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**VERBATIM REPORT**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1975

SPEAKER; THE HONOURABLE GERALD RYAN OTTENHEIMER

The House met at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member from Exploits posed a question yesterday about crop insurance as it relates to hay and cabbage. The question of cabbage and carrots, by the way, which are also not considered right now under the Crop Insurance Programme, is now under consideration - cabbage and carrots. The question of hay is a possibility, but a suitable formula has not been devised as yet in respect to crop insurance for hay. I might add for the information of the hon. member and the House that there is no province in Canada which has yet found a suitable way to insure hay crops. So that is a possibility. It is not under consideration to the same extent that cabbage and carrots are. But these two, cabbage and carrots, are under consideration. Hay is not, at this point in time.

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

HON. J. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, in reply to a question asked a few days ago by the hon. member from Conception Bay South with regards to what jurisdiction my department has over utility companies carrying out improvements on their own projects, my department issues permits to utility companies like telephone companies, etc. and usually the companies are honoured to carry out improvements before they leave the area, and to leave the area as they found the area. But sometimes this is not the case and we are compelled to carry out the work of improving the area as it was in the beginning and to bill the utility companies. This is the normal practice in our case.

ORAL QUESTIONS:

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

MR. J. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, a question to the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, one that I did not have an opportunity to ask yesterday, that is in reference to housing starts in Newfoundland. Often times we hear that so many thousand houses or homes have been built. It is not always clear. We hear these figures from CMHC and so on, both federally and sometimes provincially, but what I am never

clear on is are we talking about homes, single unit homes or are the figures we hear bandied about really including apartment units and so on? What I am after is how many homes are built in a year in Newfoundland? For example, what is anticipated this year?

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

HON. B. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, usually the figures that are bandied about in the press very often through CMHC of housing starts in a given year include all kinds of units, apartment units as well as single family, single detached family units. So there is not that breakdown but that breakdown can be provided. It is not all that difficult to get a breakdown of how many of the starts relate specifically to single family homes, detached homes as well as how many relate to apartment units. But usually the figures that are bandied about include all forms of housing units that come on stream in that year.

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

MR. NOLAN: A question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications, Mr. Speaker, if I could ask, what is the latest situation since the new shift that he mentioned the other day has now gone into effect? I believe it started Sunday night. Is it working? Is it what he said it would be, and what changes if any are now necessary or are there any changes in fact necessary?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the shift system came into effect midnight on Sunday night, and we are now working a two shift system with a shift from 12 midnight to 9:00 A.M and from 12 noon to 9:00 P.M. So far we have fortunately had no bad weather conditions to give it a good try but I think it will work out quite well.

Also now we are in the process of hiring our third crew and by December 17 we will have a three shift system with three crews, and I feel it will provide a very adequate service.

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

MR. NOLAN: A question to the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker. The question relates to the strike that has been going on now for about forty-two weeks, I think, at O'Learys. Is there anything new to report in any effort to be made by the department to help mediate this situation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations.

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, since the strike at O'Learys started we have had a conciliation officer assigned to the case. In the last two or three months, I believe a couple of months, the assistant Deputy Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations has been in continuous contact with both the union and the company but up to this point in time there has been no break in the stand-off that has occurred there for some weeks now.

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

MR. NOLAN: A question this time, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Justice. The question is does the minister or his officials have any plans to table before this session of the House on what might be

done in the immediate future to help curb vandalism, not only in the City of St. John's but in many of the areas throughout the Province where we have heard so many complaints in the last year or so?

MP. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MP. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, that question, Sir, reminds me, you know, when are you going to stop beating your wife. I am not sure I am going to. The situation is this, that Newfoundland now has in excess of 600, closer to 700, I think, police officers in this Province, for a Province of 500,000. I would seriously doubt if there is any province in Canada with as many police on a per capita basis.

In the city of St. John's this year following the signing of the new agreement with the Newfoundland Constabulary Brotherhood, we have implemented a booster system. The reports that I am receiving from the Chief of Police indicate that it is working very well. In the troubled areas where vandalism was showing an increase, it has been arrested. In the rest of the Province, whilst regrettably we have and we will always have acts of senseless vandalism - and people should not put vandalism into the category of crime. The motive is missing and the reward is missing. Vandalism as I understand it is simply wanton destruction of property that would provide no gain to the person committing the act.

The reports that I have been receiving from municipalities indicate a very high degree of satisfaction with the performance of the RCMP, an exceptionally high degree of satisfaction. And whilst, as I say, there will be pockets of vandalism reported from time to time, whenever that occurs it is brought to the attention of the commanding officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Newfoundland and their reaction is swift, effective but equitable.

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

MR. NOLAN: Another question for the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. There has been much in the news recently about the latest efforts of the RCMP to curb drinking or impaired driving in our Province. Are there any plans on behalf of the Justice Department to

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inaugurate such a system for drivers proceeding from clubs, bars  
and so on in the City of St. John's?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, firstly, may I thank the hon. gentlemen from Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) for voicing what is the unanimous approbation almost of the people of Newfoundland to the efforts of the RCMP throughout the Province in very effectively curbing drunken driving on the highways of Newfoundland. In the city of St. John's, the Newfoundland Constabulary, whose records of arrests is not that bad either insofar as impaired driving is concerned, are looking at some programmes to step up their surveillance. And I am sure that their surveillance will be very much increased during the time of the year when the risk of finding impaired drivers on the highway seems to be at a peak, the festive season. And maybe motorists will take note that there is nothing wrong with spending \$1 or \$2 on a taxi to get a lift home.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Exploits.

MR. MULROONEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture. At the time of the Crop Insurance Plan that was introduced into Newfoundland, other provinces such as Nova Scotia did introduce a programme very similar to the one in Newfoundland. I was wondering if the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture had done any comparison, where Nova Scotia has a Hay Crop Insurance Programme, and whether or not that one in Nova Scotia has been effective?

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: Did the hon. member say the Nova Scotia hay crop?

MR. MULROONEY: Yes.

MR. ROUSSEAU: The information I have, Mr. Speaker, from the officials in the department is that no province in Canada has a hay crop insurance plan. That is the information I have. The provinces are looking towards that, but there is no way in which they can find one that is suitable for hay in any province in Canada, from the information I was given. It is a possibility. I presume that all provinces are looking at that possibility, but no programme has yet been devised whereby hay would fit under the designation of crop insurance.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Exploits.

MR. MULROONEY: I thank the hon. minister, Mr. Speaker, for his answer. Mr. Speaker, another question to the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture. Were the farmers in the Central Newfoundland area consulted before the purchasing of \$200,000 worth of farm machinery used as a bank for the farming industry in that area? Were they consulted before the purchase of this equipment due to the fact that much of it is too large for the equipment used on these sized farms?

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: I have to take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Exploits.

MR. MULROONEY: Mr. Speaker, another question to the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture. Does the department have any plans for establishing in the Central Newfoundland area a slaughter house similar to the one established at Comfort Cove that will comply with the Department of Health regulations for the slaughtering of animals used for sale?

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: Not at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, but it is always a possibility, of course. The enlargement of our agricultural based industry in the Province does not preclude it, but at this point in time, no. We are trying to get the one in Corner Brook off the ground, and we are trying to get the other ones we have off the ground, and when we consolidate those it is quite possible that other areas will be considered. And at this point in time, no specific area has been designated. There will be wide consideration depending on what is in the area.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. STRACHAN: A question for the Acting Minister of Recreation: How many participants will this Province be sending to the Arctic Games at Shefferville? And if you know the figure, how does this compare to the number being sent from other provinces?



MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister without Portfolio.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question as notice, and find out the answer. How many people we are sending to the Arctic Games and what comparison in ratio of population. Is that what you are thinking?

MR. STRACHAN: I was asking for the number compared to the number being sent from each of the other provinces.

MR. WELLS: Yes, I can find out that information.

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

MR. NOLAN: A question to the - I am not sure if this is for the Minister of Transportation and Communications or the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, but to the responsible minister and hopefully maybe we can get an answer to this, that is in relation to snowmobiles and so on. I believe I heard today that some report may be coming forward from the responsible minister.

AN HON. MEMBER: The Minister of Tourism.

MR. NOLAN: Hon. Minister of Tourism, I am sorry.

I am wondering if some provision will be made for the utilization of such vehicles, one, on private property and also, Mr. Speaker, the second part of the question, will there anything that we can look forward to to restrict, say, a seven or eight year old child from driving a thirty horsepower machine, as you know is happening in this Province at the moment?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, the regulations will be tabled hopefully within a matter of a week, possibly less than that. They will be tabled in the form of a white paper and an opportunity will be provided to interested parties and the public generally to provide whatever input is necessary to make changes. I can tell the hon. member that there are certain provisions in the draft regulations already to cover the items of interest that he has mentioned. I am not quite sure, I would have to check them, if it is covered as accurately as he would like them.

MR. NOLAN: I thank the hon. minister and while I stand, Mr. Speaker, I would like also to thank also the Minister of Justice for his answer to a question, the last one I addressed to him. I wonder if I could ask a supplementary question to the Minister of Justice regarding the intention of the minister on the St. John's Constabulary, the Newfoundland Constabulary. Can we get a yes or no answer as to whether or not the Newfoundland Constabulary will carry out a similar programme such as the RCMP are carrying out right now in their efforts to curb drunken driving here in this Province? Yes or no?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: It is not going to be yes and it is not going to be no. I do not know. I thought the hon. gentleman understood very clearly and definitively what I said. What I tried to say definitively is that the Chief of Police of the Newfoundland Constabulary is seeing whether it is possible to implement that programme within the city limits. You are getting into the field now, a technical field, but I am not sure as to how these things operate within the crowded streets of an urban area. I know there has been some problem with another form of surveillance instrument that can be used on the highways and has been tried within the city limits and is not effective.

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

MR. NOLAN: A question for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, is it a fact or is it untrue that members of the Constabulary in St. John's are judged in any way, Mr. Speaker, by the number of tickets that they

MR. NOLAN: issue on a given day or in a given week while they are on duty?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Totally, absolutely untrue, and any suggestion is totally and absolutely and unpardonably irresponsible.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Exploits.

MR. MULROONEY: A question for the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister of Health state whether or not that a report or a study that was started in 1973 had the following recommendations; one, that the Grand Falls Hospital be extended, and number two, that the Botwood Cottage Hospital be phased out by the year 1978.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had been in this House four, five or six years ago when the past administration indicated that they might be closing the Botwood Hospital, I think he would have heard my position on it then and my position has not changed.

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

MR. NOLAN: A question to the Minister of Health: What is his position, Mr. Speaker, what is the position at the moment?

MR. COLLINS: The same as it was then.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

MR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education, Sir. In view of the fact that an official of a school board has stated that fire insurance premiums pose a heavy financial burden on school boards, could the minister bring the House up to date as to the progress reports, so to speak, on the work of the adviser on insurance for schools in this department at the present time?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: As I stated before in the House, there is a Committee, set up previous to this election, under the Minister of Education, to discuss the needs of school boards and of course the insurance was related to that. Of course since the insurance has gone so high, I think it is tripled in a lot of cases in the outlying districts of the Province, there

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MR. HOUSE: was a meeting last week with the Denominational Education Committees and officials from the Department of Education and I will be receiving a report from that Committee shortly. In the meantime also

you heard from the Minister of Finance that there will be an insurance adjustor made available to school boards to help them in that matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

MR. ROWE: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Could the minister indicate whether or not the fire insurance premiums in this Province at the present time for covering schools exceed the loss, you know, the average loss for schools by fire? That is the premiums, the fire insurance premiums, do they not exceed the actual loss by fire now on a yearly basis? If so, would the minister indicate - a two part question if I may, Mr. Speaker - would the minister indicate as to whether or not his department is giving any consideration to not insuring schools at all, similar to the University and public buildings in the Province?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

HON. W. HOUSE: Well, first of all to the last part, the schools are not owned by government. They are owned by the school boards and by legislation from the department they have to carry insurance. That is the first thing. The cost of insuring schools in Newfoundland, I think the figure that we received just recently would run close to \$2.5 million.

MR. ROWE: That is not total coverage though, is it?

MR. HOUSE: In total coverage, it is \$2.5 million. That is the premiums. Premiums would cost that much. The loss by fire does not exceed that or has not in the past number of years. But there has been heavy losses.

MR. ROWE: Is this a tripled figure?

MR. HOUSE: Pardon?

MR. ROWE: I am sorry to interject, Mr. Speaker, but just for a point of clarification, if there is such a thing: Is that the tripled figure, the \$2.5 million or is that the original?

MR. HOUSE: Yes, that is the tripled figure.

MR. ROWE: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Twillingate.

MR. J. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, would the minister tell me why it is

that he can give the answer he just gave so promptly and so readily in response to an oral question of which he had been given no notice and he has not given me the same answer to a question of which I gave notice more than three weeks ago?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SMALLWOOD: That is a good question, Mr. Speaker, I think. Why am I not getting an answer to my written question of which I gave notice and which appeared on the Order Paper approximately three weeks ago, though the same minister is able to give that answer promptly without any notice at all?

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, on that Order Paper there was something in the order of 100 questions on education and I am getting them done with the staff at the department so that I can lay them on the table all at one time.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I thank the hon. minister and I hope he can. We have asked something of the order of 600 questions on the Order Paper, fair, giving notice, they are in print and we have had answers to five or six so far, six or seven.

MR. ROUSSEAU: You have got about 600 civil servants working on them, let me tell you.

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

MR. NOLAN Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Mines and Energy. Two or three days ago in the House following his return from London the minister said that he could not at that time give a report on his meetings which were in connection with, I believe, ECGD and the Newfoundland Refinery. Is he now prepared to give us some information on the purpose of that trip and if not when would such information be forthcoming?

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

HON. J. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I mean the purpose of the trip was to meet with the various parties involved in the present situation at the oil refinery and the possible granting of a third mortgage to certain of the major creditors of the oil refinery. I cannot give any more information at the moment because these negotiations are still ongoing.

But as soon as it is in the public interest and as soon as it is proper for us to do so we would certainly explain to the House and to the public exactly what conclusion has come. But it would be very deleterious to the discussions that are going on to have any public discussion of it. But as soon as we can, Mr. Speaker, when we know that it has come to a firm conclusion we will inform the House.

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

MR. NOLAN: I have a question for the same minister, if I may.

What is the latest position regarding the efforts by Mr. Shaheen for a third mill in Newfoundland? Would the minister be good enough to tell us what is the latest discussions or correspondence he might have had with that company or that gentleman concerning this matter?

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

MP. CROSBIE: The third mill is as dead as the proverbial dodo and it has been, you know, for a number of years. The Minister of Industrial Development, who is not here today—who is now Minister of Finance—had the last kind of information on the subject and that was at least a year or two years ago. It showed it was entirely impractical. The assistance that they suggested from the Province was completely beyond the bounds of all reasonability with respect to guarantees, feasibility and so on. So, I think it is just as well to put on the record, Mr. Speaker, that the third mill is no more. The third mill is at Stephenville. The fourth mill is no more. But, if anything new happens certainly the Minister of Industrial Development would tell us. But, you know, we can safely assume that that is gone, the possibility of it is gone.

MP. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Exploits. (Mr. Mulrooney)

MP. MULROONEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the question I asked the Minister of Health. Since I was not in the House five years ago, since the recommendations for the phasing out of the Botwood Hospital stated, number one, that the Grand Falls hospital be first expanded and that the extension for the Grand Falls hospital has now been deferred, will the Botwood cottage hospital still continue to be phased out by 1978?

MP. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to say what might or might not happen by 1978. But, as I indicated to the hon. member before - and I am sure that if he checked with all of my supporters in the district of Exploits he would have known what my position was



four or five years ago, when there was a move made by government at the time to close the Botwood hospital.

I might say for the information of the hon. member that perhaps one of the keys to the continued operation of the Botwood hospital is Dr. Thomey's remaining on there as the chief medical officer. I would hope that Dr. Thomey will continue to occupy that position for a good number of years. As long as he does I can see the Botwood hospital continuing for a considerable period of time.

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

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister responsible for Recreation. Would he be good enough to provide us either now or at his convenience with a list of recreational projects that were announced prior to September 16 which may have been cancelled or deferred since that time?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister without Portfolio.

MR. WELLS: I cannot rhyme them off, as it were, Mr. Speaker, but all capital projects are being deferred for the balance of this financial year. Then the whole thing will be looked at in the light of the coming financial year. But certainly I think it is fair to say, I expect, that most of them will be deferred, practically all of them. Only something that would be absolutely of extreme urgency will go ahead in the way of capital works.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Lewisporte (Mr. White).

MR. WHITE: Mr. Speaker, is the minister in a position to answer my question now with respect to the golf course for Gander? I asked him last week.

MR. WELLS: I have the answer being prepared down in the department. As far as I know, no, it is not going ahead during this financial year.

AN HON. MEMBER: Never was, was it?

MR. WELLS: I do not think it was.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who ever agreed to this?

MR. WELLS: I do not know.

MR. HICKMAN: Charlie Granger.

MR. WELLS: Certainly there is nothing going ahead now out there with

regard to a golf course.

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

MP. NOLAN: I just want to follow this up if I may. With great respect, Mr. minister, was there a commitment - I am not going to be facetious on this - was there a commitment for a golf course and if so, by whom and when. Can we not get this thing cleared away once and for all?

MP. WELLS: I certainly will do this when the information comes up. I do not know from this side who gave such a commitment. There has been talk back over the years about a golf course for Cander but I have no knowledge of this government giving any commitment during this current financial year of a golf course. As I say I will have complete documentation by tomorrow for the member. But I do not think so.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Lewisporte (Mr. White).

Mr. White:

Two weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, just for the information for the hon. minister , it was on the news that, it was announced that it was going ahead. Two weeks ago!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. gentleman may ask a question and seek information but he may not give it.

The hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. J. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Provincial Affairs who would be responsible since Consumer Affairs is a division within his department. In two parts, if I may, Mr. Speaker; (1) Has the minister received many complaints or any in fact concerning the fact that there has been a suggestion that certain supermarkets even though they announced a freeze on prices for sixty or ninety days, whatever it was, have you had complaints from citizens saying that the price markers that they have in the supermarkets, in fact either the night before were stamping the goods and marking them up or have marked them up since, and if he has, what action, if any, has he taken or tried to take in that connection, Mr. Speaker?

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

HON. A. J. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, if I may in answer to the question I have not received any representations as such as the hon. member suggested. If he has any knowledge I will be only too happy to take it into account. Of course we always get complaints from consumers with reference to prices in supermarkets and this type, but basically not to that extent, although there were rumours that some of these people were back and had received some overtime previous to the freeze. But I could not establish the fact because we had no direct representation. And with reference to this type of question, Sir, I would like to ask that consumer affairs is a very vital matter at this time, and any member in the House who has any knowledge rather than try to embarrass the minister and place him on the spot, come directly -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

Mr. Murphy:

- would you be quiet please until I answer - come to the minister directly with any complaints and we have a department set up to deal with that. That is the place to bring complaints.

MR. NOLAN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Surely that question was not aimed to embarrass the minister. This very item that I have mentioned has been mentioned on radio broadcasts -

MR. MURPHY: Yes.

MR. NOLAN: - news reports and so on.

MR. MURPHY: Well I am available at any time.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. MURPHY: My department is over there for questions.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think that there is an actual point of order before the House, but a difference of opinion.

This will be the last question. The hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE: In view of the fact that work was to begin on the new polytechnical institute and residence approximately one year ago, could the Minister of Education indicate to the House, Sir, what the status of the new polytechnical institute and the new residence is at the present time?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. W. HOUSE: The planning is continuing on both. The conceptional plan for the polytechnical institute has been completed, and a firm has been engaged to go ahead to draw up the preliminary plans, and these are expected to be received by the end of April. With regard to the residences I do not have the information, I will take it as notice.

MR. F. ROWE: It is a far cry from the promises made -

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. WELLS: Order 3, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order 3 - Committee of Ways and Means. As I recall the debate was adjourned by the hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay.

MR. T. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker,

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT: - first of all, Sir, allow me to congratulate you for your election to the Chair of this House, and also from a personal point of view to compliment you for the way you have been handling that position since you achieved it. I also wish to congratulate the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees, the hon. member for St. John's South (Dr. Collins) and the Deputy Chairman of Committees the member for Bonavista North (Mr. Cross).

I am delighted, Sir, to be here representing the people of Baie Verte-White Bay. It is indeed a pleasure to be a member of this hon. House, although some of that pleasure has been snuffed out by the document that we are debating again today and have been debating for the past number of days. Being a new member, Mr. Speaker, I have been told many times that I would learn a great many things very quickly once the House of Assembly was in session. I look forward to that, Sir. I look forward to the challenge of taking part in the governing of our Province. I as well as other hon. members, I am sure, came to this House of Assembly with great expectations. We had no reason to believe that we would be confronted with an economic and financial mess. All of us here, Sir, went through an election campaign just a little more than two months ago. Throughout the duration of that campaign there was not the least hint that this Province was in financial difficulty. On the contrary, we were led to believe that everything was rosy, that the Province was in good financial condition. Having heard the election platform, Sir, of the present administration one could only conclude that we were in great shape, that we had

Mr. Rideout.

no worries, that everything was under control, and, Sir, that would have to be your conclusion, because this present administration were the government. They knew the facts and the figures. As the government they were informed daily, Sir, as to our financial condition, our future prospects, what our economic outlooks were, And, of course, to add extra weight to that rosy picture painted by the administration during the campaign, there was the \$1 billion budget of last Spring, Newfoundland's first \$1 billion budget containing millions of dollars of expenditures, and no tax increases. It was a rosy picture indeed, Sir. The people of this Province could very well be expected to be reasonably satisfied with such a performance by the government of our Province. But little did the people know that they were pawns, and that the situation as portrayed by the government was not exactly such. Little did they know that the government was painting a rosy picture because an election was coming up. Little did they know that underneath the rosy glow of the election campaign lay an economic and financial mess unprecedented in the history of this Province. Little did the people realize that promises of paved roads, new arts and culture centres, new hospitals and so on would, within a couple of months, Sir, be replaced with cries of belt tightening, entrenchment and tax increases.

The point is this. This administration knew that this Province was about to face severe economic and financial difficulties. They had to know it. Yet they did not level with the people. What do you call that, Sir? I know what it is called in everyday language. I know what the people of this Province call it, and I know, and I am sure every member of this House is aware of how the people feel about it. Putting it bluntly this administration has lost a great deal of confidence that was entrusted to them on September 16.

Now I know, Sir, that there are those who are already saying, there they go again, the same old negative bunch disagreeing with the government, everything the government does, eating the flesh off the government again. But, Sir, what are we to do? Are

Mr. Rideout,

we expected to say, look, we know you did not level with the people and then turn around and slap the administration on the back and forget all about it? The people are not forgetting, Sir, and they are looking to us not to forget also. This government has to be taken to task for the manner in which they inflated the expectations of the people of this Province when they knew full well that it would be impossible to deliver. That is part of our role, Sir, as the official Opposition, and if we are negative it is because of circumstances beyond our making, circumstances created by the government itself.

On the other hand, Sir, while we shall continue to criticize the government for its failings, we realize that action must be taken to restore economic and financial stability to this Province. I listened to the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing talk about some a couple of days ago, and I compliment him for it. The government says the way to do it though, Sir, is to concentrate on resource development. Yet according to the Fall budget, spending in the resource departments has been reduced from the original forecast. It is obvious that there must be some government restraint, Sir, but does that mean that hospital construction and reconstruction must be slashed to the bone? Does it mean that essential services must be cut back? Because, Sir, I do not feel that Newfoundland has contributed greatly to the overall problem of inflation in this country. Therefore we should not suffer too much by any action that must be taken to cure it. Our contribution to the boom years, Sir, has been simply this: We have been attempting to raise our standards of living in twenty-five short years to a level that took other parts of Canada more than a century to achieve.

Now, Sir, that is not a crime, that is necessity, that was part of our right as Canadians. Therefore I do not think we should be made to stand stagnant now. We are still behind, and we must continue to forge ahead.

Now, Sir, speaking more directly to the amendment, it is little wonder that this Province has lost confidence in this government.

Mr. Rideout.

As I pointed out in the beginning, it is only a little more than two months ago that the same people who are now saying we must restrain, we must cut expenditures, were filling the people of this Province with dollar signs. I do not know what happened in other districts, and speaking on the amendment, I will use my own as an example. We were not told we were heading for financial difficulties, Sir. For about two weeks in September, on the other hand, every road in my district was gifted with gravel trucks, and that was great stuff.



MR. RIDEOUT: stuff, it was a great way to get things done. But the point, Sir, is that there was no shortage of money then. To look at the future programmes that this administration put forward for the district of Baie Verte-White Bay, Sir, would certainly not indicate that we were heading for any financial difficulty. Construction of a road to Harbour Deep, all thirty-five miles of it, great stuff and I hope it goes ahead because the people of Harbour Deep are looking forward to it.

Construction of a stadium in LaScie and Roddickton, Again great stuff, Sir, but it took five years to get an ice plant in the stadium in Baie Verte and in two weeks we were promised two more.

Construction of provincial parks for LaScie, Seal Cove, Fleur-de-Lys and Coachman's Cove; Municipal paving for LaScie and Fleur-de-Lys and Englee and to add to that, Sir, LaScie had municipal paving for the past six years.

Reconstruction of the following roads; Middle Arm, Smith's Harbour, Purbeck's Cove, Wall Cove, Seal Cove, Snook's Arm, Round Harbour - nothing about not enough money available but construction and reconstruction everywhere you turn.

Pavement of the following roads; Baie Verte to Fleur-de-Lys - great stuff! I wish it could go ahead. That is what I am complaining about. You cannot keep it. You cannot keep up to it. The Seal Cove Road, the Roddickton-Englee-Bide Arm Road. Great stuff! But now the people have been let down. As I said, their expectations were inflated beyond any degree of description.

Construction of a water and sewer system from Burlington to Middle Arm, fire trucks for LaScie and another one for Fleur-de-Lys and another one for Burlington. There is a little less than thirty-five miles apart.

Secondary industries for Baie Verte with by-products of asbestos yet we have not really got a study going on down there yet to determine exactly whether that situation is a deadly one or not as some people seem to believe it is.

A half million dollar expansion to the M.J.Boylen Hospital in

MR. RIDEOUT:

Baie Verte. Construction - and this is a great one, Sir - construction of an emergency airstrip for Baie Verte. What was ever going to land on it and what the emergencies were I do not know. It is far from isolated.

