



PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND

THIRTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF
NEWFOUNDLAND

Volume 1

1st. Session

Number 14

VERBATIM REPORT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1975

SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE HERALD RYAN OTTENHEIMER

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS:

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

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I should like to clarify the situation concerning the Point of Bay water system that was raised in the House yesterday by the hon. member for Exploits. I am giving a verbal resumé of the situation, if the hon. member requests or desires or wants, or whatever, a written resumé of it can be forthcoming in the next couple of days, but in the interest of expediency I thought I would give a verbal report on a rather contentious and unusual situation at Point of Bay.

The Point of Bay Community Council had a winter capital works programme some time ago in which they started a water system, as I understand it; that the \$50,000 that was allocated as a guaranteed loan under the capital works programme of the department this year was to continue on with that very worthwhile project. In a telegram sent to the council, and the date escapes me at the moment, around May or June of this year when they were told that they had a \$50,000 guaranteed loan to proceed with the system, that telegram indicated to them that before any monies could be expended they were to contact the Director of Finance, Mr. Goodland, of the Department of Municipal Affairs and additionally they were also to contact the Chief Local Government Engineer, Mr. Dyke, for the appointment of consulting engineers to properly manage and carry out that project. Neither one of these requests was followed by the council on any records that I can find in the department, so they did not contact the department as requested on the telegram that was sent to them authorizing the \$50,000.

They did proceed, apparently, to expend the monies, the \$50,000, to do the project and it was not until September that members of the Water Services Division of my department in Grand Falls and the area administrator in Gander, Mr. Randell, became involved in the project. And

MR. PECKFORD: they only became involved in it at that time because, I think, the council were requesting an additional amount of money to complete the project, over and above the \$50,000. I think the amount that they were requesting at the time was \$25,000 which was, I think, rejected because after examination on the site by officials of the department it was not felt that it was needed at that time. That is where the situation stands. The council did not follow regular procedures laid out in the telegrams sent to them. However, the money has been spent. The community is not in a position to recover the cost of the \$50,000 locally. Legally the council is responsible. It is unfortunate that they did not follow the proper procedures that were laid down explicitly in a telegram to them. But the department, of course, will honour its commitment even though the council in the first instance did not follow through on the proper procedures legally laid down in the telegram.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Provincial Affairs and Environment.

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table regulations regarding Automobile Dealers Regulations, 1975, and regulations of the Trust Loan Company Regulations, 1975. Copies will be distributed to all

QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, one question was asked the other day in reply to a question from the hon. member for Exploits, regarding a sewerage system for the trailer park at the west end of Bishop's Falls. I checked with the department of Municipal Affairs. They have not had an application from the town council as yet, but it was one of the undertakings we made at that time. Certainly upon receipt of the application we will be giving it consideration along with the other applications this year.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Public Works.

HON. T. FARRELL: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to table answers to the questions on the Order Paper asked by the hon. member from Twillingate;

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 251 ASKED BY HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (TWILLINGATE), DIRECTED TO THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES, APPEARING ON THE ORDER PAPER OF NOVEMBER 24, 1975

QUESTION: (1) What are the names of members and of employees, if any, of the Pippy Park Commission?

ANSWER: MEMBERS -

T.S.A. Freeman - Chairman

Geoffrey L. Steele - Vice Chairman

John Murphy - Representative of City of St. John's

T. Corbin Noel - Representative of Memorial University

James V. Finn - Representing the Pippy Family

G. Gordon Butler - Representing the Department of Public Works & Services

George H. Matthews - Member

John J. Cochrane - Member

Employees - (seconded from Department of Public Works and Services)

OFFICE -

C. M. Manning

Sharon Donovan

L. MacDonald

Wanda Lambert (Temporary)

GROUNDS STAFF -

James Bown

Hubert Percy

Cyril Butler

Alexander Stanley

Richard Coombs

Robert Summers

Philip Grouchy

William Sweetapple

Robert Janes

James Turpin

Cecil Kean

Gregory Williams

Douglas LeGrow

James Yetman

Michael Maddigan

Kenneth Penton

Basil Young

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 252 ASKED BY HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD
(TWILLINGATE), DIRECTED TO THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC
WORKS AND SERVICES, APPEARING ON THE ORDER PAPER OF NOVEMBER 24, 1975.

QUESTION: (1) What are the names of Departments of the Government, or any others,
occupying space in the Sir Richard Squires Building in Corner Brook?

ANSWER:

DEPARTMENTS -

Premier's Office

Transportation & Communications

Municipal Affairs & Housing

Social Services

Justice

Health

Public Works & Services

Manpower & Industrial Relations

Rural Development

Rehabilitation & Recreation

Finance (mailroom)

OTHER -

Corner Brook City Library

R.C.M.P.

John Howard Society

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 253 ASKED BY HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (TWILLINGATE), DIRECTED TO THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES, APPEARING ON THE ORDER PAPER OF NOVEMBER 24, 1975

QUESTION: (1) What are the names of Departments of the Government, or any others, occupying space in the Public Building in Grand Falls?

ANSWER:

DEPARTMENTS -

Manpower & Industrial Relations

Health

Social Services

Transportation & Communications

Provincial Affairs & Environment

Municipal Affairs & Housing

Education

Rehabilitation & Recreation

Forestry & Agriculture

Premier's Office

Tourism

Justice

Public Works & Services

OTHER -

R.C.M.P.

Grand Falls Museum

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 254 ASKED BY HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD
(TWILLINGATE), DIRECTED TO THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC
WORKS AND SERVICES, APPEARING ON THE ORDER PAPER OF NOVEMBER 24, 1975

QUESTION: (1) What are the names of Departments of the Government, or any
others occupying space in the Public Building in the City
of Wabush?

ANSWER:

DEPARTMENTS -

Social Services

Health

Manpower & Industrial Relations

Justice

Forestry & Agriculture

Tourism

Transportation & Communications

OTHER -

Labrador West Safety Council

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 255 ASKED BY HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (TWILLINGATE)
DIRECTED TO THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES,
APPEARING ON THE ORDER PAPER OF NOVEMBER 24, 1975.

QUESTION: ARE THERE PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF ALUMINUM WIRING IN COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL OR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN THE PROVINCE?

ANSWER: YES. THE NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR ELECTRICAL CODE ALLOWS THE USE OF ALUMINUM WIRING. HOWEVER, IT IS UNDER MUCH STRICTER INSPECTION THAN OTHER WIRING AND, TO THIS DATE, HAS BEEN LITTLE USED IN NEWFOUNDLAND. ALUMINUM WIRING IS ALSO PERMITTED UNDER THE CANADIAN ELECTRICAL CODE.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 256 ASKED BY HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (TWILLINGATE), DIRECTED TO THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES, APPEARING ON THE ORDER PAPER OF NOVEMBER 24, 1975

QUESTION: (1) What are the locations of any office, clerical, inspection or other officials of your Department stationed outside St. John's?

ANSWER: Office - none

Clerical - Corner Brook

Inspection - Clarenville, Gander, Corner Brook

Other - Buildings operation, custodial and security staff in

- Springdale	- Stephenville
- Placentia	- Stephenville Crossing
- Bonavista	- St. Anthony
- Lewisporte	- Baie Verte
- Clarenville	- Channel
- Carbonear	- Heart's Content
- Corner Brook	- Harbour Grace
- Grand Falls	- Bonne Bay
- Seal Cove (Conception Bay)	- St. George's
- Gander	- Catalina
- Bell Island	- Fogo
- Salt Pond	- Trinity (Trinity Bay)
- Port-aux-Basques	- Musgrave Harbour

- Brigus
 - Happy Valley
 - Flower's Cove
- Grand Bank
 - Botwood
 - Harbour Breton

Temporary painters employed in -

- Markland
 - St. Lawrence
- Old Perlican
 - Lamaline

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 582 ASKED BY MR. NEARY (LAPOILLE),
DIRECTED TO THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND SERVICES, APPEARING ON THE ORDER PAPER OF NOVEMBER 24, 1975

- QUESTION: (1) What is the number of journeys involving public business which he has made since January 1, 1975 to places outside Canada, showing for each journey:
- (a) the names of the countries visited;
 - (b) dates of the journey;
 - (c) the total cost to the Government for hotel accommodations, meals, ground and air transportation and other expenses;
 - (d) whether or not any member of his staff, or any other person accompanied him for all or a portion of his journey and, if so,
 - (i) what is the name of each such person,
 - (ii) what is the title of the position each such person holds or held,
 - (iii) what was the total cost to the Government for hotel accommodations, meals, ground and air transportation and other expenses for each such person.
 - (e) the nature of the public business attended to on the journey;

ANSWER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works and Services has not made any journeys involving public business since January 1, 1975 to places outside Canada.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 595 ASKED BY MR. NEARY (LAPOILE), DIRECTED TO THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES, APPEARING ON THE ORDER PAPER OF NOVEMBER 24, 1975.

- QUESTION: (1) WHAT IS THE TOTAL COST TO DATE OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF THE ENGINEERING BUILDING ON MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS?
- (2) WHAT WILL BE THE APPROXIMATE COST TO COMPLETE THE ENGINEERING BUILDING?
- (3) WHAT IS THE PLANNED OPENING DATE OF THE NEW ENGINEERING BUILDING?

ANSWER: (1) CONSTRUCTION COST TO DATE - \$7,113,460.
 CONSULTANTS' FEES, EXPENSES ETC. - 482,291.
 FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT (COSTS INCURRED BUT BILLS NOT YET PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT BY UNIVERSITY) 700,000.
\$8,295,751.

(2) COST TO COMPLETE -
 CONSTRUCTION (MOSTLY PAYMENT OF HOLDBACKS), ETC. 840,665.
 FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT 1,050,000.
\$1,890,665.

- (3) AS FAR AS STUDENT OCCUPANCY IS CONCERNED, THE BUILDING WAS OPENED NOVEMBER 15, 1975 AND IT IS NOW 60% OCCUPIED. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY MAY PLAN AN OFFICIAL OPENING. HOWEVER, IT IS OUR FURTHER UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS WOULD BE SOMETIME IN THE NEW YEAR.
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MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

HON. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to table answers to questions on the Order Paper by the hon. member from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) and the hon. member for Fogo (Capt. E. Winsor).

QUESTION 669. CAPT. WINSOR (Fogo) - To ask the Minister of Fisheries to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

- (1) Since January 18, 1972 and as of current date, have the Government appointed any person to be Director of Fisheries Technology, Department of Fisheries?
- (2) If so,
 - (a) on what date was he appointed?
 - (b) what is his name, and
 - (c) what is his annual rate of salary?

ANSWER

(1) No

(2) Not applicable due to answer to Question 1.

QUESTION 354. HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (Twillingate) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Fisheries to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

Has the Government made an estimate of the number of years; commencing next year, the cod fishery is likely to be viable for the inshore fishermen, and the number of years the off-shore fishery may be viable for the off-shore fishing fleet of Newfoundland, if the 200-mile fishing zone is not declared and firm control exercised over it by Canada?

Answer

No.

343. HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (Twillingate) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Fisheries to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

What is the number and tonnage of new draggers and new longliners brought into use in each of the financial years 1970 - 1975.

ANSWER:

NEW LONGLINERS BROUGHT INTO USE

<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Gross Tonnage</u>
1970/71	14	304
1971/72	45	1243
1972/73	73	1941
1973/74	95	2596
1974/75	32	976

NEW DRAGGERS BROUGHT INTO USE

<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Gross Tonnage</u>
1970/71	-	-
1971/72	1	292
1972/73	5	3747
1973/74	5	3451
1974/75	4	2618

QUESTION 337. HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (Twillingate) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Fisheries to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

Supply a statement showing loans or guarantees extended to the fish firms in each of the financial years 1970 - 75.

ANSWER:

Please refer this question to the Minister of Finance for response.

QUESTION 352. HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (Twillingate) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Fisheries to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

What are the details of the purchase at Burgeo of Fish Plants and draggers by Government?

ANSWER

Please redirect this question to the Minister of Industrial Development for response.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister for Forestry and Agriculture.

HON. J. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, in reply first of all to an oral question raised yesterday about the machinery out in Central Newfoundland, indeed the hon. member from Exploits (Mr. Mulrooney) posed the question. He is indeed right, some of the equipment is too large. Hopefully in the future—not hopefully, it will be in the future that any time any more purchases are made in machinery - this is not powered machinery, it is powered by the farmers themselves when they use it out of the central system out there that there will be better consultation with

Mr. Rousseau:

the farmers not only in that area but in any other area where a similar programme might go ahead. So there is indeed some problem with the size of the equipment now, and we will attempt to try and get the appropriate equipment in there. And in future, as I say, any equipment purchased will be done so only after consultation with the people who will be using it.

And in answer to a question from the hon. member from Lapoile (Mr. Neary), proposed to me the question.

572 MR. NEARY (Lapoile) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Forestry & Agriculture to lay upon the table of the House the following information:

What is the number of journeys involving public business which he has made since January 1, 1975 to places outside Canada, showing for each journey:

- (a) the names of the countries visited;
- (b) dates of the journey;
- (c) the total cost to the Government for hotel accommodations, meals, ground and air transportation and other expenses;
- (d) whether or not any member of his staff, or any other person accompanied him for all or a portion of his journey and, if so,
 - (i) what is the name of each such person,
 - (ii) what is the title of the position each such person holds or held,
 - (iii) what was the total cost to the Government for hotel accommodations, meals, ground and air transportation and other expenses for each such person.
- (e) the nature of the public business attended to on the journey?

MR. ROUSSEAU: I am embarrassed to say to the hon. member that I have had none, nor in 1972, nor in 1973, nor in 1974. That is embarrassing, but I have not.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister without Portfolio.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker in answer to a question asked yesterday about our participation in the Arctic Winter Games, by coincidence a letter was received from the Arctic Winter Games Corporation this morning authorizing Newfoundland and Labrador to contribute twenty athletes and

Mr. Wells:

five observers to these Games. There is no information available to us at this time as to how many are going from other provinces of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

HON. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I have several answers here to questions which have been on the Order Paper.

Question No. 379

HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (Twillingate) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Health to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

Are there any reliable statistics on the rate of expectation of life in this Province?

MR. COLLINS:

We have confined our answer to that question. We are not giving any predictions on the political life of some of the hon. members opposite or on this side either for that matter. It might be of interest to the House that the latest figures available pertain to 1971. In that year, males at birth had a life expectancy of 69.34 years and females, who have it all over us, an expectancy of 76.36 years. I will table the answers.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Before the hon. minister goes on, has he got any figures of earlier years so that a comparison might be made?

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I can get them but the question - we answered the question the best way we saw fit, but if the hon. member would like some figures in the past for comparison purposes we can certainly get them.

Question No. 241.

HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (Twillingate) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Finance to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:-

What is the total estimated cost of building, equipping and furnishing the new Carbonear Hospital and how much of this amount will have been contributed by Ottawa?

ANSWER: The total cost is \$13,300,000; contribution by great
Uncle Ottawa is \$1,500,000.

#376

HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (Twillingate) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Health to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

What are the numbers of registered nurses in practice in each of the financial years 1965-75?

ANSWER: Number of registered nurses in practice in Newfoundland from 1965 to 1975:

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>
	1965	1,229
	1966	1,321
	1967	1,469
	1968	1,585
	1969	1,717
	1970	1,870
	1971	2,097
	1972	2,334
	1973	2,286
	1974	2,589
up to August 31,	1975	2,708

#381

HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (Twillingate) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Health to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:-

A statement showing the various estimates made from time to time of the capital cost of the new hospital at Carbonear; and the latest estimate of the probable cost to completion, including furnishing, equipping, etc.

ANSWER:

Early 1971	\$ 7,500,000	(Based on preliminary plan only)
June 1972	\$ 9,490,000	
April 1973	\$11,100,000	
June, 1974	\$12,300,000	
June, 1975	\$13,300,000	

Estimate to complete \$13,300,000

#383

HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (Twillingate) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Health to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:-

How many additional beds will there be in the new Memorial, Twillingate and Carbonear Hospitals?

ANSWER:

Health Sciences Complex - None - 340 beds replacing an equal number at the General Hospital, St. John's.

Twillingate - None - 75 beds replacing an equal number in the old hospital at Twillingate.

Carbonear - 85 beds - New hospital location, 135 beds of which 50 are replacement for beds in old hospital.

#401

HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (Twillingate) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Health to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

What are the numbers of Drug Stores in Newfoundland in the financial years 1960-61, 1970-71, 1975-76?

ANSWER -	Financial Years 1960 - 61	90 drug stores
	Financial Years 1970 - 71	95 drug stores
	Financial Years 1975 - 76	105 drug stores

#404

HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (Twillingate) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Health to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:-

What are the names and location of hospitals presently in the course of construction but not completed; do contracts exist in all cases for such completion; the probable time of such completion; the probable cost of such completion?

