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SPEAKER; THE HONOURABLE GERALD RYAN OTTENHEIMER

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

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

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS:

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

HON. J. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, I have one announcement here, two announcements actually. I would like to make this one first. I am very disappointed to announce that the Provincial tree nursery at Mount Pearl was a casualty of the severe windstorm last night in the area, a combination of wind and the power failure caused the plastic roof and steel superstructure to collapse. The roof was held up by air pressure using electric pumps. The damage was approximately \$10,000, but the biggest casualty, unfortunately, was the destruction of some 200,000 seedlings destined to be used by the Boy Scouts for their annual Dig Day. And I certainly would like to take this opportunity I am sure on behalf of all members of the House, and the people of the Province to compliment the Boy Scouts and Cubs for this venture which they have been undertaking for the past few years.

I would like to indicate that every effort will be made to obtain suitable growing stock from Mainland points to enable the Scouts to go ahead, and the Cubs, and also to ensure that some trees will be planted across the Island this Spring. The Mount Pearl Nursery is a unit of the main nursery at Wooddale in Central Newfoundland which is under development. The Wooddale Nursery will not come in line for another two or three years with its first crop of trees. The eventual production of the Wooddale Nursery will be in the vicinity of 5 million trees per year, and it is part of the long-term forest management programme recently instituted by government. The department will be rebuilding the auxiliary nursery at Mount Pearl to provide seedlings for next year's planting.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Are there copies of that?

MR. ROUSSEAU: Yes.

Does anybody want to make a comment, or can I make another statement?

MR. NOLAN: Would I be permitted to make a comment?

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. COLLINS): The hon. member from Conception Bay South.

MR. NOLAN: It is just a question that arises in view of some of the comments that the minister made yesterday, and what he says today. Obviously we are sorry to hear of the destruction in the area that he mentioned. I mention this question that was suggested to me by someone here in the building today, and that is, maybe the Minister of Transportation might be interested. Yesterday, for example, in high drifting,--and I am sure this is true of other areas, I am thinking about where the Octagon Pond, you could not see your hand before you yesterday -- I am wondering if, in view of what the minister said yesterday, which we very much appreciated, if it would not be possible to plant some trees there that might offset some of that fierce drifting you get, and I am sure that it could probably be applied to other areas as well. I do not know if it makes any real sense, but, you know, it seems to me that it is better than no answer at all. So maybe the minister might be able to think about it some time or the other. Maybe we can do something in that regard.

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

HON. J. ROUSSEAU: I have another statement, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I indicated I would be making an announcement today or tomorrow on some changes in the methods of leasing agricultural land in the Province. So I am pleased to announce today a further step by government to assure the continuation of agriculture in our Province. For many decades government has been disposing of Crown land for agricultural purposes with little effective assurance that once the land grant was issued the land would continue in agricultural production. The many thousands of acres of farmland in private ownership that now lie idle and unavailable to farmers across our Province is stark evidence that the old policy is just too wasteful of our limited land resource. If hon. members will recall in 1970 our statutes that under Section 6(1) the minister could lease to any person up to twenty acres for agriculture and under Section (6)2 the Lieutenant-Governor in Council could lease to any person between twenty and 200 acres for agriculture. Section 6(3) suggested that if the lease, at least he cleared and cultivated 25 per cent of the land within five years and if other terms and conditions had been adhered to the minister shall issue a permit upon application or grant, upon application.

Two years ago the Crown Lands Act was amended so that it is no longer mandatory to issue grants to those persons who hold lease to agricultural land. Actually what happened was that it gave the minister the prerogative up to fifty acres and the Lieutenant-Governor in Council over 200 acres. All the effort before they shall give a grant after 25 per cent or so was cleared was not mentioned. It was silent on the matter. For two years we have been studying various systems that might assure our people that Crown land suitable for farming will remain available for that use. Too many acres of good land have been lost to other kinds of development and the so-called land freeze in the St. John's urban region is an example of the kinds of controls that become necessary to protect those lands which can produce crops.

A new policy has been adopted whereby no further grants of agricultural

MR. ROUSSEAU:

land will be made except in unusual circumstances. Instead there will be two types of lease, long-term lease of fifty years or short-term lease of fifteen years. This provides sufficiently long-term tenure of the land to satisfy most lending institutions and provision is made for the owner of the lease to transfer it to other farming interests so that his investment in development of the land is protected. At the same time government's investment in these lands in the form of land clearing grants, land fertility assistance and so on will be protected as well.

So in other words instead of a grant in the future there will be a fifty year long-term lease, no grant, and that lease is renewable, is assignable, can be sold, passed on and so on. All government is trying to do is to insure the continuation of that land in agriculture. I can say now for the public record that it is not government's intention to give somebody land for fifty years, then to take it away if that land is used for agriculture. The lease, the land -

MR. COLLINS: The lease can be sold, not the land.

MR. ROUSSEAU: No, the lease can be sold, not the land, of course. But it is government's intention to maintain this land in agriculture. As long as the land remains in agriculture then the person who has the lease may sell the lease, may transfer the lease, may pass it on to his children and so on. But the intention of government in this instance is to insure that the land which is given out for agricultural use only - we are not talking about other Crown land but talking about land that is used for agriculture - will remain in agriculture. There are certain other conditions attached to this and of course these will be made available in the near future to the people. But this is the new policy of government in respect to leases for agricultural land in the Province.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. F. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, we have listened to the minister's statement with interest. If we follow correctly what is a technical matter I think we would agree with the main points of the policy he is outlining. I think

MR. ROBERTS:

anybody who is the least bit concerned with the development of agriculture in this Province can only welcome any steps which would preserve what agricultural land we have, preserve it for agricultural purposes. Of course, we all know that there have been any number of instances where land has been acquired quite properly under so-called agricultural leases, and again quite properly under the terms of the conveyances from the Crown shortly thereafter has ceased to be used for agricultural purposes. If the minister's new policy that he has announced will help to remedy that situation then it is very welcome.

I would make one comment on that and one further suggestion if I might, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROBERTS: First of all the comment I would make is with respect to the ability of the man taking that lease, the lesee, the lesee under the fifty year lease to use the land as security for loans and for, well indebtness of all sort. I think this is an important point. I would merely bring it to the minister's attention. It may not be enough merely to say that the land can be assigned and dealt with. The leasehold interest in the land can be assigned or dealt with. Any number of mortgagers, people who lend money, will not look upon a man or a company that has a fifty year leasehold interest in a piece of land as having adequate security. I think that is a point. The way out of that might be to do what the St. John's Housing Corporation have done all these years and that is not convey land freehold, but instead convey land on 999 year leases which are regarded by breathern at the Bar downtown and by those who have money to lend, are being regarded as in every way comparable for an absolute freehold interest.

