sewerage there on the South Shore of Conception Bay, one of the areas of Newfoundland, I would suggest, Sir, that desperately needs water and sewerage. Why? The area is so congested that if you walk down there now, Sir, the sewerage will probably be squeezing up between your toes. And they have to get their water and sewer project complete even if the Province has to finance it on its own, but I think that DREE, Ottawa, is prepared to kick in. At least that is what Mr. McGrath told us on Saturday afternoon, that Uncle Ottawa, I think he referred to it as Uncle Ottawa, is prepared to contribute substantially to get that project underway. I hope that the Province will not procrastinate or dilly dally, that they will not do the same thing as they are doing in connection with Rose Blanche where they procrastinated for so long and now they are talking about some kind of fancy overhead water system, whatever that means. I do not know -

MR. DAWE: Overhead!

MR. EVANS: The old North wind.

MR. NEARY: I do not know how you protect that from the frost in the wintertime but I will wait and see.

MR. MURPHY: Over ground, not overhead.

MR. NEARY: Over ground, over ground, well, over ground - overhead, over ground, over land, you know, how do you stop it from freezing up in the wintertime.

MR. DAWE: That is the secret.

MR. MURPHY: The secret of the P.C. Government.

MR. NEARY: That is the secret. Well, it is Ottawa that is going to build it, so it must be the secret of the Liberal Government up in Ottawa.

MR. MURPHY: We are advising them.

MR. NEARY: But I understand it is a new experiment, something that is -

MR. BARRY: It is working well.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. BARRY: It is working well.

MR. NEARY: It is working well. Well, it is something that has been tried for the first time and I hope for the sake of the people of Rose Blanche that it works. But I -

MR. GILLETT: Bristol Harbour in Twillingate has it.

MR. NEARY: In Twillingate it works. What do they do, run a line over the ground and then -

MR. GILLETT: Six inches under.

MR. NEARY: Six inches under the ground?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You know, just about.

MR. NEARY: But this is over ground they are talking about down here in Rose Blanche.

MR. GILLETT: Well, what they mean is not down below the level of the frost.

MR. NEARY: Well insulated from the frost, I presume.

MR. GILLETT: Some thermal insulation.

MR. NEARY: But, Sir, the main thing is, Mr. Chairman, and on behalf of the people in the community of Conception Bay South, that comprises of the municipality of Conception Bay South that comprises of seven communities I appeal now to the Provincial Government to take immediate steps, to take immediate steps, Sir, not to procrastinate to get that water and sewer project on the South Shore of Conception Bay underway without further delay.

MR. DOODY: Jim McGrath says you were very polite.

MR. NEARY: Jim McGrath paid me a very great compliment on Saturday afternoon, and I will not repeat what Mr. LaLonde said about Mr. McGrath.

MR. DOODY: Mr. LaLonde should apologize and withdraw that comment.

MR. NEARY: Yes, he - Oh, yes! Sure, yes, he should.

MR. DOODY: Well, he is a Liberal. You would not expect any manners.

MR. NEARY: I will not repeat what Mr. LaLonde said, Sir. The only thing that I can say is that I hope that Mr. McGrath will be successful in getting a few dollars out of Ottawa as a contribution towards that project. But it should be started this summer.

The people down there can wait no longer. Building is being restricted down there. People cannot get permission to put in septic tanks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I think the honourable gentleman's discussion on the conditions in Conception Bay South has gone far enough. And the item of relevance as far as this bill is concerned is I think pretty well almost gone out of the window, but however the Chair still does have the residual power to enforce relevancy, if it feels it is necessary, and that time has come.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the only thing I can do now is wind up by making a strong appeal, an urgent appeal to the administration that they re-examine their list of priorities and that at least in communities where people desperately need drinking water, that they provide drinking water. It does not necessarily follow that they have to put water and sewerage in at the same time. If the people want drinking water, they do not have any drinking water, their water is polluted, contaminated for some reason or other, then these are the communities that should get the top priority, and not the ones that vote Tory or vote Liberal or vote N.D.P. It should be done, Sir, on the basis of need, and not on the basis of how they vote. And I appeal to the administration - it is unfortunate that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is not in his seat today, Sir, and the Minister of Finance has to bear the brunt of all of this because it is not a criticism of the minister's own department, although he will get up and moan and groan and grunt now, and almost have us all in tears. You will feel like breaking down and crying by the time the minister is finished. Hard nosed, you know. Almost as bad as the Minister of Fisheries, ice water in his veins, no feelings towards people. But, Sir, I - one thing that I do have is a big heart and I would to at least see every householder in this Province have at least drinking water, if he cannot get sewerage. We will get the sewerage later on. And so there is something that I hope that the administration will consider.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Fisheries.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Chairman, the honourable gentleman says that I have ice water in my veins, Well, thank God I do not have sewerage in my veins. I would much sooner have ice water than sewerage.

MR. NEARY: Ha! Ha!

MR. CROSBIE: I am glad that struck a good note with the honourable gentleman.

MR. NEARY: Carried.

MR. CROSBIE: We have heard a lot of trash, and we have heard a lot of nonsense in this House, Mr. Chairman, and we have heard a lot more today. You know, the honourable gentleman says his great priority is, and his great principle is that if they want water give them water, If there is difficulty with their water, never mind the sewerage just give them water, give them water, Put in a water system but do not bother putting in the sewerage system at the same time. Now what kind of a mess would we have in this Province, Mr. Chairman, if we adopted that programme?

MR. NEARY: You cannot afford it.

MR. CROSBIE: At a place say, for example, like Bonavista where they need water - we all know they need the water there. They have a horrible water situation in Bonavista. But if we decided just to give Bonavista water and spend two or three years digging trenches for water, put in the water pipes, and then flood them with water, and they would all have water in their homes, now, running water, and taps and so on, but they will have no sewerage, and nowhere to dispose of the water after it has been used in the house. Now what kind of a situation would it then be in Bonavista? Bonavista, for example, would be floating in a sea of sewerage if we adopted that great principle of the honourable gentleman from Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: They must have water.