ANSWER

<u>Under Construction</u> <u>December 1, 1975</u>	<u>Estimated</u> <u>Completion Date</u>	<u>Cost to</u> <u>Complete from</u> <u>December 1, 1975</u>
Health Sciences Complex, St. John's	1st quarter 1977	\$17,000,000
Carbonear Hospital, Carbonear	February, 1976	\$ 1,200,000
Waterford Hospital, St. John's	March, 1976	\$ 2,500,000
Notre Dame Bay Memorial Hospital, Twillingate	January, 1976	\$ 300,000
Western Memorial Hospital, Corner Brook	January, 1976 - new tower June, 1978 - renovations exist- ing building	\$ 2,300,000 \$ 4,200,000

QUESTION 2

Yes. Contracts have been awarded for completion of all projects with the exception of renovations to the Christopher Fisher Hospital at Corner Brook. These cannot go ahead until new tower is completed and Christopher Fisher Hospital vacated.

#409

HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (Twillingate) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Health to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:-

A statement showing the numbers of nurses brought into Newfoundland from England, Scotland, Wales, the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and other countries for the total period of 1950-75.

ANSWER:

Data is not available prior to 1959. The following are the numbers of nurses from outside Newfoundland from 1959 to December 5, 1975:-

1959 - 64	1968 - 98
1960 - 70	1969 - 130
1961 - 67	1970 - 148
1962 - 57	1971 - 136
1963 - 50	1972 - 140
1964 - 92	1973 - no figures available
1965 - 108	1974 - 230
1966 - 128	1975 to December 5 - 334
1967 - 149	

It should be noted that these figures include nurses from the U.S.A. and other parts of Canada.

410

HONOURABLE MR. SMALLWOOD (Twillingate) - To ask the Honourable Minister of Health to lay upon the Table the following information:-

Does the Government take what they believe to be adequate steps to satisfy themselves as to the qualification of pharmacists to practice the profession of pharmacy, or do they leave the question of such qualification to the Association of Pharmacists?

ANSWER - Qualification of Pharmacists is left to the course of study prescribed by the Pharmaceutical Association in accordance with the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association Act. The present course of study is of three years duration, taught at the College of Trades and Technology. This programme is overseen by a Pharmacy Advisory Committee. The Department of Health has representation on this Committee (as does the Department of Education).

634

MR. MOORES (Carbonear) - To ask the Minister of Health the estimated total cost of the completion of the Carbonear Regional Hospital and the expected date of its opening.

ANSWER:

Estimated cost to completion \$13,300,000

Expected date of opening April 1, 1976

MR. SMALLWOOD: May I ask the minister, is it the practice - I have to ask, because I do not know, having been away from this House for awhile - is it the practice to publish these answers in the Hansard of the day on which they are given? The answers are published, are they, in the Hansard for the day?

AN HON. MEMBER: They do appear as an appendix in the Hansard.

MR. SMALLWOOD: They do appear as an appendix in the Hansard of that day, good.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I would presume that if I read the answers, they would appear in the Hansard, but if they are not, they would appear as an appendix.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: They are tabled.

MR. SPEAKER: Tabled answers appear in Hansard of the date on which they are tabled.

The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Peckford: I wish to table the answers to the following questions:

QUESTION NO. 455 BY MR. DAWE (PORT DE GRAVE)
ORDERS OF THE DAY DATED 24TH NOVEMBER, 1975

MR. DAWE (PORT DE GRAVE): To ask the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

QUESTION

How many persons reside in communities that have no form of local municipal organization?

ANSWER

Number of persons living in unincorporated areas 115,000.

QUESTION NO. 456 BY MR. DAWE (PORT DE GRAVE)
ORDERS OF THE DAY DATED 24th NOVEMBER, 1975

MR. DAWE (PORT DE GRAVE): To ask the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

QUESTION

How many organized municipalities have town managers or officers of other titles but doing the general work of town managers; and the total population of such municipalities?

ANSWER

Eighty (80) municipalities have Town Managers or full time administrative employees who carry out the functions performed by a Town Manager. The total population of these, including the City of Corner Brook, is 212,400.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MP. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, in response to a question on the Order Paper of November 24, Question no. 448 placed by the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood), I wish to table the answer and point out that there are now only six communities in the Province with a population of over 1,000 that do not now have a paved main street.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

ANSWER TO QUESTION #448 ASKED BY THE HONOURABLE MEMBER OF TWILLINGATE DIRECTED TO THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS APPEARING ON ORDER PAPER OF NOVEMBER 24, 1975

The following is a list of names of settlements in the Province having a population of 1000 or more whose main street is paved and unpaved:-

PAVED

Badger
Baie Verte
Bay Roberts
Bishop's Falls
Bonavista
Botwood
Torbay
Burin
Carbonear
Catalina
Channel - Port Aux Basques
Clareville
Deer Lake
Dunville
Fogo
Fortune
Freshwater, P. Bay
Gander
Glovertown
Grand Bank
Happy Valley - Goose Bay
Harbour Breton
Harbour Grace
Hare Bay, B. Bay
Holyrood
Jerseyside
Lawn
Lev'sporte
M^r town
M^r Pearl
Placentia
Pouch Cove
Robert's Arm
St. Alban's
St. Anthony
St. George's
St. Lawrence
Spaniard's Bay
Springdale
Stephenville
Stephenville Crossing

Trepassey
Twillingate
Upper Island Cove
Wabana
Wesleyville
Whitbourne
Windsor
Dark Cove
Isle Aux Morts
Kippens
Labrador City
LaScie
Wabush
Bay Bulls
Benoit's Cove
Buchan's
Churchill Falls
Victoria
Kelligrews
Kilbride
Long Pond, C. Bay
Manuels
Portuqal Cove

UNPAVED

Englee
Norris Arm
Ramea
Roddickton
Hampton
Burgeo

ORAL QUESTIONS:

MP. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary).

MR. NEARY: I would like to put a question to the Minister of Health, Sir. Would the Minister of Health tell the House what will happen in the event that the workers at the Waterford Hospital go on strike in a week's time? Does the government have any alternative plans to deal with this situation?

MP. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I should point out that the question as asked is hypothetical and I am therefore required to point that out to the hon. member.

MR. NEARY: Would the minister inform the House if negotiations are ongoing with the employees of the Waterford Hospital to try to avoid a strike at that hospital, thus creating an emergency?

MP. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows those negotiations are with Treasury Board. To allay any fears which he might have I can say that we are in constant contact and touch with the hospital boards, and I am sure that the hospital boards, Sir, will be in a position to take whatever precautions are necessary in the event that they are needed.

MP. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary).

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice, Sir. Would the minister inform the House whether or not the Province currently has a director of public prosecutions?

MP. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Would the minister indicate when the government will make an appointment to this important position?

MP. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, if it had not been for the postal strike I suspect an appointment would have been made by now. Advertisements were carried in the local press in, I think, October, and in The Globe and Mail and other mainland papers. We have received telephone calls from highly

MR. HICKMAN:

qualified lawyers outside the Province, none from within, indicating their intention to submit a formal application as soon as the mail strike was over. It was decided then to wait until the end of this month before making a final decision to ensure that anyone who wished to apply by mail would have an opportunity so to do. I would hope therefore that the appointment will be made early in January of next year.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary question, Sir: Would the minister indicate if the former gentleman who held the position of public prosecutions in this Province resigned or was asked to terminate his services?

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, in deference to the very learned gentleman to whom the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) refers, so that there can be no misunderstanding, he resigned, he was not asked to resign. I expressed my regret to him that he was so resigning. He now has taken on a very important position with the Attorney General's department of Alberta, quite similar to the one that he left here.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Would the minister undertake to table Mr. Connor's letter of resignation?

MR. HICKMAN: No, Mr. Speaker, I most assuredly will not.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Exploits.

MR. MULROONEY: Mr. Speaker, a question to the hon. Premier.

Would the Premier state whether or not he and the hon. members of the caucus has ever considered separating Forestry and Agriculture, placing a greater emphasis on agriculture in the Newfoundland economy?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, since the administration of justice in this Province, Sir, in the light of the remarks of the Chief Justice of Canada appears to have fallen under a cloud -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! The hon. gentleman is entering into debate. I direct him to ask a question.

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, would the Minister of Justice state to the House precisely what was done to secure depositions in connection with getting an ex-Newfoundlander from the United States to Newfoundland, to Canada -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! My understanding is the matter being referred to by the hon. member is a matter sub judice and although in a different jurisdiction, it is sub judice and I would consider the question to be out of order.

MR. NEARY: The procedure, Sir, is before the court, Your Honour. The procedure that I am -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! I have made a ruling that in my opinion this is a matter being sub judice, and therefore out of order.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, could I ask the Minister of Justice to tell the House, Sir -

MR. CROSBIE: Order, order, order.

MR. NEARY: I am perfectly in order if the Minister of Mines and Energy would just restrain himself - What procedure is used, Sir, what procedure is used by the Department of Justice in securing depositions in cases involving extradition procedures?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: The procedure is as laid down in the Criminal Code of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I do not see the Minister of Social Services. In the absence of the Minister of Social Services, perhaps the Premier could tell us what is going to happen at Exon House? Are negotiations going to continue with the employees to try to avoid a strike and create an emergency in that institution.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, Treasury Board are having negotiations, as they always do with these groups and to bring up hypothetical situations of what could happen I think is totally irresponsible.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, is it totally irresponsible to ask the Premier -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! I must point out that the wording of the question would be out of order. It is a debating manner of wording a question.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I just want to ask the Premier if he has yet taken a decision, if the Premier has -

MR. CROSBIE: Order. Order.

MR. NEARY: - ham and eggs -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: - the Premier has yet taken a decision in connection with the visual arts people in this Province who do not want to be placed under government control?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I think it is fair to say at this time we have met with several of the people who were interested in this, both from the university and from the arts community as well as the department myself and the final position has not been taken but negotiations and discussions are going on during this time since this was made public before, and hopefully within the next few days the position of the government and the department will be absolutely clarified.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: A question for the Minister of Education, Sir. Would the Minister of Education tell us the precise status at the moment of the proposed residences for students attending the College of Trades and Technology?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: That question came up yesterday and I am trying to get the answer to it and I have not got that as yet. I will be bringing it before the House in a few days.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Environment. Would the minister inform the House, Sir, what action his government have taken on a request to try to eliminate or control pollution that comes down Rennie's River and Virginia Waters, presently going into Quidi Vidi Lake, what action the minister has taken on this matter?

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

HON. A. MURPHY: Quite frankly, I do not know. I have not seen the matter arise within the department or heard of it but I will certainly check it out and see what the story is on it for the hon. member.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Maybe I put the question to the wrong minister. Maybe it is the Minister of Municipal Affairs that I should have put the question. Yes, the minister nods his head and says yes. Would the Minister of Municipal Affairs tell us if he has taken any action on a request to control pollution that is coming down Rennie's River and Virginia Waters pouring into Quidi Vidi Lake, if he has had a request from the city of St. John's? Now that the shoreline of the lake has been cleaned up, has the minister had a request to get rid of the pollution that is coming down Rennie's River and Virginia Waters?

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

HON. B. PECKFORD: To my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, the question, I do not think, or the problem would not come under my jurisdiction.

MR. NEARY: Municipal Affairs is what they said.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. G. FLIGHT: A question to the Minister of Recreation, Mr. Speaker. Does the austerity programme, for the want of a better term, the cutbacks in spending, will this affect the announced policy of the Department of Recreation to subsidize by 75 per cent the cost of electrical power or electricity used by stadiums, recreation, any facilities operated by recreation commissions in Newfoundland? I understand that policy was supposed to be effective April, 1976.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister without Portfolio.

MR. WELLS: Or this policy, the sports policy and programme of the government, some of these things are going to have to be deferred, like capital expenditures. But on this matter government has not yet made a

decision for the coming year as to what is going to happen. A decision will be made and, of course, communicated to the persons concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member has a supplementary.

MR. FLIGHT: Well, it is a supplementary. The policy has been announced, Mr. Minister, and now what you are saying - is your answer that the government is now deciding whether or not they will go ahead and follow the policy that has been announced or whether they, indeed, they might change it?

MR. WELLS: This is correct.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, in connection with my question to the Minister of Justice, Sir, about depositions: I am dissatisfied with the answer the minister gave me and I want to debate it tomorrow afternoon at the late show.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is too late.

MR. NEARY: No, it is not too late.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Health, Sir. Would the minister inform the House if the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health has yet completed his investigation into statements made by Doctor Fernandez, I think it was, and another doctor over at the Medical College concerning the way that certain druggists are dispensing drugs in this Province? If so, would the minister undertake to table all correspondence, reports and results of investigations into this matter in this hon. House?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

HON. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly undertake to report to the House on the outcome of the investigation when it is completed.

MR. NEARY: Would the minister table the correspondence between Doctor Fernandez and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health?

COLLINS: That will be considered.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. the Premier could tell the House how many Deputy Ministers and other high government officials

in redundant positions are now being paid full salaries while they are waiting for their pensions to arrive?

PREMIER MOORFS: I will take notice of the question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Sir, could tell us if his department has become involved in the outbreak, the epidemic of distemper amongst the dog population in St. John's, if his department has become involved and if they are helping out in this situation in any way?

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

HON. J. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, I am sure a veterinary service of the department would be available to any outbreaks such as this to assist if requested and I am sure they will.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Burin-Placentia, I believe, has been endeavouring to get the Chair's attention.

MR. P. CANNING: A question for the hon. Premier. Would the hon. Premier tell the House if there are no other contracts acquired by the shipyard at Marystown by the end of December, will his government consider constructing stern draggers for sale or lease to the fresh fish operators of Newfoundland or any other Province? Will he consider the construction?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Well, Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is yes. We will always consider what needs to be done, and I think it is very important that we do all that we can in a meaningful and material way to make sure that the shipyard at Marystown is occupied and as busy as possible. Yes is the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Environment, Sir, inform the House what action his department or the government have taken on serious charges and accusations and statements made in this hon. House in connection with the ERGO phosphorus plant at Long Harbour destroying the countryside, the statements made by the member for St. John's East and the member for Trinity North? What action has been taken on these statements?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Provincial Affairs and Environment.

HON. A. MURPHY: Frankly, I do not know if there is any serious action being taken with reference to the statements made by anybody in the House. But I know there are ongoing checks being made and I think we are working very closely with the Minister of Industrial Development on it. I do not know of anything else. I did not know this member had made statements on it, really, because I was not in the House at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Naskaupi.

MR. J. GOUDIK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications. Would the hon. minister please inform the House the status of negotiations at the moment for an airstrip at Cartwright?

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I have no desire to block the question, I have every desire to hear the answer, but I think it does raise a neat point of order. The hon. member for Naskaupi holds the position, I believe, of Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier. I believe there are rulings in Ottawa that a parliamentary secretary may not ask questions of the minister. I raise the matter on a point of order

not to block the answer because I very much like to hear it, but it is the first time to my knowledge that any gentleman holding a position of profit under the Crown, in that sense, has attempted to ask a question in the House. Perhaps we should have a ruling on it and have the matter set at rest for once and for all.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. WELLS: To the point of order, Sir. It is correct as of my understanding of what is done in Ottawa. But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, I do not think there has been any restriction whatsoever in our House by custom on members who are not members of the Cabinet asking questions of this sort of a minister.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, if I may say another word. Our rules are silent, but to my knowledge there has never been a question asked by any member holding a position of Parliamentary Assistant or Secretary to the Premier. I would submit in that case according to our Standing Order number (1) we should look to the Ottawa practice and precedent. But in any event whatever the matter - Your Honour may wish to take the matter under advisement and give us a ruling later. I merely raise it so we will have it settled because in my years in the House there has never been a question, a matter of a Parliamentary Assistant raising a question addressed to the minister.

MR. SPEAKER: With reference to the point of order raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I do in fact wish to reserve judgment. I recall that in some decisions of the Speaker in Ottawa the question has come up with respect to two matters, Here we are only dealing with one, that is parliamentary secretaries asking questions, and then there have also been disputes with respect to parliamentary secretaries answering them. My memory - I am not sure what the ruling was and it is fairly important one. I would wish to check it with accuracy and bearing in mind as well our own Standing Orders which are silent on it, our own precedent, which would have to be checked, and also the practice in the House of Commons. So I would therefore reserve judgment on that matter and I would put it to the House without prejudice to that judgment, put it to the House

whether the House wishes the hon. gentleman to have leave to ask the question but without prejudice to the decision on the point of order which has been brought up.

MR. WELLS: I understand from my colleagues across, Mr. Speaker, that the House without prejudice is preparing to take the question or allow the question. I would say, Mr. Speaker, for your assistance in making a judgment on the matter that the hon. member is not a Parliamentary Assistant but an Executive Assistant.

PREMIER MOORES: And it is done in Ottawa.

AN HON. MEMBER: An Executive Assistant always -

PREMIER MOORES: That is right. That is right.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman's question therefore has been allowed to stand. Perhaps he wishes to repeat it because it may not be fresh in the memory of all hon. members.

MR. COUDIE: I will repeat the question, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address it to the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications. Will he please inform the House the status of the airstrip at Cartwright?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman being quite concerned being the MHA for a section of Labrador, the answer to the question is that this government has called tenders for the construction of an airstrip at Cartwright. The tenders were received and the lowest tender was in the value of approximately \$500,000. Because there is a programme available, a programme with the federal level of government whereby they assist on the construction of airstrips in remote areas of our country, and particularly the Northern parts of our country whereby they label them as feeder airstrips, feeding an airport, in this case Cartwright could be considered a feeder airstrip feeding the airport of Goose, we have now requested the federal government to participate financially from this programme they have available on the construction of this airstrip at Cartwright.