My second point, Mr. Speaker, would be with respect to the continuing disappearance of agricultural land in this Province. We have a very limited amount of agricultural land. We cannot make any more. We might be able to bring more into production, but what potentially arable land there is is all there is. And we all know that particularly in and around the St. John's area, much of the land continues to be converted from agricultural purposes into usually residential purposes, sometimes commercial.

A few years ago the ministry announced a land freeze which was both wise and foolish. It had wise points, it had foolish points. But I wonder if the minister, Mr. Speaker, and this may not be the place to do it, but certainly when he comes to his estimates we will be asking him about this, if he can outline in some details the plans the ministry have to cope with this. Because although that freeze was announced three or four years ago it has not succeeded. It has caused a certain amount of hardship. It has not, as I understand it, prevented the disappearance of agricultural land, particularly

MR. ROBERTS: in the St. John's area, and I am thinking again particularly of the area to the West of St. John's, the Old Bay Bulls Road and the Bay Bulls Road itself and of course the route of the much maligned, infamous arterial.

I think that should be a major item of public policy, Mr. Speaker, because without land we have no prospect at all of an agricultural industry.

MR. ROUSSEAU: If I may I can answer the questions immediately. The hon. Leader of the Opposition brings up the fifty year lease, Mr. Speaker, which is satisfactory to the banks, the lending institutions and so on, that is why we took the term of fifty years. There is only one problem in that and that problem is with the Federal Farm Loan Corporation. Now what we are doing as an exception to this lease is that under only one condition, that is under the requirements of the Farm Credit Loan Corporation, a federal body, that we will give a grant where a farmer has money available from that group and he needs a grant for that, we will give the minimum amount of land required to satisfy the requirements of that grant, but we will continue to press Ottawa to have that federal loan become available even though the land is under lease and not under grant. And it certainly would be our intention to continue pressing Ottawa and hope that Ottawa would come along with us, and if not, of course, as I say, we will give that minimum amount of land, necessary for that loan that may be available to them, as a grant. But I wish to assure the hon. House that the fifty year term is long enough and satisfies most lending institutions.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. member for Twillingate.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of common sense in what the minister has said. There is a lot of common sense in the ideas that he has expressed. I would like more time to think about them, however, I would like more time to examine them and consider the various repercussions. I am not sure that a man would be happy to develop a farm knowing that he and his family were going to have possession of it only for a maximum of fifty years. If it is fifty

MR. SMALLWOOD: years renewable, and if the terms of the renewal are set forth and are unmistakable so that the renewal is not at the whim of some government fifty years hence, perhaps that would be all right provided the other matters affecting it are also all right and there are other matters as the Leader of the Opposition has just said.

Now, in England for a good many years now, at least since the end of the First World War, there has been a lot of bitterness feeling about the degree, the extent to which farm lands have ceased to be farm lands and have become the subject or the scene of housing development and urban development of one kind and another, factories, new towns springing up. Harlow for example, Harlow,

MR. SMALLWOOD:

which is one of five brand new towns that have been created surrounding London - Warley is the one with which Lord Taylor was so intimately associated - they are towns that have been built on land that was entirely agricultural land. And all over England, and to some extent Scotland and Wales, a tremendous acreage of farmland has disappeared from farming and gone into urban purposes, housing, industrial and airports and all kinds of purposes, so that the reduction in the actual number of acres of arable land and cultivated land is almost frightening in a country the size of England. When you come to Newfoundland, a tiny Island with an almost insignificant proportion of its cultivatable land under cultivation, and that, nearly all of it, along side St. John's or some other town, then of course taking it away from farm purposes and using it for housing, which an awful lot of it has been and is being used today - you go in Old Petty Harbour Road, you go in all the roads leading out of St. John's and you see a tremendous housing development on land that was once farmland, you begin to realize how much farmland has disappeared.

On the other hand, the town has got to grow. People must have homes. Houses have got to be built. Industrial sites have got to be created. Factories have got to be built, and if the only land on which all that can be done happens to be farmland near the city it is regrettable and gives rise to the next point, which is this; that surely the only land that can be farmed is not land that is within sight of the city of St. John's. I interviewed the minister, who is the hon. gentleman's predecessor, the present Minister of Manpower, when he was minister, when he was explaining this policy of land freeze around St. John's -

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

MR. SMALLWOOD: - and I was astounded.

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

MR. WELLS: To a point of order. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is making excellent points and that, but as comment on a

MR. WELLS:

ministerial statement I think that he is really going on too long and entering into debate and I would bring that to the hon. member's attention.

MR. SPALLHOORN: Yes well, Mr. Speaker, to that point of order.

I think the hon. gentleman is absolutely right. It is a matter on which I feel very ardent indeed and there will be a better opportunity, as the Leader of the Opposition said, when the hon. gentleman's estimates come before the House and where I will perhaps not be so limited in time, too limited to deal adequately with a terribly important matter. I accept the point of order and let it go at that.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): In regard to the point of order it has been adequately taken care of.

Are there further ministerial statements?

MR. WELLS: No. This is a small point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker. It was just drawn to my attention by a representative of The Evening Telegram and an apology at the same time, that a headline on page 3 of the telegram attributed to me words that were actually spoken by the hon. member from LaPoile (Mr. Heary) in the question period yesterday. So I would like to bring this to the attention of the House. The Telegram has already apologized.

MR. HEARY: What is in the headline?

MR. WELLS: Oh, it is a headline which says, "Wells Suggests You Are All Afraid Of Andy. In fact it was the -"

MR. HEARY: I take full credit.

MR. WELLS: So the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Heary) takes full credit and I would ask that The Telegram, Mr. Speaker, publish a correction of that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

On the point of privilege raised, this falls into the category of correcting statements attributed to hon. members and this is duly

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins):

taken note of.

Are there further ministerial statements?

PRESENTING PETITIONS:

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEADY: I would like to present a mini petition on behalf of six residents of Pouch Cove in the district of St. John's East Extern, I think it is. The prayer of the petition, Sir, is, we the undersigned applaud your efforts in attempting to hold the line on Newfoundland Light and Power Company rate increases. Considering an increase of about 40 per cent -"

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEADY: I beg your pardon?

MR. COSBIE: Go away, 'Steve'.

MR. NEADY: No, I am serious.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is not a petition.

MR. NEADY: Well what is it if it is not a petition?

"Considering an increase of about 40 per cent already in effect, we vigorously protest any further increases for at least two or three years." But, Sir, in supporting the prayer of this mini petition, I am pleased to note, Mr. Speaker, that the tremendous response of petitions and individual protests to unfair and unrealistic and unjustifiable and indeed unexpected rate increases in electricity, Mr. Speaker, seems to have borne some fruit.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Minister of Tourism.