MR. CROSBIE: But this is an example of the kind of sharp thinking and priorities that the honourable gentlemen opposite gave to this question when they were in office. Well, we think it is a lot more feasible and a lot more plausible and certainly a lot more healthy - we have

got to say it is a lot more healthy- to try to give these communities water and sewerage at the same time, Then you dig the one trench, you know, you do not have to go right through the community for several years disrupting everything, digging a trench to put down a water pipe, and then two years later when they have got epidemics and when they are floating in a sea of sewerage you go through the community again and dig it all up for another two or three years and lay down the sewerage pipes in a different trench at double the cost.

So that is one of the silliest suggestions that I have ever heard from the honourable gentleman opposite, who is usually a master of making silly statements. But this is positively his championship effort, his best effort yet. He has put his best foot forward, because this indeed is the silliest suggestion that he has ever made.

No, Mr. Chairman, this government will ignore the honourable gentleman's suggestion. We will try and give the communities that needed water and sewerage together. Because in any community of any number or great density of people you cannot

provide a piped water system only and forget the sewerage. It is not only unusual, it is positively unhealthy. We are not going to endanger the lives of our people. Now here is a bill that provides for \$24 million. We are asking this House to endorse the government's having guaranteed some \$24 million for water and sewerage work and some road paving work in the municipalities of the Province last year. Is the Opposition getting up just to say, yes, we support this, you know, but more should be done, but we support this. No, they are getting up with these long harangues. I do not know whether the Opposition want to filibuster this act so that we got to stop all this work. Is that what they would like to see happen?

MR. NEARY: This has been done already.

MR. CROSBIE: Talk so long on this bill that we eventually got to drop it and move on to something else so that the \$24 million of work gets stopped. It is \$24.5 million. There are sixty-nine projects. Then we hear the honourable gentleman bleating, positively bleating in a most disgusting manner because of the hypocrisy of his remarks about political considerations. And then he bewails the fact that he says, the honourable gentleman says, that there are political considerations intruding in deciding who should get water or sewerage. Well, that might have been the case in the past, Mr. Chairman, but it has not been the case in the last three years. If we just look at the sixty-nine projects listed in this bill we will see that twelve of them, and there may be more, but twelve that I have definitely noted are projects that are going on in districts represented by members of the Opposition. That is twelve out of the sixty-nine. So if political considerations were the criteria presumably there would be none. There would be no projects for Opposition districts instead of the twelve out of the sixty-nine that are in this bill. And last year I dare say that there were even more that were in Opposition districts. The criteria is not political. The criteria is that this Province can afford to guarantee for our municipalities. We have to borrow anyway, according to the budget,

about \$200 million this year or whatever the exact figure is. And there is only so much more we can guarantee for the municipalities because we have to go out and borrow for the Newfoundland Municipal Finance Corporation to repay all these guarantees to the bank. So this \$24 million from last year will have to be borrowed this year in the bond markets of the world in addition to the rest of the money we are borrowing. And unfortunately it is only possible for the Province to borrow from \$20 million to \$25 million a year for municipal water and sewerage works. But in addition to the works listed in this, because of our efforts and because of our planning and because of our priorities that the honourable gentlemen opposite have been scoffing at and saying are non-existent, because of these things we are getting substantial help from Ottawa in other directions.

Now Ottawa is not going to become, as Mr. Jamieson has said to loud plaudits, is not going to become the Department of Municipal Affairs for Canada. The Department of Regional and Economic Expansion is a department to try to help create and develop economic opportunities in the less favoured parts of Canada. They are not in the business of financing municipal water and sewerage projects, road paving and the like. But they will help with infrastructure where you can show that that is directly tied to a development opportunity. That is the criteria. We cannot get them to do all of these water and sewerage systems and so on. They will not do it, and you can understand why they will not. If they did, they would have to do it for every area of Canada. But what we have succeeded in getting DREE to do is to agree to do things that we can tie directly to development opportunities, such as the St. John's Regional Water system which is going to cost some \$30 million, I think the amount is, \$32 million to bring water from Bay Bulls Big Pond into St. John's, into Mount Pearl and New Town and provide for water to go to Conception Bay South. DREE has agreed to do that. Well that will save the Province - we will not

have to borrow that \$30 million. DREE is going to contribute, I think it is, seventy or seventy-five per cent of the cost. That is seventy-five per cent of \$30 million that we will not have to borrow for the St. John's Metropolitan Area Board or whoever, and, therefore, will give us more flexibility in borrowing more money for the other municipalities. And hopefully DREE will do other projects in infrastructure under a new agreement we have reached with them where we have just about settled now what their criteria will be for assisting with infrastructure in local areas. And they will, therefore, devote their efforts to helping in those areas which we can show are tied to development and that will give the Province more financial scope to borrow or guarantee money for our municipalities. So that is what this bill is about. A huge amount, This is twice the amount if not three times the amount that used to be guaranteed for municipalities. In the years up to 1971, I would say -

I have not checked this recently but the most that was ever guaranteed in any year for the municipalities would have been \$8 million to \$10 million.

MR. NEARY: So the Premier mentions.

MR. CROSBIE: And in 1971 there were some special considerations.

MR. NEARY: Is that so?

MR. MURPHY: An election year.

MR. CROSBIE: Yes.

MR. NEARY: A special year.

MR. CROSBIE: But we do not want to remind the public of that now, We are forgetting the past.

MR. MURPHY: Forget it.

MR. CROSBIE: So \$24 million is a huge amount, Mr. Chairman, And this year the government will again be guaranteeing for municipalities at the banks, for dozens and dozens of projects that have priority and should be done, another \$24 million. And next year we will have to come before the House and ask for the House to ratify that retroactively again, and we hope the House will.

So, Mr. Chairman, it is not possible to accept the honourable gentleman's suggestion that we do water alone, although that is possible in some cases where there are small communities.

MR. NEARY: That is what I said.

MR. CROSBIE: We have got to do water and sewerage, and we have got to do them in the areas that have the worst health conditions, and that is what the priorities are set on, and in the areas that have the best opportunities for further development if they do get water and sewerage and the like. So we are therefore asking the House to approve this so that we can get on and discuss some of the other legislation we have before the House. This is a continuing programme of municipal improvement heavily subsidized. Not only does the Government of Newfoundland guarantee all of these amounts, but the Government of Newfoundland is agreeing in every case to subsidize the water and sewerage rates in every one of those communities to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars. I believe the estimates this year is something like \$7 million or \$8 million is needed just

to pay water and sewerage subsidies to the municipalities of this Province. The municipalities of this Province are the most heavily assisted of any municipalities anywhere in Canada, the most heavily assisted by the provincial government of any at all. And if they had been asked to charge as they have been, at least \$10 a month for water and sewerage, that amount does not even go near the cost today of installing and operating water and sewerage systems, and they are still heavily subsidized by the general taxpayer of the Province.