To date, although the request was made over two weeks ago, to date we have not received any acknowledgement or any indication, rather, that the federal government will participate. However, I am hoping as the Minister of Transportation and Communications that the member for Grand Falls-White Bay representing the area of Labrador will give us every possible assistance in helping us obtain financial assistance from the federal level of government.

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

R. ROBERTS: A supplementary question, which unlike the original question has not been concerted with the minister in advance, could the minister - the minister said two weeks ago they made the approach to Ottawa, to the minister in Ottawa. Is that the first approach which

has been made to ask Ottawa to share in this particular project?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, this government is continuously making representations to the federal level of government where there are any programmes available whereby it is possible to obtain financial assistance. Over the past number of months we have made representations on a continuous basis. Because now we are in a position where we can award a tender for the construction of this airstrip, we are putting pressure on to get a reply from the federal government.

MR. ROBERTS: A further supplementary -

MR. SMALLWOOD: That is continual. It is not continuous.

MR. MORGAN: Representation is continuous, sure.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Twenty-four hours a day!

MR. MORGAN: Every day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROBERTS: The hon. minister - well, it would not be parliamentary to say that. The hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) has said it for me.

Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary: Since the minister did not answer the question, would he undertake to lay on the table of the House all correspondence in which the government of this Province have asked the Government of Canada for assistance with the construction of this airstrip at Cartwright?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. MORGAN: Because we are now in the process of negotiating, if you wish, with the federal government, I refuse to table the contents of our negotiations at this time until we get some reply from the federal government.

MR. ROBERTS: Another fake!

MR. MORGAN: In reply to the point made by the hon. gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood), I said continuous because to get financial assistance from the federal government it has to be continuous, night and day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary).

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Transportation and Communications inform the House, Sir, if his government have similar plans to construct an airstrip at Burgeo? No answer?

MR. MORGAN: I will take notice.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Justice, Sir. Would the Minister of Justice inform the House who is responsible for the parking meters at St. John's airport, who collects the revenue, which government the revenue from the parking meters goes to, the provincial or federal treasury?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: I will have to take notice of that question, Mr. Speaker, because I am not quite sure off the top of my head. I think it is - the meters I know are enforced by the commissionaires who are not employees of the Province of Newfoundland. They are rather employees, or retained by the Ministry of Transport. What happens in the event of a conviction, where that fine goes, I am not certain. If practice with other federal government operations prevails we are not likely to get our hooks on it.

MR. NEARY: Well, I have a few more questions for you later on when I get the answers.

R. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan).

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. What are the latest developments regarding the announcements on cable television for this Province and will the information come to the minister or will it come from the CRTC and when?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, my department was informed a few days ago by the CRTC that a decision will be made within the next few days and that my department will be advised accordingly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Economic Development, if I may. He may not be able to answer or give the exact details but what I am trying to find out, Mr. Speaker, is would he have any record of how much money has been invested in this Province in the last twelve months. I do not mean from government sources, federal government and so on, I am talking about free enterprise dollars that might have come in here, new money, invested from whatever source out of private funds one way or another. I would appreciate such an answer, Sir.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any possibility of getting that kind of information. I will look at it and ask questions about it, but certainly private monies that have been spent in the Province, I do not see that we would have any information of that nature.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to that. Does not the minister agree that he ought to know that and if he does not that he ought to take steps to find out? Surely -

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

In my opinion the hon. gentleman's question tends to debate the previous answer.

MR. SMALLWOOD: No, no. I do not want to debate, I just want to know if the minister does not consider that it is his duty as a minister to get that kind of information?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Rural and Industrial Development.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is not used to private enterprise and the lack of government control. There is an awful pile of stuff going on in this Province that is not under government control.

PREMIER MOORES: Hear, hear!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: So I would like to be aware of that -

MR. SMALLWOOD: This information! This information!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Your Honour I would like to be aware of that information, I would like to be aware of as much information as the hon. gentleman thinks he is aware of.

MR. SPEAKER: This shall be the last question and answer.

The hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, my question is aimed at the hon. the Premier, Sir. Would the hon. the Premier inform the House if his government have taken any action to have the proceedings of the House of Assembly televised in the foreseeable future?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: The answer basically, Mr. Speaker, is no.

MR. NEARY: Why not?

PREMIER MOORES: No. Children are up during this hour of the day. This year it could be, I suppose, televised, Sir. Last year certainly, for the sake of the children of the Province, I am glad it was not.

MR. SPEAKER: The Oral Question time has now transpired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: It being Private Member's Day we shall proceed to motion 3. As I recall - I am sorry! The hon. the member for LaPoile, as I recall he had expired his time last Wednesday.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: He had leave.

MR. SPEAKER: Correct! Leave had been granted to continue for ten minutes.

MR. NEARY: Right. That is right.

HON. T. HICKEY: Before you call Orders of the Day, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to rise on a point of personal privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: On a point of personal privilege?

MR. HICKEY: Personal privilege, this being the first opportunity I have had to read the editorial in today's paper. I will make it very brief, Mr. Speaker. I just read it and I simply want to correct a statement that is contained in this editorial which accuses me of being dishonest both inside and outside the House in relation to a government project. I simply want to state that I have not, with regards to this project or any other project, been dishonest. I have never given

any answers other than honest answers. I understand the views and feelings of this gentleman who writes this editorial. I have been the subject of this kind of yellow journalism from this gentleman for some time. I bear no grudge against him, Mr. Speaker, except to say that I deeply pity him.

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

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I need to say very much except it is obvious it is no point of privilege. It is also, I think, fair to say that while the hon. gentleman may have not seen the paper before this it has been in circulation since at least three o'clock in the House, and a number of hon. gentlemen have seen the editorial.

And let me just add that the hon. gentleman does not need to convince us of his honesty. His conduct speaks for itself, and I mean that quite sincerely. But I admit there is no point of privilege in the editorial to which the hon. gentleman refers.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

With respect to the point of privilege raised by the hon. minister, it sometimes happens that an hon. member will get up on a point of privilege in order to, in fact, make what is referred to as an explanation or something of that category. That happens quite frequently. If it is in the strict sense of the point of privilege that the hon. gentleman was getting up then obviously there are certain procedures to be followed. Am I right in gauging the hon. gentleman's intention of using the opportunity of rising on a point of privilege to in fact make an explanation and to give his views on a matter recorded in a newspaper? Am I correct in that assumption?

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I simply rose and took the opportunity to deny the accusation that is made against me. That was all.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Then I am correct in that assumption.

Motion 3.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I can wind up my remarks now in very short order, Sir. I want to say again, repeat what I said earlier in the debate

that no doubt the resolution was placed on the Order Paper by the -

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, just on a point of order, if I may.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order?

MR. F.B. ROWE: I understand that the hon. the member for LaPoile time had expired and he was not to my knowledge granted leave by the House to continue.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe, in fact, he was.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Well, Sir, we would like certainly to have some clarification as to what the limitations are with respect to time because we are setting a precedent here in this particular case and every member can get up and speak.

MR. NEARY: Ten minutes. Ten minutes.

MR. F.B. ROWE: - five, ten or fifteen minutes. Can we agree to a time and, Sir, is this to be the case for every member who wishes to continue on?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I recall that at six o'clock the hon. gentleman was about to take his seat and, I think, suggested that he was going to move the adjournment, in which case I said that time had expired, I believe it was then the government House Leader who suggested he could continue with leave. I think the question came up as to the amount of time and it was agreed that he would have leave to continue for ten minutes.

MR. NEARY: That is right. That is right, Your Honour. I probably will not take the ten minutes, Your Honour. I just want to summarize what I had said earlier in the debate last Wednesday, that no doubt the Leader of the Opposition when he put the resolution, Sir, before the House on the Order Paper, that his intentions were honourable and that he felt that this was a positive way in which to deal with this very important matter of how the development of this Province should proceed.

But I may point out to the hon. House, Sir, that in my opinion this is not the way to get at the problem. I think, Mr. Speaker, if we proceeded along the lines suggested by the Leader of the Opposition that what we would have, Sir, is a select committee going about the Province holding public hearings and giving every crackpot and every

MR. NEARY:

misfit and every weirdo in this Province an opportunity to come down and get whatever he has on his chest, to get it off his mind, and the select committee will not get at the ordinary Newfoundlander, in my opinion, and this was the whole purpose of it, to give the ordinary hard working Newfoundlander a chance to express his views on how the development of this Province should proceed in the next five or ten years.

Mr. Speaker, I think what our people should have is an opportunity to submit their views, but not through this means of a select committee which would be very expensive and time-consuming. The ordinary Newfoundlander, Sir, should have an opportunity to submit his views through surveys and polls, similar, Sir, to what happens in the case of Ayre and Sons or Bowrings. If they want to test the market, if they want to do a survey on marketing conditions and get information on marketing, they send out surveys and in this way they get the essential information that they require in order to market a certain product.

Well, Sir, if the sponsor of the resolution, the Leader of the Opposition, really was interested in finding out the real wants and the real needs of our people he would not have suggested holding an expensive and time-consuming hearings, but would have suggested instead, Sir, that a comprehensive survey be undertaken by the vast number of students that we have attending the College of Trades and Technology and Memorial University, especially those who are attending the, for instance, school of business, I think it is called, over

MR. NEARY: at Memorial University. They could, Sir, these students could take on this job as one of their main projects and besides the students getting invaluable ~~e~~xperience, Sir, the Province would be getting very, very badly needed, valuable information and maybe then the members themselves would be able to focus attention on the real wants and the real needs of the ordinary Newfoundlander.

Apparently, Mr. Speaker, from what I can gather, the school of business, the students who were attending administration and business courses have already undertaken surveys of this kind that have been of tremendous benefit to the various authorities, to business and industry and to government itself in this Province. They have been doing it now for the past few years and they have been doing it, as I say, Sir, with a great deal of success. And this would involve no cost whatsoever, Sir, to the Province apart from a few stamps, a bit of stationery and a few envelopes. It would be a very, very worthwhile project indeed, Sir, and I wish that I could move an amendment to the resolution, but I stand here alone and I do not have a seconder. I cannot caucus with my member and produce a seconder for an amendment. I wish I could, I would move an amendment, Sir, because I think this is the way -

MR. MURPHY: Now who would it be?

MR. NEARY: Well, I would like to move an amendment to the resolution that instead of proceeding along the lines suggested by the Leader of the Opposition that we ask the school of business and the business administration students at the College of Trades and Technology to conduct a survey of Newfoundland to find out what the real needs and wants of the people of this Province are.

Mr. Speaker, this indeed would be a forward step in my opinion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Do you have unlimited time?

MR. NEARY: No. No unlimited time. You do not get unlimited time by moving that sort of an amendment. You just get another forty-five minutes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. NEARY: I am going to wind up now by saying, Sir, that we in this House,

MR. NEARY: we are already, if we are doing our job, we should know the real wants and needs of the people. We should not need a select committee to go around the Province. We ourselves, Sir, if we do not know now the real wants and needs of the people of this Province, we are not fit to sit as members of this hon. House. And I would suggest that apart from the students in the university, in the College of Trades conducting a survey, that all the M.H.A.'s in this hon. House might consider it very worthwhile, as a condition of his membership in the House, to constantly and continuously poll and survey his constituents to find out what their real needs and their real wants are, and what the views of his constituents are on certain major issues.

So, Sir, if the M.H.A.'s, and I have heard them in this hon. House in various debates, the Budget Speech debate, the Throne Speech debate down through the years, they got up and they pretend, and I have no reason to doubt them, they pretend that they know all about the real needs and wants of their districts and they get up and tell the government, why do you not do this and this and do this? Well, Sir, are they really expressing the views of the people they represent or are they foisting their own views on the people of this Province? If they are expressing the real wants and needs of their constituents then it is only a matter of taking all the Hansards for the last ten years and turn them over to a group of students and let them go through Hansard and you will come up, Sir, with a master plan for the future development of this Province. Have someone go through the Hansards, pull out the ideas and put them all together and then do something about these ideas and suggestions because there is where the problem is, Sir. We have the ideas. We have the master plan. Fifty-one of us here know what, or we are supposed to know what the future development of this Province, what course it should take. All we have to do now, Sir, roll up our sleeves, get down to brass tacks, we have the master plan and do something about the future development of this Province instead of wasting time studying and talking about it.

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

HON. J. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, this is the first opportunity I have had to speak in the new session of the hon. House of Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. CROSBIE: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I have not been unknown for participating in the debates in this House but at this session I have not really felt much inclination to take much of a part because there is an awful lot - and I am a bit tired of it - of playacting in connection with proceedings in this hon. House of Assembly. This Province is now in a serious situation which requires the best of all of us and the less playacting there is the better. In addition, Mr. Speaker, I have not had the chance to be here because I was away on other matters that have to do with the prospects for Newfoundland. It is just as well to face the facts, that the prospects for Newfoundland are not very bright ones unless some hard, determined work can change what seems to be the prospects that lie before us.

Now the suggestion by the hon. Leader of the Opposition on this resolution that there should be a select committee to examine our economic prospects and the like is a device to bring this before the House for debate. He does not seriously, I am sure, consider that the appointment of a select committee of the members of this House would be of much real value. We have had royal commissions. We had a Royal Commission on economic prospects. It was appointed in the days when the hon. statesman from Twillingate was the Premier of the Province. That commission spent about eighteen months studying all the prospects for Newfoundland. Really its report was not one that was too optimistic and it was critical of certain approaches that the then government had taken. We could have another royal commission but it will not tell us anything more than we know now, that anyone who has been in the government knows or anyone that seriously looks at the situation knows. What are the prospects for development in this Province? I remember speaking about them during the election campaign. There are only five. One prospect is can we develop the hydro energy of Labrador so that it means something to the development of this Province and to Labrador. Or if we have to export it from the

MR. CROSBIE:

Province, can it return us some decent kind of economic rent that will give us some money to do something with in the rest of the Province generally. That is one prospect.

We have seen from the statement that I made ten or twelve days ago how difficult that road is going to be. It will not be accomplished unless we get major support from the Government of Canada and unless we get the co-operation of the Province of Quebec, which we can hope for, but whether it really materializes or not only the next year will tell. That is one road. If we cannot go that road, if we have to go the other road-and this is going to be debated in the House so I will not speak much on it today. Next Monday, I think, we are hoping to debate the resolution on the hydro - but if we cannot go that road and we have to go the steam nuclear road, to my mind we are going to, we are taking the route that says Newfoundland can never be a great Province, Newfoundland can never stand on its own feet, Newfoundland is always and forever destined to be a recipient of handouts from Ottawa. That is the route we go if the Gull Island gamble does not succeed in my mind.

What is the second prospect of the five? It is oil and gas. It is the oil and gas that we are sure lie off the shores, particularly of Labrador and possibly off the Northeast Coast of Newfoundland. The most prospective area lies off Labrador. It is the most difficult area in the world so far encountered for exploring and then developing oil or gas prospects. So we have to face that fact that when it is found it is going to be the most expensive, far more expensive than the North Sea to develop. We know the gas is there. We are not sure yet whether oil is there. But the oil and gas that lies off Labrador, the Northeast Coast of Newfoundland is another great prospect for this Province if we own and control the development of that resource. If we do not own and control it, if it is the Government of Canada that owns and controls it and decides it, then the development of that and the main benefit of it will go to other parts of Canada. It will not go to Newfoundland. We will never get much out of the oil and gas off our shores. We will get

MR. CROSBIE:

some money if Ottawa controls it. They have agreed they will give us, they have agreed they will give the Provinces - I will not give the exact figure but let us say it is between two-thirds and three quarters of what revenue would come from it. But they would be deciding how much revenue there is going to be. They would be deciding the pace of the development. They would be deciding what the royalties will be. They will be deciding all the factors in connection with it. We will not be able to say, you must employ Newfoundlanders, or, you must use Newfoundland goods and services, or, you must bring it ashore to Newfoundland and Labrador. We will have none of those powers if Ottawa has constitutional - the property ownership of the oil and gas that lies off our shores.

Mr. Crosbie.

Mr. Speaker, they are not prepared - and this, I know, will be debated on other occasions - they are not prepared to grant the Province of Newfoundland in our negotiations for a settlement of that issue any control over any aspect of the development of the oil and gas that may lie off our shores. They say that we can have an advisory role, an advisory role only, and we have said, "No, we will not accept any agreement or compromise with you that gives us nothing but an advisory role and what happens in the oil and gas development off Labrador and the Province of Newfoundland." Therefore it very likely that the issue must go to the Supreme Court of Canada or some judicial body to be decided. So that is the oil and gas. But in any event even if the oil and gas is there, it is shown to be there next year, and it is feasible to develop it in sufficient quantities, to make it economically feasible to develop, it would be in the case of oil, at least, eight or nine years, and in the case of gas, at least, ten years before it means anything really to the Province, before it is developed and brings us any real revenue. That is eight to ten years. That is a long time for a Province, Mr. Speaker, that is in our precarious economic and financial position. That is the one main chance we have for any substantial amount of revenue to come to the government of Newfoundland. Other than that we got the forestry. We got Bowaters and Price, we have Labrador Linerboard.