HON. T. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I would certainly like to add my support to the petition, inasmuch as, I am sure, all hon. members in the House feel we would love to reduce the rates of electricity in the Province. And maybe this is an indication of how many supporters of the Liberal Party are in Pouch Cove, but that sounds good if that is the case. I am very proud to represent Pouch Cove for the first time. And, Mr. Speaker, I would say that if the hon. member can find alternate sources of power cheaper than the ones we can find I am sure we will all be very happy about that.

MR. MURPHY: Hear, hear!

PRESENTING REPORTS OF STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, no way am I going to sit down! This is heavy stuff today. This is the regulation in respect to parking at the College of Fisheries, which I am required to table in the House.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is that?

MR. ROUSSEAU: Parking regulations at the College of Fisheries. I have to table them, apparently.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. House Leader.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, I hope this is the appropriate time to do this, but I wish to move the appointment of the hon. the member from Harbour Grace to be Deputy Chairman of Committees in this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear! Hurrah!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman. Just before the House met he came to me and told me that he intended to make this motion. I thank him for doing me that much courtesy. That was the extent of the consultation. Sir, seconded by the Member for Trinity-Bay de Verde (Mr. Rowe) I move that the member from St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) to take the Chair of this House as Deputy Chairman of Committees.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that according to Parliamentary practice it is not possible to decline a nomination of this sort, Sir.

MR. J. CARTER: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have not been consulted. I certainly decline.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I presume this is a debatable motion, Your Honour?

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): A point of order has been raised by the hon. Member from St. John's North, I believe. And are you responding to that point of order?

MR. NEARY: No, Sir. I would like to debate the motion.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I would like to second the nomination of the member from Harbour Grace.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): It has been moved and seconded that -

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this is a debatable motion, I presume?

MR. ROBERTS: It is notice of motion at this stage as far as I know, and it is debatable.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am inclined to agree with the Leader of the old-line Liberal Party, Sir, that usually before appointments of this nature are made in this hon. House, Sir, it has been the tradition, I suppose as far as the Parliamentary system was set up, that all the parties in the House would get their heads together and there would be agreement before the motion would be brought into the House. Since the P.C. Administration took over in this Province, Sir, they seem to be getting away from that tradition. Today we are told by the Leader of the Opposition that only moments before the House met this afternoon, the government House Leader came over and told the Leader of the Opposition that the member from Harbour Grace was going to be the Assistant Deputy Speaker or Chairman of Committees in this hon. House.

MR. NEARY: I doubt very much if the government House Leader had the courtesy to even mention it to the Leader of the Liberal Reform Party. I doubt it, although I do not have to speak for the Leader of the Liberal Reform Party. I can speak for myself, and I think it is about time, Sir, that the government House Leader began to realize that there are traditions in this hon. House that should be maintained. The member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) used to always remind us, when the hon. member was Premier of this Province, of the tradition of wearing a hat in the hon. House, and the hon. member used to insist every session of the House that one member, at least, during the session wear his hat in order to maintain -

MR. MURPHY: That is pretty heavy business.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, this is heavy business. It is a matter of principle. The member used to insist that one member at least wear a hat in order to maintain that tradition. Now we find, Sir, that the government in power are getting away from tradition. They feel that they no longer should have prior consultation with the opposition parties.

MR. MURPHY: Are we able to debate that matter?

MR. NEARY: Yes, you can debate this. This is a debatable motion.

MR. MORGAN: A debatable motion?

MR. NEARY: Yes, it is debatable. This is debatable. If it was not debatable the Speaker would rule me out of order.

Mr. Speaker, I think these traditions should be preserved. I am surprised that a just and honourable man, a man of integrity like the government House Leader, should choose to ignore these traditions. We have nothing against the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), Sir. We have nothing in this world -

MR. MORGAN: On a point of order, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ROBERTS: He is speaking to a point of order.

MR. MURPHY: He is not.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker. No. Mr. Speaker, a question for explanation from the Chair, Sir. The hon. gentleman now speaking, is he speaking to a point of order or the motion that was given notice of?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

It is my understanding that the hon. member for LaPoile is not speaking to a point of order. I asked him that question and he indicated that he wished to speak to the motion before the House. I might point out that the motion before the House deals with the management of the business of the House and as such it is a debatable motion.

MR. ROBERTS: We will all get into it now.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the point that I was making, Sir, when I was so rudely interrupted by the Minister of Transportation and Communications, is that if we vote now, if we on this side vote against the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) we are going to look petty and childish and immature, and there will be all kinds of accusations and charges made by the other side that we are prejudice against the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young).

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker. Speaking to a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order. The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is indicating that he is speaking to the motion. There is no motion on the floor only -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, may I have silence please!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: Of course not.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Why not? He was on a point of order before you interrupted.

MR. MORGAN: I am making a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! A point of order has been raised. The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is this. The hon. gentleman has given the indication he is speaking to the motion. There is no motion on the floor -

MR. SMALLWOOD: There is.

MR. MORGAN: - only notice given of a motion to be brought into the House.

MR. ROBERTS: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman from LaPoile has clearly indicated, and Your Honour has already ruled that he is speaking to a point of order. Now his remarks may be a little longer -

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

MR. ROBERTS: I am speaking to the point of order. Is Your Honour going to hear that side and not this side?

MR. SPEAKER: May I just make my previous remarks clear? I indicated that I understood that the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) was speaking to the motion, not to the point of order. I had asked him was he speaking to the point of order and he indicated to the contrary.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, there is no motion before the House. The hon. gentleman is speaking to the point of order raised by some hon. member opposite and in due course we are all going to have a crack at the point of order if it is in order for us to do so. I mean, it is an important point of order. I might add that citation 27 of Beauchesne, Your Honour, which I have no doubt the Clerk has brought to Your Honour's attention, on page 21 makes it quite clear that the procedure which we are to follow at the appropriate time. But all my friend is doing, as I understood it, is protesting the indifference of the government House Leader towards the traditions of this House and indicating that there is a matter -

MR. CROSBIE: How childish!

MR. ROBERTS: I am speaking to a point of order. If the hon. the gentleman from St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) does not like it let him get up in his turn and speak.

MR. CROSBIE: Speak as much as you like.

MR. ROBERTS: I thank the hon. gentleman, Sir. I do not speak by his leave. He barely speaks by the leave of his constituents. If there had been another week he would not have spoken by their leave, Mr. Speaker. But the point is, Sir, there is a point of order before the House. Your Honour is entertaining submissions on that point of order, and after we dispose of the point of order raised by the Minister of Transportation and Communications there are a number of us, Sir, who would like to get into the point of order raised, I believe, by the House Leader, but I am not sure, raised by some hon. gentleman opposite as to whether or not the motion which I moved that the hon. gentleman from St. John's North - and I fear I have not had the time to consult him and he may well wish to decline. He cannot decline but if elected of course he could resign his position forthwith, but under the Parliamentary system there is no way you can decline a nomination - and I normally would have consulted him but in view of the fact the House Leader gave us no time at all I had no choice, no choice at all but to make my motion. Because, Sir, we on this side do not feel that we can support the gentleman from Harbour Grace to be Deputy Chairman of Committees of this House. It is that simple.