So I hope, Mr. Chairman, that having disposed of these issues - I hope they are disposed of - the Opposition having made their points, none of which I do not think have any validity.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSBIE: The House will now approve the guarantee of these municipal loans so we can get on with other businesses that are here for the House to deal with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Burgeo-LaPoile.

MR. A. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, very briefly I had not intended to get into this debate until the subject of Rose Blanche was brought up, about the squeaky wheel. Well, I think I did a lot of, not squeaking, probably a bit of bellowing for the last two or three years about that same thing with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, Fiscal Relations. And the squeaky wheel probably that was referred to is probably to cost this Province a lot of money. There was an arrangement made for DREE to meet with Fiscal Relations and the people who were doing the survey, also CMHC on February 14. Probably everyone here knows of the fact that the Minister of DREE walked off a television appearance due to that same squeaky wheel and someone who was following it up. It cost this Province fifty per cent of the cost of installing water in Rose Blanche whereas it was suppose to be an entirely federal project up to that time.

Now there was some doubt expressed as to the nature of the type of line that is going there. That line is something that has been used down in the American Forces installations down in the far North for the last few years, and it proved to be very successful. It is a return line that is heated. It is shallow ditched, and in cases where there is too much rock it is placed entirely upon top of the ground and covered by insulation. I have no doubt that it will be very successful in Rose Blanche, and that it will be implemented before too long.

We have heard criticism over there of the rate that is mentioned today, \$12 per month for water and sewerage. I would like to remind members opposite that that is something that should have been unnecessary because when we went under Confederation the \$45 million that was left here by the Commission of Government, blood money squeezed out of our fishermen back in the early years of the Commission of Government, if that money had not been channelled into crazy industries or so-called industries - probably gone in part to Clearwater -

we could have had water installed all over Newfoundland and probably a part of Nova Scotia at the same amount of money for what it would have cost at that time. The borrowing rates, even if we had to borrow money, would have been an awful lot less than they are today. The inane suggestion that we are giving water services to places that are Conservative rather than those that are Liberal, I do not know what the Liberals are bitching about because they went dry for twenty-three years and they even licked the hand of the man who turned off the tap, Joe Smallwood.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just listened to what I consider to be one of the most scandalous remarks that has ever been made, one of the most vicious personal attacks ever made on a gentleman outside of this House, Sir, the former Premier of this Province. I thought Your Honour would have brought the member to order, Sir, and asked him to withdraw and apologize to this honourable House. Not only that, there was a statement made before that, Sir, that has to be clarified now.

MR. MURPHY: On a point of order, Sir, may I?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Is the honourable gentleman rising on a point of order? Privilege?

MR. MURPHY: No. Yes. Okay!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The honourable gentleman may rise on a point of order but -

MR. NEARY: On a point of order, Sir. On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The honourable member, Sir, just viciously attacked a gentleman who used to sit in this House is no longer here, who is not here to defend himself.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: At least that is the implication. That was the implication made by the honourable member, Sir, and I would ask Your Honour to ask the Member for Burgeo to withdraw and apologize to the House or be named.

MR. EVANS: You are still licking his hand, in other words.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Well, I am not sure which remark the

honourable gentleman is referring to.

MR. NEARY: Clearwater. Clearwater.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the honourable gentleman is going to have to bring more evidence before me before I can ask for a retraction of that remark.

MR. EVANS: Take a back seat.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, there was another statement made by the honourable member -

MR. MURPHY: On a point of order?

MR. NEARY: No, this is on - I am speaking now on the bill before the House, Sir, a very, very serious charge made by the honourable member in connection with an alleged commitment by the Government of Canada to pay 100 per cent of the cost of installation of a water system in the town of Rose Blanche. I believe, Sir, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs owes it to this House and owes it to the people of this Province to state whether this is correct. Was there a commitment, and if there was, was the commitment in writing? Was it an oral commitment? Did the Government of Canada waltz on this commitment? Is the Province now going to have to pay several hundreds of thousands of dollars because somebody in Ottawa reneged? Is this what the member is saying?

The Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs should clarify that point. If the Member for Burgeo is correct, then it would seem to me, Sir, that there is a case here, not only for a grievance, I do not know if you can sue the Government of Canada, but if there was a commitment they should be forced to live up to it. There may have been some promise made during an election, Sir, there may have been some reference to a water and sewer system for Rose Blanche, but the question is did the Government of Canada, did Mr. Jamieson on behalf of the Government of Canada make a firm commitment to the people of this Province, to the Government of this Province?

MR. BARRY: Why are you not suing them?

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, why are they doing something about it?

MR. CROSBIE: Do not be acting so silly.

MR. NEARY: That is not silly, Sir, that is a pretty serious charge.

It is a pretty serious matter, Sir.

MR. HICKMAN: We will deal with it in due course.

MR. NEARY: Or is the government of this Province just glad to get the Government of Canada to pay fifty per cent of the cost of this water project. It is the only place in Newfoundland that I know of where the Government of Canada is doing it. The Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs just told us that DREE was not going to become the Department of Municipal Affairs for the whole of Canada, Most unusual, to pay fifty per cent of the cost of a water project in a community that, I suppose, that is not considered to be a place where you could have industrial development. But they are doing it and the Province should be darn glad that they are doing it, and not hear this silly nonsense that we just heard from the Member for Burgeo. It is up to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs to clear up this matter. Was there a commitment or was there not a commitment? If there was a commitment, why is the Province not insisting that the Government of Canada fulfill its obligation? They have a very strong legal case, Sir. Put it

before the Supreme Court if what the member says is correct. Now, Mr. Chairman, as far as the remarks that I made about providing water for certain communities in this Province, the minister had to take that and twist it and try to turn it around. Sir, the member knows just as well as I do that there are dozens and dozens and dozens of communities in this Province that are famished for a drop of drinking water, and they do not need sewerage. There are not that many houses there. Where you have a high density of population, of course, it makes sense to put in water and sewerage. But there are dozens and dozens of communities - look, right over on Bell Island, Sir, in my own district, down at the East End they do not need sewerage but they need water. Up in Parsonsville they do not need sewerage but they need water. And you can multiply that 500 times in this Province.