I regret greatly, Mr. Speaker, some statements that have been made by the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. statesman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) over in the Stephenville area a week or ten days ago about the linerboard mill and the management of the linerboard mill, you know, inferring or stating that they were incompetent, and there was a scandal, and they were not managing it properly and so on and so forth. The management of that mill are not geniuses -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, to a point of personal privilege. I have not been over in Stephenville or in that area.

MR. CROSBIE: This was on the radio. I do not want to make an issue of it, Mr. Speaker, but I can show the hon. gentleman a transcript of an

Mr. Crosbie.

interview he had with the radio station in Sphenville. The Linerboard mill project, the management of that project, I do not claim that they are geniuses, or that they are the best management in the world, or that they are the best in the world in that industry, or that they have not made mistakes before, because they have, and they will continue to do so, but there is not a management of any project or any mill anywhere in the world that has ever faced the problems that faced the management and have faced the management of Labrador Linerboard mill over the last three or four years. I am getting tired of hearing from my colleagues and hearing from other people how expensive Labrador Linerboard is, and how much it is costing the Province, and what a burden it is to us, because there is nothing new in that, Mr. Speaker. I hope there will be an opportunity to debate Labrador Linerboard in this session. I have a lot of information prepared on it.

When I spoke in this House in 1972 and in 1973 in detail on Labrador Linerboard, I said then, and I say now, it can never be economically feasible. And I said then and I say now that it will always cost, it will always have to be assisted by the people of this Province, through the government, if it is to continue operating, because it has got the most abominable wood costs of any mill anywhere in the world. That is not the fault of Labrador Linerboard Limited. That is the fault of the original planning that went in it. That really means that it should never have been commenced, that construction should never have started, because it was an economic impossibility from the start. But when this government assumed office, Mr. Speaker, if we had not taken over Canadian Javelin, it would have bankrupted itself, and I will not go into all the reasons. We saved them, really. They owe us a debt of gratitude, Canadian Javelin Limited, for taking that project over, but it would never have been finished had we not. It would never have been finished. We would have lost \$130 million to \$150 million and would have had nothing there for it, and it has cost us considerable money in the last three years to operate it, including \$28 million from the estimates this year, because there is no way it can operate itself and generate enough cash to pay the principal and interest on the debt and

Mr. Crosbie.

to meet these fantastic wood costs. We cannot sell - the hon. statesman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) said somewhere recently, in the House here, that the mill should be sold, we should find someone to sell it to and to take it over. There is not a person in the world will pay us

MR. CROSBIE:

one dollar to take it over, because they could not operate it and make money even at a dollar because it has no assured supply of wood. We cannot assure anyone that if they produce 300,000 tons of linerboard at that mill next year, that they can get 600,000 cords of wood in this Province to operate it with. The wood is not there. We have not got sufficient wood on the Island of Newfoundland plus what we can get from Labrador to operate that mill at capacity at the moment. So, who is going to buy it or operate it? It has got the highest wood costs of any mill in the world. To get the wood down from Labrador to cut it and transport it on to Stephenville costs in excess of eighty dollars a cord, unheard of!

MR. MURPHY: What is the average?

MR. CROSBIE: The competing mills down in the States have wood costs of twenty-five or thirty dollars a cord. This one, to buy wood around the Island its average wood costs are sixty dollars a cord. I will have the exact figures - I have not got all my notes here now, Mr. Speaker, but I am just illustrating what our economic prospects are.

So it is because we want to keep the Stephenville area going, and it is because we do not want to pull the plug on the Goose Bay-Happy Valley area that we keep the linerboard mill going. If we were operating on any sane, economic principle we would stop it tomorrow, we would stop it. It is the only sensible thing to do. It is the only prudent thing to do. But there are 2,500 people, Mr. Speaker, either working for the linerboard mill, working in the woods for the linerboard or working for pulp contractors who cut wood for Labrador Linerboard. So it is costing us \$28 million this year, more than that, but \$28 million this House has to vote or approve. Of that I will have the figures when this is debated properly to show - I can not remember all the exact figures now but many millions of that goes in wages and salaries.

Another substantial part of it is to pay principal and interest payments on the original Javelin debt which reduces what we owe on the mill and so on. So \$28 million is not the operating loss

MR. CROSBIE:

of Labrador linerboard. It is what we need to advance it for its cash flow purposes if it is to continue to operate and to pay off on its debt. So the economic prospects in the forest industry are not great, Mr. Speaker.

You know, the wood in Labrador there is no way physically - we will use the figure 200,000. We expect sometime to bring down 200,000 cords of wood, to cut and deliver, 200,000 of wood from Goose Bay a year, but probably it would be more sensible to say it is going to be 150,000. So the rest of the wood must come from the Island. There is not sufficient wood left on Crown lands on the Island to get the other 450,000 cords that we need. The cost of all of it is very expensive. So, the wood problem, the problem of Labrador Linerboard Limited is a problem of wood and the problem of the cost of wood.

Even supposing there is inefficiency, and you could be more ruthless or you could cut corners or you could cut your costs, you could be a killer-diller, you could cut out 100 men over there and so on and so forth, and you save \$1 million or \$2 million a year, that is all you would save. You would not be coming anywhere near the real problem of the Labrador Linerboard Limited which is the supply of wood and the cost of wood. So what more can we do in the forest industry except what we have been doing? In the last four years this government has done quite a bit to assist sawmills in establishing the Province. Most of them have gotten into difficulties. There is the Rayo mill out near Gander and Edgar Baird's mill out near Gander and Ed Palph is down in Bay P'Espoir. So far I have not heard that they are in any difficulties, and I hope they are not.

There is the monstrosity up at Hawkes Bay that never did work properly but hopefully now under a new arrangement it is going to carry on and do all right. The only mill I have heard of that is really being a quiet success without any major assistance from the government is the mill at Roddickton operated by Chester Dawe Limited, Peter Gardner and Frank Ryan, two of the brightest and shrewdest

MP. CROSBIE:

businessmen in the country are operating in Poddickton and employing a lot of people and making money, they say. So it may be that it is not impossible to have a viable sawmill industry here. In any event a lot of money has been loaned and guaranteed for in the last three or four years.

So our prospects

MR. CROSBIE: In the forestry industry are not a great, apart from the sawmilling prospects, and the continual battle to try to find the wood and at a decent cost for Labrador Linerboard without injuring the two mills that now operate at Grand Falls and at Stephenville.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I wonder if the hon. minister would allow me to ask him a question. What would he say if I were to tell him, as I do, that the ablest and most successful businessman in this Province today told me categorically, not too many weeks ago, that the management of the linerboard paper mill was savagely and atrociously bad, the management of it? The ablest and the most successful businessman in our Province today told me that. What would he say to that?

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I would have to know who the gentleman was.

MR. SMALLWOOD: The hon. minister knows him already.

MR. CROSBIE: Then I would have to decide what weight I would give it and how much opportunity he would have to know that. I would certainly disagree with him in any event, no matter who that gentleman might be. I think I have a shrewd guess who it is. I would say that he often says things that he does not really know all that much about.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Not the hon. minister.

MR. CROSBIE: I have done that myself on times. No, I do not agree with that, Mr. Speaker. But even supposing that they were, that is not the central problem of Labrador Linerboard. So the forest is - there are no great future prospects there, just to maintain what we have got and perhaps have a stronger sawmilling industry.

Then that leaves us what - mining? - there are still some prospects in mining, and the mining industry that we have got is in fairly good shape. We never did get much revenue from them. The new mineral taxation legislation passed last year will mean we are going to get some kind of a decent, not really satisfactory revenue from the mining companies. Buchans is a case in point. It would turn your stomach to see what American Smelting took out of Buchans in the years that they have operated there, and Price, without paying to this Province hardly anything

MR. CROSBIE: in taxes and employing people there at miserable wages and miserable conditions in a company town with miserable housing, would really cause you to become a savage, you know, Marxist. Mr. Speaker, to see what we put up with in this Province from American Smelting and Refining and Price and that Buchans, and for what? We did not even get from them any amount of revenue. I have forgotten, I have not got the exact figures here now, but it would just stupify you. One year I think they paid \$87,000 in taxes and another year nothing and so on and so forth because the Corporation Act, we have got to administer our own corporation tax, Mr. Speaker, because they are allowed to write off against our corporation tax, exploration expenses in other provinces and depreciation and so on. It is ridiculous.

In the last twenty-five years the amount of revenue that we got from all the mining companies on the Island, apart from corporation tax, I think it was, amounted to \$32 million, in all the years from 1949 to 1974. It is enough to make you throw up. The mining industry has never, we have never gotten a decent share of revenue from the mining industry which take a non-renewable resource from Newfoundland and for which we have had little in return. Well that situation is now improving. And there are prospects for more mines in Newfoundland and that is a helpful sign and there will be continuing progress in mining but, you know, the prospects do not exactly make you feel that Newfoundland can survive on the prospects of the mining industry alone, because it cannot. And that leaves the fishery.

Well the fishery, the fishery has gone through difficult times. But the fishery has prospects here. The pity with the fishery, and I must say, Mr. Speaker, that the year I had as Minister of Fisheries, I think it was one of the years I most enjoyed in government. The problems are very, very interesting. You are in touch with everybody around the land, every nook and cranny of the Island, and there are dozens of problems but they are all interesting ones and there are a lot of problems now, But for the first time the Canadian Government has been brought to the realization or made a conscious decision that the fishing

MR. CROSBIE: industry of the East Coast of Canada has to be saved,
that it was in the national interest to protect it. That is a decision
they came to about a year ago and they,

MR. CROSBIE:

having come to that conscious decision, I think it gives the fishing industry some chance of hope of survival or becoming stronger in the future. It is going to have a lot of problems for the next three or four years because of the resource et cetero. So the fishery is something that should always have been a central element of the economic development of Newfoundland. But with due deference to the hon. statesman from Twillingate it was not a central feature of our economic ferment during the years from 1949 to 1972.

MR. SPEAKER (Collins): Order, please! I think the usual form for referring to members of the House is an hon. member, and this is the form we parliamentarians will use in the future.

MR. CROSBIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, to that, Your Honour's ruling on that, I think I prefer that to Only Living Father. I think I prefer it. In fact I prefer that neither of them be used.

MR. MURPHY: They are all nice titles.

MR. CROSBIE: The hon. gentleman. Now, Mr. Speaker, then the fishery. Well the fishery was not a central feature, we did not from 1949 till 1972- we have done a bit better in the years since but I am not saying there is any fantastic progress- make the fishery the centre piece of the economic development of Newfoundland. We did not do it because the Canadian social security system meant that we could afford to ignore it and the people in control of the government of the Province and so on, feeling that the fishery was not something that could really ever give you a good or a high standard of living, went on to try to develop other kinds of industry. We were not forced like Iceland to concentrate on the fishery alone because they have got nothing else and they are not part of any larger nation, they are not part of any larger social security structure. They have got to develop, they have got to depend only on their own resources and they are nearly, almost all, in connection with the fisheries. So they have had to develop what they can in the fishery and they have developed skills and techniques and marketing and organization far ahead

MR. CROSBIE:

of what we have got. Now, we can hardly abuse and attack the Government of Canada about their position on the fishery when we realize that the fishery was not our first priority over the years from 1949 to 1972. So why should we have expected it to be the first priority or the second or the third of the Government of Canada? But at least their position now is that they have made a conscious decision that the industry has to be saved. The fishing industry is something that we have to concentrate on, the government and the House has to concentrate on, and try to improve over the next four or five, ten, fifteen and twenty years. But it is not going to be sufficient to meet our expanding population. It is not going to be sufficient to make Newfoundland a more feasible place to live in. It is only one part of the mosaic.

On the fishery, Mr. Speaker, it really annoys me, turns my guts, when I hear hon. gentlemen opposite talk, as one of them did, the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), about a scandal in the Department of Fisheries. How many times last year did I stand in this House and say that never again would there be a Gear Replacement Programme such as was instituted in 1974 by the Federal and Provincial Governments to replace gear that was lost due to the unusual ice conditions of the Spring of 1974? How often did I say that it was a scandal how it had been abused by a minority of fishermen? What reaction did I get from the other side and what did I hear on the radio stations and the open line programmes as some of them went out to try to misinterpret what I had said and to say how I had attacked the fishermen and said they were all dishonest et cetera. There is nothing new. The CBC acts like there is something new in this. They have suddenly come up on the fact that there were abuses of the Gear Replacement Programme in 1974 and 1975. There is nothing new in that. I announced it myself a dozen times and said never again will there be a Gear Replacement Programme, while this government is in office, that pays per cent of the cost of replacing the gear, fishermen's gear. Never again! There was a shocking abuse of that programme and the programme had to be done quickly, an emergency. The fishermen had to have the gear to be able to go out fishing that Summer and Fall and had to be dealt

MR. CROSSIE:

with as an emergency. We had about a dozen field men and the Federal Government and another eighteen or twenty to look into thousands and thousands of claims, and everyone howling for nets immediately so they could get out and fish and everyone else on the Island saying yes, they should get them immediately and the rest of it. Is there any wonder there were abuses of it?

Mr. Crosbie:

But to try to use that to blacken the whole Department of Fisheries and so on as has been done is most unfortunate, and particularly when there is an investigation on so that any responsible minister can say very little about it until the investigation is completed and charges are laid. But that is an aside, Mr. Speaker. You try to do something for the fisheries - well one of the reasons for the difficulty of the Gear Replacement Programme is you do not know who the fishermen are, and you do not have any record of what gear they own - but you should now have one, because they all have to register - and you got to replace the part-time man, the school teacher who goes fishing in the Summer, and he has lost lobster pots or he has got gill nets or whatever, or the other part-time people, they are all eligible to have their nets replaced. And a sizeable minority - it is a poor thing, Mr. Speaker, in this Province when they are prepared to swear to a false affidavit, swear falsely to an affidavit, because they think it is coming from the government, and if it is a programme that comes from the government it is fair game for everyone to beat it, And not only fishermen, but there are other persons involved, as will come out in due course, who also think it is fair game. I am not saying all fishermen, I am saying a sizeable number, not the majority. It is the full-time fisherman and the honest one and the true one who does not lose much gear, who hauls his gear out of the water when he hears the ice is coming, and so on and so forth, who suffers most by these programmes and who does not even make the claims, or only makes them if he has lost a net or only loses two nets and not ten or twenty, because he is not careless, because he is conscious of his gear and what it costs. That is the one I feel sorry for in this particular episode.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Order, please! Order, please!

The hon. member has the right to be heard in silence.

MR. CROSBIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So the fishery is a very important element of our future prospects, Mr. Speaker, but it cannot be the only solution. Now the way that I would like to approach the problems of the Province -

CAPT. WINSOR: Would the hon. gentleman permit a question?

MR. CROSBIE: Yes.

CAPT. WINSOR: Did the minister say that a great part of the abuse can be attributed to other than fishermen?

MR. CROSBIE: Yes, I say that there is abuse that is not connected with fishermen, as well as abuse connected with fishermen and, of course, it will all come out in due course, but there is little else we can say at the moment.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the approach I would take, or I would like to take - but I am part of the collectivity to the problems of this Province today, we just having re-elected in September, is, you know, assume you are going to be defeated in four years time or five years, assume that, you start off assuming that. The prospects of this government being re-elected in four or five years time are very, very slim. And if hon. gentlemen opposite were in office, the prospects of their being re-elected would be exactly as slim, because whoever gets elected to office in this Province has got very little to work with. They have got very little to work with. They have got no big sources of revenue to work with. They have got no surpluses to work with. You have to go out and borrow it, and the moment you endanger your credit you will not be able to borrow it. So all right, we assume that in four years time or five years, we are not going to be re-elected, so what!

MR. NEARY: Is the minister going to stay that long?

MR. CROSBIE: I do not know. I may be gone tomorrow. I must say I am getting tired of it. I may be gone next year, I do not know.

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSBIE: My wife thinks I am a fool and a sucker, and she wants me out. I only stay because I am interested in the work. The work is interesting.

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSBIE: The things you are involved with are interesting.

Mr. Crosbie.

So I say start out assuming that in four years time or five you are going to be defeated and some other crowd is going in, and then proceed to do what needs to be done in your view.-

MR. SMALLWOOD: Right!

MR. CROSBIE: - and why worry. If may be some miracle would occur, Mr. Speaker -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Right!

MR. CROSBIE: - and that the right things are done, that in four years time you can throw in a few sweeteners or somehow get the electorate to re-elect you, or it might be that they might re-elect you anyway, but say the odds are - it does not matter who is in office here today, the odds are much against them being re-elected.

MR. NEARY: Is this your swan song?

MR. CROSBIE: It is not my swan song. I have said the same kinds of things before, and I have always been re-elected, and the people of St. John's West just re-elected me again.

MR. NEARY: Why are you just moving -

MR. SMALLWOOD: We are getting straight talk.

MR. CROSBIE: Fifty-six per cent of the vote, and the next time it will be sixty-six per cent. I was not communicating enough with them, Mr. Speaker, and I will not make that mistake again. But that district of St. John's West that is there now is not the old one, and I am not ashamed of the vote I got there, but I am not making the mistake of not keeping in close enough touch with them again or give them the impression that I am too busy for them to get in touch with. So any hon. gentleman who wants to run against me in St. John's West next time, I will bury him.