Now, Sir, these are just some of the promises made in my district by this government. They are all facts. I have the brochure right here in front of me that was sent around at the time. The question, Sir, does that programme I have just outlined, that was promised to the people of Baie Verte-White Bay by this government - the question is, does that programme indicate that economically hard times were just around the corner? Does it suggest that we were heading for a call to belt tightening, for restraint, for retrenchment? I suggest, Sir, that it does not. I suggest that it paints a rosy picture, a picture that did not exist, that it showed the situation not as it was but as this government hoped it could be or would be. Therefore, Sir, I support the amendment by my friend and colleague the member for Burgeo-Bay D'Espoir.

It is a non-confidence motion, Sir, and I believe this government has lost the confidence of the people it represents because of its failures to level with the people a little more than two months ago, and indeed, because the government at that time actually inflated beyond reason the expectations of the people of this Province, for one reason, Sir, that of political gain. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Mount Scio.

DR. R. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker and members of the hon. House of Assembly, first of all I would like to offer my congratulations to you, Sir, on your appointment. I know that you will carry out your onerous duties with dignity and integrity. Also I would extend my congratulations to the hon. the member for St. John's South (Dr. J. Collins) on assuming the role of Deputy Speaker. His integrity and ability will be much appreciated by this House.

It is indeed a great honour for me to represent the district of Mount Scio in this hon. House. They have given me a mandate to speak for them in a sane and humane manner in the business of this House. My job has been made much easier by the calibre of men who make up the

DR. WINSOR:

government at this time in our history. Newfoundland is indeed fortunate to have as Premier at this time a man with tremendous leadership ability and drive. His administration has accomplished much in the past three and-a-half years. To many of us the most important change over the past administration has been the elimination of fear of a party machine, fear that stifled the democratic growth of our people. Our people can now criticize without ridicule, condemn without fear of recrimination. People from all areas of our Newfoundland society can now engage in politics with any party without the knowledge that their political persuasion will not affect their jobs or their income.

Mr. Speaker, the direction that this government has taken as outlined in the Budget Speech is the only one that it could have taken in the difficult situation that we are now faced with due mainly to inflation, inflation which has affected adversely

Dr. Winsor:

which has affected pretty well every country in the free world. It is imperative that we deal with the causes of inflation and not with its symptoms alone. The responsibility for inflation must be shared by labour, management and government and each group must be prepared to exercise self-discipline.

Prices have risen as businessmen pass costs on to consumers. Labour, left behind by inflation and determined to catch up, has been doing so at a rate exceeding the combination of inflation and productivity. Mr. Speaker, the bubble has burst and the time has arrived that we all have to realize that we can only take from our society in the proportion to the effort that we put into it. Government must by example and leadership get this message across to our people and only then is there hope for our country to achieve greatness.

Mr. Speaker, I have practiced dentistry in St. John's for almost twenty years, and would like to make a few comments on the state of this profession. Dalhousie University Faculty of Dentistry's responsibility, the Atlantic area, contains approximately 2 million people, of which 40 per cent are Nova Scotians, 30 per cent New Brunswickers, 25 per cent Newfoundlanders and 5 per cent Prince Edward Islanders. Other things been equal one could anticipate the enrollment in dentistry at Dalhousie to approximate these percentages. It is obvious from the figures over the past six years that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have approximated these figures, and Prince Edward Island has had many times its share. Six or seven students from Newfoundland is not an unreasonable number, Mr. Speaker, to expect to be admitted to the Dalhousie Dental School. For a number of years an effort was apparently made in student selection, but more recently the effort has appeared to be useless tokenism.

Secondly, the per capita ratio of dentists in the four Atlantic Provinces is for Nova Scotia 1 to 3,500; New Brunswick 1 to 4,300, Prince Edward Island 1 to 3,000, but Newfoundland, Sir, is 1 for 7,700. Newfoundland's ratio is twice as poor as that of any of the

Dr. Winsor:

other three provinces. We have to place a minimum of ten students per year for ten years so that we could hope to approximate the ratio of the other provinces.

Thirdly, the number of no-shows and quitters is alarmingly high, and should in the interest of all concerned be thoroughly investigated. Undoubtedly the causes are varied but I would submit that there is room for improvement in our recruitment programme and in the Dalhousie selection process. Only six Newfoundlanders are currently in dental school in Canada, four at McGill and two at Dalhousie. For the past two years at Dalhousie no Newfoundlanders were accepted. This year we placed three and by the middle of September all three had quit. We must reach some agreement with Dalhousie in the near future to overcome this desperate situation. And I am not certain that the answer lies in having our own dental school at Memorial, but encouraging Dalhousie to expand its facilities and accepting at least ten of our students each year. My main reason for this is that we have a critical shortage of dentist specialists in Eastern Canada, and particularly Newfoundland. We have one orthodontist and one oral surgeon to service our whole population. Other specialties such as dentists who treat gum diseases and dentists who specialize in children's dentistry are not available to our people. Only when our dental school reaches a minimum of sixty students per year, and a total of 240 students in its facility can it hope to have an adequate specialist training programme. Hence I would -

AN HON. MEMBER: How many again?

DR. WINSOR: Sixty per year and 240 in the total faculty. I would rather see one strong dental school in the Atlantic Provinces rather than two smaller schools which could not fulfill this need. We could contribute a negotiated amount per student which I think New Brunswick does now with their students attending the Memorial Medical School. Even if the amount was \$15,000 a year and for forty students this would

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be \$600,000, after a few years we could drop back to six or seven students in each year to retain a reasonable ratio to meet our needs. This would be

DR. WINSOR: far less costly than funding our own dental school and it would have the advantages earlier stated.

We have the most comprehensive free dental plan of any Province, but with a shortage of dentists we also have statistics such as in the treatable age group of four to ten, fifty per cent of these children receive dental treatment and in the older age group this percentage deteriorates farther.

We have attempted to recruit dentists from other countries with some success and a new recruitment programme has been instituted to recruit dentists to rural areas. The essential features of this new programme is a \$10,000 location grant to enable the dentist to establish his practice and a guarantee of a net minimum income.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I feel we have to have a dental health department to stress prevention of dental disease much more strongly, and possibly we would get a greater return in dollars spent if at least a quarter of its budget was spent in this area.

Mr. Speaker, due to an increase in the number of physicians, to patients visiting physicians more often and to the increase in fees, the cost of running the medical service of this Province is almost doubled this year and if the federal government reduces its share of this cost in the future, this service will be very difficult for us to continue at its present level. Unless changes are made, and I personally feel, Mr. Speaker, that a minimum charge for the first two or three visits in any one course of treatment should be made to the patient. Of course there would be many exceptions to this charge and these are chronically ill older patients and all hospital work and emergency treatment. We should by now realize that no country even if prepared to pay the taxes can supply everything.

Mr. Speaker, I have been associated with the Janeway Child Health Centre for the past five years as Chief of the Dental Department and as a member of the Medical Advisory Board. This hospital has achieved rapid growth since its opening in 1966, especially in the emergency and outpatient's department. In addition the hospital was designated as a

DR. WINSOR: teaching hospital in association with the medical school at Memorial University and this created a tremendous demand on its already overcrowded facilities.

It is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that this hospital now admits over 6,000 children per year and last year there were over 90,000 outpatient visits. Over and above this, the hospital provides clinical services which either do not exist or exist to a limited degree in other areas of the Province. This hospital is the pediatric referral hospital for the Province and its patients come from all over Newfoundland and Labrador. Approximately fifty per cent are from the Avalon Peninsula and the other fifty per cent are from the other areas of the Island and Labrador. In a very real sense, Mr. Speaker, this is the children's hospital of Newfoundland and Labrador.

This hospital is in desperate need of expansion. In some instances the support services have less than a quarter of the space needed, much less than the space that is desirable. As a result of these circumstances a complete review was made of the operations and facilities of the hospital with co-operation of both the provincial and federal authorities. As a former director of the dental services and a member of committees, I am familiar with the contents of this presentation and its recommendations included plans for the provision of additional space for the hospital and I am sure that all members of the House, Mr. Speaker, will join with me in hoping that as soon as monies are available the Department of Health will give priority to the expansion of Newfoundland's children's hospital.

Mr. Speaker, of great concern to many of the people in my district is the future of that beautiful area of land that comprises Pippy Park. The concept of Pippy Park is one of partnership between the provincial government, the city and the university, where the land encompassed by the park and control area can be developed in the best interest of all concerned, accommodating within the university buildings, provincial government buildings and athletic areas, playgrounds, tourist areas, etc., and museums, woods and trails, and so on.



DR. WINSOR: The area of the C.A. Pippy Park, named after the late Chesley A. Pippy who pledged \$1 million for acquisition of land and development of the park is approximately 1370 acres. The C.A. Pippy Park control area comprises a buffer zone around the park property where the commission controls development. All land within the C.A. Pippy Park proper will eventually be acquired by government or by one of the other participating partners.

DR. WINSOR:

Mr. Speaker, the main problem encountered here is how long can we freeze land without government supplying monies to buy that land at a reasonable price to the landowner. By April of this year 50 per cent of the total area of the park proper had been acquired at a total cost of \$3 million. But only -

MR. SMALLWOOD: How much?

DR. WINSOR: \$3 million. But only 26.4 acres at a total cost of \$17,000 has been acquired in the controlled area. Hopefully a more effective land acquisition programme can be worked out after the updating of the original plans which should be completed early in 1976. Because of the accelerating pace of the university, government and other developments in the park, the traffic generated by these institutions and by the general growth of the city, the review will be a vitally important process consisting of new studies and new evaluations of the experience of the last five years and projections of development as far into the future as it is possible to see. The concept of the park and the function of the commission is to ensure the creation and maintenance of the highest planning standards for a very long term development.

I have had excellent rapport with the Pippy Park Commission and I have been working closely with them to protect the interests of my constituents as well as promoting the original aims of the park.

Mr. Speaker, many people in the district of Mount Scio are also concerned about the possibility that the Bell Island mines could be used to store 90 million barrels of oil. When the feasibility study of the Power Corporation of Canada is completed in approximately two years, I have been assured by this government that safety will be a prime concern and any danger to the ecology will be thoroughly investigated. I can assure the people of my district who are concerned about this project that I will be watching it very carefully and will have access to all pertinent information.

Mr. Speaker, many people, not just in my district but certainly in all the St. John's area who I have talked to are concerned about the

DR. WINSOR:

high cost of housing. Increased cost of land, material, labour and high mortgage rates have made it almost impossible for low and middle income people to acquire their own homes. The effort of our government to counteract these trends will be welcomed by our people. The grant of \$600 for those who acquire their new homes will be of great benefit to low income families who have difficulty in meeting present down payment and mortgage arrangements.

The second major programme will deal with existing homes. This assistance programme in liaison with the federal government will develop a home rehabilitation programme to certain selected areas of Newfoundland. But the provincial government will shortly be announcing a complementary programme to cover all areas of the Province.

The third programme will introduce a subsidy of new rentals units and this subsidy will be given on the condition that rents will be controlled and kept at a reasonable level. A word here, Mr. Speaker, on the state of rental accommodations in the city. Many people I have talked with are angry with the quality of workmanship and services in our existing apartment complexes. I, and I know many members of this House have visited friends who live in apartments in other cities of Canada and the apartments are of a much higher standard than those currently available here at a reasonable cost. Is this fault, Mr. Speaker, with our building codes or with the inspection services of CMHC?

In my own dealings with CMHC I have found - I have not been impressed with their efficiency. I also do not agree that the whole answer lies with our taxation system, Mr. Speaker. To overburden the existing homeowner who has many extra expenses that the apartment dweller does not have, such as continuing maintenance, painting in our climate every two or three years, plumbing and heating problems, leaks and many other expenses that all homeowners know too well.

We must not forget, Mr. Speaker, that there are many people in this Province in the middle income group who are not eligible for assistance and who are trying to make a go of it on their own through hard work and sacrifice. And to add another burden to their already

DR. WINSOR:

crushing load may not be the way to solve this problem. We must remember, Mr. Speaker, that the big profits for developers are in large apartment complexes and the like, and already they are receiving assistance in many ways from federal and provincial programmes. Is it not in their interest to vigorously promote this type of housing to the detriment of the type of private housing that the people of this Province have so long aspired.

Dr. Winsor.

In the field of education, there is one area, I think, which needs special comment at this time. We need to have teachers who are educated and trained to spot and to be able to deal with exceptional children, those who are mentally retarded, those who are extremely bright and those with learning disabilities. This latter group, Mr. Speaker, are those children with average or above average intelligence who through some as yet undiagnosed dysfunction suffer from learning disorders that include hyperkenosis auditory or visual perceptual handicaps and dyslexia. These children are to learn or sometimes not retain knowledge to the level of their innate ability. These are our forgotten children, Mr. Speaker. The below, above or average ones are fairly well looked after in our society, but these children with special learning problems, of which many of our educators know so little, are severely frustrated.

Mr. Speaker, these children have the capacity to learn but require special teaching aids, a special approach to teaching methods and most importantly teachers who are trained to recognize such problems early in the educational process so that they can be dealt with immediately. And do you know, Mr. Speaker, that the special unit at Memorial University, which has to cope with literally hundreds of cases from the whole Province, to test and to suggest the best educational approach in each case and this with only two on staff. I repeat, Mr. Speaker, only two for the entire Province. Obviously, this is a vitally important area of our educational system that has not been given the proper attention it so urgently deserves.

Mr. Speaker, while I am very much aware of the necessity to cut back on our spending in these inflationary times, surely this area of education should be given top priority in any government spending even, Mr. Speaker, if we have to do without a gymnasium or swimming pool. If we do give priority to educational needs, our then well educated, well trained children of today will not be our welfare recipients of tomorrow.

DR. WINSOR.

Mr. Speaker, Newfoundland has come through many difficult periods in her history and with courage and strong leadership, I know the people of Newfoundland will rise to the challenge. To quote Tennyson's Ulysses: "Come my friends/ 'Tis not too late to seek a newer world."

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bay of Islands.

MR. WOODROW: Mr. Speaker, as I rise to speak, I congratulate first of all the two previous speakers. I am also happy to see on the Order Paper of today, a resolution that I made to this hon. House of Assembly concerning a prayer being said before starting each session. And I thought today that I would start off my maiden speech in the following way. Oh, Lord, guide the minds and hearts of all members of this hon. House of Assembly so that they may work with all their strength and ability for the good of the Province in general and their own districts in particular.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WOODROW: I would like first of all to congratulate the Speaker, the hon. member for Waterford - Kenmount. He is certainly very well fitted to do justice to all the members of this hon. House of Assembly. I would like to say he is very gentle and also very humble. I also congratulate the Deputy Speaker as well as the Assistant Deputy Speaker. These are the titles that they should be given. And also I offer congratulations to the Hon. Premier on his re-election to the district of Humber West, to the hon. Leader of the official Opposition of the district of the Strait of Belle Isle, and our old friend, the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood), the only living Father of Confederation, and also the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), and all other

MP. WOODROW: members re-elected in their various districts, and the newly elected member especially the member for St. George's district.

I could go on and elaborate concerning some of my associations with the hon. member for Twillingate but it would take far too long. But I want to say that I am really happy to see him in this House of Assembly and to hear him called yesterday a great statesman.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I really do not know whether a speaker should go on forty-five minutes or not. I may do it myself. I do not know whether that is a good thing or not. Because I feel that when a speaker goes that length of time he not only loses attention but he also makes it more difficult for the other members of the House of Assembly to speak and I believe all of us here, we are elected for certain districts in this Province and I think we all in fact want to have our say. In other words we all want to put in our two cents worth. After all that is the reason why the people sent us here.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I consider my election to be a great privilege and an honour. I have been, as you know, connected with public life for about maybe thirty years and therefore it is not my first time speaking in public. In fact I suppose I could say I have possibly spoke as often as sometimes two and three times a week. And in fact I think the fact that we are elected, the fact that the people put such confidence in us should make us realize how conscientiously we should work for them.

My district, Mr. Speaker, the district of Bay of Islands was, as you know, up to the time of redistribution, when the government created fifty-one seats, a part of the district of Humber West, the district now owned by the hon. the Premier. In this my first address in the House of Assembly I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Premier for asking for me to run in the district of Bay of Islands and with the faith and the trust that the people of the Bay of Islands placed in me, and the hard work of my committee to be able to win the Bay of Islands seat for the Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland,

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. WOODROW: Mr. Speaker, a government in which I have great confidence and in which my confidence is increasing daily.

The Premier has picked a very able Cabinet and all the members of the Cabinet are excellent members -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. WOODROW: - respected and well-known throughout the Province of Newfoundland. Now in fact not only, Mr. Speaker, the Cabinet, but just look at the men on this side of the House -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. WOODROW: - businessmen, school teachers, engineers, lawyers, doctors, dentists, insurance agents, clergymen, last but not the least, undertakers.

I have realized, Mr. Speaker, over the past month what a tremendous job that this government had to do. Although we cannot live in the past and would like to forget it, as the hon. member from LaPoile says, I do not want to be unkind to anybody, I am not here for that, I am here to try to be constructive, to build up. But I want to say that the give-aways of the past have and will for some time to come, place a burden on the shoulders of our people that will be hard to bear.

The government has to again take the bull by the horns and go on to victory. I would like to feel that the hon. members of both opposition parties and the hon. member from LaPoile - he is not here today - will work hard for the good of this Province and not for any selfish aims.



Mr. Woodrow:

At this moment, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that my allegiance will be in the interest of my Province and my party, and after that to my own district. Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, a member can place his district above the Province. What is good for a district is not always good for the Province. I would like to point out now what has been done by some of the fields of government in the District of the Bay of Islands since 1972 and what I would like to see accomplished in the next four or five years. However I understand that we have, in the interest of the Province at this particular time, we have laid on restrictions, and I wholly support the government in their efforts in this regard.

Now I see the Minister of Transportation and Communications before me, I will probably make his head swell when he hears what is being done in the field of Transportation and Communications. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 22 I drove to Lark Harbour and in fact on Saturday past I drove to Cox's Cove, Now these are the two extreme ends of my district, As you know my district takes in the two arms of the Bay of Islands, and I have the two arms to look after. Lark Harbour is the extreme end of my district on the South Shore of the Bay of Islands and Cox's Cove is the extreme end of my district on the North Shore. I was able to drive from Corner Brook to Lark Harbour on a beautifully paved road. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, why I appreciate this. Because in 1950, around 1950 up to 1954 I drove to Cooks Brook in the Bay of Islands District and there you stopped, you could not go any farther, and on the other side of the Bay, I am not quite sure when Ballam Bridge was constructed, it was around 1960 I believe, you could not even drive to that side of the Bay. When I was stationed there, in fact even up to 1956, my golly there was not even - there was some kind of a road there but not a very good one, and there was no electricity, there were no telephones, in fact, you can almost say, no nothing in fact, there were no people there even, because I had to relocate eighty families off Woods Island. And I still think, and I am sure the people feel today

Mr. Woodrow:

that was a very good move, and that was the time when the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) was the Premier of the Province, and I think that he well knows how we talked over that matter and how much I approached him on trying to get this particular job done.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I will not forget it quickly either!

MR. WOODROW: That is it. Quite a time.

MR. SMALLWOOD: That was quite a story.

MR. WOODROW: It certainly was. It certainly was. In fact we had to have 100 per cent, and I finally got it after four years.

Now I was able to drive, as I said, from Corner Brook to Lark Harbour over a beautifully paved road and this was done during the time the district was in Humber West, I am not forgetting the part of the road from Cooks Brook to Frenchman's Cove either, which was done when another hon. gentleman was the Premier of the Province.

I would like to thank the hon. Premier for having paved the road from Frenchman's Cove to Lark Harbour last Summer. It is a distance of anywhere from fourteen to sixteen miles. And I would just like to point out now just what was spent in my district on the South Shore of the Bay of Islands in 1974. In 1974 there was a bridge put over Blow Me Down Brook, and I think it really - it is pronounced just as it says, Blow Me Down Brook - and it cost \$405,304, and in the same year 8.79, I suppose you could say 9 miles of road was reconstructed costing \$752,893, and the total cost of the bridge and the road amounted to \$1,158,197.

MR. WOODROW:

and 2.4 miles of road was reconstructed from Frenchman's Cove to Lark Harbour costing \$234,249, and 6.2 miles built costing \$466,270. And there were also breastworks constructed to the tune of \$11,063.

And the total expenditure that it made, \$731,780. I never mentioned such figures in all my life. It is frightening.

In 1975 - that was the year - 14.6 miles of pavement, Lark Harbour, Frenchman's Cove costing \$770,900. When I come to tourism I will be speaking more about the beautiful park that is out in Lark Harbour. Now then on the North shore of the Bay of Islands, 1972, pavement, Gillams, 3.5 miles, \$224,750. Reconstruction and paving, McIvers, Coxes Cove, four miles, \$372,812. And paving, it was called Farm Road in Gillam - it is .7 miles - \$21,533. Breastworks in Coxes Cove, \$5,831.

Now in 1974 reconstruction for Picketts Road, McIvers, Coxes Cove - no, reconstruction of Picketts Road - \$21,111. And Coxes Cove Brook and McIvers Brook bridges, \$72,433. In 1975 the completion of Coxes Cove Brook bridge - yes, Coxes Cove Brook and McIvers Brook bridges costing \$66,000; and complete reconstruction and paving near the Hann property - this I think was on the main road - that cost \$15,000 and that amounted to \$718,470.

Now, I come next, Mr. Speaker, to what is terribly important in my district. I am sorry the minister concerned is not here. I am speaking about fisheries. There are five herring plants in the Bay of Islands and you could really call, you know, I suppose, Bay of Island - I do not know probably you could say it is the - there are no herring produced in any other part of Newfoundland, not as many at least as there are in the Bay of Islands. I remember one time there was another plant on the North Shore and it was owned by the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. I just forget his other title at the moment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Mines and Energy.

MR. WOODROW: It was in Meadows, the Meadows.

MR. CROSBIE: The Newfoundland Dehydrates.

MR. WOODROW: The Newfoundland Dehydrate, right you are. Yes.

Now then the plants are Barry Fisheries, Dunphy Fisheries, Humber Cold Storage, Allans Fisheries down in Benoit's Cove and National Sea Fisheries in Lark Harbour. The Minister of Fisheries came to Corner Brook a week or two ago with me to discuss with the plant owners their problems encountered in the availability of herring. Now these plants employ around 700 or 800 people. But there is a little problem now we have. Because the quota has already been caught a lot of these people find themselves in the unfortunate position of being unemployed.

MR. WOODROW: It would be a great asset to the people in the Bay of Islands district if the Government of Canada would see its way clear to increase the herring quota in certain areas of the Province where this particular species of fish is in abundance.

Now just to bring you up, Mr. Sneaker, on some of the amounts and so on, the species, landings and value of the various types of fish caught in my district, I have a few figures here I can quote. In 1972 there were 296,102 landings of cod and it had a value of \$21,748. Halibut 7,117 landings valued at \$3,838, plaice 71,420 landings valued at \$3,834. I think when I was a boy we used to call that flatfish. I remember I used to get down on the stagehead with a prong and we would catch them. In fact, we did not eat them at the time, we did not know they were fit to eat, but I have learned since that they are a very delicate fish.

In herring, which of course is the biggest one over there, we had 6,433,847 landings - pounds, landings mean in this particular case - and that had a value of \$144,822. So you can see how important the herring fishery is to the Bay of Islands, in other words, to my district. Lobsters - I will pass over some of the others - lobsters 54,312 pounds and that had a value of \$64,493. Now we had at that time in 1972 in Lark Harbour forty-two fishermen, in Benoit's Cove ninety-two and in Curling forty. In 1973 the landings of cod went up to 651,200 pounds and it had a value of \$57,625. Plaice went up also -

AN HON. MEMBER: Herring?

MR. WOODROW: Yes, I think it did. Did it go up here? It went up 211,723 landings or pounds and that had a value of \$13,824. The herring in 1973 was 15,569,212 pounds, it went up. Imagine, it was only six million in 1972 and it brought in money to the total of \$444,237 and lobsters in 1973, 62,644 pounds with a value of \$67,525. In 1973 we had forty-six fishermen in Lark Harbour, Benoit's Cove 108 and Curling twenty-three.

I also have the figures for 1974. Cod landings 502,003 pounds with a value of \$53,547 and plaice 146,501 landings or pounds with a value of \$9,253. Herring landings in fact in 1974 fell back to 4,575,150 pounds with a gross value of \$144,124. Lobsters 169,995 pounds with a value of

MR. WOODROW: \$175,543, and in that year, in 1974, in Lark Harbour - 56 fishermen Benoit's Cove - 48, Curling - 14. Now we have not got the count for this year.

You can see, Mr. Speaker, how terribly important that the fishery is to the Bay of Islands district, and I am going to try to do all I can to try in every way to see that every effort is made to help the fishermen in the Bay of Islands district.

Now also it is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, since this government took office in 1972, in giving out boats, what do you call it - longliners, they spent to the amount of \$512,772. So I must say I really thank him for doing so much for the fishery in my district.

I will briefly go over the Municipal Affairs and Housing, but I want to say that I was so terribly happy today and I was so terribly happy last night when our own Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the hon. Barney Danson in Ottawa, Urban Affairs, he was able to announce that the amount of \$1,743,848 will be spent on a NIP Programme, or a Neighbourhood Improvement Programme in my district. I must say this really -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. WOODROW: This really is great news and I know the people not only in my district but also in the Corner Brook area will be glad to hear of it. It is certainly going to make a lot of work for 1976.

Over the past three years, Mr. Speaker, in the district of Bay of Islands, that is in the rural areas, an amount of \$376,762.90 was spent on capital and current account. Now I do not think I have that figure right. I am sure it is really more than that. I probably have it here under different headings.

MR. PECKFORD: That was the first installment.

MR. WOODROW: First installment, right you are. I also want to say that the urban part of my district is connected with the City of Corner Brook and it is hard to determine the amount that is spent there

MR. WOODROW: but I know that there has been a beautiful ball park built in the Curling area and there are several other small playgrounds and there has also been - no, I may be in the wrong field, I should be on recreation there you know, but when I come to recreation I will mention that again.

Now also under the heading district of Bay of Islands financial arrangements with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I have here a staggering sum spent to the tune of \$1,349,343. Now I got to be fair and say that all this is not really all spent but it has been guaranteed and some of this will go up to I think something like 1978, I believe. So I really feel happy to know that there is so much work done in my district in the field of Municipal Affairs. In fact there are several ongoing projects out there at the present time. In fact in Cox's Cove, in McIvers and in Gillams, the money is already approved for the construction of water and sewers and a lot of this work has been done also on both sides of the Bay of Islands district and also a lot of money has been spent this summer, and I can get the figures, in Meadows, Summerside and Irishtown. The work is not completed there yet. In fact it is not completed in any of the places but at least the work is going on and that is very, very encouraging.