MR. MORGAN: You still have settlements that need water?

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir, they need water at the East End and in Parsonsville.

MR. MORGAN: Unbelievable.

MR. MURPHY: Where is Parsonsville?

MR. NEARY: On Bell Island you have to get all your water from artesian wells. And in the summertime the wells down at the East End and the wells in Parsonsville go dry, completely dry, and the people have to haul their water in the backs of their cars in these areas. But there is all kinds of land there, Sir. Each house, I suppose, is built on an acre or a couple of acres of land, and there are not that many houses there. They do not need sewerage but they need water and that is what I am saying. And the minister had to get up and try to twist it, poke fun at it. It is a pretty serious matter, Sir.

MR. MURPHY: Where is Parsonsville?

MR. NEARY: Parsonsville is up in the West End of the Island. It is up near the Bell.

MR. DOODY: It is a suburb of Bickfordville.

MR. NEARY: No, it is not a suburb of Bickfordville.

One thing, Sir, the member will have to learn if he

is going to campaign on Bell Island is that Parsonsville is not a suburb of Bickfordville. They are all individual, separate entities unto themselves, and they do not like to be mixed in with the other communities. But it is up in the West End of the Island, up near the Bell.

MR. MURPHY: Where Ned has his tavern.

MR. NEARY: Well that is Parsonsville where Ned has his tavern. He lives there and the honourable -

MR. MURPHY: I knew him well, knew him well.

MR. NEARY: From his old days of travelling around -

MR. MURPHY: In the "Drink Dominion Ale" days.

MR. NEARY: Yes, and drink Dominion, "Chug-a-lug a Dominion!"

But, Mr. Chairman, that is what I mean, Sir, And, you know, in Bonavista he used that as an example - well I think we launched a project in Bonavista and managed to get that water and sewer project underway there. Well that makes sense, put water and sewerage there, of course. But how many communities are in that district of Bonavista South that do not need water and sewerage but just need water? Water, Sir, is next to fresh air and it makes great - look, Sir, look, All it takes, Mr. Chairman, is a few drill holes here and there, connect up a water line, put a hydrant there and the people will run the lines themselves, in a good many cases. For instance in Bickfordville on Bell Island where they have no water the Bell Island Development Association put in a waterline under a LIP project. They did not put in any sewerage. It is not necessary to put sewerage there. But they put in a waterline under a LIP project. And all they did when the original drill hole was put there and the pump house, was to put a hydrant on the outside. And the people took the initiative themselves and under a LIP project they ran a waterline and put the water into their homes.

MR. MORGAN: It was frozen up all last winter.

MR. NEARY: It was not frozen up! No, Sir! I will tell the House what happened to it last winter. The pump was burned out and this administration would not replace the pump. That is what happened, Sir, Amesley little pump and about fifty families had to go without water all winter because we could not get this crowd to replace the pump.

MR. MORGAN: The pump was frozen up.

MR. NEARY: It was not frozen up. That, Sir, is not true. It was not frozen up. The pump was burned out. And go down and check your facts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Order, please!

Maybe the honourable gentleman might keep in mind that we are dealing with an expenditure of \$23,500,000 I believe and it is a guarantee of loans to municipalities, and I believe that the provision of a pump for Bickfordville has to be irrelevant at this time. I believe it is.

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, the only other point that I want to make - it is not a new point - is the fact that we should not always be thinking about the big projects, the multi-million dollar projects. We should think of the little fellow in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: We should think of the people who have no drinking water, who really do not need sewerage. Maybe if the community starts to grow,

fifteen, twenty, thirty years from now they may need sewerage, but at the moment, Sir, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, fifty houses here and there, all they need is a little bit of drinking water. And these are the people on whose behalf I made an appeal to the government earlier to move well up on their list of priorities. But the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs decided that he would twist that out of all proportion, Sir, and I just want to clarify that and leave his foolish statements on the public record. And I would like for the minister to get back in his seat and tell us about that commitment from the Government of Canada in connection with Rose Blanche.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, in regards to the remark that I made earlier, and which has been disputed through lack of knowledge by the Member from Bell Island, I would like for it to go on record here and now by stating that when the election was on last year, the federal election, the Honourable Mr. Jamieson got on the radio in Grand Bank, he made that statement, and he also sent out letters to the people of Rose Blanche telling them that that was a federal project, a pilot project, an experimental project in other words, which would be financed entirely by the federal government in Ottawa.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: How did the Province get sucked into this?

AN HON. MEMBER: Carried! Carried!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall Clause 1 carry?

MR. FARLE: Mr. Chairman, just one moment, please! That is a long, long way from the subject of this bill. I do not know what all this debate is about when you are trying to approve the guarantees and loans given last year. But there have been a number of statements made which must be corrected. First of all the Member for St. Barbe North made an astounding confession that he does not know the priorities of his own district.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. FARLE: He was not alone in that -

MR. F. ROWE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CROSBIE: He is afraid.

MR. F. ROWE: I did not state at any time or give any indication that I did not know the priorities of the district. As a matter of fact I stated quite clearly what the priorities were, and that was to supply water to these communities that do not have water. And I have no intention of listing off on a priority list communities that need water when they all need water.

MR. BARRY: The member has refused to list them, so retract.

MR. EARLE: Mr. Chairman -

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe this point of order is basically a matter of dispute as to facts, interpretation of statements. It is not really a point of order, but the honourable member has made his point.

MR. EARLE: Mr. Chairman, may I speak to this microphone, my microphone is not working. No, the hon. member would not give the department information which is tantamount to the same thing as admitting that he did not know.

MR. ROWE: It is no such thing!

MR. EARLE: But each member in this House was asked to give the water and sewer priorities for his district. In my own case, for instance, I had no hesitation whatsoever in the district of Fortune Bay in listing what I thought were the top priorities. Because if anybody knows the needs of his district most certainly it should be a member.