COME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSBIE: I will bury him. Do not worry about that.

Mr. Crosbie:

Now, Mr. Speaker - so we can assume that we are not going to be re-elected in four or five years time. That is not the end of life. I would sooner be in the Opposition today -

MR. SIMMONS: Come on over 'John'.

MR. CROSBIE: - I would demolish the government if I were in the Opposition today. What a time you could have, if you wanted to take that tack. So let us go ahead -

MR. SMALLWOOD: You would be.

MR. CROSBIE: Right, you would be wrong to do that.

Let us go ahead. Now what have we heard from the Opposition, apart from the hon. gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) and in spasms the gentleman from Bell Island, excuse me, LaPoile (Mr. Neary).

MR. NEARY: LaPoile! LaPoile!

AN Hon. MEMBER: The fugitive from Bell Island.

MR. CROSBIE: What have we heard? You know, tale after tale of what needs to be done in the districts or what has happened to recreation programme or what has happened to the paving and the water and sewerage, and what needs to be done, and how the government fooled the people and it now has not got the money to do it. Let us just be reasonable. Is there a government in this world that ever had an election campaign and went out telling the people what it was not going to do for them? You know, it is just too unreal to suppose. And it is not this government or any other government or Trudeau's - every government is the same. Politicians all have the same weakness. The poor fools want to be re-elected. And that is all most of them can think of. How do you get re-elected in three, four or five years' time? Well you do not get re-elected by going around saying no to everyone. I was the Minister of Finance for two years and a-half, Mr. Speaker, and I know ereof I talk. You do not gain popularity by saying no to people. So where are we then?

MR. SIMMONS: You ran a bluff, then?

MR. CROSBIE: So what should we do?

Well what we should do, Mr. Speaker, is do what is best for this Province. And this Province has got to get use to the same idea that the people in the rest of Canada are going to have to accept, and the people in the rest of the Western World. We are no different. It strikes Newfoundland a bit quicker and harsher first, but the other provinces of Canada are going to be raising taxes, they are going to be cutting their borrowing. The mighty Ontario just had a bond issued down in the United States and had difficulty selling it, and their bond dealers have got their portfolios filled up with Ontario bonds that they cannot sell and they are losing money on it. Mighty Ontario with the triple A credit rating, just had an issue down there.

MR. NEARY: New York is having its own troubles.

MR. CROSBIE: And Quebec has had to announce that James Bay has got to be slowed down, and that next year they they are going to borrow \$500 million less, Quebec Hydro, for James Bay because of the present situation of the bond market and whatever else causes it, like the Olympic Games, that kind of bread and circuses. I am just putting a statement here, Mr. Speaker; I am against Olympic Games and all of that kind of nonsense, when you cannot afford water and sewerage and the rest of it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame! Shame!

MR. CROSBIE: And the hon. gentleman disagree with me, thinks he can do everything, I do not. I will put water and sewerage ahead of Olympic Games any day. Let him run around the water and sewerage system instead of around the track.

This Province is feeling it first, Mr. Speaker, and feel it more harshly. But when I was down in New York two weeks ago you could pick up the paper, the Governor of Connecticut cutting everything to the bone and reducing the civil servants salaries and telling them they have got to work, instead of thirty-five hours a week, forty

MR. MURPHY: That is right.

MR. CROSBIE: That is the Governor of Connecticut - a fairly wealthy American State.

MR. MURPHY: And for the same salaries.

MR. CROSBIE: The same salaries and they have to work five hours more a week, and they did not like that. Naturally they do not like it. But that is what is happening in Connecticut and elsewhere down in the United States, and it is going to happen in other Canadian Provinces and it is going to happen in other Western Countries. Why? Because we are all living too high off the hog. Because people have come to think that an unusual combination of circumstances from 1945 to 1974 is the way things are going to be forever, and that they are going to have increasing standards of living forever. They are not. The ordinary people of this country are going to have a decreasing standard of living unless something extraordinary occurs.

Energy costs. What is the cost of energy going to - how is that going to go? Do you think it is not going to go up next year? It is. It is going up, not just in Newfoundland but everywhere across Canada. Our energy costs in this Province and everywhere in Canada will be doubled in five years from what they are today.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Oil will increase to \$25 a barrel.

MR. CROSBIE: Oil is the worst culprit. All of these things are going to happen. The pie is no longer expanding, Mr. Speaker. The pie was getting bigger and bigger, and you could slice it around and give more to the ordinary people and bring up their standard of living, increase the social services and give them more social assistance and have medicare and free hospital treatment etc. But we have come to the end of that. And we come to the end, unless people will start to put their backs into it again, and start to produce more so that there is more to divide. That is where we have come to. That is where we are in Canada and in the rest of the Western World, North America and Western Europe and the United Kingdom. This is no short-term crisis. And wage and price controls are not going to change this, only a

MP. CROSBIE:

realization of what the situation is, and the determination by everybody to do something about it. That is why it is so tragic that the labour movement blindly fights and battles against this programme. I mean, partly that can be blamed on the Trudeau government which has not moved fast enough or has not been able to convince people that they should support this, and partly because the real cause of the inflation is overspending by government, and particularly overspending by the federal government who can print their own money. If they have a deficit of \$5 billion, they can just print an extra \$1 billion in bills. We cannot do that here. We cannot do that. We do not control the printing presses. So we are stuck by what we can borrow on the bond markets or what we can get the banks to give us, but not the Government of Canada.

It is their overspending plus other international factors that has got us into the present inflation. Only when they cut back and other things are done will we get this under control. But people in the Western World generally do not seem to realize yet, Mr. Speaker, that they are facing a pretty pessimistic future. Their standards of living are not going to keep going up. They are in grave danger of stopping or going down.

MP. SMALLWOOD: They are going down.

MP. CROSBIE: They are going down now, the cost of energy and the cost of food. You know, these things can - anybody who now really spends any time looking at this can see it and the figures are all there. But it is not yet in the public consciousness. But we have to get it in our consciousness pretty fast.

So we are not different than the rest except that we are more vulnerable in Newfoundland. So we have had to move sooner. So the Minister of Finance had to bring in a Fall budget and move very quickly. Why the Fall budget? Because of the huge wage and salary increases that were given to government workers and civil servants and hospital workers and so on during 1975 principally. That is the principal reason. It was budgeted for 18 per cent and it cost 28 per cent or 30 per cent or whatever it was.

MR. PROSBIE:

What is to happen with collective bargaining in the public service, Mr. Speaker? I mean, is it a sensible system that permits strikes in the public service when now it is no longer the economic pressure that the employer suffers when a strike is on or the employee suffers when he is not getting his wages, but it is how much can you throttle and disaccommodate and endanger and imperil the public, when that is the criterion? How is that going to be solved? The present system is not a satisfactory one. It is not. And there has got to be something better, some system of arbitration or whatever.

But these are the problems faced today, Mr. Speaker. Forty per cent of the gross national product, Mr. Speaker, is being spent today in Canada by governments, federal, provincial and municipal. Forty per cent of everything we all make is taken from us and spent by these governments. More and more of the activity of our society is becoming decided by government. We are moving towards the socialist system of full control. They are moving a bit towards our system, giving them a little more freedom.

The question really is, Mr. Speaker, can the democratic system survive in the Western World? Will it survive the next ten years? Because democracy and this business of electing governments and a parliamentary system has only originated in the last seventy-five, or the most 100 years because of a certain combination of events, the industrial revolution, increasing wealth and the gentry could afford to let the peasantry have a bit more, and eventually give them the vote and so on and so forth until we all get the vote and women are allowed to vote and you vote governments in and out. It can be snuffed out in no time. Look how easily Indira Gandhi snuffed it out in India! It is just announced one night that the opposition is in a plot against you, and they are endangering you, and they are carted off to jail and you have no longer free speech, free press. Trudeau could do that tomorrow. There would not be anything to stop him as long as the Armed Forces did not take an independent role, and they would not.

So the question is, how long, Mr. Speaker, will the democratic

MR. FOSBIE:

system last if we cannot stop the political excesses that are causing the economic stagnation and ruin because it is caused by governments wanting to be re-elected. Naturally they want to be re-elected. We all think we are doing a great job. We all enjoy being in power and so on. We do not want to be defeated. So an election is coming up and for a year or two you try to do the things that are popular and the opposition is just a guilty because they are saying you should do this and you should do that, knowing you cannot do it, and we will do this and we will do that. That is the way the system goes. And as a result of all this for the last thirty or forty years the political excesses are causing the economic trouble we are now in.

So the question

MR. CROSBIE: Is can this be reversed and still have a democratic system or form of government? Or does some strong man - do the people turn to some strong man and say, "We cannot stand any more of this inflation and these strikes and the rest of it, and being held by the throat and having our pockets picked and so on, we cannot stand that. Never mind elections, we want somebody who is going to cure that. We want good strong government. We want somebody who will run the trains, like Mussolini ran the trains." Here in Newfoundland we have not got trains to run.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Have them on time.

MR. CROSBIE: That is right. Get them running on time. You know in our small little way here in this House of Assembly, Mr. Speaker, we are only, what is it, a microcosm - if that is the right phrase - of a debate or a proceeding or a happening that is going to go on in all the other states and provinces in North America and in Europe, a part of a larger scene.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, would the minister arrange to have some of his colleagues come in and hear his remarkably able speech? Here were are crowded over here and empty over there. That is wrong. They need to hear this speech.

MR. CROSBIE: Well they are all out, Mr. Speaker, listening attentively out in the -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Yes, I am sure.

MR. CROSBIE: Now, Mr. Speaker, I only have a few minutes left. So I say that we are just a small part of what is a bigger crisis and it will be interesting to see how we handle it here. Now it is possible that this House of Assembly can handle it. There is a much better atmosphere here than there was in the last one and it would be interesting how - I mean I see why, of course, members opposite have to be annoyed about the election and they want to bring up how this was said and that and what not and so forth and how infamous the government was. Well get it off your chest, and get it off your chest now, so we can get down to the serious business. Do not get all frazzled. The odds are, I will say my own opinion is the odds are nine to one, ten to one, you are going

MR. CROSBIE: to be in power in four or five years time. Just be patient. Just play the thing right. You do not have to say a word. You do not have to be always attacking the government. You just wait and it drops into your lap.

MR. NOLAN: Is that a promise?

MR. CROSBIE: Well I mean you know a miracle may occur. A miracle may occur.

MR. SMALLWOOD: A philosophical minister!

MR. NEARY: Sir, I wonder if the minister might like a little extra time, if so I am satisfied for him to carry on for a few extra minutes.

MR. MURPHY: I would love to hear more.

MR. CROSBIE: I have not got much more to say, Mr. Speaker, so maybe it will not be necessary. So what have we got to do. One of the pleasant surprises of this, well I envy, actually, Mr. Speaker, I envy the member for Twillingate, because he is obviously adopting a philosophical approach to the whole situation. He is now an elder statesman. He can be.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Now none of that.

MR. CROSBIE: Of course he could have a come back. He could sweep the Island in four years time. Anything is possible with the hon. gentleman but I think that there are ninety-nine chances out of a hundred -

MR. NEARY: Come over, we will form a new party.

MR. CROSBIE: - that the hon. gentleman is not going to run anymore. So he can sit in this House here and be quite - you know, he can just decide every day what attitude he is going to take or what he thinks of this or that or he might criticize the opposition or the government or support them. This is a wonderful position to be in. What could be better for the next four years than to be able to be in that position?

MR. NEARY: Come over and the three of us will form a new party.

MR. CROSBIE: Well we have got to keep these conspiracies quiet or they slipped in the bud. So, Mr. Speaker -

MR. MURPHY: I must say, a very compatible group.

MR. CROSBIE: Very compatible. Yes, I have never felt such affection oozing out of me, Mr. Speaker. It is not like the old days.

MR. CROSBIE: So, Mr. Speaker, what have we got to do now then if we are going to approach things sensibly as to our economic prospects? A select committee is a debating device. I do not think a select committee is the way to do it. Maybe you could have a conference, a conference or some meeting could be held at which anyone with suggestions would write in in advance and you might spend a couple of days. I think the hon. gentleman from Twillingate had similar but it might perhaps be useful, where you spend a couple of days with the whole thing televised discussing the prospects of the Island and your people from the university, so whoever it is, or anyone who has made a suggestion that is obviously not crackpot and, you know, see what suggestions and ideas you get. But a select committee I do not think would be any help.

But what have we got to do? We have to cut back spending, and borrowing to spend money on other than essentials. And the essentials are, well you have got to try to carry on the services that are here now at their present level, although you might have to come to the position where you have got to reduce them. That is a possibility. But at least -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Does the hon. minister have leave of the House?

MR. CROSBIE: I am almost finished, Mr. Speaker:

MR. MURPHY: A minute and a half.

MR. CROSBIE: You may have to cutback services but let us say that you just carry them on at the present level, and you have got to borrow money to do that. This Province cannot have any capital expenditure programme at all without borrowing. It is a misnomer to say that our deficit this year will be \$11 million if this all works out in the Fall Budget. The deficit is

MR. CROSBIE:

not that. You got to add the capital account and the current account together. That is when you get the deficit and that is two hundred and something million dollars. We have not had a surplus in the Newfoundland Government budgets since 1949, Mr. Speaker. For the sake of convenience it is divided into current and capital account. We always had deficit budgets but we cannot afford to have a deficit on the current account or the running account or whatever. That is a very serious thing and has to be stopped. You know, our deficit is not just \$11 million. We have got to borrow everything that we spend on capital account apart from what we get from the Government of Canada. So that has got to be cut back. You have got to spend a certain amount on roads. You just cannot stop all road building or road construction. So certain things have got to continue. Where we can get any money or have any money the essential has got to be to try to develop the Province's resources, the things that are going to give us some kind of future. So we are not just curiosities here. Are we going to be called in five years time the old curiosity shop? That is the danger this Province is in, Mr. Speaker. It will not be the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. It will be the Province of the old curiosity shop where people come down from the mainland to have a nice little summer looking at the quaint Newfs going along the Coast looking at them in their quaint little outports with their nice painted houses and their boats. That is the prospect that dawns before us if none of the things that we are attempting can be brought to fruition. That is one reason, Mr. Speaker, why I am - I will elaborate on this next week - why I am prepared to gamble and take a risk on the Lower Churchill.

I remember an hon. gentleman opposite used to tell us about how I was too cautious and you had to take risks. I hope the hon. gentleman from Twillingate is going to be a risk-taker when we come to this debate on Gull Island, because without we take the risk on that it is another big step down the road to being nothing but a tourist curiosity in this Province, or having no real prospects of independence on our own. So whatever money - our credit, whatever credit we have got, the first essential use of that credit should be, in my view, the Lower Churchill

MR. CROSBIE:

and anything else that has to do with resources, and then after that carrying on the services of the government. That is where the priority should be, what we can borrow. That gigantic task, of course, we cannot succeed on at all without the help of the Government of Canada. It is a project that is in the national interest but it is a subject for another topic.

So what we have got to decide in this House, the government and the Opposition, because the government's lot in choosing the unpopular path is obviously a lot easier if the Opposition are not too partisan in their criticism, and they do not need to be because it is all going to fall in their laps. All they have to do is stand by mute for the next four years or maybe jazz up their criticism the last year and they will have it, whatever there is to have. But unless we can get through the next three or four years with some sensible co-ordinated programme, protect our credit and develop the Island there is nothing worth there taking over. Who wants to - who would want to take it over? What is the good of taking it over? It is just as well to be elected to the city council or to the council of one of the other municipalities as it is to be in the Government of Newfoundland in three or four years time if we cannot make a fist of it or do the things that are necessary to keep us with some prospects for development in this Province. So the Opposition is losing nothing. Yes, criticize when you see something wrong or you get some hint of unpropriety or there are things being done that should be drawn to public attention. I am all for that, Mr. Speaker, go around with your snouts in the air sniffing and every time you get a whiff of something dig it out, yes, that is a good function.

MR. NEARY: I got my own underground movement.

MR. CROSBIE: There is the bigger sniffer of them all over there. That is a good function of an Opposition - and make reasonable criticism and constructive suggestions of what should be done. But a lot of the ordinary political criticism could be dropped because it is not needed. You do not need it to be successful the next election and it is not to anybody's advantage.

MR. CROSBIE:

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have never needed to ask anyone for any mercy. If any hon. gentleman wants to attack or debate or slug it out with me I can do it. I got a lot of experience since 1969.

MR. NOLAN: Hard-boiled.

MR. CROSBIE: Yes, pretty hard boiled, yes. I have a lot of battle scars, so I am prepared to play it either way. But I have not really got my heart in it at this session of the House, Mr. Speaker, because really I think we do face a serious situation. The populace needs to be, the people need to be apprized of it and made aware of it and we got to make the best fist of it we can.

MR. NEARY: Can you reassure us you will not give up and quit.

MR. CROSBIE: Well, I do not want to give up and quit, Mr. Speaker. That is not a course that I would want to take and I do not intend to take.

Mr. Crosbie.