Mr. Woodrow.

In the field of recreation, Mr. Speaker, a lot has been done in the district of Bay of Islands. But I think, you know, I believe in centralization, and I think that in any district where we can centralize such things as ball fields, stadiums and the like, I think, you know, this in fact would not only save money for the government, but it would also tend to integrate, it would bring the people in those places together. You must remember in the early days they could not get together because there were no roads, but now it is a different story altogether.

Now, as I said, I was over in Cox's Cove last Sunday, and under construction in Cox's Cove is a beautiful new stadium. They have the steel all up, and they are waiting now to put the sides on it. I suppose next year, no doubt, they will be looking for a cooling plant for the stadium over there. And it is a great thing. In fact, it is really going to mean a lot for sports in the Bay of Islands District, because it is going to look after all the places. It is going to look after Cox's Cove, McIvers, Gillams, Meadows, Summerside and Irishtown. These people are really and truly happy about it, because I do believe, I think, sports is a good thing, you know. I think the more sports we have for our people in fact the better, because idle hands, I really feel, they certainly do tempt the devil out of the devil's workshop, as the saying goes.

Now on the south shore of the Bay of Islands, maybe I would be remiss in my duty if I did not say that I am really sorry that we had to dismiss the rural district council on the south shore of the Bay of Islands, taking in Halfway Point, Benoit's Cove, John's Beach and Frenchmen's Cove. We have, thank God, a very good commission set up out there, and I hope in due course that we will have another re-elected government out there again. My heart is really in Benoit's Cove. That is what I spent a lot of years, and I certainly would like to see, not only Benoit's Cove, but I probably would be excused for saying that I would like to see this particular spot really hum, hum.



Mr. Woodrow.

Regarding centralization of sports, Benoit's Cove is an area that could be centralized, say, for example, for sport fields and the like, because with the Lark Harbour Road paved it makes a vast difference for that side of the bay. I realize now in this district you have paved roads all the way. It is wonderful. In fact, you know, I am so delighted I used to go out there, in fact, last year, out to Lark Harbour -

MR. SMALLWOOD: You want all the roads paved.

MR. WOODROW : I beg your pardon?

MR. SMALLWOOD: You want all the roads paved.

MR. WOODROW: Well, that is quite possible, you know.

At least, all the main roads are done, Mr. Speaker. If I need any, it will only be some that you call the by-roads or something like that. But in any case it does make a vast difference in that side of the bay, of the Bay of Islands. So I am naturally happy about it.

Now also the people, they really realize the - no, what I am really trying to say - I was a little bit off the mark for awhile you know - I realize that this government they realize the importance of recreation, because they have really spent so much money in this particular field, and it is really too bad that we are going through times of austerity, but I feel it will maybe do us all good, and in time, you know, we cannot look always on the dark clouds, because, you know, the sun comes out pretty fast after the clouds disperse. In any case, I have enough faith in this government that in due course these things will be done and there will be more sport fields, more recreation and so on, and I am sure that my district will not be forgotten.

Now as I said, the district of the Bay of Islands is a rural and an urban one. It is difficult for me to determine exactly what amounts have been spent in the urban parts of my district because it is a part of the city of Corner Brook. But

MR. WOODROW:

I can only take, for example, estimates. I have here again some of the monies allotted for sports. I am not going to bother about reading it because we say it is there for the record in any case. That is okay, is it?

Now, in the field of Tourism, the paved road to Lark Harbour has changed the district of Bay of Islands completely, and tourism is going to become a bouncing business there. Woods Island is a great tourist place. I feel, you know, I will be getting after the Minister of Tourism maybe to get some money invested in a couple of small passenger boats. In fact, it would make a bit of employment for somebody during the year.

There was also talk sometime ago, Sir - I do not want to put words in anybody's mouth - but it was talked about putting a penitentiary on Woods Island after we relocated the people. I do not know, perhaps it still can be done. I am not suggesting it should be done but it was suggested, Mr. Speaker. After all, you know, I suppose this is an industry after all.

AN HON. MEMBER: They do not need a penitentiary up there.

MR. WOODROW: Very good.

AN HON. MEMBER: We need one of the East Coast.

MR. WOODROW: I may be punished for what I am going to say next, Sir, but listen to the hon. member for Humber East (Dr. Farrell): He says the tourist potential of the West Coast has not even been tapped. It is great, you know. There is lots to be done over there yet in the field of tourism.

Now, I had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, and I travelled a bit. You know, I had the opportunity of travelling. I do not travel much more now but I have to come to St. John's all the time. But I had the opportunity of travelling over in Europe a couple of times and in the Middle East and I realized over there how important an industry tourism was, you know. In fact they really try, I suppose, to make the heritage of their countries known. That is the thing. We should

MR. WOODROW:

not be ashamed. We, as Newfoundlanders, we should not be ashamed in any way to make our Newfoundland known, to make our former Newfoundland known, because I am old enough to know what the difficulties were in the past and what struggles we had.

Now, regarding, as I said, this being an austerity year - I was going to say, I guess I was going to say, yes - this is important, Mr. Speaker - you know, that park in Lark Harbour it is a beautiful place but, you know, I am going to invite any member who wants to come over and it being austerity year I am going to pay his fare over there. If he wants to come over at my expense, I will pay him over.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. WOODROW: You know, when you get up on the -

MR. NICKY: Supposing we all go?

MR. WOODROW: I do not care. When you get up, Mr. Speaker, when you get up the mountain - I suppose it is called Blow Me Down Mountain, I suppose - there is a nice lookout built, you know, and my glory be to God you can see the whole of the Bay of Islands! In fact, it is beautiful. Anybody who has not been over there, he should make an effort to come, especially in 1976.

MR. MURPHY: Was the hon. member ever up on Signal Hill?

MR. WOODROW: I beg your pardon?

MR. MURPHY: Was the hon. member ever up on Signal Hill?

MR. WOODROW: It is very good. Yes, I was yes. Many times, Mr. Speaker. It has nothing on the lookout out in the Lark Harbour area I can assure you of that.

AN HON. MEMBER: Ask him where it is. Ask him where Signal Hill is?

MR. WOODROW: Yes, where is Signal Hill? Is that right? Cape Spear I would rather, I like, you know.

MR. MURPHY: Does not the hon. gentleman like Signal Hill?

MR. WOODROW: In any case now, Mr. Speaker, coming to Health.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is read.

MR. WOODROW: I mean, when it comes to that the Minister of Health has

MR. WOODROW:

left. Corner Brook, Western Memorial Hospital, it is a West Coast regional hospital which cost, I understand anywhere between, I think, it is \$16 million to \$18 million. In fact, it will cost \$18 million to complete it. That is what I understand. That is going to employ, counting doctors, nurses, maintenance, etc. and the like, up to something like 1,000 people. You certainly have to call this a very good industry in the city of Corner Brook. It certainly is a good industry for the West Coast.

Now, you know, I have always been bothered, it has really made me worry about, you know, the visits people are making to the doctors. And I sometimes, you know, wonder if all the visits are necessary. Maybe they go there just because you can just go in, all you have to do is go in and make your visit and that is it. But

MR. WOODROW: I was wondering if we should not start thinking of about what they are thinking about now in Ontario, putting on just a small fee, say like maybe a couple of dollars. Maybe if this were done it would make a person think twice before he would go to a doctor when it is not always necessary. I just sort of make that little suggestion. It may be taken up or it may not be but at least I have done it and that is all I can do. I hope there will be nobody offended by it, none of the people of Newfoundland, I hope, nor none of the people in my district will be offended by this little recommendation that I made. After all, I think we have to try to do our best. We have to use common sense, we have to try to - as we say, as the Late President Kennedy said - "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country."

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WOODROW: I think we still have to keep those words in our ears.

Mr. Speaker, in the field of education in my district certainly much has been done and all children are given a better opportunity than we had in our day. Of course it is up to themselves to avail of it. As the saying goes, "You can take a horse to water but you cannot make him drink." I know in my day, brought up in Northern Bay, we had to walk six miles to school - three miles to and three miles from - and really it did not do us any harm, in fact, it did us good, nice fresh air or whatever you would want to call it, we even enjoyed the rain and the snow and everything else.

MR. HICKMAN: Invigorating it was.

MR. WOODROW: Invigorating. That is the word I wanted.

I was wondering if in those austere times if we could cut down on bus transportation? I am not saying for children in lower grades, that is children from one to six, that is really something impossible but maybe, for example, children in the higher grades. This is a possibility and I think it is something that we could maybe take a little look at. Again I realize that because of the centralizing of the schools in our Province this is not an easy task. It would be a quite difficult task. I would also say that maybe every member in this hon. House, maybe they had when they were going to school, they

MR. WOODROW:

possibly had a long walk. Sometimes I think if we had a little bit more walking - it is called participaction, that is what they are calling it now—maybe if we had more participaction we would have to construct less gyms and less auditoriums.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I am delighted to have had the opportunity to make what is referred to as my maiden speech in the House of Assembly. In fact one time I used to use a nautical term, I used to use the word 'voyage' as I had to do a lot of my work over the water on the South Coast. Even when I came to the Bay of Islands I had to do a lot of work by water so I used to call it my voyage. I was tempted to call this speech my maiden voyage but we are going over dry land now and we have to get away from the water, we have to call it our maiden speech.

In summarizing, I suppose, or in saying how happy I am and everything else and how much I want to work for and with this government and want to work for all the districts, especially for the district of Bay of Islands, I would like to say that in the next four or five years there is work needed like water and sewerage, for example, I would like to see some of these projects accomplished in my district, I would like to see the continuation of ungrading of the roads such as the by-roads and so on of course. Here is where I am going to hit the hon. the Minister of Transportation and Communications -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WOODROW: In the field of recreation naturally there is a lot to be done. Well, I hope we will try and do within the boundaries of reason what is to be done in that field.

DR. FARRELL: Tourism.

MR. WOODROW: Yes, tourism, of course, which is terribly important because I do feel that this is going to be a big thing for Newfoundland, Not only for the district of Bay of Islands but it is going to be a good thing for all our districts.

MR. WOODROW: Also harbour development. As you know there is a big study going on now in the Corner Brook area which takes in, I believe it takes in from Meadows Point - is it? - down to Brake's Cove on both sides of the Bay and I feel that when this study is accomplished it is going to mean a lot for the area.

DR. FARRELL: For the immediate area.

MR. WOODROW: Absolutely. Indeed so.

DR. FARRELL: You would like a bit of co-operation from the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. WOODROW: Yes, of course, I am just coming to him now, member of Humber East. I am sure that the Minister of Fisheries and the government will work with me on trying to improve the fisheries in my district, especially the lobster, herring and all other fisheries. And I would also like to say you know that there is no doubt, I am speaking of now a federal member in Ottawa, the member for Humber-St. George-St. Barbe, I am sure that he will work as he always does, in the interest of the Province and in fact naturally his own district as well.

And of course in the field of farming there remains much to be done, and a lot of other things. But in any case my idea in fact, Mr. Speaker, of being a member of the House of Assembly is really it does not mean politics altogether because that is nonsense. Our people there are not stupid anymore. What it means today is being honest with yourself and if you are true to yourself you cannot be false to any man." We cannot fool ourselves. If we tried to fool ourselves we are being nonsensical, so the thing is to try to help people. People, in fact, people that is the whole thing and my idea of being a politician is trying to work along and help people. Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Burin-Placentia.

MR. CANNING: Mr. Speaker, this is the first opportunity I have had to congratulate the Speaker of the House, Sir, and I would like to take advantage of it, to offer to him my congratulations on his being chosen the Speaker of this House. And, Sir, it is not a matter of form when I say it was a good choice, a good choice was made by the House. Having

MR. CANNING:

sat with him, Sir, here in this House for many years, observing not only his respect for the hon. Speaker of that day but as Leader of Her Majesty's -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! Order, please!

MR. CANNING: - but as Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition he carried out his duties in such a statesmanship way that it behooves me, Sir, to at least try and not make his none to easy duties as light as I possibly can during the term of his high office.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that I am in a strange House this evening, quite different than I have been used to, and as most members know, I suppose, I was here a long time. Twenty-three years here and a little holiday and came back again to find myself a member of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. Some members on both sides of the House have asked me since I came here, "What does it feel like to be back there again, I think some of them look at me and say, "Why would a fellow who had spent that length of time in political life in Newfoundland," - and there are some fellows here who know just what that is like. People who worked hard. They were sincere to the people, loyal to the people, sincere in their efforts. It is not an easy job. There are a lot of jobs outside this House much easier, with higher pay, I may say, than to be here. Mr. Speaker, to say what it feels like to be here - I am happy to be back for the simple fact that I had been asked to come back. I did not have to beg too hard to get back here. I did not have to run a high-key campaign or I did not have to play the politics that I do not agree with, I never had. I have had always a clean campaign,



Mr. Canning:

no slating, I never once attacked the person of my opponent, I never attacked him personally, or I did not do it in the last election. You might have heard some reports that I did, but I did not. I had great regard for the gentleman that I defeated. He did not do a good job. I do not think he was fitted for it. I agree with a lot that the previous speaker before me said, but I do not know but two of us think that it is such a wonderful thing to have too many lawyers around this House. We differ on that opinion. I do agree with him and I commend him on the resolution he has on the Paper of saying the Lord's Prayer, because there is one thing certain that the government today needs prayer, but if I had brought in this resolution I think I would have added, "and may the Lord have mercy on us."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am speaking to a motion now this regrets the failure of the government to disclose completely and fully the present financial situation of this Province and the government thereof. And, Mr. Speaker, I would hope to keep my comments to that point as much as I can, because it really means to be level with the people. There are people in this House now listening to me, who are with me now, who were not born when I first came into this House. I am not that old, but - they are on both sides of the House I guess - it was twenty-six years ago, Now anybody under twenty-six they were not here. I came in under different circumstances today, in a different day, it was a different generation. Mr. Speaker, in this House now I consider we have almost four generations with at least one older than I am, the hon. gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood). I consider myself really in another generation, and I consider the fellows who came into this House during the last five or six or seven or eight years I was here are really another generation. I do not mean in years but in change, different ways, different ideas, different philosophies I suppose. When I came into the House I came from a large family in Placentia Bay, a fishing area. I did not come in too green. I was up in my twenties, I had already gone through the thirties, I was very young, I finished my schooling in the thirties. I graduated

Mr. Canning:

from high school in Placentia Bay in the thirties. I was lucky that I made that distance - a family of nine. I do not know how my father kept me there, allowed me to stay there long enough for that but I did. Then I was of age to be interested in adventure, I was twenty-three or twenty-four when the World War broke out, and perhaps, Mr. Speaker, it was during that war that perhaps I got my first taste of politics. That was the first time in my life that I realized what politics was. Because I - I will put it this way. When I joined the Royal Navy in 1939, when I volunteered, I went with the belief that I was called on to save the world, I was called on to keep back the madman Hitler, I was called on to keep the Nazis from destroying us. I went with good faith.

Mr. Canning.

But as I went through the war, and I began to look back over the history and I read something of Germany, I found myself into a war brought on me by stupid politicians. I found myself killing people. I had a right to do it for it was not murder because it was war. I had to take part in destroying young men, some of them in their youth, who were victims of politics, political decisions - anyway I am not going into this. I have probably wandered from my subject- but anyone who knows the history of Germany knows what happened to Germany. The people of Germany were crushed to their knees. Britain, the great United States, France in particular, drained their blood from them demanding payments for the First World War debts, and they drove them to their knees.

The youth that I was involved with, that I was facing, that I had to help to destroy, help to beat, were people who were urged on by Hitler. Leaders before Hitler had got on and said, "We cannot pay. We cannot pay any further. We are poverty-stricken. We are suffering. We cannot pay, and cannot pay." But Hitler put the fire in the youth when he said, "We cannot pay, and we are not going to pay."

So, Mr. Speaker, I have spent, I would say, in politics not twenty-three years, but twenty-nine years. My position with the government of today - there was somebody who asked me, not someone, several people asked me, what is it like to be in the House with Mr. Smallwood? You were always with him, and you always backed him up and now you are going to find yourselves at odds? Mr. Speaker, I do not feel a bit uncomfortable, not one single bit. I do not know, but I say for him, that he does not feel a bit uncomfortable to have me here, because he knows me, and I know him. I dealt with him. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, in regard to something that we got here to tell the people what the Province is like, tell our financial situation, in other words level with the people, I am sure that he would say that the way I play

Mr. Canning.

politics that is what I would want to do, and that is what I did. He probably knows. Because, Mr. Speaker, I am going to surprise this House, or some people in this House, I am going to surprise the younger members, because all we have heard since we came in here are promises. I am going to tell this House now - I am not boasting, I do not go around bragging about this, I am not that kind to throw my shoulders back, I am a very humble man I say, even if I say so myself - that I was involved in - what? Nine elections. Seven I won, the eighth I lost by a few votes. Is that correct, I wonder? And the ninth I won. I may be wrong. It was either the eighth or ninth I think, yes, I won.

Mr. Speaker, I never went into the district of Placentia West or Burin - Placentia West and got on a stage in my life and never made one - yes, I made one single promise - but I never made promises. I went out to Placentia West when it was so poverty-stricken, and the only think I had seen before to compare with it was parts of Africa and southern Italy and perhaps in - no, I do not think I did. That is enough, Africa and Italy. I was not in India. These were the only places that I had seen people suffering as they had suffered, no doctors, isolated - I do not want to go into it.

Mr. CANNING:

I have the memory of it but I do not want to repeat it. But, Mr. Speaker, I never fooled the people, never once. I never called a man to one side and said, "You vote for me and I will get you a job." I never called anybody to one side or I never told a group or I never told a company or anything else, "If you vote for me, I will see what I can do for you in the government, and see if I can get you a loan." I never promised a shipyard or I never promised a fish plant.

I made one promise. In every single election, every one right up to this present moment, the only promise that I made them was that I would do my best. I told them I understood their problems because I had lived with their problems. I levelled with them, Mr. Speaker, because I respected the producers, I respected those fishermen and fishermen's families who had striven - oh, I will not go into it - had slaved to try to exist. Some fine people, yes I can assure you there were some fine people came out of Placentia Bay. How they did it then compared to what we have now! What we should be doing now and what they did with what means they had!

No, Mr. Speaker, we should level with the government. I am going to tell this government something now, Mr. Speaker. I know, I have seen it, I know. I feel that I can speak in this House with as much experience as anybody because I have had the privilege, the opportunity and the privilege of representing people for a long time. I am going to tell this government now that they barely got back here. Mr. Speaker, they have a lot of men over there now who just came in, some fine men. Some of them I know well. A lot of them I do not know at all. I believe there are one or two that I have not been introduced to yet where I have not gone along and spoken to them.

What they are going to do, I do not know. But I am going to warn them that if they do not come level with the government-or with the people, if the government does not come level with the people, if they do not give them the financial situation of this Province clear and loud, tell them just where we stand, Mr. Speaker, they are

MR. CANNING:

in for trouble, not in the next election--because I am not here fighting the next election - but I am going to tell you this, that if they do not come level with them and we tax them, and we bring in more taxes perhaps next year, or if we cut to the bone--which I do not believe in and I voted against, Mr. Speaker-- and do not tell the people the true picture, give them the true picture, Mr. Speaker, we will have trouble. It is not very far off.

Mr. Speaker, there is a group of my constituents in my district who sent me in here, the people who voted for me, the people of the fish plants and the people on the druggers, the ordinary people. They were not doctors who sent me in, God bless them, great things to have. I hope I do not need them for a little while. They were not lawyers. They were not contractors who asked me to come in to represent them. Mr. Speaker, those people sent me in. And at this very moment there are negotiations going on in my district and up the Southwest Coast of the fish plant workers. I do not know the present situation. But, Mr. Speaker, they want a raise. If they do not get it, we are going to have trouble because they cannot live without it.

I can assure this government, I tell you this much, the new crowd that came into this House on the other side of the House, they certainly have to get after the fellows who were here for the last three of four years. Boy, you have got to change their ideas.

MR. CANNING:

Mr. Speaker, they just have to level. Mr. Speaker, I will apply directly to my district this business of coming level and what they did not come level with. I remember them but I have a list of them somewhere.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Burin and Placentia West were promised a hospital. They thought they were going to get it because they need it. They need it badly. It is a life or death issue. Mr. Speaker, if this government had not fooled the people with it I would not be talking very much about it except I would be saying, "For heavens sake, do not cut us so far that we cannot go on with the hospital." When I say life or death I mean it. You want perhaps to live on the Burin Peninsula to realize that. Perhaps we do not realize that in St. John's. But Mr. Speaker, a few days before election, I do not know if the little bit of machinery went in first or the platform went up first. There was a platform went up, a big sign on it "The District Hospital for Burin Area." Then a little contract was given. I do not know if tenders were called. I do not imagine - the amount of \$30,000, a little front-end loader I saw there and a few trucks. They scraped off the surface during the election. I was waiting every day for the grand sod turning but I believe at the end of the election, towards the end of the election they said, well good heavens, you know, I suppose we are going to lose up there so we had better leave it alone. We had better just try to fool them with this much. Of course, a few days afterwards the machinery retired off it. The platform was there. I could tell them what to put on it, what I would put on it now.

Mr. Speaker, I am some proud to be able to say here in this House this afternoon that our people have come far enough, they are so well informed now that they did not get fooled. They were not fooled by this Tory Government. Mr. Speaker, they gave them a chance. Sure they did. I will tell you something else. I was defeated after twenty-three years. That is a long time sitting here. I never got complacent. I kept up my work. I looked after the district. The night I was defeated

MR. CANNING:

there was not one man in that district who wanted work. They were all working.

AN HON. MEMBER: What did you do about the hospital?

MR. CANNING: There were a few grunted that about the hospital. Whoever made that grunt, you would not grunt if you were on the Burin Peninsula! Because I can tell you this. You can sneer. You will not be here very long. If you sneer in this House on issues like hospitals your time will come pretty fast.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. CANNING: So do not sneer about hospitals, because I am telling this House now that if they want proof I can give them proof, I will give the Minister of Health proof, that people have died on the Burin Peninsula in the last three years because they could not get into a hospital with the proper facilities to save their lives. They are up there now paying eighteen cents for a drug that they should be getting for two cents. We got nothing to sneer about, nothing to jeer about. Mr. Speaker, I never saw, I never saw anything like that in this House. The whole twenty-three years with the Opposition in this House, I never saw the Opposition jeer or sneer. I am sure the government did not. Mr. Speaker, we are not going to sneer if the government brings up something like that, like a hospital for people on the Burin Peninsula.



MR. CANNING: I told a story before of the cottage hospitals up there. I gave the story. I got criticized. I was making politics. God forbid that I should make politics out of such a thing. What a fool I would be. I would not be much of a man, would I? And, Mr. Speaker, I was criticized. I did not know what I was talking about. But unfortunately since then I guess many lives would be lost.

MR. ROUSSEAU: What drugs are you talking about that sell for eighteen cents and cost three cents?

MR. CANNING: I told you that drugs are being sold on the Burin Peninsula, one drug in particular.

MR. ROUSSEAU: What is that?

MR. CANNING: I do not know it. Do not ask me to name it. I am not a pharmacist.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Where was it you said, St. John's?

MR. CANNING: I said, Mr. Speaker, that there were drugs on the Burin Peninsula today, they are being sold for eighteen cents a drug, that I was told by a doctor, and I shall not name him, that people could be getting that pill for two cents. I believed him. He was sincere. I know he was sincere. I am not going to go on drugs because that has been talked across Canada for the last twenty-five years, as long as I am in politics. What are we going to do about drugs? Anybody who does not know there is a racket made on drugs, he does not know very much. If the gentleman who sneered a while ago when I said "hospital", if he can persuade his government in the next three years or four years or five years, to investigate the drugs, he will come back, I can assure him that, because I will campaign for him. I am pretty good at campaigning properly.

MR. MORGAN: Why was the hospital not built five years ago?

MR. BORTE: The government made a promise about that in 1971.

MR. CANNING: No, I do not like to talk about promises because all the promises they made they broke them. They broke them. If I have time I will just name the promises in my district. Not only promises, Mr. Speaker, I know governments have made promises before but I never saw members or ministers of the government, whoever in the heck they were who did it, who fooled the people up until the last minute.

MR. CANNING: Mr. Speaker, on the day before election, they were to vote tomorrow morning, I was in a settlement where they were drinking out of wells and they were after getting \$20,000, I think, or maybe they would like my figures, \$20,000 to drill a well, get a well drilled or something. They were told that they would have to do the labour themselves. They said, no we were not going to go back to the thirties, we want a few more dollars than that. The day before the election out came the telegram from this building here, or out in one of the buildings out in town somewhere, wherever they were, they are all over town anyways so I might be mistaken there, saying, another \$45,000 for you. But you did not get them to vote. The people of Rock Harbour have come a long way in the last twenty-five years. Twenty-five years ago I could fool them with it. I did not. But I could have.

Yes, I said a while ago, I even did not remember this, because after I left the House, after I left politics and got out I really - I followed the current events but not in the House too much -

MR. MORGAN: Why was not the hospital built five years ago, or six years ago or seven years ago?

MR. ROWE: We are talking about promises -

MR. CANNING: What is he talking about?

MR. MORGAN: Twenty-three years you were here, Sir, there was no hospital there then.

MR. ROWE: You cannot build Rome in a day.

MR. CANNING: We built a lot of hospitals. And we got a lot of hospital beds and we wiped out a lot. The hon. member is too young to remember how much T.V. was in Newfoundland when we came in here.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. CANNING: He never saw the sanitorium on Topsail Road, filled to the seams. And he never saw the people who were in their homes who could not get in there. I saw it and I had the pleasure and the honour to be with a government and to be under ministers of health who wiped it out. We

MR. CANNING: wiped it out and had to close it.

I just warn that hon. gentleman. You know, he was here the last term was he not?

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.

MR. CANNING: And he has not got his feet on the ground yet.