For instance in Fortune Bay the first project I started was in a settlement which voted about eight-five per cent against me in the last election, where there are other settlements that voted almost a hundred per cent for me that still need water and sewerage. But the needs of this particular settlement were, in my opinion, far greater than some of the other settlements. So we make the need a paramount consideration, and take the needs first. This is where this government is trying to set proper priorities in doing the job where it is needed most. That is just one example.

Another point which the honourable Member for St. Barbe North made which is extremely foolish, he was trying to compare the estimates of what was being spent for paving this year, and said that it was only \$200,000 more than last year, and therefore the 60/40 formula was really false because it did not indicate any great additional expenditure. Why he does not appear to understand is that all of this is done under guarantee. There is no way that you can look at the estimates and calculate what work will be done on water and sewer or paving this year, because as the councils of the various places come to us and ask the government to guarantee loans, then guarantees are given. And the amount in the estimate only indicates what it costs from year to year to service these loans. In other words, the paving grant in there is repayments due by the government for work already done over a period of years. This does not indicate in any way what is going to be spent this year. I just want to make that point quite clear.

There was a reference by the Member for Bell Island to try and have LIP projects do water and sewer systems.

I think somebody clarified that afterwards, but LIP projects generally are labour intensive and are done during the Winter season. And some of these which attempted to do water and sewer projects were simply atrocious mistakes because there is no way that you can do an efficient water and sewer project in the winter weather in this country. And it is a complete waste of money to try to do many of these things during the hard Winter weather. The work has to be done during the Summer or during the open working season.

To try to suggest again, as he did, that these LIP projects should be done in the Summer is absolutely contrary to the whole way of life of Newfoundland. What are you going to do, take people off the lobster fishery, the cod fishery and so on and set them to work on LIP projects in the summer? The whole object of a LIP project is to try to give work during a season when there is no work, not to try to take people off active, their usual activities and set them to work on a LIP project.

There was also a statement made that Bonavista was a project of the previous government. That is not so. This government, I think, if I remember rightly, has put something like \$3 million into the Bonavista water system and there is more to go this year. This was only started a year or so ago.

MR. PECKFORD: This government, all this government.

MR. EARLE: All this government. The honourable Member for Bell Island, referring to Bell Island not having a cent spent on it, during the time that I was in the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing one of the biggest problems we had was Bell Island. Their finances from the previous council were in a terrible shape. There was hardly a week or a month went by that the council was not in to see us to try to get money to keep things afloat. There were hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of dollars given to that council on Bell Island to try to keep things in some sort of shape until the department could examine the real needs of the whole community, which they did. They put

in a complete study on that and I understand that there is to be quite a job done on the water and sewer system over there. There was antiquated water and sewer system, inherited from the company, which was in simply deplorable shape. There was no way you can get around to doing a proper job on it until you gave it a proper study, and that has been done. In conjunction with the way this government goes about doing things it wanted to find out first what had to be done and how it should be done before it went ahead and wasted a lot of money on an old system which would be just a complete mess. But in spite of that there were hundreds of thousands of dollars given to the council to keep them afloat while we were trying to look at this situation over there and make some sense of it.

MR. MURPHY: That is over the past couple of years, notwithstanding what the member said that we did not spend any money?

MR. EARLE: Yes, of course.

MR. MURPHY: Ah, he is just trying to deceive the House!

MR. EARLE: And also the Member for Bell Island - I am not sure - I think he referred to money coming from Ottawa. For a period of twelve or eighteen months we were desperately trying to get Ottawa to come in on many of these projects, just to name one very large one, Grand Falls where the original water system, the source of water was laid out by DREE. This was paid for by DREE. It is somewhere near Bishop Falls. There is the need of a large trunk line from Bishop Falls up to Grand Falls to give them a complete new water system.

MR. PECKFORD: Northern Arm.

MR. EARLE: I think it is for eighteen months we have been trying to get Ottawa to come in on this as a project which could be done under DREE because in our opinion that area, as a highly labour intensified area, qualifies under the DREE criteria. But so far we have not been successful in getting them to do it. Consequently this Provincial Government, unless Ottawa comes to the rescue, will have to spend \$3 million or \$4 million at least on the Grand Falls water system, all of which, as we see it at present, will have to be provincial money.

Ottawa has simply taken the attitude, as the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs said, that these water and sewer projects, municipal projects do not fit within the criteria laid down by DREE. But fortunately, and we are very grateful for it, that in the case of St. John's they have come through with very substantial assistance. I hope that they are now beginning to see the light and that Conception Bay South and many of the other large and very costly projects will be helpfully financed by DREE. But it has been an uphill battle. It has been practically a two year battle to try to get Ottawa to see the light and at last there is some assistance coming in that direction.

I hope therefore that these estimates which only indicate what has been done last year will be passed without further comment.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the minister in his remarks, Sir, made reference to the Bell Island Town Council and then there was an interjection by the Minister of Social Services, something to the effect that I deceived the House or I was deceiving the House and the minister is nodding his - he is saying yes, that he did say that. Well, Sir, that of course is unparliamentary. Probably Your Honour did not hear the statement. But just to set the record straight, Sir, and I do not want to stand on a point of order and have the Minister of Social Services apologize to the House

as he so often had to do, But I will repeat what I said again and if the Ministers of Social Services and Finance will just perk up their ears, just listen to what I have to say. I said not a red cent of provincial money had been put into Bell Island to expand water and sewerage in the last three years and I stand by that statement, Sir. There has been some LIP money put in there, I said, to expend water lines. The minister is confused, mixed up. He said that they had to put money in there to keep the town council afloat. That is true. Just the same as it is true of just about every municipality in Newfoundland. Bell Island is no exception.

MR. MURPHY: What did they use it on?

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. MURPHY: What did they use it on?

MR. NEARY: They used it to maintain essential services, garbage collection, street lights, buying new equipment.

MR. MURPHY: Water and sewerage were not essential?

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. MURPHY: Water and sewerage were not essential?

MR. NEARY: Not extending water and sewerage. They did not use - they used it to pay their light bill and maintenance but they did not use it, Sir, to expand their water and sewerage and that is precisely the statement that I made and I stand by it. The reason that they have not done - the minister talked about a study being made and they believed in planning and all this sort of thing. Well, Sir, has the study being going on on Bell Island for three years?

MR. EARLE: You have got to prepare and pass legislation.