So, in my first speech in the House, I will just say that, while I have enjoyed the House much better, though, my heart is not really in the debate, I am saying, Mr. Speaker, in the sense that I always enjoy the cut and thrust and so on. My heart is not in it that much but the atmosphere in the House is a lot better. And I must say the Speaker has to be congratulated, and the Deputy Speaker. I think they are doing just a first-class job, firm and prepared and knows what rulings to give, and the atmosphere is much, much better than it was in the last House, and, therefore, Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will all be able to enjoy our four years here or whatever it is, and that together we will be able to get Newfoundland straightened out during the same period.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins) The hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, perhaps after hearing that speech, certainly one of the better ones I have heard from the minister in my time in the House, after hearing a speech like that, it might be worth reminding us all what it is we are debating, because while I certainly enjoyed the speech, and had I been in a situation where I was one of the judges in an academic debating forum, I would find myself marking all the points in favour of the minister, I wish he had spoken more to the subject of the resolution. He did cover a lot of ground, and he did preach a lot of gloom and doom, but that aside, the style was good, Mr. Speaker, enjoyable, and I want to commend him on being such an able player with words. He talked about playacting, at the beginning of his speech. "The less playacting the better," he said, Mr. Speaker. I had hopes for a few minutes that we would see indeed a new style from the minister, he, after all, being one of the chief proponents of the playacting device in this House. He, in a sense, Mr. Speaker, the culprit, as it were, the sole playwright, if you like, of that style of debate, that kind of participation in this forum. But he was true to form, Mr. Speaker, very true to form, and in no time at all he

Mr. Simmons.

was off his pedestal and was giving us the kind of playacting that he himself abhorred at the beginning of the speech. As I say, Mr. Speaker, I wish he had sought to address himself to the motion and perhaps in view of the speech we have just heard, and its considerable irrelevancy to the kernel of the resolution, perhaps it is worth reminding ourselves what the resolution was.

The Leader of the Opposition a few weeks ago moved a resolution calling for the establishment of a Select Committee. In part the resolution said: "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and to report upon the prospects for Newfoundland and Labrador, including the prospects for economic growth and development, and in particular, a consideration of those types of development which are best suited to foster and to encourage the way of life most desired by the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. And further resolved that the committee have power to sit in and out of session, to send for papers and other documents, and generally to exercise the powers which may be conferred upon the commissioners under the Public Enquiries Act, and so on, "And be it further resolved that the committee be authorized to sit from place to place throughout Newfoundland and Labrador."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I, for my part, as one member of this House feel that that kind of resolution is needed in this House, having in mind particularly the financial situation, the economic situation in which we find ourselves at this time in 1975. I only wish that the minister who has just spoken, and others who have spoken, would instead of trying to find reasons to condemn the resolution and to write it off in terms of playacting and to assign motives to the Leader of the Opposition and to those of us who support that resolution, instead of doing that kind of thing, Mr. Speaker, if they would look carefully at the resolution and see, perhaps, if there is perhaps some good reason for having such a committee. I have heard various people in this debate condemn the resolution and say, do we need another Select Committee?

At one point, Mr. Speaker, I must admit that the member for LaPoile
(Mr. Neary) with his usual eloquence had just about convinced me
until I

MR. SIMMONS:

I looked over the page and, lo and behold, on the very next page in my Order Paper I find that he himself is moving, if the resolution comes to the floor, Mr. Speaker, he himself is also calling for a select committee. Now, I can only guess, Mr. Speaker, that that member will now in the light of the argument that he has developed with respect to this resolution, will now withdraw his resolution because he has given every reason in the book, Mr. Speaker, why the very last thing we should be looking for is a select committee on anything. He said that. He said it at some length, Mr. Speaker. He said it with considerable repetition.

MR. NEARY: Mine has to deal with specific matters.

MR. SIMMONS: Ah, Mr. Speaker, this resolution here deals with a fairly specific matter and a matter that we had better start talking some sense on. That is why I lament the direction that the Minister of Mines and Energy took this afternoon when he talked about the prospects for the Province and he went through them in terms of hydro, oil and gas, forestry, mining and fishery. We have no dispute on these matters, Mr. Speaker. We might dispute somewhat the approach that the present government takes to some of these matters, but, by and large, I think any thinking Newfoundlander who is at all informed on the matters that have just been mentioned, hydro, oil and gas, forestry, mining and fishery will agree that these are essentials, these are essential components in any economic package for the future of this Province.

But for the Minister of Mines and Energy to stand there and state by implication that these are the only prospects - there are only five, if you like, oil and gas, hydro development, mining, forestry and fishery - for him to state that these are the only prospects we have, for him to say in essence that somehow he has such a complete overview of the economic picture in this Province that there is no need for any further study, that there is no need for anybody else to put their minds to the subject at hand and see if there are other directions in which we should go.

Mr. Speaker, were we now in the Fall of 1975 at a point in time where we were looking back over the four year record of this

MP, SIMMONS:

government and of the Minister of Mines and Energy in particular as one of the more influential members in the cabinet, in the administration, and were we able to see, looking back over these four years, that this government had done great things in terms of resource development, then I could buy the words of the minister when he tells us that he is in a position to see all, that he has such a complete, perfect, overview that there are no other prospects only what he says are prospects.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the whole reason for this resolution is so that we can have input from other sources, sources which at the present moment do not have input into the thinking and the decision making of this administration. That is why we need that kind of select committee so that the committee can, as the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) has suggested in his addressing himself to the motion, can, if thought feasible, invite the experts in. But that is only part of the assignment, it seems to me, of such a committee.

The other part is to go out around the Province and get the thinking of the ordinary Newfoundlanders in this Province as to what kind of life style - now there is a part of the resolution, Mr. Speaker, that very few speakers have addressed themselves to. The resolution - and I quote "those types of development which are best suited to foster and to encourage the way of life most desired by the people of Newfoundland and Labrador." It is one thing for the Minister of Mines to talk about oil and gas. And a lot of us look to the time when that will be a reality, and when we can see some dollars accruing to the provincial treasury.

But the other side of the coin insofar as oil and gas is concerned is how it will affect the life styles of the people, for example, along the Coast of Labrador whose life styles are very, very different than the life styles of most members sitting in this House. How will it affect their life styles? Should they not have a say

MP. SIMONS:

in the development of oil and gas before it is too late? That is part of what this resolution addresses itself to, Mr. Speaker: What kind of life style do these people along the Coast of Labrador and other parts of this Province want?

Mr. Simmons:

It is one thing for a minister of the Crown to say, "From where I sit, from where I stand I can see what the prospects are." I submit, Mr. Speaker, he can see them with his own type of tunnel vision. I digressed a moment ago when I was saying if we were in the Fall of 1975 looking back, and we could look back on four years of resource development and we could conscientiously without any partisan considerations at all commend the government on the initiatives it had taken over the past four years in terms of economic growth, in terms of developing the economic potential of this Province, then I could buy, I could subscribe to most of what the minister had to say this afternoon. But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that the gentleman who sets himself up this afternoon as the expert on economic prospects - and let me say, Mr. Speaker, that I certainly respect the confidence and the knowledge and the resourcefulness of the Minister of Mines, I am not wanting to detract from that at all - but at the same time, Mr. Speaker, I say that in terms of the track record of him and his colleagues I believe we should not be asked realistically, seriously to buy their diagnosis of the economic situation as it prevails in this Province at this time. I say in view of the track record of this administration the resolution that the Leader of the Opposition has put down is all the more needed.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to hear the views of the Minister of Mines this afternoon. We have heard his views. I think he has not before so ably capsulated them as he has this afternoon, and so we are all the wiser as a result of what he has said. I find some of his attitudes a little frightening. I believe that in some respects he was more candid today than he knew. And when he reads the transcripts in Hansard he may chide himself for having been so candid. But we have heard his views, Mr. Speaker, and I can only assume that they are his honest views, his honest, down-to-earth, honest-to-goodness views on the subject of economic prospects for this Province.

But what the resolution says, Mr. Speaker, is let us not only hear the minister's views, let us not only hear the views of the sixteen

Mr. Simmons:

or seventeen men in Cabinet, let us hear the views of people all over this Province. And let us suppose, Mr. Speaker, that they have all the insights on economic development. Let us suppose they know all, as we have been told this afternoon. Let us suppose there is nothing new to discover - while I suppose that for the purpose of my argument, it flies in the face of everything that I believe - well, let us suppose that we know all, even in that context, Mr. Speaker, would it not be worthwhile going around this Province if our economic prospects are as gloomy as have been suggested this afternoon, would it not be worth our while going around this Province and at least allowing the people, the ordinary people of this Province to have some dialogue on the subject and let them in on what everybody else knows or seems to know here this afternoon. I cannot subscribe to the view that we are engaged in some kind of a funeral procession. I cannot subscribe to the view that it is all over and we should haul her out to sea and sink her. I cannot subscribe to that kind of a view at all, Mr. Speaker. I will go so far as to say that I think it unfortunate that we find ourselves at this very crucial time in our development with men in government such as the Minister of Mines, not that he is in any way lacking in basic competence, Mr. Speaker, but if the other people in Cabinet subscribe to the views that have been stated here this afternoon, God help this Province! Anybody knows if you have any assignment to undertake, any job to do, any task to perform, that the attitude with which you approach that task is all-important, more important than the competence you bring to it, more important than the knowledge you bring to it. If you go into a job with the attitude that, boys she is sunk, boys we cannot do anything with her, you will not do anything with her. If you approach the subject of the economic prospects or the economic development of this Province with the attitude that, "There is nothing we can do fellows, Let us throw up our hands before we start, there is nothing here worth taking over," as the minister said this afternoon, I say, Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day indeed when men like

Mr. Simmons:

that are sitting around the Cabinet table of this Province, are making the decisions concerning the future of this Province, men who

MR. SIMMONS: do not believe in the future of this Province, men who have thrown up their hands, obviously privately a long while ago and have done so publicly here today. I did not hear any minister on the government side take exception to what the minister said. I hope for the sake of this Province that someone would get up and say that they do not subscribe to that view. I would like to hear the other fifteen or sixteen men in Cabinet say that they do not believe what the minister said. I do not believe it, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe it is curtains for this Province. I sincerely hope that other men who sit in the Cabinet feel as I do on this subject.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the minister it is time to tell the truth. It is time to level with the people of this Province. How much better off we would be if people had been levelling a long, long time ago. It is one thing to level, Mr. Speaker, but to preach gloom and doom for its own sake, to get engaged in scare tactics, get people for some reason or other to over-react, talk about playacting, Mr. Speaker!

MR. MORGAN: He gave you facts!

MR. SIMMONS: Aw the member for Bonavista South is back. He talks about facts, Mr. Speaker. Let him stand in his place and speak in this debate and tell us what facts support the gloom and doom stance that the Minister of Mines and Energy has adopted this afternoon. The facts that I have heard do not support it.

I have heard all along, and the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Crosbie) is one of the fellows who said this, I can produce his brochure of some years ago in his leadership campaign in which he talked long and hard about the rich resources of this Province. Where are those resources today? He takes them one by one and dismisses them. We do not have the wood, he says. I disagree with him on that one, too, although he may have in his command more information than I on the subject. But not only do I disagree, Mr. Speaker. A number of statements made by his colleagues in Cabinet are at variance to that very statement that we do not have the wood.

It is that kind of an attitude, Mr. Speaker, that gloom and doom attitude which is going to bankrupt this Province. It is that kind of

MR. SIMMONS: an attitude which explains, Mr. Speaker, more than anything else the very high unemployment rate we have in this Province right now. If you got an administration made up of men who do not believe anything can be done to improve the economic situation, are you surprised, Mr. Speaker, that we have an unemployment rate the highest in Canada and twice as high as the national average. When the men in government are spending their time rubbing their wrist and grieving in gloom and doom stance about how bad she is and that kind of thing.

Mr. Speaker, what I heard this afternoon is completely unbelievable. As I say at once, academically, in vacuo, in an academic debating form it would have been a real treat to hear that kind of a speech and in that sense I enjoyed it. But to realize, Mr. Speaker, that a Minister of the Crown honestly subscribes to these views about his Province, I find unbelievable and unacceptable. We cannot, Mr. Speaker, afford to have men in government with that kind of attitude.

Now, Mr. Speaker, others in rebutting what I have said will get on about talking the truth and preaching facts and that kind of thing. Well there are a number of ways you can approach and interpret facts, and I say, Mr. Speaker, that we just cannot afford, under any circumstances, however completely the minister is convinced, we cannot afford, in the name of the future of this Province, men in Cabinet who subscribed to these views because these views are going to be reflected in their activity on behalf of the Province. For a minister who, a few short years ago - and I wish I had his little red colourful brochure of 1969 here with me now, because it says some things that are very much at variance to what he said this afternoon, when he talked about resource development and that kind of thing.

MP. SIMMONS:

Now the minister tells me there is no variance at all. He tells me that in six years, that he had those views six years ago. He talked, Mr. Speaker, about levelling with people and he talked about not going around telling them what you would not do. Why did he not tell us six years ago when he was seeking the leadership of our party?

MP. CROSBIE: You are a twit.

MR. SIMMONS: Or in all those elections, Mr. Speaker? Ah, in the minister's mind, Mr. Speaker, everybody is a twit who does not happen to subscribe to what he thinks. Well, Mr. Speaker, I would rather be called a twit than subscribe to these asinine views that I have heard here this afternoon.

MR. NEARY: Watch the "w" now!

MR. HICKMAN: The minister did not call you a twit.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am glad he did not call me a twit because he has the advise of my very dear friend from Grand Bank (Mr. Hickman) over there to lean on. He knows the difference.

MR. NEARY: What about The Management of Myths?

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, now there is one I would love to talk to you about sometime, but it is not quite on the subject. The member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) reminds me of a document that you should all get for Christmas. It is called The Management of Myths. I recommend it highly. I take it the member has read it?

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir. I have it down in my office right now.

MR. SIMMONS: Enjoyed it?

MR. NEARY: It is in the Legislative Library.

MR. SIMMONS: Enjoyed it?

MR. NEARY: Very much.

MR. SIMMONS: I recommend that the Minister of Mines take out the book. He might even learn something from that particular document, The Management of Myths written by Dr. Anthony Cohen and based on the community of Springdale some years ago. But anyway that is another subject, but nevertheless a very enjoyable one.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to deal for a minute or two with some of the items that the minister raised. Just before I come to these

MR. SIMMONS:

items just let me say this, it is the overall attitude, the overall - and the only expression I can think of because it conveys best what I want to say, is the overall gloom and doom stance of the minister - makes you wonder whether this government has got the heart, the guts to do anything any more, if that is the honest-to-goodness feeling of the administration. It sounds more and more like they are wanting to be a kind of a caretaker government. Indeed it makes one wonder if they are not adopting the role of an undertaker government, presiding, as they see it, over the demise of a society, over the dying gasp of a people. I do not see it that way, Mr. Speaker. It is frightening as a Newfoundlander and a taxpayer this afternoon to hear that a minister of the Crown shares such views.

Now, two or three points he made in particular, Mr. Speaker. I heard him make this statement, I think word for word at one point. He said, "The Canadian social security system was such that we could afford to ignore the fishery."

MR. CROSBIE: I did not say that.

MR. SIMMONS: Well, I hope, Mr. Speaker, the minister did not say that. I copied it down as nearly as I could.

MR. CROSBIE: You are misquoting it.

MR. SIMMONS: Ah, Mr. Speaker, check the Hansard and we will find how nearly I am misquoting. The implication was clearly there that somehow the fishery had been ignored, which we have known for a long time. But let us get away from that aspect of it. I am sure he said that "The Canadian social security system was such" - he said that part of the statement anyway. That is what I want to dwell on. While the minister as usual, the perfecter of attacks on the federal government, he was in style again this afternoon when he talked about the Canadian social security system, a system that I find a lot to disagree with, Mr. Speaker. While the minister raves on as usual criticizing the feds, as usual, there is never much of a suggestion as to how it could be improved.

Is the minister prepared to tell us what recommendations he has made to the federal government, or his administration has made to the federal government to improve the social security system which

he condemned so strongly? Not a word there, Mr. Speaker, not a solitary word about how it could be changed! Just the old stock condemnation, as usual.

Then he goes on to say you do not get elected by telling people what you are not going to do. That is an understatement if ever I heard it, almost to elementary for the learned minister. Of course you do not! Is he saying that there is no room for any basic integrity? What a cheap excuse, Mr. Speaker, to get away from the kind of barefaced bluffing that went on in this recent election.

MR. SIMMONS:

That is not good enough for the Minister of Mines. He is capable of more than that, Mr. Speaker. Surely if he had time to put his mind to it he can come up with a better rebuttal than that.

Mr. Speaker, one could spend a lot of time rebutting what the Minister of Mines and Energy has said, but I suppose he feels strongly what he has said, and we can only respect his feelings. I cannot agree with them and I hope, for the sake of this Province, I hope that not one other Newfoundlander agrees with him. That remains to be seen. But to the motion itself, Mr. Speaker, the need for a select committee - now as I listened to speakers in this debate I can sense their apprehension. I can see that they are against it for some reason or another. But nobody has ever really come out in the open and said what they are afraid of. I can see, Mr. Speaker, nothing to be feared from having several men, several members of this House - I keep forgetting my very good friend from St. George's who, though not a man, is a very able member of this House - I can see nothing but good to come from a select committee of members of this House assigned with the task of inquiring into the prospects for growth in this Province. We have done worse things in this House, Mr. Speaker, a lot worse. I do not know what everybody is so afraid of. The worst we can do is discover some truth, perhaps the truth the Minister of Mines and Energy talked about. I hope not, but if it is out there to be discovered let us go get it. I can see nothing wrong with, as the member for Twillingate suggested, inviting experts on the subject to come and meet with the committee and give the benefit of their expertise and advice. I can see nothing wrong with going around the Province and allowing the ordinary Newfoundlander to have some input into the future of this Province, some say about the economic potential of this Province. I do not know what everybody is so afraid about, Mr. Speaker. I see nothing but good to come of it.