MR. WELLS: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker; the whole point I think comes down to this, that the government of the day is the one that moves the appointment of the Deputy Chairman -

MR. ROBERTS: No, Sir!

MR. WELLS: Not the government, but it comes from this side. The member who will serve is someone who will sit on this side. Now we can cut out I think all the chatter on this, but it comes down to our proposing a man and in the end we will vote on it. If they do not want to support him, Mr. Speaker, that is fine. But we will vote.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, I can throw, I think

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Twillingate

MR. SMALLWOOD: I think, Mr. Speaker, that I can throw a little light on this matter. For twenty-three years in the Chamber I had, as Leader of the Government, the choice of the Speaker, and invariably I informed the Leader of the Opposition of the government's choice, and invariably the Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion that I made -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. SMALLWOOD: - that so and so be Speaker. But, Sir, never once in twenty-three years did I consult anyone outside the Cabinet and our own caucus as to who should be Deputy Speaker or Chairman of Committees. Not once!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SMALLWOOD: Now whatever the House does in any case I will personally vote for the hon. gentleman from Harbour Grace. But that is only because he has been nominated, or is about to be nominated by the government which I think it is the government's right to do. And not only their right but their duty to do, and I have never known an opposition in twenty-three years to be consulted on any office in this Chamber other than the office of Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition always helped, seconded the motion, that he be Speaker, and then help to drag him from his place to the Chair. But all the other officers were entirely at the option of the government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SMALLWOOD: 'Steve' that was the case.

MR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker -

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. member for Trinity - Bay de Verde.

MR. POWE: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker, and with respect to what the Government House Leader said in that the government chooses the Speaker, I would like to refer to Beauchesne, page twenty-two -

PREMIER MOORES: Nominates him, not chooses.

MR. ROWE: Sir, it says that, "The choice -

MR. ROBERTS: Read the Beauchesne!

MR. ROWE: - of Speaker is the choice of this House. The House chooses

MR. ROWE: and elects its Speaker; He is in no sense the choice of the government -

MR. ROBERTS: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROWE: - in no sense the choice of the Prime Minister."

Now, Sir, this was precisely the opposite of what the hon. the House Leader has just said.

AN HON. MEMBER: Nominate him.

MR. ROBERTS: Trying to ram your man through! No respect!

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: 'Fred' is that the Speaker you are talking about?

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! Order, please! In these somewhat unusual circumstances I am recessing the House for five minutes in order to take counsel. We will reconvene in five minutes.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Order, please! I thank the hon. members of the House for allowing us to confer over this matter which I am sure has been confusing to many. The point at issue here really is whether there is a motion before the floor or a point of order. Having considered the question it is my understanding that whereas a name placed in nomination for a Speaker, that hon. member may not decline that nomination. We have no precedent to state that an hon. member's name placed in nomination for Deputy Chairman of Committees and Debates, we have no precedent for taking it that such a person may not decline. Therefore we can understand that an hon. member's name placed in nomination for such a post may decline. It is my understanding, therefore, that when the hon. member for St. John's North indicated that he was declining the nomination, that that terminated the point of order.

The question before the House at that point was the motion put forward by the hon. House Leader and to which the hon. member from LaPoile indicated he wished to speak, and the Chair permitted him to speak. So the present situation is that there is a motion before the House nominating -

MR. ROBERTS: No, notice of nomination.

MR. SPEAKER: I understand that the wording was that there was nomination before the House, not notice that such a nomination would be -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, if I may. Sir, I understood it was a notice -

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Order, please! May I just finish my remarks and then possibly entertain a point of order. Therefore the motion before the House at this point was the nomination put forward by the hon. House Leader that the hon. member for Harbour Grace be the Deputy Chairman of Committees and Debates and that that motion was being debated and up to that time only one name was in nomination. This did not preclude other names going into nomination. But before the House was a motion that the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) be nominated and that the hon.

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MR. SPEAKER:

member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) was engaging on the discussion of that motion.

This is a motion that has to do with the management of the affairs of the House and is therefore debatable.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order has been raised.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: My understanding is that there is not a motion before the House, Sir, that the House Leader rose when Your Honour called the Orders of the Day that said Notice of Motion, and I am not sure what words he used, but at Notice of Motion time obviously, Your Honour, all that can be given is a Notice of Motion. Since this is a substantive motion, as Your Honour has ruled, because only substantive motions can be debated - I do not have the precise Standing Order here - but all substantive motions, Sir, unless there is unanimous consent, require twenty-four hours notice on the Order Paper.

My point of order simply is that this is a Notice of Motion. It should surely stand in the name of the hon. gentleman, the House Leader on the government side, and then whenever the government so wish, given twenty-four notice, they can call it. But I would submit, Sir, it is not in order to debate this motion at this time. The Standing Order is 29, for leave to present a Bill, resolution or address. So I submit it is to be taken as notice and in due course when the government wish it could be called, and if it is debatable it can be debated and then in due course the matter will be resolved by the House.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. House Leader.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, my intention and as I understand it, as I am told and as the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) has said, that the tradition in this House is that these things have not been treated as a Notice of Motion but have been simply moved and dealt with. This is the first time that something like this has arisen. If the hon. member opposite believed that this was simply a Notice of Motion, then his response to it was absolutely inexcusable if that is what he believes.

MR. ROBERTS: It is not the same notice.

MR. WELLS: But this was intended to be not a Notice of Motion but a motion, Mr. Speaker, which, as I say, by the tradition of this House has always been dealt with and never been argued about in this, what I consider, disgraceful fashion.

PREMIER MOORES: Absolutely! Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

To clear up one point of confusion - and we could go back to the tapes on this point if necessary - I had not in fact called Notice of Motion. I had called Presenting Reports of Standing and Select Committees. Before calling Notice of Motion the hon. House Leader arose to put forward this motion.

MR. SIMMONS: It was out of order in that case.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Would you permit me just to consult with the clerk of the House over one matter briefly?

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

It is my information that elections to these positions have in the past - and we have precedent for this, therefore - that this matter has been dealt with as a motion put forward without the necessity of going through the procedure of first giving Notice of Motion.