MR. NEARY: Do they not have the information in their hands that they require? Is it going to change the situation? Is the minister implying that they are going to have to up their taxes on Bell Island, they are going to have to bring in a property tax? Is that what the minister is saying? The source of income, revenue on Bell Island is limited, the same as it is in, I suppose, the same as it is in a good many more

municipalities in Newfoundland. There is no employment, no industry on Bell Island. The council will have to be helped out financially for a good many years to come unless we can discover through some miracle an industry for Bell Island. But I stand by my, I stand by my statement, Sir, and the Minister of Social Services should be ashamed of himself.

MR. MURPHY: No, I am not ashamed of myself. You implied there was no money spent on Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, The former administration poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into Bell Island to keep it afloat for the same reason the minister gave. But we at the same time, we put in water and sewerage over there at the same time. There is where the difference is in the former administration and this administration. All they are doing is keeping the municipality afloat and not putting in any new water and sewer lines over there. There is the difference.

On motion Clauses (1) and (2), carried.

On motion preamble carried.

On motion title carried.

On motion Bill and Resolution without amendment, carried.

On motion that the Committee rise, report having passed Bill No. 22 without amendment, and ask leave to sit again, Mr. Speaker returned to the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole have considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report having passed a certain resolution as well as bill number (22) which is to give effect to the same and ask leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole reports that they have considered the matters to them referred and report having passed a certain resolution and recommends that bill number (22) be introduced to give effect to same.

On motion report received and adopted.

On motion a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Local Authority Guarantee Act, 1957," read a first time and second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole now by leave, carried.

On motion that the House resolve itself into Committee of The Whole on the said bill, Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Local Authority Guarantee Act, 1957."

Motion that the Committee reported having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

A bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Workmen's Compensation Act".

Motion that the Committee reported having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

A bill, "An Act To Amend The Newfoundland Teacher (Collective Bargaining) Act, 1973.

Motion that the Committee reported having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

A bill, "An Act Respecting A Plan Of Legal Aid For The Province".

MR. CROSBIE: I move that all Clauses up to 68 carry and then in Clause 69 there is a change.

MR. NEARY: We do not care what you do with that. It is completely irrelevant.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Aylward): Is it agreed that Clause 1 to Clause 68 carry? Carried.

MR. CROSBIE: In Clause 69, Mr. Chairman, in the second last line of that Clause after the word 'forthwith', the words 'appoint and' then after the word 'instruct', the word 'a' so it reads, 'forthwith instruct, appoint and a committee' Take out the word, disciplinary.

On motion Clause 69 as amended, carried.

On motion Clause 69 through to Clause 73 carried.

Motion that the committee report having passed the bill with amendment, carried.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Aylward): Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole reports having passed Bill No. 22, 80 and 44 without amendment and Bill No. 42 with some amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole reports that they have considered the matters to them referred and report having passed Bill Nos. 22, 44 and 80 without amendment and Bill No. 42 with amendment and ask leave to sit again.

On motion report received and adopted.

On motion bills read a third time now by leave.

On motion a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Local Authority Guarantee Act, 1957," read a third time, ordered passed and title be as on the Order Paper.

On motion a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Workmen's Compensation Act," read a third time, ordered passed and title be as on the Order Paper."

On motion a bill, "An Act To Amend The Newfoundland Teacher (Collective Bargaining) Act, 1973," read a third time, ordered passed and title be as on the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 42, there was an amendment I think.

On motion amendments read a first and second time.

On motion bill ordered read a third time now by leave.

On motion a bill, "An Act Respecting A Plan Of Legal Aid For The Province," read a third time, ordered passed and title be as on the Order Paper.

MR. CROSBIE: Bill No. 66.

Motion second reading of a bill, "An Act To Amend The Regulation Of Mines Act."

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this is a bill, Sir, that I -

AN HON. MEMBER: Is the minister going to introduce the bill?

MR. NEARY: Well the minister did not get up so I -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Does the minister want to introduce the bill?

MR. SPEAKER: I recognize the Hon. Member for Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I presume if I take my seat now I will have spoken in this debate so I do not have any choice but to carry on.

MR. ROBERTS: Unless you want to yield by leave to speak again.

MR. NEARY: All right, Sir. I am satisfied.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member for Bell Island has leave to speak again.

The Hon. Minister of Mines and Energy.

AN HON. MEMBER: It was very generous of you.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere

appreciation of the honourable member's generosity and graciousness as exhibited here this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, this is a significant bill. It involves a broadening of the meaning of the word 'mine', first of all when used as a noun, and secondly when used as a verb. Now, Mr. Speaker, one would not at first glance consider that to be of any particular significance, but when we consider the earlier discussion that went on with respect to the Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and when we realized that the broadening of the definition of 'mine' will enable the Mine Safety Division of the Department of Mines and Energy to take a broader responsibility for investigating working conditions in mine related facilities, and two that specifically come to mind that the department will have authority over following the enactment to this legislation would be the ERCO plant and the North Star Cement Plant, not that I particularly look forward to having any jurisdiction in connection with the ERCO plant, Mr. Speaker. But it is an area where our examination of the responsibilities of various departments, the Department of Mines and Energy, the Department of Health, the Department of Manpower as carried on through the Workmen's Compensation Board, indicated that there were certain gaps in the inspection services of government. And this act is designed to eliminate these gaps that were discovered to ensure that there is a specific responsibility in the Department of Mines and Energy to monitor the working conditions, specifically the dust levels, the gas quantities in the atmosphere and so on, to ensure, Mr. Speaker, that as far as possible potential occupational hazards can be removed before matters get to the stage where employees have to rely on the Workmen's Compensation Board.

So really, Mr. Speaker, this is an area where government is taking steps on two fronts. We are moving ahead. There has been significant progress made. There is a lot still to be done, but we are moving ahead in areas of prevention, to prevent occupational or industrial disease. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, we are attempting

to improve the compensation levels of the Workmen's Compensation Board for the unfortunate cases where industrial disease is encountered by employees within the Province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious matter. It is a matter that has not had adequate attention paid to it, not only in our Province but in North America generally, the matter of industrial disease. We have had a disaster brought to our attention with respect to the St. Lawrence Mines, and let us hope that we never experience that type of situation in our Province again. But all across North America and all around the world every month or so there are reports of this type of discovery being made. For example, only a few months ago you might have recalled seeing where a considerable number of workmen were developing cancer because of working in a plant where the emission of vinyl chloride gas eventually was determined to be causing cancer in these employees. We have seen recently with respect to the Province of Quebec problems in the asbestos mines in that Province. We see in just about every Province, Mr. Speaker, ours included, areas of potential concern where unless we keep a proper lookout, unless we keep proper government supervision, the health of our Newfoundland employees may be jeopardized.