MR. CANNING:

If he thinks that the people of Bonavista South want him to be in here getting on like he is getting on, jumping up - oh, he is the full of this House when he gets up. If I were he, Mr. Speaker, I would go a little slower. I would get up when a representative of the people on this side of the House, to represent the Newfoundlanders, asked a solid question, a logical question, who does he think he is? He is here in the name of the people. The people trusted him to come in here.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MORGAN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. gentleman is debating an amendment brought in by his colleague, the member for Burgeo-Bay D'Espoir (Mr. Simmons), we are now in the middle of debating that amendment to the budget speech. Mr. Speaker, I fail to recognize or realize what relevancy that my being elected or not elected to this Chamber has to do with this debate. I merely asked him a question a few minutes ago and I will ask him again now while I am on my feet -

MR. F. ROWE: You cannot ask him a question.

MR. MORGAN: Why was not the -

MR. F. ROWE: A point of order. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Bonavista South (Mr. Morgan) cannot ask a question, he can only speak to the point of order.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the point of order I am making is the hon. gentleman has been rambling on for the last ten to fifteen minutes completely irrelevant to this debate.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, if I may speak to that point of order. I think Your Honour and the Deputy Speaker and the Speaker have allowed a very wide ranging debate on this particular amendment since it has been brought in, and I think Your Honour will indeed be consistent with your colleagues in this respect and allow the wide ranging debate to continue.

Also, Sir, - and I do not believe the hon. member has a point of order whatsoever in that regard - might I also add, Sir, that the

MR. POWE:

hon. member for Bonavista South (Mr. Morgan) invited and provoked my colleague into making reference to him in this particular debate. If the hon. member could have kept his mouth closed and given my colleague the silence which he deserves, he would not have been provoked into saying what he did say. Now, Sir, I submit that the hon. member for Bonavista South does not have a point of order, and that Your Honour allow my colleague who is presently speaking the same latitude and breadth that have been allowed to other members of the House of Assembly, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. WELLS: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker. An altercation, as it were, had occurred between these two members, but I think it is time that the member who was speaking was asked to get on with matters that are relevant to this debate which is on the amendment to the budget, and not whether or not the people of Bonavista South should have elected the hon. member or himself or any of us. The people did what they did and we have to accept it and the matter that is under debate is, of course, the relevance of the budget and matters of public concern to the Province.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Cross): The hon. member for Burin-Placentia (Mr. Canning) may continue but I would ask him to keep his words within the realm of relevancy.

MR. CANNING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your ruling. I felt that I was relevant, Sir. I was being level with the people and the financial situation and the subject that I was on was perhaps a little out maybe, perhaps not. Anyway, I bow to your ruling, Sir, and I will try to keep relevant to it, to the subject which is, level with the people.

Mr. Speaker, this government is going to have to get level with the people. They are going to have to give them the financial situation. They are going to have to tell the people what their ability is to borrow further because, Mr. Speaker, if they do not and the people have to be deprived of water and sewer - these projects are cut off now - if they are going to be deprived of hospitals,

Mr. Canning.

Mr. Speaker, and they are not told, I will tell you they are in for a hard time. The people may rise up a little bit here and there before they wait for the next election to kick them out. Mr. Speaker, I have voted against restrictions, against cutting our expenditures to the bone, and I think I have been justified with it, because the district that I come from, it has come a long way. But, Mr. Speaker, the other day when I saw 105 young men with trades walking off the shipyard, Mr. Speaker, I began to wonder if we could not or if we should not borrow a little further, if we should not tell the people the financial situation, to see if it was that bad that we could not, to build more draggers. Mr. Speaker, they were promised once twelve, and then in another election, I believe, it went up to twenty-four. They were told up until a few days ago, a few weeks ago, all was well at the yard. Is that levelling with the people? Mr. Speaker, this government knew as well as I did, and something else again, the people in the yard knew, they knew, and I am some glad that they did know, because it just goes to show how far we have advanced. And it goes to warn the people on that side of the House, warn the government, that the people know now what their rights are. It is just as well for them to come level, because they know it.

And, Mr. Speaker, Ottawa, the Prime Minister - what is it he says? Great expectations. Water and sewer today is not a great expectation. And living - what is the one? Is it living off the hog or on the hog the expression they use?

AN HON. MEMBER: On a hog.

MR. CANNING: Is it on a hog or off a hog or whatever it is, living on the hog. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, the people who I speak for, the people who I speak for, the people who put me in, the people who asked me to come back because they were not satisfied with what they had, they are not living off the hog or on the hog, whatever you call it. They are barely living now. They are having a pretty tough time with their budget. The people in St. Lawrence are having a pretty tough time with their budget. The people who were laid off the other day, the people

Mr. Canning.

who were told we are going to build this fleet of draggers - and, Mr. Speaker, by the way it was a good idea. I was delighted with it when I heard it. I agreed with it, because we need them, and we are going to need them if we are to survive. If the Southwest Coast is going to survive, we certainly should be building draggers in Marystown at this moment, because the production of the plants are down. Some of the plants are down fifty per cent, some of them less. If we are going to keep up our production and keep the people working, we are going to need more draggers. If we do not need draggers, and we do not get draggers, the Southwest Coast - if we do not save the fishery, there will be no Southwest Coast in a very short time. We will have to go elsewhere.

No, Mr. Speaker, we boast about our democracy, we make all sorts of promises during elections and tell the people, we are the people, put us in, we will do this. But I am telling both sides of this House to level with the people. And I will advise the official Opposition here, those young fellows here, to level with the people, not to criticize for the sake of criticizing, not to throw jabs across the House. The business of this House now is too serious for that. No, Mr. Speaker, we have to level with the people now. The government has to level with them now, and in the next session of this House - this one is pretty important - but in the next session of this House it may be more important, because

Mr. Canning:

I personally think that we may be worse off than we are. If we could get the questions answered because, Mr. Speaker, the very motion before the House is to give the financial situation. The government are not doing it. They are not answering the questions. One or two members already who got up in their seats and said they are not going to answer. Mr. Speaker, they do not know their duty. If they got up and said that we do not -

MR. HICKMAN: We have done that.

MR. CANNING: - level with the people and tell them the financial situation, that is what I am talking about!

AN HON. MEMBER: We have.

MR. CANNING: They have? He was asked was he going to answer. The guy got the answer, no. Mr. Speaker, that is not what they are here for.

No, Mr. Speaker, this is a serious job for any fellow who comes into this House. Any fellow who comes into the House for his own gains or the gains of his big brother or his younger brother or for how many contracts he is going to get, he should not be here. Newfoundland does not need him. Mr. Speaker, never before, I suppose, did Newfoundland need representatives, or never before was the onus, or for a long time any way - the onus was pretty heavy on us when we came in first into this poverty-stricken Province of ours, people down-trodden but they have risen, they have come up, they have come a long way. Mr. Speaker, I have seen my area come a long way, and I am some proud of it. I will be proud forever.

No, Mr. Speaker, I will say give it, give the financial situation and stop what we call talking politics - some times I wonder what it is, you say this fellow is talking politics. The sound of it and the way it is used is like if you were telling lies, politics are. Mr. Speaker, the best politics that this House can play now in those serious days, the serious days ahead of us, is none! Get down to business, and get into this House and stay into it and listen to people when they are talking. There are a few people out of it I would like to see here now, Mr. Speaker, they are not here. I hope they are



Mr. Canning:

listening because I can assure you that I am putting the people first in this House. Mr. Speaker, when I was over there I was loyal to my party, I did not break away. I was loyal to them, Mr. Speaker. But I will tell you this much, for the last five years here in this House that if we made any mistakes or if the government of the day - because I was not the government, I was a backbencher, Mr. Speaker, and that was one of the things that was used against me the last time, I was twenty-three years a backbencher. Mr. Speaker, I was a backbencher because I wanted to be one. I never asked to go into the Cabinet in my life. I never crashed any gates and got in to the Premier and said, you better get me in there because I am the salvation of Newfoundland. And I know, Mr. Speaker, there were men in there who should not have been in there. There were men in there that I could have done a better job if I had been there, but it was not my idea. I did not think I could last in the Cabinet, perhaps. I do not think I would have, it was not my make-up. I was in too much of a rush because I came - if I had been in St. John's, yes, if I had been in Grand Falls perhaps or Corner Brook I could have gone in the Cabinet and represented the people, but I was in such a rush to take the people of Placentia West out of poverty that the Cabinet did not worry me. I got along great with them, and I often advised them. Mr. Speaker, the district I represented did not show - was not a proof that you had to be a Cabinet minister. There were Cabinet ministers in next districts to me, and on all sides of me, on the two sides of the Bay, the two sides of the Peninsula, but I was the only one when I was finished up could say that I had full employment. The

MR. CANNING:

people have come a long way. We have paved roads, we are doing very well with the sewer, but, Mr. Speaker, I always came level with them. They were pretty patient when you tell them the truth. Mr. Speaker, I am going to warn the House this now. I have heard a few times, I heard thrown over at one fellow who even was not in the House this afternoon, what did you do or what did you do six years ago or something. Mr. Speaker, they need never throw it over at me because I can assure you this; if we made a mistake or if the government I was with or I followed or I represented, if they made mistakes I do not want this government to make the mistake. They got the advantage. Any mistake I am responsible for, and I am responsible for a few, I put a few white elephants out in Placentia Bay as the Minister of Fisheries will see when he gets around there, a few salt fish plants were never used. I made my mistakes, and the government made their mistakes. But if I am going to criticize the government in this House, which I am when I have to because it is my duty, then you would never say - do not point over at me and say, they make that mistake because if it is a mistake, if I cannot justify it, I will admit it. I spoke out very well when I was on that side of the House as a private member because I was for justice. I was brought up that way, Mr. Speaker, and I wanted to. That is a good tip to any young man in this House now if he wants to stay here. Do as I did. I did not come in because I was a Cabinet minister. I did not come in by degrees. I almost got one after I came back from overseas and went to university. I had another year to go. It is a record I am not ashamed of.

No, Mr. Speaker, I am here now for the next five years, and maybe my last five. I do not know. It just depends. I may come back again. And what I am going to do is my duty to this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I must inform the hon. gentleman that his time has expired.

MR. CANNING: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, because I am just about finished.

AN HON. MEMBER: By leave finish it.

MR. SPEAKER: By leave the hon. gentleman may continue.

MR. CANNING: Well I am here, Mr. Speaker, to do my duty and that I shall do, Sir, and I shall watch the clock more carefully the next time. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Is the House ready for the question on the amendment?

The hon. member for Fortune-Hermitage.

MR. J. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my congratulations, offer my congratulations to Your Honour on your appointment to the Chair. You have demonstrated the wisdom of this on every occasion and we welcome your steadying influence. If you can keep your head while about you are losing theirs in the scramble for exposure I and my colleagues will be very happy.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. J. WINSOR: It is not easy for a newcomer to this hon. House to stand and presume to have any influence on the current issues. However, the wise will listen and realize that even the least of us has something important to say. We are not all brainwashed and fed party policy, "Ours not to reason why/Ours but to do or die," as has been suggested. If we were not independent, positive-thinking individuals we would not have faced the fearful odds of attempting to win election over well established, well-backed Cabinet ministers and others not so well backed by experience in politics or financially. We do have a message and the message is this: "This House regrets the failure of the government to disclose completely and fully the present financial situation of this Province and the government thereof." I hope to bring before the House some of the reasons why we stand behind this amendment. In the midst of pressures from all sides the government of the day does not have the capacity to absorb and act upon the everyday issues and needs of the people. The Cabinet ministers can hardly travel all over the Province

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with any effective frequency, so they have a civil service behind them to give them all the information they need. But neither can the civil service travel quite that much. The other members

Mr. J. WINSOP:

the House can and do travel their districts with a much higher frequency. I am sure if we could correlate a select committee of these hon. members with impartiality from both sides of the House, you will get ideas and suggestions that the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) says are non-existent. We cannot wait until the next election to get the benefit of Liberal know-how in this.

Our main concern at this time is not partisan politics, and as I said we are not brainwashed, we are of one mind. That is why we stand solidly behind our leader who has demonstrated his ability as a leader and a very capable one at that. He travelled Hermitage district in the by-election of 1973 the hard way, by car, by small boat and on foot, some of that on pavement very thoughtfully provided by the P.C. Government which we are all very pleased with. He endured a mind-boggling trip to the Western shore, as we call it, to McCallum and Francois on our ferry boat, The Louise-Ruth, twenty tons. He thought after that trip that I was an ardent P.C. doing my very best to discourage any further campaigning by him. I am sure his doubts were resolved when I chaired Premier Moore's rally at Gaultois shortly after that. How partisan can you get.

I venture to state, Mr. Speaker, that any member of this House operating in the outlying districts with catch-as-catch-can transportation, having to cope with all sorts of emergencies and awkward situations would do precisely the same. This is not to let the government of the day off the hook. It is their responsibility to provide and maintain suitable, efficient and regular transportation, medical, social and municipal services to rural Newfoundland. I say that they are not too well organized in this department.

I, with the help of the late Hon. John T. Cheeseman and the Liberal government of the day, succeeded in having Gaultois incorporated as a town council. I was mayor from its incorporation in 1962 to 1972. That is politics at the grass roots level, for which I did not get paid. Despite dozens of requests to both the

MR. J. WINSOP:

Liberal government of the time and the P.C. government, Gaultois still does not have a water and sewer system after thirteen years. Water to the fish plant only! Where are the priorities? On water and sewer systems, on roads and road transportation? People travelling from my district have to pay exorbitant rates for taxi fares in emergencies. There is no bus system worth talking about. The coastal transportation system, the ferry boat so-called, calls twice a week if the weather is right. On dental and eye care clinics, on water transportation, my whole district from St. Bernard's to Gaultois has been seriously neglected in all of the above.

Mr. Speaker, I am talking to the amendment. I know that, and I digress a little bit, but it is only this way that I can point out where the money went, sort of. After listening to the hon. member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) I think I know where the money went. I think that Bay of Islands is a beautiful tourist area. I can assure everybody in this hon. House that Bay D'Espoir is also a beautiful tourist area, but rather seriously neglected in that department.

Another thing, how much was paid out for fishing gear losses on the Southwest Coast? That is a good question. I was told when I asked about this, you do not have any ice down there. Hallelujah! We have ice and we have storms. This is the only way we fare as well as the rest of Newfoundland, and we are on the go fishing twelve months of the year. This should be good for the economy of Newfoundland and our exports must do something for the balance of payments and the total Canadian economy. I am sure everybody here will realize that every fish taken out of the waters off Newfoundland, processed for export by Newfoundlanders means money coming into Canada.

Instead of cutting back on fisheries development to the tune of \$4 million, forget the original route of the arterial road and save enough by connecting up to the cross-town arterial. Put the money saved into fisheries development, water and sewer systems. Let us develop the rural areas. St. John's is a high employment area, or

MR. J. WINSOR:

so MIC tells us. Rural Newfoundland is not. Small enterprises employing ten, fifty or sixty people will be the savior of this land. If the people responsible for rural development would look around closely enough, they would find some projects in almost every neck of the woods that could really be productive. This is the name of the game. If our government is in trouble financially, we have got to get our production up. It is no good adding taxes, regressive taxes like the sales tax.

MR. J. WINSOR: I have three projects myself under review at the moment and I have not had much time really to look around at what real chances are for rural development and any other projects, and in time I could probably come up with three more. I am in favour of large industries if they can employ large numbers of people, or bring in large royalties, or both. I am not in favour of exploiting our natural resources for the benefit of big business or multi-national corporations. And I may say here, having been in the fisheries for twenty-four years, I know something about it and I view with concern the inroads that multi-national corporations have made into the fishing industry with little or no protection for local entrepreneurs and no sympathy for labour in this Province. In other industries as well they have given labour a rough time, mining, pulp and paper, I do not need to enlarge on these.

Mr. Speaker, in supporting the amendment to the Budget Speech, so ably defended by my colleague, proposed and defended by my colleague the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir, as well as a number of the hon. members of the Loyal Opposition, I feel that I am doing what I was sent here for as a representative of the district of Fortune-Hermitage, to present their views as I see them, of being ignored in their needs with the money going somewhere else all the time, and rural development on the South Coast, especially in Fortune Bay and Hermitage Bay, being cavalierly ignored over the years. Now the money is gone and they are being asked to pony up more, sales tax, more income tax, back up the fisheries development, wait for improved medical facilities, that their teeth decay, their eyes fail, put up with second class schools, no recreation programmes and so on, while the Norma and Gladys cruises around the Atlantic Ocean. They cannot even cruise on decent roads and the people of Gaultois and McCallam are expected to walk the water.

I walked Bay d'Espoir, right across it one time. It was in the winter. The water gets hard. The hon. Minister of Tourism suggested we broaden our horizons. The South Coast is a tourist mecca but getting there is a nightmare and finding accommodation a rude awakening.



MR. J. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, I doubt very much if the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications is aware of, number one, the hon. Premier's promise to the people of Gaultois in the 1973 by-election; two, that the people of Long Island are entitled to access to the Queen's Highway and toll free; that the people of Gaultois cannot walk across Hermitage Bay, unless it freezes up which it has not done in the last twenty-five years. That is the only time I know about. They want a ferry now and it is high time and we want an access, the same as everybody else. Only fifteen miles, mind you, and we have to get down on our knees and plead for it because of partisan politics.

One of the really viable little towns with a sound well-run industry, getting no breaks has never been favoured with a LIP project because there is nobody out of work.

Mr. Speaker, people from all parts of my district work there. They cannot get a road, they cannot get a ferry service to Hermitage, fourteen men having to travel across Hermitage Bay on a twenty ton boat to join their trawler every second or third day in the week. A fish plant having to transport forty to fifty school children on a trawler to Hermitage to attend a sports meet. The government has not spent much money there. Where did they spend it? Bay of Islands, I guess.

Mr. Speaker, someone said there should be more fishermen in the House. I think we are much better off by their being where they are, at least they are productive. They would rather have water puffs on their wrists and blisters on their posteriors, much rather. I hope that with the influx of new and young members from west of the overpass and our link of the future, Labrador, they can help dilute the east of the overpass mentality and bring the real Newfoundlander to sharper focus at this seat of government.

Mr. Speaker, I would like in finishing up a very brief little speech, I support the amendment as put by my colleague, the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir, which is in effect a non-confidence motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Exploits.

MR. MULROONEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak for a few minutes on the motion that this government has clearly not given the levelling facts to the people of Newfoundland, and I cannot sit here and watch the government argue against this motion without getting up and saying what I think of it. Mr. Speaker, since I got up and spoke last, in my district there have been a few things - not only in my district - which have come to my attention which again serves to strengthen the fact that the government has not disclosed everything to the people of Newfoundland, and apparently has no intentions of this moment of disclosing.

Mr. Speaker, if I may speak on my colleague's district of Windsor - Buchans for a moment, the hon. Minister of Mines and Energy would like to convey to the people of Newfoundland, especially to the people of Buchans, that Buchans is going to last until late 1985, when in effect, Mr. Speaker, there is apparently a report being compiled by the Buchans Labour Task Force which states that the mines will not last, not until 1979, which is the limit issued by the mines themselves and by the definite guarantees of the government, not until 1979, Mr. Speaker, but 1978, one year less. Mr. Speaker, if there is any truth in this fact that the mines of Buchans are going to close in 1978 why are the people being led to believe that there are enough resources there until 1985? There is a drastic difference in the time element. From 1978 to 1985 is seven years, seven years which can be done with planning. From 1975, practically the end of 1975, the coming of 1976 to 1978, leaves the people of Buchans only two years to plan their future. Now are the government actually telling the people of Buchans the true length of the mining industry there? The government says 1979; with the deposits around Buchans, 1985. I would contend that unless the government is planning to go in and take over the mines themselves that the present mining operation there has no further interest in Buchans after 1978. But the people of Buchans are not going to be told that, no. This economy

Mr. Mulrooney.

is already shaken up too much. Too many things are gone wrong already. We are plagued by strikes now. The people in the Central Newfoundland area right at this moment, in my own district of Exploits, are laid off, are out on strike because of a need to get higher wages, and the government realizes this problem. They are not going to come out now at this critical moment and state to the people of Buchans, "Sorry, we got bad news for you fellows, The mines are not going to last until 1985. They are not even going to last until 1979. They are going to last until 1978, if they are lucky."

Mr. Speaker, I have spent time in Buchans. I talked with the engineers. I talked with the surveyors. There is no one in Buchans that will tell you that the mines, the minerals around Buchans will keep that operation going until 1985. If you went and asked them that, they would laugh at you. And yet the government comes out and says, 1985. Fine, they will close down in 1978.

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, if I may, to a point of order; I do not think the government told anybody that the mine would last until 1985, Sir. You know, I think it should be put in its proper perspective.

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

At times certainly the Chair will be glad to hear argumentation and indeed at times will invite it, because I will feel that it is necessary to canvass opinions from different sides of the House. There are other matters which, in my opinion, at least, are pretty self-evident, and then I trust it will not be understood that I am being rude to hon. members if I do not hear argumentation. In my opinion there is no valid point of order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MULROONEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Now as I was saying, Mr. Speaker, if the people of Buchans are under false illusions from the government the only ones that are going to suffer are the people in Buchans, the people who believe or are led to believe that they have another seven years - another nine, I am sorry, another nine, from 1976 to 1985, another nine years to contemplate and plans their future. Where are they going to go? Where are they going to find another job? Mr. Speaker, these are things which the government should come out and be honest and tell the people now to give them a fighting chance. We have got enough welfare in this Province now without putting the town of Buchans on welfare.

The hon. member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy) stated that they have increased social assistant payments. I say they have increased the social service recipients.

MR. MURPHY: Wrong.

MR. MULROONEY: Look at the facts and statistics -

MR. MURPHY: Wrong.

MR. SPEAKER: Order!

MR. MURPHY: You cannot make charges like that.

MR. MULROONEY: Mr. Speaker, this government is getting up in this House and are offering -

SOME HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. MULROONEY: - nothing concrete. None of us have here in this House have got up and painted rosy pictures, even now talking about going up on hills and looking at the beauty of Newfoundland. I would suggest that they look over their shoulders and see the poverty of Newfoundland.

MR. MURPHY: I do not have poverty in my district.

MR. MULROONEY: If you do not have it in your district, I do in my district.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MURPHY: There is no poverty in Newfoundland.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. MULROONEY: Mr. Speaker, this is much too important an issue to let go unchallenged. People in Newfoundland who are looking for leadership. It is time to replace politics, personal difference, and get together -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MULROONEY: - and forge together for a better Newfoundland.

Mr. Speaker, again on the issue of not being completely level with the people. I question as to why the government has not taken a firm stand on the strike issue in Newfoundland when it affects so many of our people? It is fine for the opposite side to say, it is a federal matter, that the strikes are right across Newfoundland. What about B.C.? What about British Columbia? Are they not a Province of Canada? Then they have the nerve and courage to stand up and say, we will intervene. I am not saying that it is the right way to do it but at least take a stand, at least let the people know that the government is there representing them, and not be afraid. The government is ignoring its responsibility, Mr. Speaker. We have too many people out on an issue in which they firmly believe, and this government has not taken any steps to say where they stand.

Mr. Speaker, I heard talk about the fishing industry here in this House this afternoon, money being poured into it. As the hon. colleague over here said, I would like to know where it is going? Leading Tackles - a viable fishing industry there, if the government would give it consideration. But the hon. Minister of Fisheries sees fit just to laugh at Leading Tackles.

MR. CARTER: We did not laugh at it.

MR. MULROONEY: My apologies, Sir, if you were not. But Leading Tackles people feel very concerned over it. They have very few fishing facilities provided there. Why not? Again in reply to a question which was asked this afternoon by myself to the Minister of Health, who tried to evade the question,

MR. MULROONEY:

is the Botwood Cottage Hospital going to close or is it not going to close? All the people are looking for is a straightforward answer. And if it is, when? When? When is it going to close? Let the people know so that they can prepare, they can adjust themselves for the impact that it is going to have on them. But no, the government sees fit to set aside and wait until they see their time and then they throw it at the people. They do not go and ask the people. They do not go and consult the people. As I said, Mr. Speaker, it is much too serious a resolution to sit back and say nothing on it. The resolution: This House regrets the failure of the government to disclose completely - and completely is a big word, Mr. Speaker: not just part, not just pieces here and there at their convenience - completely disclose and fully present the financial situation of this Province and the government thereof.

If the government, in speaking of finances, if the government never had the finances, why did they tell the people of Point of Bay, we hereby grant you \$50,000 or the right to go and borrow \$50,000 and we will pay it back. The people did so on the faith of the government. They went and they negotiated a loan for \$50,000. This was told them before the election, October 31st. As far as their money went they did the water works. They put the water in their homes. On November 7th a telegram comes to them saying that the Cabinet has reviewed the position of the \$50,000 offered to you and hereby let you know that it has been cancelled. Now, who is going to assume the responsibility?

MR. ROWE: Cancelled?

MR. PECKFORD: You are treading on dangerous ground there now.

MR. MULROONEY: Deferred, maybe. Deferred, but when?

MR. MURPHY: Go tell him, Brian!

MR. MULROONEY: Where is the \$50,000? I know that the \$50,000 was told the people of Point of Bay that they could go and get \$50,000 and borrow.

MR. PECKFORD: We have just finished having a meeting on that and you can decide for yourself if you are breaking a confidence.

MR. MULROONEY: I feel I am breaking no confidence, Mr. Speaker. I feel I am breaking no confidence.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the time, near six o'clock, I request that the House be adjourned, the adjournment of the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman has adjourned the debate,

It being six of the clock I leave the Chair until eight this evening.

On motion the House adjourned until 8:00 p.m.

The House resumed at 8:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member for Exploits (Mr. Mulrooney).

MR. MULROONEY: Mr. Speaker, before I continue, I was trying to establish reasons why the people of Newfoundland have their confidence in this government shaken. As I have said before in speeches, it is a big man who cannot get up and admit that he has made a mistake or maybe it should be a small man.

Mr. Speaker, I was speaking on the money promised for the waterworks in Point of Bay. I said that the government had promised this money, and before I had a chance to clarify myself there were some interruptions, and I said that the money was cancelled. It is cancelled for this year. If the House would permit I would read the telegram which will maybe clarify the matter.

"Further to recent announced government cutbacks, you are hereby advised that the guaranteed bank loan of \$50,000 previously committed to your council for water systems will not be available this year." The money in effect has been cancelled for this year. I do not want to insinuate, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Municipal Affairs is not honouring his commitments. He stated to be briefly after the House was adjourned that the money would be guaranteed. The minister indeed has a reputation in this Province for being fair to the people of Newfoundland, and I do not want to -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MULROONEY: - insinuate here tonight-or this afternoon-that I have anything but respect for the hon. minister. I believe, in my opinion, that he is doing a good job, -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MULROONEY: - as well as the government will permit him. But, Mr. Speaker -

MR. RIDEOUT: There is a 'but' coming.