The argument that I have heard is, what will it accomplish? Well, that is up to us, Mr. Speaker. That is up to us as the members of this House who give the terms of reference to the committee. It depends on

MR. SIMMONS:

how narrowly we define the job of the committee. That motion is deliberately very broadly worded. If we give them the kinds of terms of reference included in that motion and we appoint the right people to the committee, and that is the prerogative of this House and certainly we can seek out from the membership of fifty-one five or six or seven or nine or whatever members who will address themselves to the subject. Let us set up the committee with these terms of reference. Let us send them around the Province. The worst they can do is find nothing. The worst they can do is confirm what the Minister of Mines and Energy has said, namely, that we know it all now. I do not subscribe to that, Mr. Speaker. I say that if we were to go around this Province, if we were to invite in the experts, we would find we would have considerable input, new input that we do not have at this particular moment. That is the trouble with this administration, Mr. Speaker, tunnel vision. They refuse— as the expression says, "None is so blind as he who will not see,"— they refuse to see anything but hydro and gas and oil and forestry and mining and fishery.

AN HON. MEMBER: Rural development.

MR. SIMMONS: Ah! Somebody mentions rural development— an afterthought! The Minister of Mines and Energy never even bothered to mention it. Quite lately he came to the subject of tourist potential. I was hoping he would speak to it and tell us his ideas on it. But he did not and he did not mention rural development at all. Most people of this Province live in a rural setting and could certainly give the Minister of Mines and Energy considerable input on the subject of how they would like to see the Province develop. But that, Mr. Speaker, if I pursue that line that would get me off into some of my feelings on the present rural development programme. In the interests of time I shall not get into the meat of that. There will be other occasions, I am sure.

While I on that subject, I recall that the Minister of Industrial Development and Rural Development— how anybody in his right mind could put Industrial Development and Rural Development together under the one hat, I do not know!— the minister said in his participation in this debate

MR. SIMMONS:

two or three weeks ago that it was because there was not much difference in them. Well God help rural Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, if that is the minister's perception of the jobs he has to perform with these two hats. I say there is a lot of difference in them. Indeed, indeed if there is one thing more than any other that threatens the future of rural Newfoundland it is the encroachment of Industrial Development.

Mr. Simmons:

For the minister to stand in his place a couple of weeks ago and tell us that there is not much difference in them does not, in my view, hold out much prospects for rural Newfoundland so long as he is the minister.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: We have had our successes.

MR. SIMMONS: Ah! Mr. Speaker, the minister can pick particular examples. All I am saying to him and to his administration is that it is a sad day when these two portfolios are being headed up by the same individual, because they have in many respects competing aspects to them, Mr. Speaker. When this administration first came into office four years ago and got away from the old portfolio of Economic Development and broke it down into Industrial and Rural Development, I felt encouraged that the government was going to give some particular encouragement to rural Newfoundland. Now, Mr. Speaker, four years later the government admits that they could not hack it, that they could not handle rural development on its own. They are going to tuck it away now in the Industrial Development department.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Do you want a fish plant?

MR. SIMMONS: Now the minister and the old red herring approach, Mr. Speaker, talks about whether I want a fish plant. He knows very well I want a fish plant, and what I want in Burgeo is a new fish plant, Mr. Speaker, not the monstrosity he tried to impose on the people down there, but he got his come-uppance! He got his answer from the people of Burgeo when he went down there!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: That is Industrial Development.

MR. SIMMONS: Sure it is Industrial Development, and I say, Mr. Speaker, there are areas where Industrial Development and Rural Development overlap. Of course, there are. There are areas, for instance, where Industrial Development and Municipal Affairs overlap. There are areas where Municipal Affairs and Health overlap. I do not beg that at all, Mr. Speaker. Let us get off that irrelevancy altogether. What I am talking about is that the overall leadership required in Rural Development is in many respects almost in competition with, at variance to, the kind of leadership required in Industrial Development, because the overall thrust

Mr. Simons.

of Industrial Development is a thrust that, in many respects, would tend to threaten the rural way of life we have in this Province. That is what I am saying to the minister. Now he can ignore it, he can use the red herring approach, as he is so ably doing at the moment, if he wants, or he can listen to the overall point that I make to him, that he had better, as the minister who is saddled with wearing both hats, he can listen to my plea that he be very, very cautious before he starts making statements about there not being much difference between the two departments. I submit to him that there is a world of difference and that Rural Development is in very real danger if the minister goes into it with the attitude that it is just six of one and a half dozen of the other. The rural development of this Province, Mr. Speaker, will be severely threatened if Industrial Development is allowed to have sway without any cognizance of the particular problems that face the smaller communities of this Province. I say it was ill-advised to put one minister, and I have no particular gripes insofar as the present minister is concerned. I would say the same of any minister. It is a bad straddling act, Mr. Speaker, it is a bad straddling act for the one person to have to wear both hats, Rural Development and Industrial Development. We will wait and see how he gets on, but the one caution he should be prepared to hear as he goes into these dual portfolios, is that he be very careful that he not be influenced by the false thinking that there is not much difference in them. There is a world of difference, and if he will predicate his actions on that assumption that there is a lot of difference, he will have a lot more success than he will if he goes in thinking that he has got two pretty similar assignments in the two respective departments.

That same minister, my notes show me, gave us a fairly long tirade on dignity and such things, but it is so far removed from us now, Mr. Speaker, that I shall not reply to it.

Mr. Simmons:

He did talk in speaking to this resolution about blueberry production. Again I am referring to some comments the minister made about three weeks ago, because as Mr. Speaker knows, we only get a chance to debate this motion on today, Private Members' Day, every Wednesday. But that minister at that time made much of blueberry production, another item that was missing from the Minister of Mines and Energy's list today. But I am glad that the Minister of Industrial Development has spent some time talking about it, and giving us the benefit of his -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Industrial Development is blueberries?

MR. SIMMONS: - giving us the - Mr. Speaker, I have not said, Mr. Speaker, that blueberries is industrial development. I referred to him as the Minister of Industrial Development and Rural Development if he likes to -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Industrial Development is the same thing.

MR. SIMMONS: I do not care if you call it Industrial Development or do not, let us call it blueberry production.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: What is the argument against it?

MR. SIMMONS: I do not know the minister's argument is, I am not begging the question, Mr. Speaker, he can put it under whatever he wants. I do not care, as long as they produce some blueberries and harvest some blueberries and not have the situation we had this year where three-quarters of our crop was never harvested this year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is one thing to talk. But what has this government done about blueberry production? I heard the former Minister of Education, the member from St. John's North (Mr. Carter) talk about blueberry production years ago, indeed he was so hepped up about it four years ago, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure, Mr. Speaker, as the former Minister of Education will relish this particular little anecdote, he will recall that the then Minister of Education, a present member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) thought so much about blueberry production four years ago that he had schools open a week-and-a-half late so that everybody could go out and pick the blueberries, and teachers in the caucus flashed me a knowing smile

Mr. Simmons:

because they remember the memorandum that came out from the minister of that day giving us the reason. The reason was clearly stated that they were going to open school late that year. The present minister recalls it because he, as I, at that time was a Superintendent of Education and we were both there for a charge with the responsibility of passing on the information to the teachers so that they could buy their blueberry pails in time to get out and pick the blueberries. Well, Mr. Speaker, the blueberries are still out there. Three-quarters of them rotted on the vine this Fall because this government has talked for four years about picking blueberries but never got around to picking them, never got around to doing anything about gearing up the production, Mr. Speaker.

Now I am, Mr. Speaker, prepared to sit in this Chamber for years -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: This is unbelievable!

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, you are right, Mr. Speaker, it is unbelievable - I am prepared to sit here forever and hear ideas from the Minister of Industrial and Rural Development about what needs to be done.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: You were talking about blueberries. We have to go out and pick them.

MR. SIMMONS: Oh, Mr. Speaker, why does the pedantic member from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) get so pedantic at these times?

MR. LUNDRIGAN: I am not pedantic.

MR. SIMMONS: Why does he not hear the burden of the argument?

I am saying to him that while this government has talked about blueberry production and getting into ways of improving the harvesting over four years that is all it has done. And I challenge the minister to stand in his place at any time and show us what initiative this government has taken other than write some speeches on the subject and other than issue a memorandum four years ago about school opening late so we could pick some more blueberries.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Give me a chance to say something.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, he had his chance the last time, and -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: The blueberry were froze when I got in here.

MR. SIMMONS: Ah ah!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Not only that, give me one year.

MR. SIMMONS: Ah ah! Okay, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, let the record show that is agreed. We will give this minister one year, we gave his predecessor one year, and his predecessor before that one year, Now we will give him a year, Mr. Speaker.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: One year.

MR. SIMMONS: In view of the seasonal nature of blueberries we will give the Blueberry Minister a year. We will give him a year.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: What nonsense!

MR. SIMMONS: I said, Mr. Speaker, I said the Blueberry Minister, not the blue minister or the black and blue minister, the Blueberry Minister, give him one year. One year, one year, one year only.

Now, Mr. Speaker, on another subject. On another subject, Mr. Speaker. The same minister in speaking to this resolution talked about hardwood production.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: Ah, Mr. Speaker, we like Rural Development so much, Mr. Speaker, that we just cannot sit by and see it botched like it is being botched over the past three or four years. That is our problem, Mr. Speaker.

The minister talked also in participating in this debate about hardwood production. Now, again, Mr. Speaker, you know, it is something that we would like to see, like blueberry production, we would like to see it. We would like to see the government take some initiatives and do something about it. But,

Mr. Simmons:

Mr. Speaker, as I went back, and I did go back after - I know, Mr. Speaker, the ministers do not want to hear this, Mr. Speaker. It is embarrassing for them, because they know I am about to refer to another speech that was made on hardwood production, almost word for word to the minister's speech on hardwood production. But unlike this speech which was made two weeks ago, the minister's other speech, or not made by this minister but made by another minister, namely, the Premier, was made four years ago, talking about hardwood production.

MR. WHITE: You might learn something, Lundrigan.

MR. SPEAKER: Order!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the minister, it is impossible - no, I correct my colleague from Lewisporte (Mr. White) - it is impossible for a man who knows everything to learn anything.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. YOUNG: Bring in your band so we can get some music.

MR. SIMMONS: Ah, ha!

MR. YOUNG: Where are you playing Christmas Eve?

MR. SIMMONS: We are playing - ah, we will set up. We are going to have a real festival Christmas Eve.

MR. WHITE: If you can get some work.

MR. SIMMONS: If we can - pardon?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker -

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order has been brought up.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, for the benefit, Sir, of the new members of the House, it is not permissible in this House to speak, especially when a member is speaking in any seat other than your own seat. I would like to ask Your Honour to enforce that rule.

MR. SPEAKER: That is correct.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the undertaker member is concerned about my Christmas Eve performance. Well, if the roads are cleared, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Transportation can improve on his present

Mr. Simmons.

performance and get the roads cleared, we will have a special performance on Christmas Eve just for him. It would be such a miracle, such a miracle to see a cleared road.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know they do not want to hear about hardwood production, but we will give the minister a year on hardwood production too and let him stand here next Fall, and tell us what initiatives he has taken on that particular subject and the subject of blueberry production as well.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: It will make your (inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: Ah, the minister, ah, ha! Now, Mr. Speaker, we see the kind of style that we heard so much about, and we are so ashamed of, on the radio reports from Ottawa the years he was up there making a fool of all of us. Now we see the real style, the style he became infamous for, Mr. Speaker, the style that got him defeated in Ottawa and will get him defeated here as well. Mr. Speaker, if the minister cannot, at least, make some positive contribution to this debate, let him stay quiet, At least , he will not make a fool of himself like he is doing right now.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Tell us about the fish plant now.

MR. SIMMONS: Ah, ha!

We will get the fish plant, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, another speaker in this debate suggested - I think it was the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) - suggested that perhaps we should get a group of students from Memorial University, the business administration people, to come down and do this job spelled out in the resolution for us. Well, again we have no objection to that, Mr. Speaker. That could be part of the input of this particular Select Committee. Indeed, as I heard members trying to find reasons for opposing the setting up of the committee, as I heard them trying to oppose it, I found all kinds of reasons why we should have the committee. The Minister of Mines, this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, gave the best speech really in favour of this resolution, because he said to the whole of this

Mr. Simmons.

Province, in effect, that if everybody is so biased on this particular subject as he, do we ever need a Select Committee to get this thing out in the open once and for all, to get some perspective into our economic growth once again, to see where we are going instead of using this tunnel vision that the minister is so famous for. He, Mr. Speaker, with what he thought was a speech against the motion gave the best rationale today as to why we need a Select Committee.

Mr. Speaker, this committee, the real need for this committee, is because of the lack of a clear-cut policy at present. Now I have demonstrated in the past few minutes in referring to blueberry production and hardwood production, both of which are good things, and fishing and forestry and the other things, all of which we subscribe to, I have demonstrated that while there has been considerable talk on this subject, there has been no clear-cut direction, no clear-cut direction whatsoever.

I listened to the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells), the Government House Leader, last Wednesday, I believe, when he spoke in this debate, and he used the analogy of keeping the man from drowning without pulling the man out of the water, or something to that effect, I think you will recall, Mr. Speaker, in his again very eloquent speech. That member, many times, alluded to this particular analogy. And while I enjoyed the analogy and thought it was in some respects fairly accurate, I was rather disappointed that the minister did not follow his analogy with some indication to the House of what proposals he has put to Ottawa for resource development.

MR. SIMMONS: development or what proposals he has, even if he has not put them to Ottawa. Where are his ideas? It is great to parade out smart analogies, as brilliant as they are and entertaining as they are to hear. But the important issue, Mr. Speaker, is what kinds of proposals for resource development has that member put to Ottawa or put to his Cabinet for transmittal to Ottawa? That is what I would like to hear. That is what was lacking from that minister's speech and perhaps it is the kind of thing, Mr. Speaker, that this very select committee that we talk about in this resolution could bring forth. Ideas from the various members of this House and from others around this Province, specific ideas for resource development, ideas that we have not heard in this particular House in this session, with the couple of exceptions that I mentioned just now. We have heard about blueberry production, we have heard about hardwood production. But with these two exceptions we have not heard much on this, Mr. Speaker, on this whole subject.

Now, Mr. Speaker, before closing, just one other comment on something that the Minister of Mines said this afternoon when he referred to the fishery gear replacement programme. I do not know if other members feel as I do, but I found in a statement he made a very shocking admission, and perhaps he will be prepared to clarify for the benefit of all concerned. He is still here today and tells us that he knew all along about the abuses.

MR. CROSBIE: Read your Banquets, you silly moron!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: Ah, Mr. Speaker, the minister plays with words. Let him hear the rest of what I have to say on the subject. If he knew about the abuses. Mr. Speaker, what kind of abuses is he talking about? Is he talking about just some -

MR. CROSBIE: If you were speaking for it, it would have been pulled out even quicker at the time, not wait for abuses to be looked into.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, as soon as old leather-lungs is finished I will continue. He is back in form, Mr. Speaker, He might not have

MR. SIMMONS: heart, Mr. Speaker, but he gets lots of lung, lots of lung.

Mr. Speaker, he talks about the abuses and he admits he knew all about them. He does not want to hear it because he realizes now he probably walked himself into a bit of a trap this afternoon, to stand here and tell us he knew about the abuses for a year or so ago. The obvious question, the press will be asking is, what initiatives did he take when he knew about it a year or so ago, what did he do? Did he call in the RCMP then? Did he know enough about them? Did he know enough about them just to cover his own record in the House or did he know enough about it that he could see that there was something illegal going on? Did he call in the RCMP then? Or did he just let it lie? He says, what is the fuss about? What is CBC kicking up the fuss about? I will tell you what CBC is kicking up the fuss about, the same thing we are kicking up the fuss about, that these abuses were there, if there is something illegal going on, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CROSBIE: To a point of order, the hon. member is asking what was the CBC kicking up a fuss about. I pointed out this afternoon that this matter was discussed and these abuses were brought up in this House months before the CBC started. At no time did I say what are they kicking up a fuss about.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of explanation has been made. I do not think that there is actually a point of order.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister may not have said these exact words. He wanted very much this afternoon to establish his foreknowledge. He likes saying, I told you so, I knew it all the time because as I know everything. Well, he knew this before, Mr. Speaker. He told us that this afternoon. Now my question still stands, what did he do about it when that knowledge came to him? Did he draw to the attention of the authorities at the time or did he sweep it under the rug, that is what I would like to know. It is not enough to point to Hansard, Mr. Speaker, and say here is the record, here is what I said. He said a lot of things in his day, Mr. Speaker. My question is, what did he do about it? What did he do about it?