So, Mr. Speaker, this bill, the principle of the bill is

to extend the definition of 'mine' so as to broaden the authority of the mines inspection branch of the department. I might add in passing that in addition to this review of the responsibilities of the various departments which we carried out and the allegating of specific responsibilities for inspections and supervising monitoring working conditions, there have been a number of other positive steps taken in the area of - to prevent industrial disease and occupational hazards. One of the areas where we first discovered there were problems was that there was no central registry for miners' x-rays. We had miners in various mines being required to have annual x-rays taken and they go to their doctors. The x-rays would be taken and that might be the last anybody ever heard of them except the doctor and sometimes the patient again, not always the proper communication with the patient. And if the worker moved to another mine his plates did not follow him.

MR. MURPHY: You would make a central one out of that.

MR. BARRY: So now we have it organized, Mr. Speaker, so that there is a central government registry for miners x-rays and there is a doctor assigned the responsibility in the department of Health for analyzing these x-rays as they come into the department. We hope to have better follow-up, better supervision to catch potential hazards before they occur, Mr. Speaker, or before the industrial disease is carried to the stage where it is quite serious, to catch it before it reaches that stage.

Here is an area where we hope that we may have been successful, in the case of the Iron Ore Company of Canada, in getting a fairly early warning there and immediate steps were taken to reduce the dust levels and we hope that this has nipped that problem in the bud. There are, as the honourable Member for Bell Island mentioned earlier today, there have been eleven cases of silicosis confirmed and these employees are people who can still work but have had to be moved to non-dust-related areas, areas where they are not taking in dust in

their lungs. And in some cases this has meant a reduction in pay for these employees and they have to make claims to the Workmen's Compensation Board. They have some complaints about the method of processing the Workmen's Compensation Board and this is an area where we hope to help them bring along their claim as quickly as possible.

There are fourteen other cases, in addition to the eleven that have been confirmed by biopsy, there are fourteen others that appear to indicate early silicosis by x-rays but biopsies have not been necessary.

So, Mr. Speaker, we hope that by taking early action we will prevent any increase in the number of cases at the I.O.C. plant and it is unfortunate that this number has occurred. Another area, Mr. Speaker, where we think a positive step has been taken with respect to industrial health in relating to this is that we now require that what they call a pulmonary function test be taken annually in addition to the chest x-ray. This will measure the breathing capacity, basically, of the miner. The first test will not be all that useful in that it merely gives the standard, but then as years go by you have something to compare against and you can determine whether the breathing capacity of the miner is being affected.

Now, of course, there are other areas where the miner can be affected apart from problems that occurred in his job. For example, if he is an excessive smoker, or if he has other health problems there are other reasons that could lead to deterioration in breathing capacity. But this pulmonary function test has been indicated as a useful tool for monitoring the health of workmen and it is one that we have decided to implement in conjunction with the Department of Health.

Another very significant step, Mr. Speaker, that has been taken to improve the situation with respect to occupational health in this Province is the approval of the position of Director of Occupational Health in the Department of Health. This is a position that has not yet been filled but is being advertised for. We understand there are some problems in getting an appropriate individual to fill it. But

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here again this will be a step forward in having a specific individual with a particular responsibility in the Department of Health for continuous monitoring of the health of our employees.

Another area where we consider progress to have been made is with respect to the appointment of additional

mine safety inspectors and technicians for the actual on-site monitoring and inspecting of working conditions. Mr. Speaker, these are a few brief areas in addition to this present bill where steps have been taken to try and prevent the occurrence of industrial disease, and I would ask all members of this honourable House to lend their support to the present bill.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I personally approve of this bill, and I am sure that I speak on behalf of my colleagues on the opposite side of the House, Sir, in endorsing this amendment to the regulations of Mines Act. It is a very, very important piece of legislation, Sir. It is a very valuable piece of legislation and the minister told us briefly some of the things that have happened in connection with health hazards on some of these projects, mining projects in the Province.

Mr. Speaker, I am still not convinced whether it is proper or whether it is more efficient to share the responsibility, to have the responsibility for enforcing regulations and checking on these health hazards if it is a good thing to share the responsibility with a couple of other departments of government. I believe it would be more effective, Sir, if the whole operation was placed under one department, placed under the Department of Mines and Energy. With all due respect to my learned friend, the Minister of Health, and the Minister of Manpower, Sir, all three departments share the responsibility of enforcing and checking on these health hazards. I believe the time has come, Sir, with all the disclosures that we have had over the past couple of years, the time has come to put all these functions in connection with health hazards, pollution, occupational diseases and so forth should be all put under one department, whether it is under the Workmen's Compensation Board - I think it would be more appropriate to put it under the Minister of Mines and Energy because these hazards apparently show up more so in mines and plants that are connected or related

to the mining industry than any other kind of industry. But I really believe, Sir, that the time has come to put it under one roof, under one head so that one minister can direct the whole operation and not have to go so to speak on bended knees to his colleague, the Minister of Health when he wants to get some information or give directions or get something done, to the Minister of Health who will pass the information down the line to his director or the Minister of Manpower who will have to pass it on to Workmen's Compensation.

MR. MURPHY: He would have to put him on the staff of the department.

MR. NEARY: Put him on the staff, why not? The minister has a lawyer on his staff.

MR. MURPHY: No, I just wanted to know what you were talking about.

MR. NEARY: The minister has legal counsel on his staff, a special adviser to the minister. Why not have special advisers who are doctors who are experts in this field? I throw that suggestion out for the minister because I think it is one worth considering in the future. I am extremely pleased, Sir, I am delighted to hear of the progress that has been made. This has been a field that has been neglected for too long, and I am glad now that something is being done about it, being from a mining community myself. I know, Sir, what can happen to people's health. I have seen miners health deteriorate. And as I indicated earlier today, the X-rays did not show up anything. It was impossible to detect whether or not the miner had silicosis. But I am convinced in my mind that they did. I remember when I was a young fellow myself going to school on Bell Island I was a chronic asthmatic.