MR. MULROONEY: - when the government sees fit to issue money to the



MR. MULROONEY:

people and then have to curtail that money, I believe it is only justified to say that the people have reason to wonder, sit back and say to themselves, "Well, what is going on. We were told we have got the money. Now we get a message saying that it is deferred, curtailed. When will we get it? What is the government up to?" It is all the more reason, as I said, to have lack of confidence in the government.

As I was saying before, this money that was guaranteed to Point of Bay - the hon. minister has kindly pointed out that it will be in effect going into Point of Bay, and that quite pleased to see. That is guaranteed.

MR. PECKFORD: Could I have a moment to clarify that?

MR. ROWE: With leave, providing you continue on the topic.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister has leave? Yes.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, can I just have this clarified because there is certainly some confusion by the hon. member for it, Sir. The situation is if up to the time that they received the telegram the money had been expended on the project that was underway, well then the guarantee still holds. And the telegram went out as it did to a lot of places because of the restraint programme, and that if there were any monies, all the money or part of the money of the guarantee still there, well then that was frozen. But if in fact all the money had been spent at the time in which the telegram went out, then it was council's responsibility, obligation, duty on behalf of the people that they serve in that municipality to contract the Department of Municipal Affairs and say, "Gentlemen all the money has been expended on this. This telegram that we have just received is superfluous and irrelevant and is the guarantee still in effect?" We would go back and say, "Yes, if the money has been expended on the project, then the guarantee still stands. If however there is one cent or \$50,000 of the total, which is \$50,000, still there, then it is frozen until further notice and we review it again in the Spring."

MR. SMALLWOOD: If the money had been spent we would have honored it?

MR. PECKFORD: Exactly.

MR. MULROONEY: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for clarifying his point. I only wish that more ministers were concerned enough to get up and clarify and take a definite stand.

Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to flog this thing to death. I think that the -

MR. MURPHY: I may be wrong.

MR. MULROONEY: I admit that the point needed clarification, I have received the clarification which I thank the hon. minister for.

Mr. Speaker, this government has in the past made offers to the people which it cannot keep, has painted a false picture in this Province and as such, I believe it is only fair that the people have non-confidence in the government as I do. Thank you.

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

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I wish first to join my colleagues and offer my sincere congratulations to you, Sir, on being elevated to the position you are now holding. I wish also to congratulate the Deputy Speaker and the Chairman of Committees. Although I am not proud of the fact, no doubt at some time it will be of some dubious pride to me to be able to say that I was the first hon. member ruled out of order by his Honour. Judging from what I have seen this past two weeks I am sure I will not be the last. Being the first may be an honour.

Sir, I do not think it is possible to address oneself to this amendment without referring to the budget. We talk about relevancy, but one cannot, there is not way to discuss this amendment without referring to the budget. I fear very much, Sir, that if I am to be held accountable for relevancy, then I may as well stop talking now and wait for the budget.

Mr. Speaker, the gist of the budget is what concerns me the most. It is not the dollars and cents that are being asked for. I do not agree with the increase in S.S.A. that goes without saying. It is a very regressive tax, second only to the way school taxes are collected in this Province. I will not say any more about that because I assure

MR. FLIGHT:

you I intend to address myself to the collection of school tax and the financing of education in this Province at some later date in this hon. House.

But the gist - the dollars and cents mean nothing - it is a call to Newfoundlanders for retrenchment, a plea so desperate, Mr. Speaker, that it appeals to our very patriotism and that is a call and that is an appeal that Newfoundlanders will find very hard not to rise to. But I would remind this hon. House, Mr. Speaker, that that call has been evoked all too often in the past. It was evoked when this government wanted to convince the people of Newfoundland that the right thing to do was to buy out BRINCO. But I would submit to the hon. House through you, Mr. Speaker, that if the extending of our credit to buy out BRINCO, if that will mean that the Lower Churchill - Gull Island project will not go ahead because our credit is extended so far that we cannot get the monies to develop the Lower Churchill, or if it means that there must be a serious cutback in the social services of this Province, then I am afraid the plea to patriotism will wear very thin in this Province and it will be possible to go to that well too often.

Mr. Speaker, if I were representing a district that shared in the benefits that came as a result of doubling the national debt of this Province in four years, if I represented a district that shared in the benefits of causing a deficit of \$30 million in the current account, then I could very well look differently at this budget. But the reverse is true, Mr. Speaker. The district I represent did not contribute, did not at all contribute to doubling the national debt in this Province and it contributed very, very - in a very small way to the \$30 million deficit.

Let me give this hon. House, Mr. Speaker, a one dollar guided tour of my district. Windsor - the second incorporated town in Newfoundland next door to the great Grand Falls. For year after year after year, Mr. Speaker, the Town of Windsor has come to this government and has said, "We need help. We need funding to build an arterial road which would result in an industrial complex for Windsor." If ever there

was damnation placed on a government, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the hon. members opposite take the Patterson report and read it, read the per capita. Compare the incomes in Grand Falls to the incomes in Windsor to any other incomes in Newfoundland.

Mr. Flight:

Compare the real estate values in Windsor as compared to any other town in Newfoundland. This government have consistently withheld help. You know, the Minister of Rural Development has made on three or four occasions in this House to date, has tried to make it clear - that is a noble concept - but he has tried to make it clear that we, the government, will not tell people how to start industries. We will not provide them with ideas. You come to us, and tell us how to do this type of thing and then if it is a good idea, we will finance it or we will help you. Well, I want to tell the minister that the town of Windsor has come consistently for this last six years, and they have told this hon. House that you help us fund an arterial road, and Windsor may not have to come begging for the funds they need to extend the services in that town.

Recreation facilities: Windsor, my friends, Mr. Speaker, Windsor does not have any Arts and Culture Centres in which there is an indoor pool, heated and funded by the provincial government. Only three weeks ago Windsor had to lay off its municipal policemen, Mr. Speaker. The people of Windsor do not complain when their taxes go to standing constables, the Newfoundland Constabulary, on every corner of St. John's. But they think a lot when they say, "Well, why can we not afford two policemen?"

Retrenchment: Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that if you go to the town of Windsor, you will find out, and the hon. ministers opposite and the hon. members will find out what retrenchment means. Let me go to Buchans, Mr. Speaker, a mining town started in 1929 has had an annual payroll of around \$400 million since 1929, no social welfare, none at all. That town has contributed more to the economy of this Province than any other town in Newfoundland per capita.

MR. SMALLWOOD: What was that figure?

MR. FLIGHT: Four million dollars per year annually, payroll. A town with a payroll of \$4 million.

Mr. Flight:

Now let me throw this question out to this hon. House. Is there one member of this House on either side who can name me a town in Newfoundland today that in 1954 their population was 2,800 people and in 1975 the population is approximately 2,800 people with a \$4 million payroll, 600 full-time employees? What happened to the spinoff? I will tell you what happened to the spinoff, Mr. Speaker, because the governments of the past, and the government this past five years failed to recognize the needs. They did not meet their moral obligations to the people of that town. They took out, and they put nothing back. And as a result, the people, the men who had worked for forty years underground - you know, I heard the hon. member when he moved the Address in Reply. He suggested that one only gets out of life what one puts in. I agree. I wonder does the hon. member agree that putting eight hours a day, seven days a week, underground is putting a lot in? Does he not have the right when forty years of that has been done, that he should be able to live in a town that he contributed most of his life to? It is not so, Mr. Speaker. And it is not so, because the government of this Province has absolutely abdicated their moral responsibilities to 3,000 people in that town. And the monies that came out of that town, in both royalties and income tax or any other source, was spent to upgrade services in the rest of this Province. It was not spent for upgrading services in Buchans. And all of a sudden Buchans is well-known. Everybody knows about Buchans, only five more years to go.

And how did this Province or how did this government come to recognize that Buchans has social problems? It came as a result of two strikes, Mr. Speaker, one a strike with violence. And what did the government do? They appointed an industrial inquiry. Professor Howard Dyer was commissioned to do an industrial inquiry. And the terms of reference for that industrial inquiry, Mr. Speaker, was to, number one, ascertain what the life expectancy of the town of Buchans is, not the town - let us separate the life of the town from the life of the mines, because it is two different things that this government

Mr. Flight:

is going to well know over the next four years.

Number one, it took at least six months from the time the government said that they would bring about an industrial inquiry until the industrial inquiry was done. Number two, it took all sorts of pressure to get that Dyer report out of the hands of the government and into the hands of the people who were most concerned. And number three, the most important recommendation which was made by Professor Dyer was that a task force would be set up to look at the viability of Buchans remaining a viable town with a future, and where the people of Buchans could live in the event the mines closed.

Mr. Flight: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to dwell on what the potential for Buchans is. I just want to bring to the attention of this House when they talk about retrenchment when they talk about tightening their belt—what have happened for forty-six years in that town, and I want to tell the House and anything that I may say if it looks like it has been said in a tone of arrogance I guarantee that there is no arrogance. I respect every member in this House. I know what they are here for. I know what I am here for, Mr. Speaker, I am here to bring before this House the situation as I know it to have existed to this day. And when I hear an hon. minister stand up, Mr. Speaker, and say that he felt a sense of pride in watching the Norma and Gladys go out through the Narrows, Signal Hill, I say to him, Sir, the only sense of pride that existed that day was amongst the people who were standing on Signal Hill. There was no sense of pride amongst the mines in Buchans.

Mr. Speaker, \$150,000 would have gone a long way to finishing the artesian wells that were started in Buchans Junction. The sole government involvement in Buchans Junction this past twenty-five years have been to come in and drill three artesian wells, three of which are still dry, not a gallon of water poured through them, and it was left. That is a fact. That is a fact, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HICKEY: May I tell my hon. friend I need such wells for my own district.

MR. SPEAKER: Order.

MR. SMALLWOOD: The hon. member is making a good speech let us listen to him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT: Badger, Mr. Speaker — any hon. minister when I say something that is not right I will concede the Chair to any hon. minister. If I say something that has not happened in a certain time in my district, and it has, then I will concede the Chair and I will apologize if I am wrong. But I know as much about my district as any hon. member sitting in this House, Mr. Speaker, if I did not I would not be here or I should not be here.

Badger, Mr. Speaker, is a town that has got all of the potential in the world to grow. It is sitting right smack in the centre of



Mr. Flight:

Newfoundland, right smack on the Trans Canada Highway, all it wants to grow is some encouragement from the Government of Newfoundland, some help in developing some land so that if the people in Badger want to build houses can build houses. But that help has not been forthcoming, Sir.

We can get into a whole realm of things here, too. We talk about encouraging our towns to grow. Well it is encouragement, Mr. Speaker, when the children in Badger are bused from Badger to Grand Falls - no schools whatsoever. If this were a town of, you know, twenty-five or thirty families or a town that had no economic or viable future I could probably go along with busing, but we are guaranteeing the social decline of Badger by - and there has been representation made to the Department of Education. The people from Badger have met with the Department of Education, practically, not everyone, but practically denominational group in Badger have at one time come to the Department of Education and asked that schools be built in Badger. Well, Mr. Speaker, now I am asking this hon. House why there is not some thought given to building schools in Badger instead of busing their children twenty miles over the Trans-Canada Highway.

MR. ROUSE: The Department of Education do not build schools.

MR. FLIGHT: The Department of Education do not build schools but the Department of Education withholds grants to school boards - and supplies the money.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. FLIGHT: Then who -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I do not care what the Department of Education does, I know who the people in Badger are blaming for not having any schools in Badger.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about priorities. You know, anybody in this hon. House remember Pearson's Peak? Do you remember the great cries of anguish that went out around Newfoundland that the administration was wasting by the building of Pearson's Peak, I think it was \$40,000, the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) can advise me if I am

Mr. Flight:

right or wrong, \$40,000. Money being wasted. I was surprised, I could not believe my ears a few days ago when the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) stood in this House and congratulated the government for the way they handled the 25th Anniversary of Confederation celebrations. Amazed! \$2.5 million, Mr. Speaker.

MR. FLIGHT: Is there an hon. member in this House who can stand up and show me something materialistic that stands today in Newfoundland as a result of the \$2.5 million expenditure for the 25th. Anniversary of Confederation celebrations, one hon. minister can stand up and show me something that exists in Newfoundland today that if some tourist when they come across the Gulf next Spring, or some Newfoundlander who wants to be reminded we have indeed passed our twenty-five year centennial, is there one obstacle in Newfoundland today to prove that, one?

MR. SMALLWOOD: You mean one object.

MR. FLIGHT: One object, yes. The only thing, Mr. Speaker, that I know that stands today as proof or as a monument to our 25th. Anniversary of Confederation celebrations is the extended waistlines of some of the politicians who spent the summer at banquets celebrating our twenty-fifth year anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine, Sir, the cries, the wails that would have went out across this Island if the administration that built Pearson's Peak, that commissioned Pearson's Peak, would have commissioned the Norma and Gladys? Can you imagine in view of what - and there are hon. ministers present who took part in the thing. Can you imagine the wails that would have went out across the Province if the government that had commissioned Pearson's Peak, but at least it is there, we can see it. The crows can pitch on it. I have seen twenty tourists lined up there taking pictures. At least it proves it to the people who drive by it that you are now halfway from St. John's to Port aux Basques. It is serving some purpose. What is in this Island to serve any purpose as a result of our twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations and again can you imagine the cries that would have went over this Island, the lamenting that we would have heard if the administration that had commissioned Pearson's Peak had commissioned the 25th. Anniversary of Confederation celebrations or had commissioned the Norma and Gladys.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to take advantage of my forty-five minutes. I am going to sit down now, much to the pleasure of some of the hon. gentlemen. But, Sir, I would say this, that I will vote for this amendment. I voted against the amendment to the amendment

MR. FLIGHT: for the simple reason, Sir, as I sat there I wonder, my God we have been entrenched.

The hon. member for Kilbride, I want to address myself to him for a minute, Sir. If you have any problem, if this hon. government has got any problem in convincing the people of Newfoundland what retrenchment means, if the districts in the city of St. John's or any district in Newfoundland has got any problem understanding what retrenchment means, then I suggest to you, Sir, take my district and hold it up and say, "Okay! This is what we mean by retrenchment, live the way that this district has lived this past twenty years. Do not ask for any more than they have asked for or do not take any more than they have taken or do not expect to receive any more than they have received." And I guarantee the minister that he will have all the retrenchment he needs. I guarantee you, Sir, the capital account, you will not spend a dollar on capital account and doubt if you will have a deficit. But I can also doubt if Newfoundland will accept you or accept that. However, that is an example that is the best way I can look at retrenchment. And Sir, I will vote against retrenchment and I will vote for the amendment, I will vote against the budget because to do so, to vote for the budget or vote against the amendment I would simply be perpetrating the status quo on the people of my district and, Sir, that I have no intention of doing. Thank you.

SOME DN. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Is the House ready for the question on the amendment?

The hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I hope that I am afforded the same privileges as to other members. I was hoping to delay my talk a little while because I have got a severe case of laryngitis. But I did want to speak to this amendment and to just give myself a chance to hear myself to see how I feel and to let the adrenalin stabilize itself, I want to make a few introductory remarks.

I would like to

MR. LUSH:

congratulate the Speaker on his elevation to that most prestigious position in the House of Assembly. I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker and of course the Chairman of Committees, the hon. member from Bonavista North and as he should realize the district of Bonavista North is very close to my heart. The next group of people I would like to congratulate is a little bit against my character because it is not in line with my character to really single out people, but I would really like to congratulate all the Bonavista Baymen who got elected and I do believe that there are at least five in the House, the hon. member from Twillingate and the Minister of Transportation and Communications, I think, is a Bonavista Bayman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. LUSH: I believe the Minister of Fisheries as well.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. LUSH: And of course the hon. member for Bonavista North and is there somebody else? But at least there is -

MR. ROWE: St. John's Centre.

MR. LUSH: St. John's Centre - there are at least five. The next statement I am about to make, Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that I can prove it irrevocably or unequivocally, but I believe that I am the first 'lush' to be elected to the House of Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MURPHY: That is not so. That is not so. That is not so.

MR. LUSH: Is it not?

MR. MURPHY: That is not so.

MR. LUSH: Well, as I said, I did not think I could prove it unequivocally. Mr. Speaker, I represent the new district of Terra Nova. The district of Terra Nova, of course, is a combination of the two historic districts of Bonavista North and Bonavista South. I am indeed privileged to represent that great district, the district that is represented by a very historic name in Newfoundland, a very appropriate name, the district of Terra Nova. I hope that I can give that district good representation and it is my

intention to be a good member for the district of Terra Nova and indeed a good member for the Province of Newfoundland.

AN HON. MEMBER: And Labrador.

MR. LUSH: And Labrador. I do have to - I have to apologize for that. Having lived in Labrador for five years, I have great affection for Labrador but I must say that I have got to force myself to attach that Labrador part to it and in all due respect to the hon. minister I will try and do that.

MR. SMALLWOOD: It is a Liberal name, Newfoundland and Labrador.

MR. LUSH: That is right. Mr. Speaker, in addressing myself to this amendment, this is the kind of amendment where a person making his first speech has to make a great effort to be very diplomatic so as not to be too negative and far be it from me to be negative. Immediately upon hearing the budget speech I was struck by the phrase that something is rotten in the state of Denmark. Also, I thought that the minister must have had the words from the pop song that was current a couple of years ago in his mind when he was writing up the budget, "Yesterday all my troubles seemed so far away." And then of course, "Yesterday came suddenly." One would believe that inflation came like a thief in the night, that it came like a sudden gust of wind, it came with the suddenness and rapidity of a tornado. Now, Mr. Speaker, did it really happen that way? Did inflation really come with such suddenness and with such rapidity? My answer, Mr. Speaker, is no. There were definite signs on the horizon that our economy was heading for troubled times. Did not all those enlightened hon. men on the other side of the House recognize those signs? If they did it would appear that they did very little about it.

Last Spring the administration brought down a record budget, no

Mr. LUSP:

signs of difficulty, no signs of trouble, nothing to indicate that there was anything wrong with the ship of state, not the tiniest leak, not the tiniest list in this ship. The ship was sailing upright. Everything was perfect, no increase in taxes. Newfoundland people were led to believe that our economy was in good order.

Mr. Speaker, at this point in time that state of affairs does not sound credible or plausible. Many people in the private sector knew what was happening. This is substantiated by the number of contracts negotiated in the public service. The Finance Minister mentioned that one of the causes of the deficit in our budget was the increases in salary. He indicated that there was no way in telling that the people in the public service would ask for such high salaries, such high increases.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that that sort of a statement suggests the complete lack of sensitivity of this government to the real needs of the people. I think the people of this Province were feeling the effects of inflation, and the people in the public service were negotiating for high increases because they knew what was coming, and they, Sir, I would suggest, had great insight. They began to ask for high increases because they knew what the situation was.

I refer specifically to the teachers' negotiations with which I am very familiar. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the government knew what the teachers were asking for very early in December of last year, which was good time, I think, before the budget. The government knew what it was that the teachers were asking for, and they knew precisely that that far exceeded the figure which they finally settled on. Now, Mr. Speaker, far be it from me to suggest that the government knew what was happening in other sectors of the public service. I can only speak for the profession with which I am familiar.

I want to point out again that certainly if the government were sensitive, if they were close to the people, they knew what was happening. They knew the kinds of demands that the people in the public

MR. LUSH:

service would be making on government, and teachers were no exception. Well, despite these signs, Mr. Speaker, despite these signs the government seems not to have done anything about inflation. It just stood still. It just came out with a record budget that I would say, Mr. Speaker, disillusioned the people of Newfoundland, a budget that made the people of Newfoundland think everything was okay.

This administration, Sir, went on a spending spree, an extravaganza trip and choose to have an election before telling the people what the situation was. It would appear that after September 16, the bottom fell out of the economy of Newfoundland. On September 16, the bottom just fell out -

MR. MURPHY: At 8:15 P.M.

MR. LUSH: At 8:15 P.M. the ship of state was torpedoed, we were gone. That is strange, Sir, strange indeed. No talks prior to September 16 about the trouble at the oil refinery at Come By Chance, no talks of delaying the Lower Churchill - and I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that that again is a topic that is very close to my heart having worked in the Churchill Falls for five years. My family was the sixth family to move on site. I was



Mr. Lush:

there from the beginning to the finish. I am looking forward to the debate on the Lower Churchill, and I have some great recollections about what happened in Churchill, and I think - you know, there are so many people in Newfoundland - as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, excuse me for digressing for just a moment, but it was my experience in Churchill Falls that really brought me into politics, and I want to go into that later. But my five years there, when I saw what was happening, when I saw what was happening to Newfoundland, and that is not to make any disparaging remarks but any form of government is quite outside that sort of thing, because I think Churchill Falls was one of the greatest developments that ever will take place in Newfoundland history.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH: And I am glad that I was there, there for five years, as I say from start to finish. I well remember the time I was not there. I think it was just two months before I arrived there that I remember the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood), at the sod turning ceremony, when he uttered the words that he was going to turn this very unusual, this very unique sod. Sir, I do not know what kind of a sod it was, but that is what he said it was, an unusual and a unique sod.

MR. SMALLWOOD: It was a mile or two away.

MR. LUSH: I spent five years there. I am very delighted to have been there. Unfortunately, I did not see the opening though, but I remember it very well. I did the company the great honour of working overtime for them on their, what they call, their nerve centre.

Well, Sir, anyway, before September 16, there were no talks of delaying the Lower Churchill, no talk of rising taxes. Sir, nobody in their right mind expected the government to go to the people almost in a state of semi-bankruptcy. Nobody expected that.

Mr. Lush.

The most naive person would not suggest that the government would go to the people that way. Sir, I suggest that there is a time in Newfoundland, the time is ripe, to fight an election on the basis of integrity and responsibility. I believe the time is coming when we got to level with the people of Newfoundland. I think, as politicians, we got to be very straightforward with our people. I think politicians, of all political colours, we have disillusioned the people of Newfoundland. We talked about, in the budget speech, about the rising expectations of Newfoundlanders. There is nothing wrong with that. But I believe, as politicians, that we have done more than we should to rising, to causing these expectations to rise. We have gone out and we have made promises to them. We have made promises that we could not fulfill, on both sides, Mr. Speaker, and I believe that is wrong. I think we got to level with the people of Newfoundland and tell them what a politician's job is, what government is all about, and I think the longer we carry on this thing of making promises to people, the longer we can expect the people of Newfoundland to look at politicians in the way they do. It is most surprising to me, Mr. Speaker, this man coming from a profession that was generally respected by the general public to find the most ridiculous kinds of remarks to a politician. It caused me to wonder why I had entered the field of politics at all. And I believe it is the responsibility of all members in this hon. House to elevate the position of a politician.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH: Sir, it does not come about by going to people making promises that we cannot commit. But it does come about to helping people genuinely, helping people to solve their problems, bringing the needs of the district before the House and, Mr. Speaker, that is what I hope I can do. For fourteen years as a school teacher I tried to impress upon my students the dignity, the job of a politician. And, Mr. Speaker, I hope that I can illustrate that dignity by example.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned about the roof caving in on September 16.

Mr. Lush:

The next thing, of course, the obvious question is, does one blame this government for inflation? Does one blame this present administration for the circumstances that we now find ourselves in? I am tempted to say that a government that takes credit for the rain must also take responsibility for the drought. But that is a little too severe, Mr. Speaker.

There are points, there are things - and certainly this- that are out of control of our Provincial Government, but there are also things within our control. I should think that if the government were sensitive to the economic developments in 1974 and 1975 they would have eased the burden that is now imposed upon Newfoundlanders. Sir, we find ourselves in this immediately being confronted with two taxes. I did not get an opportunity to speak to these taxes. Under normal circumstances one might have been inclined to support the income tax which, as the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) said, is a most equitable tax. Certainly nobody can disagree with that, a most equitable tax. But certainly, Sir, a thing that aggravates me, the thing that disappoints me, the thing that annoyed me was that we had two taxes imposed simultaneously on Newfoundland, and that I could not agree with. And I would suggest had the government back last year in the last budget spread themselves out a little thinner probably this step would not have been necessary.

Sir, as a result of these two tax increases I do not think that the Newfoundland people are about ready to affectionately embrace the present administration. Over the past year, Sir, it would indicate that the present administration seem to be unaware or unconcerned about the ship of state, whichever it was it does not matter. Sensitivity was lacking, responsibility was lacking. Sir, let us look at some of the areas where we could have been a little more thrifty. There is the situation of the Norma and Gladys, or is it the Glady and Normas?

AN HON. MEMBER: The Norma and Gladys.

MR. LUSH: The Norma and Gladys or Gladys and Norma whatever it is.

I do not want to elaborate too much on that, Sir, That has already

Mr. Lush:

been talked about, and, you know, once mentioned is enough. But here again, Sir, we all heard about this, the ill-fated voyage. It is too bad that it did not make it, because it now confirms what a lot of people believed. And I just hope that the situation that the Newfoundland Arts Council is handled better than this situation.

Sir, there was the celebration of twenty-five years in Confederation already alluded to by my hon. colleague. And I am not one, Sir, who is against celebrations, I am not one against honouring certain occasions, I believe in that. But, Sir, at a time of economic depression, at a time of economic scarcity I think this could have been delayed. Why I am up to the stage now, Sir, where I cannot celebrate my wedding anniversary every year, I make it every five. You know, the finances are so bad, I make it every five. What difference does it make? We could have gone thirty years. We could have saved that money. Mr. Speaker, we could have saved money in the public service and this administration with all of the assistants to the assistants, and the deputies to the deputies, whatever, you know, it is a lot of money, Sir. And again I am not against efficiency. If we need these people for efficiency we have to have them, but I think the question has to be asked, do we need all of these people for efficiency? Do we need them? If we do that is fine. But, Sir, I am not sure, I am not sure.

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, we are faced with an austere budget. Things are going to be rough. I think it was brought on by a lack of sensitivity to what was happening. I think the affairs of this Province could be managed a little better with a little more effective leadership and a little more understanding. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I have to support the motion, the amendment to the motion. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MP. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, a few words on this amendment. First of all I guess I will be remiss if I do not follow in the lines of the previous speakers in this same debate in congratulating you, Sir, on your elevation as the Speaker of this Assembly. I am confident that you will be adding much to the decorum of this House of Assembly over previous years in your rulings.