MR. LUNDPIGAN: Can you imagine giving notice of motion to select a Speaker!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have nothing, Sir, against the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). The hon. member and I have been personal friends for a long time. But what I am opposed to, Sir, is the high-handed way in which the government is trying to ram this appointment through the House and a lot of contempt, Sir, for the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) tried to whip the carpet right out from under my feet by saying that when the hon. gentleman was Premier that he just nominated So-and-So and there was not prior consultation. That does not make it right, Sir. It does not make it right. The hon. member could have been wrong.

MR. MORGAN: It is parliamentary procedure.

MR. NEARY: No, it is not parliamentary procedure, Sir, it is a matter of courtesy, Mr. Speaker. The government House Leader should approach the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Leader of the Liberal Reform Party and myself as the leader of the Independent

MR. NEARY: Liberal Party in this hon. House. And the Premier shakes his head and says, no. Well I have got a little more experience in parliamentary procedure than the hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: You would never know it.

MR. NEARY: I think, Sir - Mr. Speaker, what is the hurry? What is the hurry to do this? Why could the government House Leader not have come to the leaders of

Mr. Neary:

the parties on this side of the House?

PREMIER MOORES: Would you do the same thing for the Speaker, wait for two days and a notice of motion before you had one?

MR. ROBERTS: You have always consulted me before.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we have been without an assistant Deputy Chairman in this House, for what?

MR. ROBERTS: Ten days.

MR. NEARY: Ten days.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MR. NEARY: So why all of a sudden does it become urgent? Why do we have to rush it through now?

PREMIER MOORES: Why hang it up?

AN HON. MEMBER: Why not do it last week?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, what I am objecting to -

MR. WELLS: It is our choice.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: - it is not the hon. member from Harbour Grace, is that the whole matter was not handled in a proper way, in my opinion. And the hon. member from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) may disagree me on that.

PREMIER MOORES: He does.

MR. NEARY: Well that is his prerogative as a member of this hon. House. But I think, Sir, that we should have a little more co-operation and a little more prior consultation on matters concerning this House before appointments are made.

So therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am going to vote against the motion just on general principles alone, not that I have anything against the member, I want to repeat that, Sir. I think he is a fine gentleman, Sir. But if the government had handled this matter in the right and proper way without any contempt for the other members of this hon. House -

PREMIER MOORES: Move on.

MR. NEARY: No I am not going to move up, Mr. Speaker, I

MR. MORGAN: He is weaseling his way back in again.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I made a statement when I got elected as an independent that I would vote for the government when I thought they did things right and proper, and I would give them a flick when I did not think they were doing things right and proper, and I would vote with the Opposition or I would give them a flick.

MR. MORGAN: Begging your way again, boy.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, I am not begging anything.

MR. MORGAN: Yes you are.

MR. NEARY: I am just standing on my principles.

MR. MORGAN: Begging your way in again.

MR. NEARY: Standing on my principles, Mr. Speaker. And I think the government should be ashamed of themselves to have the poor old member from Harbour Grace placed in an embarrassing position -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Placed in an embarrassing position

SOME HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: in this hon. House, Sir. Just because they did not have the decency and the courtesy to come and consult with the various leaders on this side of the House. So I am going to vote -

MR. DOODY: This is the way it was always done.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I am - no, probably it was done before, Sir.

MR. DOODY: Of course it was.

MR. NEARY: The fact that it was done before does not make it right.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: There were a lot of things that were done before that the member for St. John's East was telling us yesterday that were not right and proper, according to his thinking.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, it just so happens that I have a great deal of respect for this House.

MR. DOODY: Because of you we cannot get anything done in the House.

MR. NEARY: The hon. member can get up and speak now as soon as I take my seat.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: And I want to see things done right and proper, Sir, in this hon. House. And I do not want to see our democratic system or democracy eroded in any way, shape or form.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: The whole matter could have been resolved, Sir, by the government House Leader, who in this case has made a faux pas, who has goofed, by just coming across and speaking to the various leaders of the parties on this side of the House, including myself.

AN HON. MEMBER: No fears!

MR. NEARY: I think I have a fair following outside of this House.

AN HON. MEMBER: Over here.

MR. SMALLWOOD: They are a long ways away.

MR. NEARY: And so, Sir, I am going to vote against, not against the hon. member, I want to make that clear, Mr. Speaker -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I am not voting against the hon. member from Harbour Grace, I am just voting against this on general principles.

AN HON. MEMBER:

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Minister of Finance.

MR. DOODY: Are we addressing a motion now or a point of order?

AN HON. MEMBER: We are addressing a motion.

MR. DOODY: To the motion before the floor.

Well, Sir, it is very rarely in this House when I get exercised, to the point that I am now, that I get to my feet on, on what appears to me to be something that is absolutely outside the business that we were sent here to perform. I have seen some pretty pathetic and some pretty sad exhibitions in this House, but I never thought that I would live to see the day -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: - when a nomination of an hon. member of this House, representing one of the greatest and the most historic district of this Province, has been dragged out into the open and made a stomping

Mr. Doody:

ground because of a petty, miserable, political, childish, idiocy,

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: as a bunch of immature children across the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about various points that have been raised here today -

MR. SIMMONS: Sir, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! A point of order has been raised.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance is entitled to participate in the debate as well as all of us are, but he cannot, Mr. Speaker, under the rules of the House attribute motives, malign us in the most cowardly manners he has in the past few minutes.

MR. MORGAN: That is not a point of order.

MR. SIMMONS: He is assinging, Mr. Speaker, -

AN HON. MEMBER: Bunkum!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has just assigned false motives to us, and talks about -

AN HON. MEMBER: Stand up when you are addressing the Chair.

MR. SIMMONS: political opportunities. Again I am not going to sit here and take that kind of thing. The

MR. SIMMONS: rules of the House protect me from that kind of thing and I invite Mr. Speaker, to remind the Minister of Finance of the rules of the House and ask him to abide by them like the rest of us have to do.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, if I have attributed intelligence or lack of it to any hon. member, I retract. It was not my motive. I have absolutely no intention of saying that the hon. the member from Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) is intelligent or not intelligent.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, point of order. Mr. Speaker, the minister now makes light of the point of order. I said nothing about intelligence or the lack of it. I heard the minister distinctly say that this was being done for petty political reasons.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Speaker, I reject that. I reject that, Mr. Speaker, and even if he is right, Mr. Speaker, even if he is right, he is not permitted under the rules of this House to say it, and I ask, Mr. Speaker, to have him withdraw without qualification.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. DOODY: I withdraw any part of that, Sir, which upsets the hon. gentleman opposite. If he feels that his motives are not petty, then I withdraw it. If he feels that his motives are not political, then I withdraw it. If he feels that his motives were not motivated, then I withdraw it. But surely, Sir, there must have been some substance in their dragging the name and the honour of my friend, your friend, an hon. member of this House like the hon. the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) is, out in the middle of this floor for the first time in the history of the British process -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: - that I am aware of and make a mockery of the system that we have lived under all these years. I have never seen anything like it before in my life.