MR. MURPHY: One minute I hope.

MR. YOUNG: Five minutes, thank God.

MR. SIMMONS: The member for St. John's Centre says one minute I hope. I have got five full minutes I must advise the minister so he might as well sit down. Oh he is sitting down. Yes, he is sitting down.

MR. MURPHY: Is the band booked for New Year's eve.

MR. YOUNG: Yes I got a band for New Year's eve, playing over in the funeral home.

MR. SIMMONS: This band is going to be very busy, Mr. Speaker, very busy.

MR. MURPHY: The member for Twillingate is going to pass over his votes to you the next time.

MR. SIMMONS: I see. I will not respond, it being so late in the day, Mr. Speaker, just let me say that I subscribe fully to the need for such a committee. I am a little puzzled that there has been so much comment against the idea of setting up the committee. I can see no wrong from having a group of my colleagues in this House, from all parties, represented, sit on a select committee to enquire into the economic future of this Province. Mr. Speaker, if we have any reason to be here at all as representatives of constituencies around this Province, if we have any reason to be here at all it is to be concerned with this kind of assignment. And for members to stand in this House and say that this select committee has no place, is to almost deny our reasons for being here. And I would

MR. SIMMONS:

strongly appeal to all members of the House before they jump up and follow the party line - and a lot has been said about let us not be partisan and that kind of thing - we will call the bluff of the government members this time, Mr. Speaker. Let us see if they do not all get up like sheep and vote the same way on the resolution. Or let us see if they will stand up in their place and vote as their individual consciences dictate, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Will your crowd be released?

MR. SIMMONS: We will vote, Mr. Speaker, we will vote as our consciences dictate. I am going to vote for this as I feel. Ah, Mr. Speaker, even so it might be a little different because we were aware before hand that this resolution was coming in. But I hope that if there is a member in our particular caucus or more than one member who believes the select committee should not be set up, that he will vote against it.

MR. NEARY: He will get the royal order of the boot if he does!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker -

MR. NEARY: We will be down sitting with me as an independent, a graduate of the royal order of the boot.

MR. SIMMONS: It is funny, Mr. Speaker, how some people after they have gone begin to rewrite how they went. And it had nothing to do, Mr. Speaker, with the royal order of the boot but we will tell you about that some time. Well, there is a story.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise only to protect the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) so that the hon. gentleman for Burgeo-Bay D'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) does not get an opportunity to tell it as it was because I am sure it would be something that the hon. gentleman does not want to hear.

MR. SIMMONS: He saved you your seat.

MR. HICKMAN: But, Mr. Speaker, may I -

MR. NEARY: What about the conversation which he had which was long distance on the yacht over in Penetanguishene?

MR. MURPHY: Who was the call charged to?

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to yield. I will yield, be delighted to yield, to hear the story as to what has transpired trans-Atlantic in this Summer.

AN HON. MEMBER: Enough, Steve! It is enough.

MR. HICKMAN: May I say, Mr. Speaker, I should like only a few words with respect to this resolution that is before the House. I tried to follow as carefully as I could the hon. gentleman who has just sat down. He says, what are we afraid of? Why do we not go to the people and ask them what we should do with respect to the economic growth and development of this Province?

The question I put to this hon. House is that are we to assume that when we were elected to serve in this House that that was not the very trust, the very responsibility, that those who voted for us, and indeed those who voted against us expected us to discharge when we came here. It was only a few short weeks ago that every time one turned on the radio there were cries from Her Majesty's loyal Opposition that we should reconvene the House so that we can debate the ills and woes and the course of development, and the course of conduct, and the course that we are going to chart for the next four years for this Province. This is why we are elected.

Now, may I say, Mr. Speaker, that today, this afternoon we listened to the financial critic from the official Opposition and he talked about blueberries, but he did not give us the benefit of his knowledge as to how that kind of development can be implemented in this Province. He talked about hardwoods. He did not tell us - and he had a responsibility if he knows - to tell this House how it can be developed because he wanted to debate this in the House so that we could benefit from it, so that the government could take judicial notice of the constructive recommendations coming from across the House and implement them if they were within the fiscal capacity of the Province to do so.

Mr. Speaker, the thing that concerns me when looking at the suggestions and recommendation that we create and appoint a select committee to go around this Province is that, number one, our voters were

MR. HICKMAN:

properly ask us what we are doing. If I go down to the district of Grand Bank on the select committee and say, "What do you think we should do, boys, to develop this Province, particularly as it relates to your area," they are going to look at me and say, "Do you not know." We elected you to tell government, to tell the House. Has not anybody told you that from our point of view that the way to develop to this Province is to increase the put-through in the existing fish plants, to try and devise, be it by landing, by compelling or persuading or persuading the Government of Canada to persuade foreign nations to have their fish processed in our plants so that we can work three shifts a day. You mean you do not know that? You want us to tell you?

Mr. Hickman:

What have you being doing in the House of Assembly?" And surely, Mr. Speaker, this is why the House of Assembly is suppose to be the place where we debate the development of our Province, not a select committee. If we ask some other area of the Province, the constituents of a particular member will say, "Why have you not placed greater emphasis on tourism? We told you that. We told you every time you come out here, why do you not tell the House of Assembly instead of abusing and ridiculing the government when they try to sell this Province to other parts of North America, when they try to attract people to come, ordinary North Americans, not the wealthy millionaires who come down and want to hunt a caribou or a moose and spend a few hundred dollars and go back, but the average American who makes one trip in a lifetime to Canada. We have told you that already. Surely you know about that. Surely you are doing that. Surely in the House of Assembly you are urging the government to do it."

But, Mr. Speaker, every time a government minister goes abroad or holds a dinner in New York or wants to avail of the media in Mainland Canada or in the United States, he is ridiculed. It is a scandalous waste of public funds! Three years ago, Mr. Speaker, I was in Boston for a movie that was connected with Newfoundland, I have forgotten the - the Pinsent movie, and the Canadian Consul General in Boston asked me a very simple question. He said, "How is it that we never see ministers from the Government of Newfoundland in our area?" I said, well, you know, we come if there is something to come for. Well he says, "Number one, Gloucester is where pretty well all of your frozen fish products enters the United States. But he said, every week we have ministers from New Brunswick, P.E.I., Nova Scotia going through here using our offices to arrange to be invited to speak to the right people, to speak to service clubs, to get television coverage so that they can talk about their province, so they can outline to the man who is going to spend a few dollars that we would like to see him. Why have you not done it?" And that is a question that I could not answer. It is something that I would like to see done. I

Mr. Hickman:

never fault the hon. Minister of Tourism for any money, any dollars that he wants to spend in going abroad or the hon. Premier or any one else, lauding this place to the sky, and if he has to exaggerate a tiny little bit to get them here, well and good, but let us do it. Let us do it quickly. And let us not become too scornful, let us not become too scornful of the trip of the Norma and Gladys. Let us not become too scornful of it.

Just two or three weeks ago a very high official living in the United States employed by the Department of External Affairs said that the Norma and Gladys was the best bit of public relations that has come out of Canada during his career in that country.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: And he is right. He is 100 per cent right.

We get a feeling, Mr. Speaker -

MR. NEARY: You are doing fine there my son, but now you have gotten off it.

MR. HICKMAN: We, Mr. Speaker, seem to be ashamed for some strange reason, we seem to be ashamed to pay tribute to our heritage. There is nothing I find more discouraging and more offensive than when I - towards ourselves - as to when I go into Lunenburg, and I find that in Lunenburg we have the Theresa B. Connors and then they came down and bought the Rayo II to memorialize the, actually the rum running days.

MR. NEARY: They have the Annie Coady out in Port aux Basques.

MR. HICKMAN: And we have the Zerma Zwicker down in Booth Bay in Maine, and we the L.A. Dunton in Mystic. Where do these vessels - where will they sail - and they spend thousands and hundreds of thousands of dollars to preserve these, not only to maintain and remind young people in their areas of their historic past but of equal importance to use it as a tremendous tourist attraction of these provinces. But let us suggest it!

Mr. Hickman:

Think of the hue and cry tomorrow if we decided that we were going to ask this House to vote a couple of hundred thousand dollars to build a replica of one of our bankers and moor it in Grand Bank. Could you not hear it then? "What a scandalous waste of money!" It would not be a scandalous waste of money at all, Mr. Speaker. It would, Mr. Speaker, show very clearly that we, in this House, are determined to maintain some of that historic past that we are proud of and justly so. Everybody else is doing it, doing it with a great deal of success, and using our schooners to do it with. Why, Mr. Speaker, should we cast scorn upon that type of thing. Well, you know, I would love to spend this whole debate talking about the Norma and Gladys. I am proud of Captain John Smith, one of the great deep-sea Bank fisherman of our times, as was his father, Captian Alec Smith, who is mastering that boat now. I am proud of the fact that she is crewed with Newfoundlanderø, and most of them are from my district.

AN HON. MEMBER: They are from Jamacia.

MR. HICKMAN: No, they are not from Jamacia.

I am proud of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that despite what people say that she may not be a banking vessel, that she did sail for two years as a banker out of Harbour Buffett, dropped her anchor on the southern tips of the Grand Bank, fished on Flemish Cap, fished, Mr. Speaker, on St. Pierre Bank and on Banquereau and Misaine. Now whether that makes her banker or not, I do not know, but I am the first to admit that she is not as large as the Zerma Zwicher, that she is not of the same design, But she landed many thousands and thousands of quintals of fish at Harbour Buffett as the hon. gentleman from Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Canning) knows because she used to sail out of his district by a Newfoundland crew and a good south coast crew, which she still has and a tremendous master from the south coast.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

But these sort of things, Mr. Speaker, are not the things

Mr. Hickman.

that appeal to the hon. gentleman who is supporting this motion. He has accused my colleague, of all people, imagine accusing the hon. Minister of Mines and Energy, of being a prophet of gloom and doom.

MR. NEARY: Ridiculous!

MR. HICKMAN: He has had a smile on his face ever since the last election, and he is still smiling. What the hon. Minister of Mines and Energy did this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, and did it very effectively, and did it very well, was to once again reiterate some cold hard facts. We can go around in the Select Committee. The hon. gentleman from Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Canning) knows that when we get down on the Burin Peninsula somebody will come in and say, "Why do you not develop Mortier Bay?" But that has been on the go for forty years, and I would say that on at least ten occasions during that time, the expectations of the people of Marystown were driven right to the sky every time that poor old gentleman Thompson used to get off the boat from England, we were going to have a free port in Marystown. Now are we prepared to run that risk, to have the Select Committee do down and fuel the rising expectations that people have been talking about. We do not need to do that. Everyone knows that the harbours along the south coast of Newfoundland lend themselves to development in the Atlantic Basin. We know that. We do not need a Select Committee to tell us. What we have to do, what the Minister of Industrial Development has to do, what this government and this House has to do, is to try - or have to do is to try and convince the industrialists of North America that if they want a place to invest their money, in a good climate, where they will not be subjected to personal abuse, that they should look very, very carefully at our potential on the south coast. But we do not need a Select Committee to tell us that. Our job now is to try and sell it. But it is equally certain that we should say nothing or do nothing which would give people in that area the grounds to believe that development is just around the corner.

Mr. Hickman.

We are competing, Mr. Speaker, we are competing in that kind of crusade against some very well-planned propaganda that is emanating particularly from our sister province of Nova Scotia who believe that the Gut of Canso is the answer to all of North America's needs, and more power to them for trying to sell it. We should sell the same thing, but we do not need a Select Committee to do it. If you suggest in this House at all that the Government of Canada has been less than sympathetic towards

MR. HICKMAN:

some of the woes of this Province you are accused of declaring open warfare on Ottawa and thereby prejudicing the development of this Province. That, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, is an insult to the people who form the Government of Canada, to suggest that they would discriminate against Newfoundlanders or this Province because some hon. gentleman in this House or in this government stands here and points out certain deficiencies, certain defects, certain lacks, certain neglect and a great deal of misunderstanding for this Province, to suggest they would do that, in my opinion, is something that is not worthy of this House. But we get it every time we open our mouths. Do you think it is unpatriotic to draw to the attention of this House particularly, Mr. Speaker, when we are looking at the economic growth and development of this Province, the future of it, to draw to the attention of this House the disastrous effect, the lack of understanding, the lack of sympathy, the lack of appreciation that was shown by the Government of Canada when they brought before parliament and piloted through the Foreign Investments Review Act. Anything unpatriotic about drawing to the attention of the people of this Province and to this House that that kind of legislation, that is the kind of legislation that gets Newfoundland into trouble? Because our experience has shown that our fellow Canadians for some strange reason are not inclined to dig deep into their pockets and use good Canadian money to develop resources in the Provinces that have not got the wherewithal to do it themselves. So for our own salvation and looking at the development that has taken place, say, in Labrador City and the city of Wabush, looking at the development that has taken in almost every area in Newfoundland, industrial development, it would not have taken place if there had been a Foreign Investments Review Act in place at that time because we do not want to discourage foreign dollars. We want to encourage every investment dollar that the people and investors in the United States are prepared to put into this Province.

Am I being wrong to draw that to the attention of the House, to suggest that this shows some lack of sympathy on the part of the powers

MR. HICKMAN:

that be in Ottawa?

Transportation, Mr. Speaker, is probably the most vital element in the economic growth and the economic development of this Province, the right for people to move within this Province at a rate comparable to that of the rest of Canada, the right for tourists who want to travel by the only public conveyance, national public conveyance operated in this Province to operate and travel at competitive rates. But when we were fighting a few years ago against the decision of the Government of Canada to discontinue the rail passenger service, there was a great deal more to it than trying to maintain an historic object or a tradition in this Province. The point that was missed by so many Newfoundlanders was that by the CN, or the Government of Canada through their creature, Canadian National Railways, being permitted to discontinue the rail passenger service and substitute therefor the bus service.

MR. PECKFORD: Did they freeze the freight rates?

MR. HICKMAN: - to substitute therefore the bus service, that what we did was allow the Government of Canada to be relieved of the responsibility to subsidize the losses. Today if the Canadian National Railways operating between Halifax and Saint John, New Brunswick its passenger service carrying tourists, carrying people back and forth in trade, no matter what they are doing, if they sustain losses are the people of New Brunswick and do you see an application before the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities of Nova Scotia from the Canadian National Railways asking for an increase in the passenger rates? Of course you do not. Why not? Because the Government of Canada subsidizes up to 80 per cent of the losses on the passenger service. Does that same fair equitable formula apply to the Province of Newfoundland? Not on your life, Mr. Speaker! The buses are supposed to operate at a reasonable rate of return. One application was made. This Province

MR. HICKMAN: Fought the application for an increase in the passenger fares on the buses within the Province and it went all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada, and I suspect is on the way back again, and we were successful on purely technical grounds.

But I am not talking, Mr. Speaker, of the legality of whether the Canadian bus service system comes within the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities under a provincial act or delegated to us under a comparable federal act. What I am speaking of is the attitude of mind that allows that kind of thinking to go on, to go ahead in Ottawa unchallenged to the detriment of Newfoundlanders. And I say that any hon. gentleman who stands in this House and draws to the attention of members and to the public of this Province that there seems to be an attitude promoted and developing in our capitol to the effect that all we have to do to sort of maintain and keep happy the 500,000 Newfoundlanders who have but seven members in this parliament, is to feed them a few crumbs and say, "Look, if you had not been part of us you would not have gotten that. You would not even have received that." Any fool knows that, Mr. Speaker. That is not the kind of attitude, that is not the kind of benefit that we as Newfoundlanders who are lucky enough and fortunate enough, and I was one of them, to have been in the ranks of the Confederates and to see us come within that great Confederacy.

What we were saying, there were all kinds of attitudes and reasons why people should vote this way or the other way and a great deal of emphasis placed on the social benefits that would accrue therefrom. But I think what we were looking for - I know what was on my mind at that time when people used to say to me, "Why are you supporting that cause?" And I would say, "Look, I cannot tell you in dollars and cents but I can tell you one thing, that I come from the town of Grand Bank which is a deep-sea fishing centre of Newfoundland and the deep-sea fishing centre of Nova Scotia is Lunenburg and they both have a fleet of similar size and these fleets have been comparable for a half century, most of them are manned by fishermen from the South Coast of Newfoundland - both fleets. But I do know the social benefits aside -

MR. HICKMAN:

because there was no Unemployment Insurance then - that social benefits aside the standard of living in the town of Lunenburg is considerably higher than that in the town of Grand Bank. What is the difference between the two? One if part of the Confederacy and the other is not." I have and had sufficient confidence at that time that this unity would bring about that equalization. But when I go back today and visit that same town I am not satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that the gap has really closed.

That is what we should be talking about, Mr. Speaker, in this House, that is what we should be debating instead of wasting out time talking about a Select Committee beating around the Province, because, Mr. Speaker, the Opposition wanted to debate those issues in the House, and now they say, "Do not debate them in the House. Let us trot around the Province with a Select Committee and close down the House and we will have a grand little trip around the Province and we will raise the expectations of our fellow Newfoundlanders and we have lost a good year's work."

MR. SIMMONS: Good politics though.

MR. HICKMAN: Not bad politics, Mr. Speaker. I move the adjournment of the debate.

On motion the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow Thursday, December 11, 1975, at 3:00 p.m.

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