I am not going to single out any individual member of the legislature except perhaps one, and just welcome all the new members to the House who were not here the last session and to congratulate all those newly elected members and the ones who were returned to this Assembly. I will say, Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me to be able to take part in debates of a man I have always had great respect for. Some of my colleagues never met the man until they came to this Assembly now. The first time I saw him was many years ago when I was living on Flat Islands in Bonavista Bay and he came around in a boat campaigning. That was back in the early 1950's.

Mr. Speaker, since that day, although we have had, naturally, differences of opinion, publicly and otherwise, respect for that man I will always have and I think the history books will always remember him as a great Newfoundlander. Of course, I am talking about the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MP. MORGAN: Now, Mr. Speaker, I have listened very attentively for the past number of speeches made in this Chamber on this very debate. I am beginning to wonder, Mr. Speaker, if we are debating the Throne

Mr. MORGAN:

Speech or a very important document, the budget. This is not the time to stand in this Assembly and talk about your problems in your district. We are, Mr. Speaker, facing very challenging times in this Province, challenging times. This little Province of Newfoundland and Labrador is caught up in an inflationary spiral which has caught all the Western World, all the Western World. If you travel through any part of Canada today, any part of Canada - just two weeks ago I was in New Brunswick. Across the front page of the weekend paper, "The Province of New Brunswick, Economic Crisis". The same in Nova Scotia, in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, today in Manitoba, Manitoba itself, the province was estimating in their budget for a \$6 million surplus. Mr. Speaker, the situation now is they have a \$30 million deficit in Manitoba. We have, Mr. Speaker, a situation in Canada, our great nation, our great nation of opportunity and progress and development - what do we have today? - a 10 per cent inflation figure, an 8 per cent unemployment figure and zero growth in the gross national product. Does that not tell you something, Mr. Speaker? Does it not tell us something?

Here in Newfoundland we have a 12.5 per cent inflationary figure. We have less than 1 per cent, almost 1 per cent growth in the provincial product, and unfortunately 18.5 per cent unemployment. These figures and facts, Mr. Speaker, clearly indicate that we are in very, very challenging times.

MR. MORGAN: We must have co-operation and co-ordination of the business world, of governments, plural, not just government, governments, and the labour unions. We must have the co-ordinated co-operation from all these groups together in order for us in this Province to survive economically. But on top of that, Mr. Speaker, unless we have the co-operation of politicians, and it really made me cringe in my chair when I was listening to those speeches over the past two or three days to hear the partisan views, standing in this debate to make political points, to try to score political points at the government as if the political campaign was still on.

Mr. Speaker, it really hurt. Because unless we have the co-operation of all of us in this Chamber, irrespective of political stripe, unless we have the co-operation by working together, we are not going to survive economically. We must overcome a problem that we have in this little Province. We are the victims of inflation. We did not create inflation. It was not a half a million people even though we had a \$1 billion budget in the early Spring. It was not Newfoundland created the inflationary problems we have. We are victims of inflation, and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased when on October 13th. the Prime Minister of this country, and it was not an election day, 8:15 P.M. or 8:30 P.M., it was on October 13th. the Prime Minister of this country realized, when here we were, Mr. Speaker, with a Prime Minister who could swallow his pride and he indeed had to swallow his pride because he scorned and shamed price and wage controls less than eighteen months ago, scorned them, would not look at the, tore them apart, scorned them every day in the election campaign but shortly after, Mr. Speaker, eighteen months after he had to swallow his pride and when a Prime Minister of a country has to swallow his pride in such a way throughout the nation, it must show something, Mr. Speaker. It shows that this country is in a desperate situation, desperate straits.

That is why this government is not being partisan. We did not come out and condemn the federal anti-inflation programme. We could have. We could have scored beautiful political points, condemn them, but no, no, we are making every co-ordinated effort possible. The reason why,

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, is that he wanted to make sure that the anti-inflationary programme works and the measures and guidelines brought in by the federal government must work. It must work for the sake of our great country. But unfortunately, and I say unfortunately, it seems that the opposition we are finding across the country from the labour unions and the labour union movements, that their opposition is questioning the possible success of the anti-inflationary measures and that to me, as a Newfoundlander and as a Canadian, is very unfortunately.

All we want, Mr. Speaker, is to see some kind of a halt to inflation. As Canadians we all want to see that, surely we do. We know it is impossible to wipe out inflation in one year. It cannot be done. But at least we could have a reduction from ten per cent maybe down to seven or seven and a half or eight per cent even, just to see some kind of a trend that inflation is halted in 1976. That is all we want to see. And as a Province, as a Province we had to take measures to make sure that we are going to aid in every way possible the federal government. Unfortunately the price and wage controls, or the wage control guidelines and the anti-inflation guidelines are not very specific with regards to their control of prices. But we are not condemning the federal government for that. We are hoping they will come up soon, very soon, with some kind of measures or methods that they will be able to control prices in Canada, prices in Newfoundland.

The unfortunate thing is that since the Prime Minister's announcement on October 13th, is the fact that prices, and I feel this has been happening, have been spiraling, because everybody is expecting the prices to be frozen but they are not frozen, so between the time the announcement was made by the Prime Minister and now during the past number of weeks, prices have been spiraling upward. And that is unfortunate, like I said before, based on the fact that the federal government did not have a measure or a method or a means of controlling prices before they announced their programme.



MR. MORGAN: I see the supermarket chains across Canada have shown some kind of leadership. In fact, I commend them. I commend them, Mr. Sneaker, for at least putting a freeze on their prices of food articles in their stores. Whether it is a PR job is a question mark,

MR. MORGAN:

but at least they are showing some leadership and saying we are not, we are going to freeze our prices for the next eight weeks. Practically all the major chains across the country are doing this. I am hoping as well that the shipping companies, the transportation companies, Canadian National Railways and others will also show leadership in the same regard and halt their proposed increases in freight rates. Whether that is going to happen or not, I am not too confident it will, but if they do not do that surely the anti-inflation commission or the anti-inflation board will be controlling any proposed increase in freight rates, especially in the Atlantic region of Canada.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I suppose it is impossible when you are involved in a debate of this kind, that if debate becomes partisan that you have to defend and to defend you have to be partisan in defending. I did not want this debate to be a partisan debate but now I have to be partisan myself. I have listened to the members of the -

MR. SMALLWOOD: It would strengthen the hon. member's argument if he were not.

MR. MORGAN: I am only going to be partisan to a point, Mr. Speaker, to a point, and that is that in listening to the debates and listening to the responsible politicians, the men who have experience in politics, and I am talking about the Leader of the Opposition, in one case, and the hon. gentleman from Twillingate, from listening to the colleagues of the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I am confused, I am confused because practically every member who spoke was demanding some kind of service. They were demanding a service, whether it be a ferry service or a road or water and sewer or artesian wells, but they were demanding for us to spend, spend, spend. The Leader of the Opposition stood and said, borrow, borrow, borrow every cent we can get our hands on. I quote from a quotation he made and it was carried quite well to the local papers, the Province was to develop or perish, borrow every cent we can was the quotation from the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

So we are going to borrow, Mr. Speaker, they want us to borrow,

borrow, borrow on one hand - spend, spend, spend on the other hand and in the middle here, do not raise the taxes. Mr. Speaker, can this hon. House, can we all stand, stop and realize what is going to happen to our economy if we have not got taxes and if we spend, spend, spend and borrow, borrow, borrow, when this year, as the hon. gentleman from Twillingate pointed out, we have already and right now and it is bad, but at least it is under control now - an \$11 million deficit, \$11 million. It is \$11 million too much. Sure it is. They do not want taxes. They vote against taxes but they want services. They want us to spend and spend and spend and borrow, borrow, borrow. What do they want, Mr. Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROUSSEAU: Jim, they were going to pave the roads in three years. How much does that cost? \$600 million?

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, like I mentioned before I have to be partisan because in defending you have to be partisan. The members of the Opposition, they talked about promises, promises, promises. Mr. Speaker, the most irresponsible promise ever made in this election was made on one little platform, three major promises; we will bring back mothers' allowances, not only bring them back but increase them - the Liberal Opposition; we will abolish the school taxes in the Province and take it from the general revenue; and we will pave all the roads in this Province in three years. Three years, Mr. Speaker!

MR. ROUSSEAU: How much would that cost?

MR. MORGAN: That would cost, Mr. Speaker, \$325 million to be spent in three years.

MR. ROUSSEAU: No, no, it cannot be. What, that much?

MR. MORGAN: Then, all the major roads, \$325 million.

MR. PECKFORD: And they said they made no promises.

MR. ROUSSEAU: They got their own printing press.

MR. PECKFORD: No promises, they made no promises!

Mr. Morgan:

Mr. Speaker, I can say -

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please!

MR. MORGAN: - and I can say it sincerely: Thank God the Official Opposition did not become government!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROUSSEAU: 'Jim' you are kidding, you are not quoting him right, three years to pave all the roads in this Province?

MR. MORGAN: Three years.

MR. ROUSSEAU: That is not correct.

MR. MORGAN: Three years.

MR. ROUSSEAU: That is not correct.

MR. MORGAN: Three years.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I do not believe that. No they are not that irresponsible.

AN HON. MEMBER: Impossible.

AN HON. MEMBER: You would not do that would you?

MR. MORGAN: Now, Mr. Speaker -

MR. ROUSSEAU: Oh my! \$300 million.

MR. MORGAN: The hon. gentlemen have been asking, and they are asking in this amendment -

MR. SMALLWOOD: You are going to borrow that much next year, you know.

MR. ROUSSEAU: No, no, no, no, no.

MR. SMALLWOOD: The year after next you will be over the \$300 million.

MR. ROUSSEAU: \$285 million to pave the roads for three years and they promised that! I do not believe it. I do not believe it.

MR. MORGAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MORGAN: Now, Mr. Speaker, -

MR. ROUSSEAU: They were misquoted. They were misquoted.

MR. MORGAN: - in this amendment the Opposition is complaining about the fact that we are not disclosing information, we are not disclosing information. And this is the reason why they brought in this amendment

Mr. Morgan:

to the Budget Speech. And I listened attentively to the first speech made in this debate, it was made by the hon. gentleman who now is the Official - he is elevated to the point and to the position of being the official spokesman on financial matters in the Official Opposition. He is elevated. He is a great expert on finance. And he stands in this Assembly and he talks about the fact that this government should have known, should have known that we were not going to get the \$15 million that we did not get from the equalization payment. In other words, the hon. Minister of Finance was going to sit here in Confederation Building, in this very building here, and with a crystal ball was going to tell us, all of us on the government side, that Ontario was going to reduce their taxes, Quebec was going to reduce their taxes, Alberta was going to reduce their taxes. That was all within the crystal ball, because that, Mr. Speaker, were the three major points, reduction of taxes in these three provinces had a major effect on equalization payments coming into this Province, a major effect.

But the hon. member from Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir, unfortunately he is not here tonight, he was of the opinion that the Finance Minister must - he had to know all of this, he should have known all of this. He should have known all of this last Spring, in his budget last Spring.

MR. ROUSSEAU: He is the next leader of the Opposition.

MR. MORGAN: And then he talked about the fact that - and I also heard the hon. gentleman, and my colleague from Bonavista Bay

tonight when he said that, I think I can quote him correctly, he said that government should have been in their sensitivity towards the people, should have been able to read the demands of the people because of the inflationary aspects in the Province. Mr. Speaker, we budgeted for 18 per cent increase for the teachers and the civil servants, 18 per cent - end up paying 25 per cent. Surely 18 per cent is a reasonable figure to budget it on. The hon. gentleman shakes his head. But the fact is, Mr. Speaker, that we did have to settle inflationary agreements in 1975 over and above our budget, and it cost the taxpayers in this case \$20 million extra in

Mr. Morgan:

the 1975 budget, \$20 million.

Now this information is the kind of information that the Minister of Finance could no way have at his hand in March 1975. He just could not have it. He could not have the figures on equalization payments, number one, and he could not have the settlement figures with regards to setting up agreements in the Province. He just could not have these two major figures. Now that is information that could not be disclosed in March 1975. And, Mr. Speaker, what is puzzling me and what is bothering me is that I do not think there are many speakers who spoke in this debate who have fully realized, and fully recognized what this budget is doing. Why do we in 1975, in the Fall of 1975 have to bring in a budget to tax our people? Why do we have to retrench in our spending? I do not want to lose my hospital in Bonavista. I do not want to see the hospital not built in Clarendville or Burin Peninsula, and I take strong exception to this afternoon when some hon. gentleman was speaking and he mentioned the fact that someone over here was scorning the fact that there was no hospital going into Burin. Mr. Speaker, all of us want to see the hospital built in Burin. It was this government which

MR. MORGAN:

started to build a hospital, that have the plans now ready for construction. It was this government here that built the hospital in Bonavista. We waited for what, twenty-three years in Bonavista for a new hospital. We now have a first phase already constructed. Over \$2 million spent to date. It was started in 1972. And the plans are now being finalized for Clarendville.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Fantastic work by the member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, we want to keep on doing the things that the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) I am sure when he stands in this debate - and I heard him and listened, I listened very, very attentively to his speeches - and when he stands in this debate and says that he wants to see retrenchment, retrenchment, retrenchment, he must say it, I know, with a hurt in his heart. Because he knows what services mean to Newfoundlanders, people living in the rural parts of Newfoundland and in fact even in the urban centers as well, water and sewer and paved roads and recreational facilities, no matter what it may be. He knows. He was there long enough to know what it means to supply services, what services mean to these people. When he stands in this debate and says we must retrench and retrench and cut back and cut back heavily, I know he is saying it with a, like I mentioned, a hurt in his heart because he is saying it without meaning it, maybe, on one hand, but on the other hand he knows and he recognizes and realizes - the only member to date in this debate that I have seen and heard and listened to who is realizing what we are fighting for - we are fighting for the economic survival of this Province.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Right.

MR. MORGAN: We are not fighting for our districts. We are not fighting for something in Buchans or down in Gaultois or McCallum. We are fighting for Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROUSSEAU: And the Labrador part too.

MR. SMALLWOOD: If we are not, we should be.

MR. MORGAN: That includes Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROUSSEAU: You want to know why it includes Labrador?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SMALLWOOD: I would not go into the 'why'. That might be partisan.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, did people realize in 1974 or back

in 1972 that in the year 1975 that we would have a loss of 293,000

man-days in this Province, 293,000 man-days lost, a loss of productivity

in this Province compared to 84,000 in 1974. I think there was

something like 50,000 in 1973 and it went down from there. Two

hundred and ninety-three thousand man-days lost in 1975. Mr. Speaker,

we cannot carry on in that manner in this Province. We must have -

I will not condemn the labour union movement, no - but we must have

responsible labour union movements in this Province to recognize

what we can afford as a government to spend on labour, as a Province.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Not as a government, as a Province.

MR. MORGAN: As a Province. As a Province. And I heard of the

speakers talking about the splurging and the spending of money.

Well, I am proud to say, on behalf of my predecessor, the hon. gentleman

from Labrador (Mr. Rousseau), my predecessors but more so my

predecessor in the past number of months, that in my department that

the budget for capital spending was \$68 million and we spent \$67.7

million. There was no splurging over and above the estimates

approved in this Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MORGAN: There was no splurging. The only additions in my department

was \$1.3 million for salaries, \$1.3 million alone, an increase in the

votes for salaries. That is where the money went in my department.

Not on splurging on paving or reconstructing of roads. That was

not the case.

MR. MURPHY: How much do you plan to spend in St. John's Centre?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MORGAN: \$5 million.

MR. MURPHY: And fifty cents.



MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, all joking aside, in 1962 this Province had a budget of \$100 million, in 1962 when the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) was the Premier of the Province, \$100 million in 1962. In 1975-1976, last Spring, we had a \$1 billion, the first one ever for this Province, \$1 billion. Can anyone of us in this Assembly, can we deny the kind of services, the kind of standards of life that Newfoundlanders deserve to have, what they want and hope to get.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Deserve, but can we afford it.

MR. MORGAN: But, Mr. Speaker, they deserve these services. We were spending money last year for these services.

Mr. Morgan:

But now comes the time, there comes a time in the history of this Province when we have to retrench, and retrench with me is a dirty word, because it means that we cannot supply the hospitals we need and should supply. We cannot supply the new schools. We cannot supply the roads, the reconstructing and paving of roads. We cannot supply the water and sewer projects. We cannot supply the playgrounds and recreational facilities and the stadiums. We cannot do these things. We have to cut back, and we are doing it. We are doing it much to the disappointment and much to the annoyance of all of us on this side of the House of Assembly, but we know and we realize it has to be done. For the sake of Newfoundland it has to be done.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Would the hon. minister allow? This dirty word 'retrenchment', does he not know a dirtier one? What is the dirtier word than 'retrenchment'?

AN HON. MEMBER: Insolvent.

MR. SMALLWOOD: What?

AN HON. MEMBER: Insolvent.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Yes, that is the word.

MR. MORGAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I know what the hon. gentleman is hinting at, and he is the only member in this debate so far who stood on his feet and expressed, not only in his words, but in his expression of feeling that what we are facing, as Newfoundlanders. And then to listen to the people standing in this Assembly and talking about districts, the little things needed here, the little things needed there, no matter what it may be. Sure, we all know their needs in the districts. I have many, many needs in my district, but right now we are talking about not district level problems, we are talking about the general, overall problem of this Province, a problem that we must overcome, and as a government we are showing leadership in doing it. We are showing leadership in doing it, and

Mr. Morgan.

Mr. Speaker, hopefully, we will overcome it. Like I mentioned earlier, we need the co-operation of all the members of this Assembly. Over the past three or four years, this administration has been as sensitive, I guess, as any government in the Province. The hon. the Premier was sensitive as well - and delegations came in looking for water and sewer, delegations coming in looking for a paved road -

DR. FARRELL: A hospital.

MR. MORGAN: - or a hospital. The hon. gentleman was sensitive. We were sensitive. Nobody can say that the Progressive Conservative administration was not sensitive towards the needs of the people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MORGAN: For example, we spent \$174 million for roads alone in the past number of years.

MR. ROBERTS: All provincial?

MR. MORGAN: Forty-five million dollars - all provincial, \$45 million in 1972-1973; \$35 million in 1973-1974; \$42 million 1974-1975 and this year \$40 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MORGAN: - a total of \$174 million for roads, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: Part of it in Topsail too.

MR. MORGAN: And \$55 million for water and sewer projects, and my colleague, the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs, can confirm this - \$55 million for water and sewer. And, Mr. Speaker, we have not been insensitive to the needs of our people, and we are not being inhuman now in retrenching. People who do not understand, and unfortunately we have many in this Chamber who obviously do not understand, and if we have them here as leaders of the Province, and we are all leaders, legislators, politicians, but leaders in the Province, and if we do not understand, as leaders, how can we expect our constituents to understand what we are talking about? What we are talking about is we are talking about retrenchment. How can we expect

Mr. Morgan:

them to understand down in -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Twillingate.

MR. MORGAN: - in Burin. I will use Burin first.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Twillingate District. How can that make them understand?

MR. ROUSSEAU : There has been more paving and more roads put down there than in any year in the last couple of years -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Never mind the past - now, what they want now.

MR. MORGAN: How can we expect them to understand, Mr. Speaker, if we do not understand ourselves? And, Mr. Speaker, Newfoundlanders are going to have to

MR. MORGAN: wake up to the reality of the times that we are now in, and the tough times we are now in, and the challenging times we are now in, We must not carry on in a dream world. Newfoundlanders must recognize our serious economic times, and that maybe not too bad an idea because unfortunately, I think, it was mentioned by my colleague from Terra Nova, many politicians, yes, are guilty of helping raise the expectations of the voters, of our constituents. We are all guilty, I think, of that. And having them realize and face the bare facts of our economic problem we are now in today in this Province, I think it is a good thing for our people in Newfoundland, awoken to reality of our times, tough times.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, when I was growing up in a little place in Flat Islands in Bonavista Bay, I know what it would mean if they turned the radio on and heard an increase in taxes of two per cent in S.S.A., especially to a fisherman who earned maybe \$1,000 that year. I know what it means. At those times, years ago when I was a boy, Newfoundlanders then had a better sense of values than they have now, because now they practically totally depend on government. It is give me this and give me that and give me this and give me that. Maybe it is wrong to hit our own countrymen, but let us face the facts, let us tell it as it is. It is time that our people awakened to reality and started to help themselves. You can go back to the situation where people grew their own vegetables, had their own gardens. For example, we see it happening now where the Department of Agriculture has established these plots for growing vegetables, very, very successfully, that kind of trend to get back to helping themselves, whether it be raising pigs or hens or cows or growing a few vegetables, helping themselves that way. But Newfoundlanders are not going to be able to come back to that realism of what they must sacrifice and they must sacrifice, Mr. Speaker. We all have to sacrifice. This Province has to sacrifice. And if we do not sacrifice, Mr. Speaker, if we do not try to get our house in order, and if inflation is not halted on the federal level, and there is no

MR. MORGAN: guarantee it will be, this little Province of half a million people will be continually hit and hit hard as a victim of inflation. And we cannot afford not to show leadership. And this is what we are doing as an administration right now. We are showing leadership. We are showing leadership and the only responsible response so far has come from the, I will call them a splinter group, I guess, in the opposition, in the House of Assembly, the hon. member for Twillingate and his group of four. Not from the official Opposition. The official Opposition has shown complete irresponsibility, complete irresponsibility and that is unfortunate because at this time in our history, at this time as an administration I sincerely was hoping and sincerely hope, and I do now, that partisan politics be cast aside and that we combine our efforts. And by combining efforts, politicians, all of us together and getting a co-ordinated effort, a spirit of co-operation from the business world and from the labour union movement in this Province, that we will come out of our economic slump and proceed on to be a very proud Province one of these years in the great Confederation of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to speak at this time. However there have been a number of matters raised that I feel we should comment on and I am sure other members over here will probably do so in reference to some of the remarks made by the members on this side and those opposite and I will be very brief, Mr. Speaker.

First of all I would like to congratulate you, Sir, and also the Speaker for this House on the

MR. NOLAN:

positions that you have been elected to. I need hardly say that we expect and we will get, and this has been demonstrated already, just marvellous leadership, I feel, from you. I would also like to congratulate all of the members of the House of Assembly whether they are newly elected, whether they were here before or not, all of them have been elected in the districts that they now represent and I for one certainly wish them well.

We have heard a number of references in the past little while, Mr. Speaker, to partisanship and nonpartisanship. It seems that everyone gets up and wants to talk and everyone has the best interests of Newfoundland at heart and they do not want to be partisan and so on. I believe it was my hon. friend who went into the definition of partisanship a little while ago here in this House with strong convictions. But I do feel that, and I do not know why so many people always seem to be by their very utterances apologizing for it, and that is we must not be political. Well, if we are not political, what are we doing here? I hear this, by the way, from people who were out in the field in, say, perhaps elected to municipal councils or perhaps on the federal scene, you know, I am not or we are not political. Well, what are they in it for if they are not political. Why go around apologizing?

Now this is something perhaps that I should elaborate on a little more because maybe all of us are beginning to be a little ashamed of what we are in. And if we are we have certainly got to start asking some questions of ourselves. For example, I cannot help thinking Mr. Speaker, as I look across the House to see my hon. friend who used to represent St. John's West federally who is now the member for St. Mary's - The Capes as he looks on here having served in the larger political arena in Ottawa and what he thinks of this. I notice during the session so far, apart from responding to questions, that he sat back and noted carefully I would think the goings on here in the House of Assembly and I am sure he cannot help but compare it to the Ottawa

MR. NOLAN:

scene and also the way questions were asked and how various things were handled there. It will be interesting to hear, and I am sure he will comment on this later on, Mr. Speaker.

I must touch on something here that to me seems to be very, very important and that is the references all of a sudden to the - I believe our friend from Bonavista, the Minister of Transport just referred to this - and that is the address back in October, I believe it was, by the Prime Minister of Canada on the need for cutbacks and so on throughout Canada. But I also think, and I cannot ignore this, Mr. Speaker, that in the district that I am here to represent, that during the election period when as our hon. friend, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, is very, very familiar, a \$2.5 million water and sewer system was promised, that they must have known - you did not need Pierre Elliot Trudeau to tell you this place was practically bankrupt, surely God!

MR. PECKFORD: There was no promise during the election. That was the part of the capital works programme for 1975-76.

MR. NOLAN: 1975-76

MR. PECKFORD: That was long before the election.

MR. NOLAN: Long before the election, right, okay, fine, fine. But I could take you, or could then, to a huge sign reaching up to the galleries pointing to this as one of the items that was going to be done during the election out there in the district. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, I beseech you, that during that election in Chamberlains, there are ladies out there now - and they are not all Liberals - They were P.C.s and good supporters of the P.C. administration, P.C. Party for years and years - who actually believed that the water and sewer system would be installed in their houses by October past! I am not lying to you!



Mr. Nolan:

There were men there measuring off the road up to the fences, and getting guestimates of how much it would cost to get the bloody line, pardon my expression, Mr. Speaker, from the fence into the house. I am stating a fact. Now I am not saying that the hon. minister did this or I am not even saying that he was directly responsible. I am not, please believe me. But I am saying this; we have heard in the last little while from the hon. member from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) that we have to cut, cut, cut and so on, and he is right. The question we have here is, how far do we go, and which way - is it not? - no matter what side of the House we are on. But we have to start considering now, Mr. Speaker, with some of the cynicism that I see in this Province people saying, what difference does it make whether I elect you as a Liberal or a Tory or a P.C. or a N.D.P., what difference does it make to me, you are all alike. I mean that is what is being said, I am not being partisan. You know this is being said. I suggest to you that this is being said and it has been said to every single member in this House at one time or another. And I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, or through you when I say with great fervour that politicians are their own worst enemies. You are cutting each others throats no matter what side of the House you are on, but by so doing I honestly believe, Mr. Speaker, that we are out to destroy the very system we are trying to protect. Sure we are in trouble financially, nationally, provincially, of course, we have difficulties, no doubt about it, but none of us can turn our backs on it. I plead guilty, and I have not been in this House for the last five years, to helping to raise the expectations of many people during the time I was in, and prior to that as a citizen, as one who participated in political affairs with youth groups and so on. Of course I did. We are all products of our environment. And I felt with my background in the period we were going through say in the last twenty years that we were really on the way up. And we were, who can deny it? But were not all of us here to some extent responsible, for example,

Mr. Nolan:

to the disillusionment with, every child must attend Memorial University or he is a failure in this life. I mean we may not have said it in those words, but we have contributed to it. Liberals contributed to it, I can attest to that. Now if the P.C.'s feel that they can deny it, fine, but I do not think that honest members of this House, and all of them are, of course, will try or attempt such a thing.