PREMIER MOORES: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: Sir, this hon. House has nominated and has continued to do so through the auspices of the government or the elected majority of this House and has been substantiated by a man who is far more knowledgeable than most of us are in this history and this tradition, has been substantiated by him and has been agreed with by all of us, that this is not just a Newfoundland precedent, this is a British Parliamentary precedent that goes back years and years and years. And the only reason that we have for the rejection of the nomination of my friend from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) from the hon. member who has been rejected, who has been despised and scorned, for some reason that is unknown to all of us, for some reason which is not allowed to be discussed as petty or partisan or political, is now being discarded and we must make a complete debate about it. It has never been heard of, Sir, in the history parliamentary tradition, as I understand it and as I know it.

The Speaker, Sir, has always been, and always has been, as I understand it, nominated by the government, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition and dragged - and I can well understand it, Sir, I can well understand it - dragged screaming to the Chair and forced to sit in the position that you are in now. There has never been in my understanding and all the reading that I have done and all the history that I know, it has never been my understanding that the Deputy Speaker or Chairman of Debates or Assistant Chairman of Debates or Deputy Chairman of Debates has had to go through the same thing. It has always been a standard procedure that this has been an accepted tradition in the British Parliamentary system. But for some reason only known to the petty childishness of those people opposite -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: - and I withdraw that if it upsets my friend -

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! A point of order has been raised.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the minister need withdraw nothing because it upsets me, I can sit here and take it. That is not the issue.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: The rules of the House say, Mr. Speaker, that he cannot say that kind of thing and I would like him to abide by the rules of the House like I have to do. I would invite, Mr. Speaker, to have him withdraw - not because it upsets me, because it does not - because it violates the rules of this House.

MR. W. CARTEF: That is a matter of opinion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, with great respect, Sir, I have already withdrawn it in the previous comment.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I was going to indicate that it was my understanding that the hon. minister had made a withdrawal and no objections have been raised from other members of the House. On the point of order that the hon. the member later brought up, I do not think that need be regarded as a point of order. There was nothing unparliamentary that he indicated had been said. He was indicating that he did not wish that childish motives would be impugned to him and there was no real point of order raised there.

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, there are far more mature people to whom we can say things. The simple substance of the matter before this House at this time, Sir, is something that to my knowledge, and to the knowledge of everybody else here who has done any reading or has done any research or has any interest other than surface interests in the system under which we live, is the fact that for reasons which we are not allowed to impugn

MR. DOODY:

Hon. Leader of the Opposition and his merry bunch of discredited people have decided -

AN HON. MEMBER: What?

MR. DOODY: They have been discredited by the public of Newfoundland. They have decided that you are not eligible to govern, not eligible to serve the public, not eligible to rule the Province, not eligible -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, with great respect, Sir, I am not casting an opinion. I am simply repeating the results of three successive elections.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: I am simply saying now that all these little thorns are certainly getting under the burr of my sartorial friend over there. I must compliment him on his attire today. He seems to me to be one of the -

MR. STUBBS: I am saving stick to the point.

MR. DOODY: I am getting to the point. I am getting to the point of what has been raised here in debate recently which I may not be allowed to refer to about what is a real Tory. A Tory, I think, to me is a state of mind rather than a political philosophy. In this particular case I think we have what I would call a real Tory. We got a man who is so undermined, so upset, so insecure, so bedevilled and beset that he cannot even accept the traditions of the British system over the past years, that he takes out his pique and takes his frustrations on one of the most hon. decent men who ever set foot in this hon. House and has decided to make a partisan issue out of the election which has never before been a question in this hon. House, the election of our friend, the hon. member from the district of Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). I find it absolutely incredible, Sir, and I cannot understand how this House is willing to put up with it.

The hon. member from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) a few minutes ago talked about the traditions of this House, the traditions of the system, and how we are making light of it. The hon. member, I am sure, has been very used to being consulted on all these things during his previous parliamentary experience. I am sure that all the appointments of Speaker and Deputy Speaker

MR. DOODY:

and Assistant Chairman of Debates are always referred to him and asked for his opinion as to whom it should be. I am sure that you always acceded or argued with him for some substance and some time -

MR. NEARY: One thing I know is that I can look after my constituents on Bell Island. That is more than you can do.

MR. DOODY: Oh, we are getting a bit touchy. We are getting a bit touchy.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: You had better watch over them.

MR. DOODY: That is right. That is right.

MR. NEARY: You had better look after them.

MR. DOODY: The best thing, the best thing, -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DOODY: The best thing you did for Bell Island was to head for LaPoile.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Order, please! I do not think the last part was relevant -

MR. DOODY: But, Sir, that is irrelevant and it is not substantive or part of the debate. But if we want to bring in all the traditions of the British parliamentary system, if we want to take in all the history of all the things that have always been done in the House, maybe we should drag Mr. Speaker out of his Chair and bring him downstairs and behead him, or maybe we should go to London and take the Queen and shoot her. I mean there are traditions and traditions and there are respects and respects, and there are things that you use and things that you do not use, and there are abuses which are not tolerated in any reasonable House. This to me has been the most abysmal misuse of the parliamentary system that I have ever seen and the greatest waste of time and the greatest abuse of an individual member that I have ever seen.

MR. NEARY: That is not the point.

MR. DOODY: It is no good if the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) is saying. I have nothing against the poor, old member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young).

MR. DOODY:

He is neither poor nor old, although he is a good member for Harbour Grace or for any district. But to use him as a whipping post for the frustrations of the people opposite to me is absolutely despicable and disgraceful and an insult to our system and is something that I am not prepared to live with. I hope that this House gets this thing over with, Sir, as quickly as it can and get the thing resolved, have the hon. member duly elected to the post to which he rightfully belongs and get on with the business for which we were sent here. Thank you, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I only wish that the size of the provincial revenue was the size of the red herring dragged across the floor of the House of Assembly by the Minister of Finance this afternoon. Sir, I have never heard anything as despicable coming from any minister of the Crown as a member of the House of Assembly or as a person sitting in the gallery.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROWE: Sir, the minister stood in his place and set forth the government strategy on this whole thing. It is obvious that they are going to come forth and conduct a personality attack once again on the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE:

Sir, he used words such as scorned, despised, petty politics, for reasons unknown, for reasons known only to the Leader of the Opposition. I can see it now, Sir. I can see the hon. the Premier of this Province taking to the radio stations and taking to the television and accusing -

MR. DOODY: I hope so, I sure hope so.

MR. F. ROWE: - the Leader of the Opposition of conducting a personality attack on the hon. the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). Sir, nothing is further from the truth.