Night after night, after night, Sir, and this is an absolute fact, I could not breathe, I had to sit up in a chair. There were times I thought I was going to pass away. And every time I left Bell Island, Mr. Sneaker, went off the Island it cleared up. I went back to Bell Island and got this chest condition again. And I am convinced myself it had something to do with the dust on the Island at the time, and the dust from the stockpiles and from the roads. I was not the only one. There was probably more chest conditions on Bell Island per capita than in any other community in Newfoundland, although asthma and bronchitis is fairly prevalent throughout Newfoundland, maybe it is caused by the damp, cold climate we have but I saw more on Bell Island, I think, than in any other community. And I am convinced that it has some relationship to the mining operation, the dust that was being created, not only underground, you know, the dust on the surface from the stockpiles and especially when it was windy.

In the Wintertime the snow was red with iron ore dust. And could you imagine that going down into your lungs day in and day out, and there was not a thing we could do about it. Because, Mr. Sneaker, companies, big corporations which have their head offices sometimes in Montreal and down in Pittsburgh could not care less about the conditions under which their employees have to work. It is like beating your head on a stone wall to try to get them to deal with the dust conditions in the plants and in the mills and in the mines. All they are interested in is making money and getting their production up. And they could not care less in a lot of cases, in most cases about employees.

And, you know, the kind of disease that we are talking about, Mr. Sneaker, is not the kind of disease that develops overnight. It takes years sometimes before a person goes down with silicosis, years and years, twenty-five, thirty years inhaling these fumes

and dust down in your lungs, and all of a sudden the tissues of your lungs break down, the inside of your lung is as hard as that wood there, baked. The dust is baked on to your lungs. The minister knows what I am talking about. And I have seen individuals like pushing one breath after another, I have seen them down, as the Premier did when he went to St. Lawrence, he probably saw the same gentleman in the hospital there that I did, who died shortly after, pushing one breath after the other. You would look at the man and you would say that he was a tower of strength. You would not say there was a thing in the world wrong with him. And when I left the bedside of that gentleman in St. Lawrence I went out and Dr. Hollywood informed me that the gentleman may have a month or two, and I kept inquiring about the gentleman and shortly after he did pass away. It is hard to detect that sort of thing, that sort of disease. It creeps up on you, and you have to continuously watch it.

And the minister, you know, in his introductory remarks told us of some of the progress that has been made, and I am pleased about that. But I would like to have the assurance, the complete assurance that we will watch over this situation night and day in this Province because we have a lot of mining industries now, Sir, that are very hazardous. The occupational hazard is extremely high. We have heard some shocking disclosures in the last few weeks. One of these days I am - I hate to be an alarmist, Sir - but I am very concerned about Bale Verte, and asbestosis.

Over in our sister Province of Quebec they just

discovered only a few months ago that asbestosis was fairly prevalent among the miners that were working in -

MR. BARRY: Sixty per cent.

MR. NEARY: Sixty per cent, the minister tells me. I did not realize it was that high. Would shock you out of your shoes, Sir? Would frighten you to death? And I am concerned about Baie Verte that one of these days we will wake up some morning and discover that we have another St. Lawrence on our hands. I am not trying to create alarm but I am trying to impress upon government to keep a continuous watch over this situation night and day. We do not want a repeat, as the minister said, of what happened in the community of St. Lawrence where you have more widows and more orphans per capita, I suppose, than any other community in Newfoundland. We do not want that to happen in Labrador City and Buchans and Long Harbour and Baie Verte. But, Sir, I would like to see a little closer watch being kept on the Baie Verte situation and I have no particular reason for saying that. I do not want to see history repeat itself. Sir, as far as Long Harbour is concerned, we have about, I think we have five or six real hot spots in Newfoundland as far as environmental industrial hazards, occupational hazards are concerned, health hazards. We have Buchans. We have Labrador City and Wabush. We have Long Harbour, the ERCO phosphorus plant. We have Baie Verte. And where is the other one? There is one other one. Where is the other one? Labrador City.

MR. BARRY: St. Lawrence.

MR. NEARY: St. Lawrence, yes. I thank the minister, St. Lawrence. There are five real hot spots. But I think myself, Sir, the worst one of all, and I know the Premier is going to look at me and say, "Oh! No, no, no. My God! Do not say that!" I think the worst one of all is the phosphorus plant at Long Harbour. I really do, Sir. I really do. You know, Mr. Speaker, somewhere along the line, somewhere I saw a report and I have a feeling that that report was suppressed and I have been desperately, I do not mind making a confession to this honourable House, that I have been trying to find that report for two years now. It was a report that was done by

a doctor that worked for the Ontario Government, came in here one time on his vacation and was asked to do some research, to make a study of the phosphorus plant at Long Harbour. I remember that was a controversy developed of whether or not that particular gentleman, that expert could be paid by the Newfoundland Government while he was on the staff of the Department of Mines in Ontario. I believe he was eventually paid. But anyway, he produced a report. I never got my hands on that report but I vaguely remember either somebody quoting a paragraph from the report, or I glanced at a paragraph in it myself. I am not quite sure. It is so long ago. It is back in 1970 or 1971. But for some reason or other, and I do not even know if the report was done for the government or not, but it was done, and that report somehow or other was suppressed. The part that I am referring to, Sir, that startled me, that shook me right out of my shoes was the fact that this gentleman, this expert from Ontario said that the whole population of Long Harbour should be relocated at as early a date as possible.

I have nothing to back that up, Sir, nothing to back it up.

MR. MURPHY: That report was in the House of Assembly when the bill was brought forward - from England the same thing happened.

MR. NEARY: Was the report - no - the report I am talking about, was it in the House?

MR. MURPHY: Well, this company was turned out of this part of England because of the -

MR. NEARY: And they relocated the whole population: They had to?

MR. MURPHY: They were just turned out.

MR. NEARY: I move the adjournment of the debate, Mr. -

MR. SPEAKER: It is noted that the honourable Member for Bell Island has adjourned the debate.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I move that the remaining Orders of the Day do stand deferred and that the House at its rising do adjourn until eleven of the clock tomorrow, June 17.

On motion that the House at its rising adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 17, 1975 at 11:00 a.m.

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