Now I do not think that this was done in an effort to deceive. I honestly do not think that. It was done with the utmost good will with the feeling that we want the best for the young people of this Province, in many cases I know families that wanted something, and still do, better for their children than they themselves had. And now we find that they are turning to vocational training. And why not? Why should not a plumber and an electrician and a carpenter be recognized and paid properly? Why should they not be able to hold their heads up in the society in which we live? Why should they not be here in this House of Assembly, incidentally? Why not?

And on the cutback we have from the federal government, and I say this as a Liberal, think for a moment of what is happening to labour. We have criticized them. One hon. member made some references to the desires of labour recently here. If you were a labour leader, and remember you are elected, hopefully, to lead 100 or 200 or 1,000 or 5,000 men and women in any profession or professions, and the Prime Minister of Canada or the Prime Minister of Newfoundland, or anyone else, whether he be Liberal or Tory, came out with a programme that would affect everyone in Canada, and the first one you nail, literally, are those who are employed generally in the labour force, what would you say?

MR. NOLAN:

What would you do? I mean, if as our hon. friend from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) says that the gentle rain falls on the just and the unjust alike, let us think about it for a moment. Unless - and I do not want this programme to fail, God knows, Mr. Speaker. Who does in their right mind? We are not just talking about what is going to happen to us here as members of the House of Assembly or Newfoundland. We are talking about not only perhaps Canada. We are talking about something much bigger than that, and it is time we grew up and started thinking about it.

I do not think the people in my district, Mr. Speaker, with great respect, are one bit interested in listening to the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) or the hon. member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) or to the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) calling each other names in this House, not a bit interested in listening to me attempting to score points at their expense, not yours or mine. I submit this is not the name of the game and cannot be in this session because there is a lot of cynicism out there right now, a lot of it. There are a lot of people who think we are all in bed with each other, we are out to protect ourselves in here and we are out to protect our own interests. In some ways, can you blame them?

What is the point of listening to a radio broadcast tomorrow morning which might say how the hon. member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) or the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) told each other off and scored debating points back and forth. Now I am not hoping, by the way, that this Assembly will turn into a very staid, dull debating forum. If, God help us. That is not the name of the game. Sometimes when I hear people getting too upset about the way things happen in this House, I sometimes wonder if they have ever followed the debates, for example, in what sometimes is referred to as the mother of parliament in Great Britain or to watch what happens in Ontario, in - what do you call it -

MR. ROBERTS: Queen's Park.

MR. NOLAN: Queen's Park, exactly. Thank you. Or even in New

MR. NOLAN:

Brunswick and so on. We are not all that bad here, we are not in many ways. Or in the House of Commons, as I am sure our hon. friend knows, in Ottawa. But we do have, in my opinion, a credibility factor here. All of us are going to pay the price one way or the other if we do not watch out because right now you have a situation, I submit to you, where people are looking to us for some kind of leadership.

When we ask for retrenchment, when we ask for cutbacks, when we are seeking the co-operation of the citizens generally, when people on this side, for example, attempt to ask for the co-operation of those on this side over here and vice versa, people are looking saying, well what are you going to do. People want to be shown. You know, are you asking me to cutback, for my family to go without and so on, but you are willing to do nothing? Are you taking the approach in that House of Assembly, Mr. Speaker, do not do as I do, so as I say? Are we attempting, consciously or unconsciously, to leave the impression with people that we are more important than they are because we are in here? We are here only because enough people said yes on September 16 or whatever the day was, that this one shall go and another one or two or three will not go.

Now, we are here and we are in a very, very difficult time in Newfoundland's history. I would like very much to perhaps even come on and challenge some of the statements made by the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) that we should cut, cut, cut. Well, all right. But, how far back can we go? How far can we cut, as the member, I believe, for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) was referring to.

MR. MORGAN: What should we do? Borrow, borrow, borrow?

MR. NOLAN: I suggest that we need to borrow, borrow, borrow what we need to serve the people of this Province in the way that a good sensible, thoughtful, conscientious administration would like to do it. That is what I am saying.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MORGAN: Borrow, borrow, borrow!

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, if you would only use Beauchesne to spear

MR. NOLAN:

'Jaws' from Bonavista I would appreciate it because he really is, Mr. Speaker, attempting to upset at times. I do not mind in my case because I have been battered around verbally before, but

MR. NOLAN: I do not like to see hon. members who are making, for example, their maiden speech continually harassed. This is not the type of thing that we do normally in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to go on to great length at this time except to say that we are now all being judged here and we are going to be judged and watched very, very carefully in the weeks and months ahead. I think you may find, before very, very long in this Province, that people are not going to be looking at you and judging whether you are a Tory or a Liberal or an NDPer, They are going to be looking at you in terms of what are you prepared to do, what stand do you take on the various issues that are going to come before this House, and other matters that may come up for public consideration when this House is not in session. And we better start thinking about it now. If because we think that we can destroy each other over matters, and willing to destroy the Province or a part of the Province as a result, sure, you may win the battle but you will lose the war. And whether you or I lose it is not really important. What is important is that many innocent families who cannot help themselves are going to lose with us. That is the thing we have to think about.

I heard someone say, I believe today, that there is no poverty anymore in Newfoundland. I believe it was the hon. the member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy). I would like to take issue with that but then again let me say this, what is poverty any more I ask?

MR. MURPHY: If you were hungry -

MR. NOLAN: Well there may be people hungry but it may be from neglect. That is item one. I fervently believe that -

MR. MURPHY: The federal government says that poverty is \$8,500 a year plus one plus two.

MR. NOLAN: Yes, I was going to mention a figure that I heard of something like \$7,000.

MR. MURPHY: Not many lived on Circular Road twenty years ago with that income.

MR. NOLAN: That is right! That is right! The hon. member from St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy) is perfectly right, of course.

But what are we looking at right now? What kind of sacrifices are we really talking about? Could I mention just one thing here to try to

MR. NOLAN:

make my point? We have over the last, say, twenty years or so spent, I am sure, many millions of dollars in terms of providing recreational facilities of one kind or another either in schools, part of schools, stadia and so on, and so therefore you might feel, unless you thought about it and looked into it for a moment, that because we provided these facilities we have more physical fitness directors and so on and so on. You might very well feel that therefore children today - boys and girls - are in better physical shape or condition that they ever were before, but the reverse is true. What is happening today in spite of the money that is being spent - and I am not arguing who spent it. It was the people's money - but the fact is, that the hon. member, say for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy) was in better physical condition when he - and I am not trying to be funny here, I am deadly serious -

MR. MURPHY: I guarantee I was whenever it was.

MR. NOLAN: The hon. member was always a modest fellow.

But anyway, the fact is that the hon. member had to walk to school, he had to walk back from school. If he went to church he had to walk, and walk back. Wherever he went he walked, and this is true of almost every hon. member in this House. But this is no more, to a large extent now. Now you are driven to school by bus or private car, you are driven home from school. In many cases where boys and girls are skating early in the morning they are driven to skating and they are driven back, they are driven to ballet, they are driven to dancing classes, driven home and so on. So the result, as I understand it, and the information came to me from a physical fitness teacher, one who is well versed in it for one of the largest school boards in this Province, he tells me that there is real difficulty now in getting boys and girls, I understand - and I am subject to correction on this, of course - to pass the reasonable standards, whatever the standards might be -

AN HON. MEMBER: That is correct.

MR. NOLAN: Is that correct?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: That is correct.

MR. NOLAN: If this is so where have we gone wrong? Here we are, we are heaving out money, no matter what administration is doing it, and we have to say that the boys and girls of the Province of Newfoundland are

possibly in worse physical shape than ever before.

MR. MURPHY: Eleven million dollars in school buses.

MR. NOLAN: School buses. And the other point, of course, in reference to school buses is this,



Mr. Nolan:

that when they are in school, they cannot stay after school, to participate in gym, as I am sure hon. members know. They cannot stay, because they are going to miss the bus. The teachers cannot discipline them and keep them in after school, as they did with all of us, because they will miss the bus.

MR. ROUSSEAU: They do not want to join the programmes anyway.

MR. NOLAN: And they do not want to -

MR. ROUSSEAU: They do not want to join the programmes anyway.

MR. NOLAN: Well, that is quite possible, quite possible.

Of course, the other very, very important thing, and that is as I am sure my hon. friend who is a medical doctor of course will know, is what is happening to us physically as a result of (1) what we are eating. We may be very well spending public money and buying the food or whatever we are shoving into us at the moment. What are we eating? What are we doing? And I am not suggesting that everyone go off on a health food kick, incidentally. But I am suggesting that we got to rethink everything that we are in right now, and we cannot say that this applies to the people outside the House unless we are willing to take a look at ourselves in here. We have got to get away from the idea, Mr. Speaker, that we are preaching, that the hon. member said today, and the hon. minister said today, unless we are willing to say or admit that we may very well be wrong in the direction in which we are going, either in the district we represent, in the advice that we offer in the House of Assembly on any given programme. We have got to face up to a situation that we are being watched very closely, by students in school, by parents.

So this is the situation. And it is no good for the hon. member for Bonavista, with great respect, to try to suggest that every time we say something over here on this side, no matter who it

Mr. Nolan:

is, that we are not patriotic, that we do not care about Newfoundland, we do not care about Canada, we do not care about our districts and so on, and every time he or any other member on that side utters a few words of wisdom, you know, that they are ready to go over the top to die for the Province, and we are all a bunch of slackers over here. Cut it out, Mr. Speaker, I suggest. Who do you think you are kidding?

MR. ROUSSEAU: You are making a good speech. Do not spoil it.

MR. NOLAN: I am not trying to con my hon. friend.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SMALLWOOD: Another kiss of death?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: I cannot help, by the way, while I am on my feet - I hope the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) will forgive me, and all hon. members - if I take a moment to say, that as I sat here since the day the House opened, I have been dumbfounded. I mean this House, if you will forgive the expression, Mr. Speaker, is a sort of a mixed bag if you go back five years or six years when I sat over there, and I watched the repartee, I listen now to members on that side, you know, standing up and saying, we must be responsible, we cannot say things that will jeopardize the financial position of this Province in the markets and so on and so on. Fine! But I heard this before, when some of the hon. members who are now over there, and some who are not there at the moment were over here. And I remember, if you will forgive me, the little fellow from Gambo, pleading on more than one occasion to certain people, you know, will you please try to understand the negotiations were presently going through and so on and so on and try to at least be, not conservative, but a little tolerant of the situation, watch what is being said, because you could jeopardize very, very delicate negotiations that are now going on in connection with the refinery or with a new bond issue we were attempting to raise and so on, and so I think perhaps hon. members may, who were either inside or outside of the House, who I am sure were very interested

Mr. Nolan:

in the goings on, politically, at that time will understand, and I am sure will sometimes marvel at the new stance perhaps of the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) and how he can sometimes sit back and listen. And I do not mean when every member over there says these things, because some of them were not here and did not say it and may not have wished to at that time. But there were things said that one does not forget, and you could not help after all if you were directly involved, but it was an interesting period to follow, to see, and to see now people that I know opposite very well, who were friends of mine, who used to wring their hands in anguish, both publicly and privately and say, John, do you

MR. NOLAN:

realize how badly off this Province is financially? This was six years ago. I would say, yes. Now the same hon. gentlemen are giving me every reason in the world why she should go further in the hole than she really is at the moment, I mean if you look at your borrowing programme and so on in the last five years. So, I do not know - sometimes in politics I get a bit worried about it all because I sometimes think that some people have to have someone to hate. I really do. I sometimes think that politics in Newfoundland has replaced what used to be religious bigotry. You have got to hate someone for some reason whether they be Liberal or Tory.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. NOLAN: So maybe I am wrong. I have meandered a little I know, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for your indulgence and I hope that perhaps the next time I get up I can take a little while to concentrate as perhaps I should now on some of the things in the district that I represent, and I certainly intend to do that. But, I mean, like all of you, I mean I want to be a good member. I really do. I want to be a good member of the House of Assembly and I am sure everyone here does too, no matter whether he is from the bay or wherever he is from.

AN HON. MEMBER: Do not knock the bay!

MR. NOLAN: Pardon?

AN HON. MEMBER: Do not scarn the bay!

MR. NOLAN: No, I only mentioned that because there was some reference to it earlier by other hon. members. I would be very honoured to be from the bay. As a matter of fact, the hon. member may be willing to admit that all Newfoundlanders were not born in St. John's.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. NOLAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to deprecate in any way the speeches that have been made in both the debate on the sub-amendment and the debate on the amendment. Most of them have been excellent indeed,

MR. MARSHALL:

not the least of which have been the last two speeches made by the hon. the member for Conception Bay South and the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications. Similarly, the maiden speeches that have been made by the members of this House certainly do pay credit to this Assembly and were certainly excellent speeches by the persons concerned. Notwithstanding that, Mr. Speaker, I rise for, in effect, the second time as I am allowed to having spoke in the sub-amendment, because I feel constrained or forced to observe that despite the excellent speeches that are made there is somewhat of an air of unreality, as far as I am concerned, and apparent lack of appreciation by, not all members, but by certain members or probably the majority of the members that I have heard, or this is what appears to my ears anyway, of the true and actual situation with which this Province is faced at the present time.

Now I do not intend to repeat verbatim the words that were stated when I was speaking to the sub-amendment but I have heard nothing myself to change one iota of the points that I made at the particular time. However I do rise to talk about a couple of items that I have heard that I think to be major misconceptions, basic misunderstandings, lack of appreciation that have been mooted about in the debates that have occurred in connection with this Budget Speech. The first one is what appears to be the impression that has been voiced to the effect that it is necessary to balance our budget, and I do not think that anyone can really quarrel with that. But the item that we need to balance, we are told, is the current account and the great aim has to be the balancing of our current account. That for quite a period of time in this Province appears to be the situation whether or the impression whether it is born out of necessity

MR. MARSHALL: or born out of some other reason I do not know which, that it is taken as given, and this is erroneous, that we have done our job and we have balanced our budget and we have enough revenue coming, either from sources of taxation or from the federal government or from revenues of any source coming into the Province to meet our current account. We appear to ignore the necessity of providing for repayment of our capital account. We have, except with one shining exception, this administration has turned its attention to it and have provided or attempted to provide in its budget for contributions towards capital accounts. But these contributions, as they were estimated, were only drops in the bucket and we were really not able to meet the particular situation.

The point I am trying to make, Mr. Speaker, is that a government is really no different than an individual, and just as every year an individual has to provide for his current expenses, if we could equate them to food and clothing, say, so the individual has to provide for his shelter, if he happens to have a mortgage on his house, as most people have, you have to provide the monies to pay at least part of that mortgage. And that is the situation I think quite clearly and that this Province is faced with at the present time. We have a huge mortgage on the fabric of this Province, on this country of ours which has been represented by the capital borrowings. We seem to be content every year in aiming towards paying the interest, that interest by the way which will now amount to between, just guesstimating between \$100 million and \$110 million in the very near future, on interest alone without any provision whatsoever with respect to the capital part of the budget and we continue on.

MP. SMALLWOOD: Would the hon. gentleman permit? Is it not approximately \$100 million a year for the whole service of the debt, that is interest and sinking fund for the debt as at the end of the present financial year, approximately \$100 million a year?

MR. MARSHALL: Well it is eighty-odd millions now, Mr. Speaker, and I just in addressing I look at the Consolidated Fund Services and the debenture debt, we are talking about the outstanding debt, Canada Pension

MR. MARSHALL: Plan, Government of Canada, now I am not quite sure whether that includes sinking fund or not, I am believe it is really -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Yes, I think so.

MR. MARSHALL: - the outstanding debt.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I think it does. It is the full service of the debt.

MR. MARSHALL: The amount of monies that are going in, Mr. Speaker, towards the debt, towards the capital part is really in effect negligible, because much of the borrowing that has been done. We have each year now to borrow \$200 million in order to keep the place afloat. Now we cannot - regardless of what is going in, the borrowings are ascending. And I am not concerned myself, I stand on this side of the House, and I am not concerned, as I said before, I do not think we can be concerned with who caused it, I have my ideas of who caused it. I think the majority of the people of Newfoundland have the idea of who caused it, but I do not think that most people are really too concerned. Most people really are not concerned about the debt really, and those who are concerned with it are only really concerned with what we are going to do about it and that is what this **Assembly** has to concern itself with.

So we each year then are mounting an increasing amount that is going into the capital account and all we are doing is we are just meeting the current account payments. We are just meeting-in effect the only thing that is really going to capital account is mainly interest, primarily interest, because we are talking about \$80 million and a very, very small amount that is not enough really for our satisfaction to service the debt because the capital account is continuing.

We talk about solutions that have to be considered, I think it is a crisis in this Province, I think there is a financial crisis. And I think that it is a matter that transcends party politics completely, that it is a matter that has to concern each and every member of this House and each and every member of the general public

Mr. Marshall:

so that we have to enquire into how we are going to meet this situation? With interest amounting every year, Mr. Speaker, with interest amounting year we cannot continue to go on. It has now become - it was probably a theoretical consideration before where unlimited supplies of money and interest would be paid and it would not hurt the general public, but now we are at a situation where \$100 million is going to be paid next year just to service past debts. And we are told, and it has to be so, that there are less monies available for services and for education and for other programmes, and this must necessarily be. So we have to do something about it or else we are going to be choked ourselves in the morass of our own debt.

Now what exactly the first thing - as I say I am not going to go into the matters that I mentioned before - but all I am talking about now is this basic misconception that we have done our job if we have balanced our budget by balancing our current account. We need to do that, yes, surely, but we need to do so much more. And just as an individual who had a long-term debt would pay it off over twenty-five years, say, I think that this Province has got to set itself, set some particular goal with respect to the repayment of the capital borrowings in this Province. For an individual twenty-five years seems to be the normal. I do not know what it would be for the Province. It would depend upon this debt which is an astronomical debt. Maybe we need to take seventy-five years, maybe we need to take longer, I do not know. But certainly I think the debt has to be consolidated, and I think we have to look to the fact that each and every year in addition to paying off the interest which is, in effect, all we are doing now that we have to start paying off some of the capital.

So that is one misconception, Mr. Speaker. That is one very, very basic misconception. That you balance the current account and you have done your job. And that is a very, very dangerous theory and



Mr. Marshall:

one that I say has led to the present situation.

Another misconception that I heard mooted around the Chamber that I feel constrained I have to mention is the one that was really championed by the Leader of the Opposition to the effect that we must borrow to our limit, we must borrow to our limit in order to provide services. I do not believe that, Mr. Speaker, that we can afford to continue to borrow to our limit in this Province because the necessary result of borrowing to our limit is the services that are absolutely and of dire necessity to our people in the not too distant future will not be able to be provided because of the choking interest on the debt. We are getting to the stage if you review the estimates now, we are getting to the stage we are almost on interest alone paying between 20 per cent and 25 per cent - now I am just pulling figures out of the air as I remember them, and I do not divide without a pencil and paper that easily - but it is somewhere between 20 per cent and 25 per cent of the provincial revenue, of the revenue we are generating ourselves, and if there is one thing that this short session, or this session before Christmas should do, it is to bring to the attention of the people of this Province which is the first and necessary prerequisite the dire situation, the financial crisis in which we find ourselves so that they will get behind us when we take the measures that have to be taken, and the government is taking some of these measures right now, that have to be taken in order to exercise leadership and control the situation.

It is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that at the present stage you cannot get up and talk about a mini budget after three-quarters of the year is past and expect huge, gigantic cuts to be made of some of the kinds that are mentioned. It is even

MR. MARSHALL:

obvious, I suggest, because of the pre-commitment of certain programmes that next year there may have to be more borrowings that may be wise and may be prudently desirable. But I think we have to set our goals, that in the immediate future we have to set a course. I would much prefer, and I think that this government, the Progressive Conservative Government, is much more competent and capable and it is much more appropriate that it do it, that this particular government set a course for the next fifty years so that we can - fifty years or so, here again I take a figure - to provide for the repayment of this debt.

Obviously we cannot pay it off in one year or two years. But if we are going to stick our heads in the sand like ostriches and just forget that the capital account is building every year, and it keeps building and it is going to keep ascending every single year, then we are headed, as far as I am concerned, for disaster, for a crisis that this Province will never get out of for the next 100 years. It is as serious, Mr. Speaker, as that.

So that is why I say when I get up - some of the things I could repeat that I said before. But as a result of the various debates that are made - and I do not mean to deprecate in any way the speeches that were made by hon. members. Every one of them were - if it may seem a bit presumptuous - I would like to say everyone of them were of certain high quality. But I do not feel that - I feel there is a great air of unreality in this Chamber. I feel that this unreality has spread and is in the general public and in the press, in all of our institutions with respect to the financial situation in which this Province is at the present time. Now more than ever before we need strong direction, we need strong leadership to pull our people up by the boot straps. I believe that this government can do it. I believe this government has to do it, Mr. Speaker, or it is very likely going to be the end of representative or responsible government for this Province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, before sitting down there are just one or

two sort of side observations I would like to make.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. gentleman allow me to interrupt what I regard as a magnificent speech, a magnificent contribution to this debate? Would he allow me to ask him if he does not agree that balancing the current account is almost the be-all and the end-all of it because the current account reflects the capital account? The debt is important really only because each year in your current account you have to provide for the interest and sinking fund. You are actually paying off the debt with the sinking fund so that the current account, if you balance that, includes the interest on the debt and so much towards the repayment of the debt, and that really it is only necessary to balance the current account and to stop the borrowing or greatly to reduce it because the more you borrow, the more you have to find each year in your current account. Does the hon. gentleman follow me there?

MR. MARSHALL: Yes, I follow it, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the first step that one has to take is to keep your expenditures down. The first thing, if you want to take it, has got to be, you have got to balance your current account. There is no doubt about that. But I say in this particular situation with which this government is now faced - and I do not want to get the hon. gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood). He does not intend to but sometimes words can be said that can make people partisan, but I do not mean to. I want to point this out, that in the present situation we did have inflation which drove the expenditure up. I would also point out that the hon. gentleman's government also experienced in the 1968-1969, I believe, a \$6 million deficit on current account which was equally disastrous to the - not disastrous, it is not the word but compares. Let us put it that way, to the present.

So obviously you have got to do your current account. But, Mr. Speaker, the amount that you have to provide on interest, the amount that has to be expended on interest in that current account is going to amount or remain constant, what have you, depending upon in the first case, if you borrow more in your capital account. I say we cannot

MR. MARSHALL:

even afford the constant \$100 million that it will be on the current account right now for interest because this is going to continue on. The way in which we have been paying off the capital account over the few years has been like you get a bill-payer loan, to reduce it

Mr. Marshall:

back again to the individual, you get a bill-payer loan from a financial institution. So you borrowed in 1954 or 1960 or whatever it was then at 5 per cent and now all these redemptions are coming up, a lot of them are coming up in 1977 and 1978, and they are going to be refinanced at the whopping price of 12 per cent. So the point of the matter is, certainly, you have to balance your current account, and certainly that is important. But we cannot turn a blind eye, and it is a basic misunderstanding just to say that that is all we have to do and no more, because as that capital account is increasing on interest alone, we are eating into our current account, and we are eating into the services that the people of this Province are going to be deprived of, Mr. Speaker, because the children who are now alive are going to have to be paying the interest for the borrowings of their parents before them, if you want to have it. What we are going to do and what we are in the process of doing is choking forever the expectations of generations of Newfoundlanders yet to come.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to come back - I trust that answers the question as was posed. Now I would like to come back, Mr. Speaker, to a couple of other side issues. They are necessarily side issues, but they are matters that I want to bring up and that is this: We have to make cuts, whether we like it or not. Whatever fat is there has to be cut from our budget. We cannot afford any luxuries, let us put it that way, in our government spending. There is no doubt about that. We also have to look at certain programmes as to whether we can afford them, because, as I say, my thesis is such that we have to rationalize that capital account and start getting money in to pay it just as much as everyone of us has to get money into our own mortgages on our own homes. But I hope I do not misinterpret, but I do sense a certain opinion, a certain direction perhaps building up towards the fact that the education department, the education expenditure is the major one, the major expenditure in our budget, and that, therefore, I

Mr. Marshall:

get the impression - I hope it is wrong, and I underline it is an impression that we should continue on with resource development and that we should cut our services and our education expenditure mainly.

Now I do not go along with that thesis. Undoubtedly there are many things in the Department of Education that have to be cut, Mr. Speaker, as in every department there are things that have to be cut, but I say cut them proportionately. Because I think it is, and this is not just airy-fairy theory or philosophy or something of that nature, I think it is a very shallow, as I said it before, policy, a barren policy, if we concentrate all of our efforts to development resources, our material resources, without full regard for the human resources.

Now the member for Mount Scio (Dr. Winsor), when he made his speech today, which was one of the better speeches I have heard as a maiden speech, where he covered the whole ambit in many areas, but towards the end of it, he said something with which I fully agree, that we must have regard, he said, to the - "We must give priority to educational needs. We must not completely cut them off." Now he and I are at one with that, and I am sure the Minister of Education and I are at one with that, and I feel that the administration and myself are at one with it. Because if we get to the stage where we are just developing our material resources without regard to our education, the needs of our people, what really we are doing, we are providing pick and shovel jobs. If you want to put it right to the final contrast, we are really just preparing things for our people to take up if they are only qualified to use the pick and the shovel. This is all they are able to do, and maybe they cannot even do that. So I think it is barren and base indeed of any government, and I am sure that this government does not subscribe to this theory, that we use our material resources and we develop our material resources in anyway to the detriment of these human resources of education, because barren and base indeed is any group of people who do not have the material resources as the servant of the human resources. Now,

MR. MARSHALL:

Mr. Speaker, there are other items that I could refer to and I may when the main budget debate gets on. But my only purpose in speaking here is to say that I believe and emphasize again that there is a dire financial crisis looming on the horizon which is before us at the present time and which we have to deal with. Now, during the budget speech I made certain points on the amendment and I would expect that the government will in due course address themselves to them. I say that we cannot possibly, in summation as to what I said then, we cannot possibly cut out to the extent that it has been mooted around in the Chamber, not in the mini budget. But when the main budget comes up for next year I would hope to see the detailed budgets and estimates of major crown corporations such as Newfoundland Hydro and Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation presented here in this House so that we can debate them. It is a much different thing bringing in estimates than looking at reports after the fact of Auditor General's. I would also hope that we would see the - and I know the government will cut and pare as much as it possibly can, but if this legislature has any purpose at all, I mean it is to bring in the measures before so that we can discuss them frankly and openly, so the people of the Province can know what the situation is, what has to be cut, why it has to be cut. I would ask that when this debate comes up that perhaps the members of the Opposition may use the estimates debate in the way it is supposed to be, or the consideration of the estimates in Committee by asking questions and getting answers rather than going on ad nauseam as they have in the past - or again perhaps I should not use the word ad nauseam, I do not want to get partisan but the memory of it is fresh in my mind about their pet peeves on education subjects and school taxes and what have you. They can make their points with respect to these things but it is a fact that last year there were numerous departments that were not considered and the year before there were numerous departments not considered. I do not think we can afford that in this Assembly.