AN HON. MEMBER: Tell us the truth.

MR. F. ROWE: Members opposite, Sir, have missed the point completely.

MR. ROBERTS: No, no. They deliberately missed the point.

MR. F. ROWE: Or they might have deliberately missed the point, but they certainly missed the point. Sir, as far as I am aware the Premier of this Province has consistently consulted, if I am correct, with the Leader of the Opposition -

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, yes.

MR. F. ROWE: - on the appointment of the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers and this sort of a thing since he has been in office, the present Premier of this Province. Why the difference today, Sir? Sir, today we had two motions, or we are going to have two motions. We already have one motion presented. A Notice of Motion is going to be given and we are going to be asked consent to give consent to debate that second motion. We were quite willing to go ahead with it. But, Sir, while the Speaker himself was in the Chair, while you were in the Chair, Sir, this was the first, while you were on your way to the Chair, this was the first evidence that we had that a motion was going to be brought before this House for the appointment of a Deputy Speaker.

MR. DOODY: It has never been done before.

MR. F. ROWE: Sir, it has been the tradition of the present Premier of this Province -

PREMIER MOORES: I have not.

MR. ROBERTS: You did so.

MR. F. ROWE: - to consult with the Leader of the Opposition on such appointments.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. ROBERTS: You have called me, sure you have.

MR. F. ROWE: And if it has not been done in the past, it should have been done in the past.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: It has been done.

MR. F. ROWE: Now, Sir, I want to make one point abundantly clear

MR. WELLS: A point of order, Mr. Speaker -

MR. F. ROWE: A point of order?

MR. WELLS: A point of order. The hon. gentleman has brought up what was said before the sitting started today. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would like to repeat what was said to me when I informed them as a courtesy as to our choice of Deputy Speaker or Deputy Chairman.

PREMIER MOORES: What did he say?

MR. WELLS: What was said?

MR. ROBERTS: There was disbelief.

MR. F. ROWE: To be quite frank with you, Mr. Speaker, I do not think I said anything.

MR. ROBERTS: Just stunned shock.

MR. F. ROWE: I presume the hon. the House Leader - which motion is the hon. the House Leader speaking of? Is he talking about the Come By Chance Oil Refinery or the motion for the appointment of the Deputy Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE: Because I was not approached on the appointment of the Deputy Speaker. So I did not say anything. So I am not going to be distracted by that type of questioning, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROBERTS: It is not a point of order.

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

MR. F. ROWE: And by the way I am speaking to a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The Chair does not regard this as a legitimate point of order. We would regard it rather as the hon. minister asking leave to make a few remarks.

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

Let me make one thing abundantly clear, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition has nothing whatsoever against any member opposite, any member opposite. We have our debates.

MR. ROBERTS: Even Lundrigan.

MR. F. ROWE: And sometimes we have our lively debates and sometimes we have witticisms thrown in and sometimes we get a little bit too snarky.

MR. ROBERTS: Just as the Premier the other day used indecent, offensive language in the House and withdrew it.

MR. F. ROWE: And, Sir, I think that there has been offensive language, -

MR. ROBERTS: Indecent, offensive, obscene, insulting. He was made to withdraw it.

MR. F. ROWE: Etc., I think, Sir, have been thrown back and forth on both sides of the floor.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. ROBERTS: You were not listening to anybody either.

MR. F. ROWE: But, Sir, this is not the point at hand here. The point is simply this, is that neither the hon. House Leader nor the Premier consulted with the Leader of the Opposition or the Leader of the Liberal Reform Party or the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), consulted with neither about the appointment of the Deputy Speaker.

Now, whether we agree with the appointment of that particular person is completely irrelevant. Some will agree. Some will disagree. But the point of principle here is that there was no consultation and we are not going to stand here and have this government ram motions, resolutions, Speakers, Deputy Speakers, amendments or anything else down our throats.

MR. ROWE: It is as simple as that.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Well said! Well said!

MR. ROWE: As simple as that.

Now, Sir, I in closing and in voicing my extreme objection to the disgraceful, bullheaded way that this motion was brought before the House which is, Sir, nothing - is a terrible insult to the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). His own colleagues, Sir, his own colleagues themselves are responsible for the embarrassment that the hon. member from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) must be suffering at this time. If it was any other member the same thing would have happened. He would have been just as embarrassed because there was no prior consultation.

MR. DOODY: You did not mind embarrassing the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter)!

MR. MURPHY: Why do that?

MR. ROBERTS: The only way we could do it.

MR. ROWE: Sir, in closing, and voicing my extreme objection to this -

MR. MURPHY: Why the member for St. John's North?

MR. ROBERTS: Senior member, former minister.

MR. ROWE: motion, this disgraceful motion, this motion which is embarrassing to the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) -

MR. MURPHY: It is not embarrassing him.

MR. ROWE: I want to reinforce and re-emphasize one thing, and that is that this is in no way a personality attack -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. No. No.

MR. ROWE: - no way a personality attack by any member on this side of the House on the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). And I would consider to be the cheapest and the lowest and the filthiest kind of politics for any minister or any Premier or any Leader of the Opposition, or any House Leader of the Government -

MR. ROBERTS: Or Leader of the Opposition, too, to do it, sure.

MR. ROWE: - to go on TV and accuse the Leader of the Opposition or

MR. ROWE: any member here opposite of conducting a personality attack, because that is precisely what is going to be done, if it has not already been done by the Premier's speech writer.

MR. ROBERTS: Am I allowed to go on TV too?

MR. ROWE: So, Sir, I stand firmly against this particular motion, most violently.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear! Hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: You should censor the press on this one.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. member for St. John's North.

MR. J. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I had not intended getting drawn into this debate. I feel that the suggestion that I be nominated was not necessarily mischievous but certainly ill advised. In fact it is the most unheard of thing that I have ever heard of.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. J. CARTER: However, I will take it as a genuine compliment at the same time rejecting it. I have always felt that it was the tradition that the government appoint the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, and the sub Deputy Speaker and the Assistant Chairman of Debates, right on down the line and I do not feel that the government should abdicate that responsibility right now.

MR. MURPHY: They just want to take over.

MR. J. CARTER: In fact, it was only this morning, having heard through the grapevine that the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) might be nominated for that post, that I was congratulating him and I would like to right now, Sir, reaffirm those congratulations -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. J. CARTER: - by supporting him here and now.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, I am aghast, amazed, somewhat embarrassed by the behaviour of the House of Assembly today, of the persons who bring up this point in opposing a nomination. It is not political, as denied by one member of the Opposition, it is not personal, and it is not petty. I call on someone on the Opposition side of the

MR. POWER: House to stand up and say why they oppose the nomination of my good colleague from Harbour Grace.