So, Mr. Speaker, I say this. As I say these are items that I fully and firmly believe in. I trust that - I know the government will be, the

MR. MARSHALL:

Minister of Finance when he comes back, will be addressing himself to all of the questions that have been asked by all hon. members, including certain observations that I have made myself. I have confidence, Mr. Speaker, that this is the government that can tidy up the affairs, as it has been doing over the past two or three years, in this Province. But I feel, as I say, that not confined to this government, to members in this House of Assembly but to the general public, to the press, and, as I say, our institutions, that we are facing the worst financial crisis that this country has seen. Unless we are prepared to sit down and realize it and do something about it, it is going to be the end of representative and responsible government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Is the House ready for the question on the amendment.  
The hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, before I get to the amendment, may I, although I have spoken on a number of occasions in this first session of the thirty-seventh General Assembly, may I avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate you on your elevation to the Chair as Speaker of this House. Also I would like to congratulate the member for St. John's South for his appointment as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees and also, of course, the member for Bonavista North as Assistant Deputy Speaker. Sir, I think the sort of thing that we witnessed over the past two or three days and indeed over the past couple of weeks, the calibre of the debate, has been better than anything that I have heard or witnessed or seen in my short four years of political experience in this House. Sir, I think this is due in part, of course, to the members participating in debate but also, Sir, to Your Honour and the Deputy Speaker in the way that they carried out their duties. You have done a magnificent and splendid job indeed and, Sir, I think that -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROWE: - the whole tone of the House of Assembly is a tribute to - or can be attributed to the actions of the hon. members taking the Chair at various times in this House.



MR. F. ROWE:

Now, Sir, in getting back to the amendment I would wish to state my really bitter disappointment over the fact that more ministers of the Crown have not seen fit to stand in their place and defend the government's action. Sir -

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE: If I can carry on - this amendment is what amounts to be a vote of non-confidence in the government. This is what -

MR. ROUSSEAU: We have every confidence.

MR. R. ROWE: Well the hon. minister may have enough confidence in himself, Sir, but there are 500,000 Newfoundlanders who still have yet to see the light.

MR. DOODY: The election is just over -

MR. F. ROWE: Right.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, if I can continue on without - I do not know what happens when I stand here, everybody goes wild over there. Even when I am non-partisan, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE: But, Sir, I had hoped having heard no less than ten hon. members on this side speak to this particular amendment, and three backbenchers on the government side, we have only heard from two ministers of the Crown speaking to an amendment which amounts to a vote of non confidence in the government. Sir, what is wrong with the hon. ministers opposite?

MR. ROUSSEAU: We go for quality, not quantity.

MR. F. ROWE: Sir, have they had the - well I cannot use the word - have they had the viscera knocked out of them completely, Sir? Sir, if the people are looking for confidence in this administration the least we can expect is for the government to defend themselves on a non confidence motion. And I am sincere about this, and I am not just playing with words. Sir, this is a vote of non confidence in the government, this motion. And we have had ten members on this side -

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. F. ROWE: - who had ten members, Mr. Speaker, on this side speak to the amendment, and we have had only two ministers of the Crown speak to this particular amendment. And, Sir, I think it is important enough because I have to congratulate my colleague who is ill at the present time from Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons). He moved an amendment which reads as follows: "This House regrets the failure of the government to disclose completely and fully the present financial situation of this Province and the government thereof."

Now, Sir, I congratulate my colleague for this reason because he presented clear and straightforward documentation and evidence to support this particular amendment. Now, Sir, I have to agree with members opposite, Some hon. members opposite have mentioned that the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) has made the most sensible speech in this hon. House. Well, I will not judge whether that is true or not. However, Sir, I will agree that the hon. member from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) in citing the Auditor General's Report and the estimates and the various budget speeches and other documentation has given the best evidence so far for voting against this motion or this amendment. Not an hon. member opposite or an hon. minister opposite, but the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) in opposition has given the best reasons, although, Sir, I will have to admit that I do not entirely agree with his argument, but he has given the best reason that I have heard to this date for voting against this amendment, It has not come from the government side or from any minister of the Crown. And, Sir, this is why I am disappointed that hon. members have been forced to get up one after the other on our side here and speak to this amendment without having the usual rebuttal and exchange back and forth in this hon. House, because this is a very important amendment, a very important amendment.

Sir, about the closest that we have seen with respect to disclosure has come from the member from Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) in his guided tour, vividly described, of Bay of Islands, I think it is obviously, Sir, where a great amount of money from this provincial treasury has gone.

Mr. F. Rowe:

If everything is as rosy and Utopian fashion as the hon. member described, Sir, that partially discloses where the vast expenditure of money has gone over the last few years.

MR. F.B. ROWE: But, Sir -

MR. WOODROW: What is on his shoulder over there?

MR. F.B. ROWE: Well, the hon. member got elected.

Mr. Speaker, my friend from Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) brought up, I thought, a very important point here. He brought up the whole business of the credibility of politicians, the reliability of politicians, the integrity of politicians, the believability, if you will, of politicians and even the morality of politicians over the years, and he was most non-partisan. I think most hon. members would appreciate that. But, Sir, I am afraid that I have to be just a little more partisan for reasons that I stated earlier because I speak with conviction and that is that it was not the Liberal Opposition nor the independent Liberal nor the Reform Liberal Party who documented, who made 169 promises that have not been kept over the past three or four years.

Sir, it is as simple as that. In the area of Education, seven promises, Finance, Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, Industrial Development, Mines and Energy, Manpower, Provincial Affairs and from the Premier's office itself, Transportation and Communications, Sir, it was a slow buildup starting with the very first Throne Speech, the very first Throne Speech, the very first Budget Speech, diluted in the second speeches, further diluted in the third speeches - Budget and Throne - and, Sir, we had continual dilution of the promises. However, when we add them up we have documented, Sir, 169 promises that have not been kept by this administration.

Then, Sir, what do we have? After this continual dilution of the Throne and Budget Speeches delivered by this administration, all of a sudden a new picture was created and this picture, the etchings, the beginnings of the design of this picture started in the Spring and Summer of this year. A very rosy picture, Sir, a very magnificent picture, a very healthy picture of this Province was artistically painted by the administration sitting opposite. And, Sir, this is the thing that we take issue with, because it was this administration that gave every impression, every impression without exception that this

MR. ROWE:

Province was on a sound financial base. We could not believe otherwise, Sir. The very fact that this government acquired the BRINCO shares and the water rights of BRINCO, the very fact that they acquired under threat of expropriation - they did not expropriate, Mr. Speaker, but they acquired, they bought out under the threat of expropriation and study after study after study was cited. I have

MR. F. ROWE:

got the list of studies here ready for that particular debate because there is a motion on the floor. But, Sir, by very virtue of the fact that this administration acquired, took over, nationalized Brinco and accepted the responsibility for the development in the name of ownership of natural resources, which is a motherhood issue, and after extreme questioning by the Opposition, we were still left with the impression that the Province was in a situation, in a financial position, to go on with the development of the Lower Churchill. That very thing in itself, Sir, which cost in the order, in excess of \$2.3 billion now. When the rights were acquired, I believe, it was around \$2.1 or \$2.2 billion. This was the figure -

AN HON. MEMBER: \$1.1 billion.

MR. F. ROWE: No, \$1.1 billion right at the beginning. Then \$1.3 billion, \$1.4 billion \$1.8 billion, \$2.0 billion, \$2.1 billion and now \$2.3 billion.

Well, Sir, when a Province and a government informs the people through Mr. Speaker and here in the House of Assembly that they are doing this at the cost to the taxpayers of this Province, taking the financial risk, assuming they can get together the expertise, assuming that we have the markets available for the consumption of this electricity, one has to believe that the Province is on a sound financial footing. This is the impression that was given by this administration.

Further to that, Sir, we had leading up to the election - and of course we had the great display of the blowing up of the dynamite on both sides of the Straits of Belle Isle. But, Sir, I wish to debate that in more detail at a later time because there is a motion on the floor. But, I am using that as an example of the government having given the people the impression that everything was a bed of roses.

Sir, prior to the election, during the Spring and during the Summer and leading to the election we had all kinds of promises of stadiums, announcements of stadiums going to be built here and there, in Mount Pearl, St. John's East and all over the place. We

MR. F. DOWE:

had all kinds of promises, Sir, with respect to roads, with respect to water services. Sir, the people of - I will use just one example which is representative of many communities in this Province. A sudden phenomenon occurred in the community of Crates Cove prior to the election, six holes in the ground. And this is representative of many communities throughout the Province, six holes in the ground.

MR. MURPHY: There were no holes in St. John's Centre.

MR. F. DOWE: There is a big enough vacuum representing St. John's Centre now so there is no need of a further hole, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. F. DOWE: A sudden phenomenon happened in this community, six drilled holes just prior to the election. What is the final result of this? Sir, there are approximately six or seven or eight homes, up to sixteen in some cases, being serviced presumably by these artesian wells. In this particular instance they are lucky enough to have a pump and a pump house, I believe, in a number of cases, on the well. The people, Sir, are paying an electrical rate for the operation of that pump but they still have to go out with their buckets to the well and get the water.

In other cases, there is no pump on the artesian well, in the hole in the ground. In other cases - the minister knows what it is all about, the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. After the election, Sir, the bed of roses turns out to be a wilted bed of pansies.

Mr. Rowe.

It is as simple as that. Deferment of these water services - Sir, the ministers could ramble on all they want to. Sir, in an election campaign, something that is in print presumably is supposed to represent the honest truth.

MR. MORGAN: The campaign is over, or do you know?

MR. ROWE: Do we know, Mr. Speaker, do we know that the campaign is over! The people of Newfoundland, Sir, know that the campaign is over, because once the campaign was over, and these hon. gentlemen clung to power, we got our various and assorted and sordid announcements of deferrals, cancellations and what have you.

Now, Sir, here is the type of thing, Sir -

MR. MORGAN: No, let us spend, spend, spend!

MR. ROWE: Sir, I like, hon. members and particularly - I think we have to listen with an ear open just a little wider to the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood), because the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) has more experience, political experience in this Province, I would submit, than any other living being. And, Sir, the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) has taken a complete summersault in his political philosophy. If I may use that expression, a complete summersault. Now, Sir, for that hon. gentleman to do that, if I am representing the gentleman accurately, for the hon. gentleman for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) to reverse his philosophy of twenty-three years must mean that this Province is in a very, very critical financial situation.

MR. MORGAN: We all have been trying to tell you that.

MR. ROWE: Sir, I realize the urgency of the situation. I realize it, and I have tried on other occasions to submit other ways instead of, for example, tax increases, to get around the problem. But, Sir, it is incumbent upon me, as a member of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition and a member representing, well, one fifty-first, or one fiftieth, approximately of this Province, it is important that we point out that the people were - not deliberately, Mr. Speaker, because that is unparliamentary - but were definitely given the wrong information or were misled during the election campaign with respect to the financial condition of this Province. Sir, there



Mr. Rowe:

is only one thing that has happened in this Province to change the financial picture of this Province. There is only one thing. There is only one thing, Sir. We have been slowly edging towards this crisis situation over the past four years. But there is only one thing, Sir, that has made it surface, there is only one thing, Sir, that has made it surface and that was the reason stated by the member for Bonavista South (Mr. Morgan). The election is now over, Sir. The government has a four or five year term of office, and they can come out with the truth. They are forced to come out with the truth, because it is going to surface at some point in the game anyway.

Now, Sir, hon. members may feebly and lamely attempt to hang part of the blame on the anti-inflationary guidelines or steps and actions taken by the federal government. The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications, the member for Bonavists South (Mr. Morgan) stood proudly, Sir, in his place tonight and said that he was not partisan. His administration was not partisan. They supported the wage and price guidelines of the Prime Minister of Canada, and they will aid in every way. Well, Sir, let me remind the hon. members opposite of two things;

MR. ROWE: Number one, Sir, it was not the federal government's action as recently announced in October by the Prime Minister, it was not the federal government's action that has caused this financial situation in this Province today. Sir, it is on the record that this administration, since taking office - I have it written down here somewhere - this administration has borrowed as much in four years, now I am approximating, not accurately to the dollar, maybe a little bit less and maybe a little bit more, but this administration, the present PC Administration have borrowed as much in four years as the previous Liberal Administration did in twenty-three years.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I know that the hon. member wants to be accurate. Will he allow me?

MR. ROWE: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SMALLWOOD: What has happened in fact is not with regard to the amount borrowed. It is with regard to the amount added to the public debt because the debt is made up of two things; number one, what was borrowed, and, number two, the indirect debt and the two together are the two figures to be compared, twenty-three years and four years.

MR. ROWE: Right. I agree with the hon. member for Twillingate and I think we are on the same wave-length although we might be using slightly different language to describe this situation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ROWE: Take it easy. Peace. Sir, the other point that I wish to make and I am trying to make a point - and if hon. members cannot understand they do not have to babble on - is that the present administration had spent as much, or they claimed to have spent as much, I have heard this statement made in the House, claimed to have spent as much in this Province in four years as the previous administration did in the past twenty-three.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Almost exact, -

MR. ROWE: Almost as much. Now, Sir, therefore one asks oneself this question;

MR. ROWE: what is the reason and why is it that we find ourselves in this crisis situation today in respect to the finances of our Province? And I submit, Sir, that it has nothing whatsoever to do with the anti-inflationary guidelines as set out by the Prime Minister of Canada in October. It has all to do with the borrowing and the spending philosophy or policy of the present administration, Sir. We could be in exactly the same situation that we are in today if the Prime Minister of Canada did not utter one single word over the past month or so, exactly the same situation.

MR. MORGAN: Inflation is not just a Newfoundland problem.

MR. POWER: Would the hon. member permit a question?

MR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I am finding it most difficult, Sir, to carry on to be quite frank with you. I would like to yield the floor but I am being interrupted so often, Mr. Speaker, that I find it difficult to even find what the next point was that I was going to bring up. Oh if I could just carry on.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that the happiest group of people in this Province the night that the Prime Minister made his anti-inflationary statements was the administration of this Province because, Sir, the thing is that this gave, just after the election, this gave the Premier of this Province an opportunity to try to hang the hat on, or the blame on something other than its own administration. I did not state that very well.

But, Sir, this was a very convenient out for the Premier of this Province and Sir, what shocked me utterly and amazed me was the Premier's statement when he was interviewed on CBC following the statement made by the Prime Minister of Canada. The Premier of this Province, Sir, went on Here and Now, as did the Leader of the Opposition and as did, I believe, the Leader of the Liberal Reform Party, but

MR. ROWE:

the Premier of this Province, the hon. the Premier, went on T.V. and said that he would co-operate with Ottawa in every way possible to jick inflation. We do not disagree with that statement, Sir. But I found to be terribly shocking, Sir, was this, is that on the very same programme the Premier of this Province, Sir, said that for the past eighteen months he personally and his administration had been urging the Federal Government to take these particular steps because of the financial crisis the nation and the various provinces, especially Newfoundland, were headed towards. Now, Sir, if the Premier was aware of the financial crisis towards which we were headed enough to motivate him to go straight to the Prime Minister of Canada over eighteen months ago, to ask him and his government to take the steps that they had taken, what business in this world, Sir, did this administration, this government have in promising the world to the electorate of Newfoundland?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Come off it!

MR. ROWE: What business, Sir, what -

MR. HICKY: We could always put back the mothers' allowance!

MR. ROWE: Now, that is a very interesting - now this is the question, Sir, that hon. members opposite, this is the lame, feeble, crippled, desperate excuse and only utterance that we can hear from hon. members opposite when we mention anything about increase in taxes or increase in expenditures in this Province. Hon. members do not have the gall to stand up, Sir, and debate this, but they yap off in their seats there.

MR. HICKY: Can I ask you a question?

MR. ROWE: No, Sir, Mr. Speaker. The hon. minister can get up, as I asked earlier, and defend the government on this non-confidence motion - or this amendment. But no, Sir, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will babble in his seat, grunt, groan, sneer, snarl, wail, bawl.

MR. HICKEY: We know you have a good vocabulary.

MR. DODDY: No matter what you say, we like you.

MR. ROWE: Well, Sir, I like hon. members opposite personally. I have

MR. ROWE:

great admiration for them. But, Sir, I desperately disagree with the way in which they have, with which they have treated the people of this Province and, Sir, presenting a bed of fresh red roses prior to the election and throwing a wilted dried up bed of pansies at them after the election.

MR. WELLS: The hon. member, if you will permit me, the hon. member had better ease off on the superlatives and language because the hon. member has fifteen minutes yet to run out the clock.

MR. ROWE: I think, Mr. Speaker- I hope the hon. House Leader is not attributing motives in my speech in simply suggesting that I am trying to run out the clock. With some difficulty, Mr. Speaker, I am trying to make a number of points. But as I said before -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ROWE: Just, just listen, Mr. Speaker! I ask for a ruling, Mr. Speaker, if I could, please, for to be heard with some degree of silence.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. member has the right to be heard in silence, and I would remind the hon. member also to stick to relevancy as he speaks.

MR. ROWE: Thank you for your ruling, Mr. Speaker. Everybody has kept so relevant to the speech tonight. Now, Sir, I think I have made the point that - and this was really in reaction to the hon. member for Bonavista South-that in no way can we attribute the situation this Province finds itself in at the present time to the

MP. F. ROWE:

anti-inflationary guidelines as put forth by the Prime Minister of Canada. If the hon. member did not say it directly, he certainly indicated it indirectly. Sir, the hon. member also asked that we awake, why do we not awake, awake up to reality. Sir, about the only response I can make to that is, why were the people of this Province not informed prior to September 16 of the reality of the financial situation confronting this Province at that particular time.

MR. MORGAN: Because of the equalization payments.

MP. F. ROWE: Equalization payments, there goes the hon member again, Mr. Speaker. This government, Sir, - and I think the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) can testify to this - this government have taken on more experts, they have more task forces, they have more planning and priorities committees, they have conducted more studies -

AN HON. MEMBER: They have another one started now.

MR. F. ROWE: - more studies, Sir, to find out where this Province is headed for than the previous administration did in twenty-three years. Still, Sir, they came up with a gross miscalculation with respect to the estimates for this year and they were forced to bring in the emergency budget or the mini budget as it has been called.

MR. MORGAN: These are called motions now on the Order Paper, resolutions.

AN HON. MEMBER: Some sensible ones.

MR. MORGAN: Most of them.

MR. F. ROWE: It is pathetic. I must say, Mr. Speaker, it is pathetic to listen to hon. members babble away. Sir, I wish they would - I would gladly, Sir, yield to an hon. minister, a heavyweight, not a lightweight, a heavyweight, -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE: - Sir, to get up -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. F. ROWE: - and defend, -

MR. HICKEY: How much is school tax?

MR. F. POWE: - and defend, Sir, the government on this particular amendment.

Now, Mr. Speaker, since I have been asked I will reply in kind. The school tax, the school tax - what is the revenue in a \$1 billion budget -

MR. HICKEY: I knew I could suck him in.

MR. F. ROWE: The hon. minister may think he has sucked me in, that he has got me -

MR. HICKEY: I am trying to help the hon. gentleman.

MR. F. POWE: But, Sir, I will explain the school tax to the hon. minister if he wishes because obviously he did not understand our the policy during four sessions of the House of Assembly nor during the election campaign. The total amount of money, Sir, collected through school taxes in this Province at last calculation before I left the shadow portfolio, shall we say, was somewhere in the order of \$8 million. It may be in excess of that now, \$10 million or \$11 million or \$12 million. That is the total amount of money collected through the school tax. Now, Sir, if hon. members will listen that is out of \$1 billion.

Now, Sir, we are and we will continue to be against the school tax because it is the most inequitable, regressive and unfair method of taxing people or deriving revenue for educational purposes that has ever been devised. Now I say this, Sir, with the full knowledge that the previous administration, indeed my own father probably, introduced the first school tax in this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: I would not admit that.

MR. HICKEY: Where would you get the money?

MR. F. ROWE: But, Sir - will the hon. gentleman -

MR. WHITE: Improving tourism.

MR. F. POWE: Sir, we are against that method of collecting money for educational purposes for the reasons that I have already stated.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE: Yes. I am reminded by my colleague here, Sir, that

MR. POWE:

the hon. member opposite who appears to be doing the most yapping about the school tax has called on the government to do away with the school tax since the election campaign. Probably the hon. member would do well to reflect on his own statements, do well to reflect. Some hon. members, Sir, some hon. members said that it even cost them the election or it cost them votes. Now, Sir, that is not the reason that we are for the abolition of the school taxes.



Mr. F. Rowe:

We are not against them because school tax -

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I have to ask for some silence here because I just cannot follow my own trend of thought.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. F. ROWE: And if I sound somewhat erratic the reason is sitting over there, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. gentleman does have the right to speak without interruption.

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

MR. SPEAKER: I shall hear the point of order.

MR. MORGAN: The point of order is that, Sir, the hon. member is casting innuendo that a certain member of this side of the Assembly has stated that he would like to see the school taxes abolished in the Province. Now that is casting innuendo on all members so I will call upon him to state which member he is referring to.

MR. F. ROWE: I have no intention -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! There is no point of order before the Chair.

The hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE: You know, I was so anxious to reply.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. F. ROWE: Now, Mr. Speaker, I am attempting to explain -

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Another point of order.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I would like to indicate to the hon. member from Trinity-Bay de Verde that the suggestion of school tax was to lose votes, that is not what we are attributing the hon. member, it was to win votes that they suggested the abolition of school taxes.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please! There still is no point of order before the Chair.

The hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. F. ROWE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I would remind hon. members on both sides that debate of a Speaker's ruling is out of order, and is usually to be understood by the criticism of it. But I think the rule must also mean approbation of it. So I would ask hon. members perhaps not to indicate in any way, because I think debate must mean one or the other.

The hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, hon. members have asked for a philosophy or our policy on school taxes. Basically the school taxes are made up of a property tax and a poll tax, both of which are extremely inequitable and unfair not only within a certain school tax authority area but also from one school tax area to another. Some school tax areas are richer than other school tax areas, and consequently they can collect more money. What we are against, Mr. Speaker, is the method that is used to collect that amount of revenue, and we have always indicated and submitted that the amount of money collected through school taxation is insignificant when compared to the budget of the Province. It is as simple as that.

MR. HICKEY: Where would you -

MR. F. ROWE: It is as simple as that, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where would you get the money -

MR. F. ROWE: Now, Sir, we will get the money through the usual sources for which the hon. member got money to put the Norma and Gladys half ways around the world.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. F. ROWE: That is where we will get the money, Sir, and if you add up that type of wasteful expenditure you will soon find that you will have your \$8 million for purposes of education in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE: Now, Mr. Speaker, if I may continue.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I am now directing hon. gentlemen to my left to observe the rules.

MR. F. ROWE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Now it is our intention, Sir, and I would suggest that it would be much fairer if the government, the administration of this Province accepted the major part, almost 100 per cent of the responsibility for financing secondary education in this Province. While allowing at the same time for voluntary contributions at the local level. It is as simple as that. The amount is insignificant that has to be collected, but, Sir, we have such a duplication of administrative services with our various school tax authorities, everybody is hit the same way, the poor people in a particular area, and the rich people. The fish plant owner pays the same poll tax as some poor person earning - what is the exemption up to?

AN HON. MEMBER: \$5,000.

MR. F. ROWE: \$5,000. So, Sir, the same person, for example, right here in St. John's a person making \$100,000 a year will pay \$75.00 towards the school tax, some poor struggling young couple each making say just in excess of \$5,000 each has to pay \$150,000 between them if they are -

MR. NOLAN: \$150.

MR. ROWE: What did I say?

MR. HOLAN: \$150,000

MR. ROWE: One hundred and fifty dollars between them if they are a working couple, and this is what we find very distasteful, very unfair with respect to the school taxes in this Province. Now, Sir, I did not intend to even look at that area, but an hon. minister opposite wanted an explanation, and I could have made a much better case had I prepared for it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons), as I mentioned earlier, presented the documentation and the evidence to support this particular amendment. Various members, both opposite and on this side of the House, in their own way, and I sincerely believe speaking right from the heart and speaking for that which they believe, spoke for or against the amendment. But, Sir, we sincerely believe that the government did not and have not fully disclosed the true financial picture of this Province and that we can look forward in the very near future, Mr. Speaker, to another budget which may indeed impose even additional burdens on our people with one possible exception, Mr. Speaker. The hon. Premier is not a political fool. He is a very astute politician. I would submit, in all sincerity and without negatively criticizing the Premier that he is a more astute politician than he is an administrator and leader of this Province and of the government, but he is a very astute politician. I said that I did not, you know -

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, to a point of order. The debate has at times been partisan, but I certainly feel that, first of all, for a member of this House to cast aspersions on the leader of the government and leader of the Province is, I think, certainly going beyond the bounds. So I would ask the member to, perhaps even without asking Your Honour for a ruling, I would ask the member to reconsider that. That is going rather far, I think.

MR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, to that point of order. I prefaced my remarks saying the very thing that the hon. House Leader is now accusing me of. I did not, and I did not intend to cast any aspersions on the Premier of this Province. I am making a simple statement of my opinion, and my opinion is that I honestly believe that the Premier of this Province is a more astute politician than he is a leader of the government of this Province. Now that is not an aspersion on the Premier. It is a difference of opinion, if anything, Mr. Speaker, and I submit that the House Leader's point of order is not a point of order at all, but is a difference of opinion between two hon. members.

MR. SPEAKER: On the point of order, I do not consider the hon. gentleman's remarks would be unparliamentary, and presumably it would be within that category that the suggestion would be, or the allegation would be, the opinion would be that they would be out of order. In my opinion they were not unparliamentary.

MR. ROWE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Sir, I think I will move the adjournment of the debate in view of the time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: It now being 11 o'clock, I adjourn the House until 3 o'clock tomorrow Wednesday, December 10, 1975.

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