MR. ROWE: We have already told you! No consultation!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. MORGAN: Tell us the reason why. What is the reason?

MR. MURPHY: Tell us, 'John'.

MR. MORGAN: Tell us the reason why hon. gentleman?

MR. ROWE: We will not sell you and do you know something -

MR. NOLAN: Why do you not speak for Metro Engineering?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. NOLAN: I am talking to the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order; the hon. gentleman had better give a full, detailed explanation of that comment.

MR. NOLAN: Very happy to, very happy to, Is it permissible to give it now? I have been hassled, heckled -

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

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. MORGAN: Go ahead.

MR. ROBERTS: I will let the Hon say that. To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MORGAN: Sit down. You a leader! Sit down! Innuendo!

MR. ROBERTS: The hon. gentleman from Conception Bay South asked the gentleman from - I am not sure he suggested to any hon. gentleman opposite - but the hon. gentleman from Bonavista South obviously felt that the cap fitted him and thus he should wear it, although I heard my colleague -

MR. MORGAN: You are making innuendos.

MR. ROBERTS: I heard my colleague mention nobody, and I heard my colleague indicate nobody. But all he said, I submit was - and I think I have his words correctly - you had better speak for Metro Engineering. Was that it? I do not know what he means. I have no doubt he knows what he means and whoever over there, Mr. Speaker, wishes to speak -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, whoever wishes to speak for Metro Engineering, or whatever Metro Engineering may or may not be, I hope will speak for it. All I will say, Sir, is that my colleague has said or done nothing that is in any way contrary to the -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ROBERTS: - is in any way contrary to the rules of this House. He has not used any unparliamentary language. He has not cast dispersions upon any hon. member opposite. He has not cast doubt upon any hon. gentleman's motives. All he said, as I heard him was, you had better speak for Metro Engineering,

Mr. Roberts:

and the hon. gentleman from Bonavista South (Mr. Morgan), to whom as far as I can see the remarks were not addressed, leaped to his feet in an air of outrage. I do not know why he is outraged. I do not really care why he is outraged, but I submit, Sir, that my colleague has done nothing that is contrary to the rules of the House and there is no point of order.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins) On the point of order, I do not think that any remarks were made that I heard that did fall into the category of being unparliamentary. They may have been a little obscure, but I do not think that is unparliamentary.

MR. ROBERTS: If that is unparliamentary we are all in trouble.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. member from Conception Bay South.

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the House noticed, but I stood here for some moments, and all surely, Mr. Speaker, you could hear where certain heckling from particularly the Minister of Transportation. I never opened my mouth other than to refer to a firm that is engaged in snow clearing, allegedly, in my district.

MR. SIMMONS: Done without tenders.

MR. NOLAN: Well that is not really the point.

But why I am on my feet right now is this, that this situation that has arisen this afternoon is one that must be very troublesome to all members of this House no matter where they sit. Because I am no different, I feel, Mr. Speaker, that all hon. members who must continually be plagued by complaints of one kind or another from people who are

Mr. Nolan:

trying either to get jobs for their children, trying to find some way to support their families, so many problems that must come to every individual member of this House of Assembly. And I find myself here at twenty-five minutes past four in the afternoon about a situation that, in my opinion, that should never have come up publicly in this House in the first place.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: I think it is absolutely criminal that any man or woman in this House of Assembly should be forced to go through the situation that I see here today. We talk about the great communications problems that we have and how we are solving them. We talk about bringing government to the people. We cannot even communicate amongst each other. Surely God we must realize what people must be saying and thinking about us out there.

Now there are some things that I cannot go into because there have been discussions back and forth, as there must be to run any House of Assembly. There are things - there has been a breakdown in the past on things, and I hope that this will be the last time that the like of this will ever reach this floor of the House. It is a discredit upon all of us, in my opinion. It is a situation that should have been solved ever before this House opened this afternoon. I am thoroughly ashamed. I intend to vote on this situation, and then I intend to walk out of this House in disgust this afternoon because I am absolutely poisoned with what is going on.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: I have too many problems in my district. I have got too many problems that I have to handle, and I sit here and, as one member on the other side mentioned just casually to me the other afternoon, and I cannot mention his name obviously, he said, one of the greatest problems I have in the House of Assembly is trying to maintain my sanity. Now I echo his sentiments, because I am thoroughly sick of this situation going on here. I am fed up with it. There are too many problems. We are all suppose to be men and women. We have got big

Mr. Nolan.

problems that we have to face. How in the name of God are we going to cope with them if we cannot settle a matter such as this like men!

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, if I get somewhat emotional about this. But -

AN HON. MEMBER: Right on, right on!

MR. NOLAN: - it is something, believe me, that I find very, very repulsive. It is a situation that should never have arisen. And it is a situation that I for one am not going to put up with any more. And I realize I am only one member of this House of Assembly, one voice. But why, do you wonder why we are considered irrelevant in here? It is very simple. Look at the clock, Mr. Speaker, 4:30 in the afternoon, with a situation that should have been settled before we opened the doors and here

Mr. Nolan.

we are. It is enough to turn your stomach if you are out there trying to find the money to pay your light bills, your heat bills, to feed your families, to keep your children in school, and here we are, allegedly responsible individuals from the community who for one reason or another, maybe the party we represent, are elected here to represent and to do our best for the people in the districts and in the Province as a whole. I suggest to you that we are not doing that. The behaviour here this afternoon is shameful. It should never have arisen, and like I said, it may not be worth a darn, Mr. Speaker, but I will vote on this situation and then for this afternoon, at least, as a personal protest, I am walking out.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. member for Twillingate.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, I rejoice over one thing and only one thing here today, and that is that the Newfoundland people are not here looking and listening at us.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. CROSBIE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with the remarks of the last speaker, the hon. gentleman for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood). Mr. Speaker, just to get this in perspective. The matter is really very simple. You know, the government is under no obligation to ask the Opposition to approve or disapprove who government is going to suggest to the House of Assembly should be elected as the officers of the House. It certainly is the tradition to inform the Opposition that you are going to propose someone, but for the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) to suggest that this would have all been cured if the Leader of the Opposition had been told yesterday or early this morning that the government was going to propose the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) to be the Deputy Chairman of Committees is just not so, because the Leader of the Opposition would still have opposed him. And

MR. CROSBIE:

there is no way, Mr. Chairman, that the government should be dictated to by the Opposition as to who we are going to propose for a Deputy Chairman of Committees, unless the Leader of the Opposition can bring forward some very great proof that the Deputy Chairman of Committees was not being impartial in his duties. This is a case of where a man is being found guilty before he has even had a chance to make any ruling. It is unheard of. Why should the suggested Deputy Chairman of Committees, the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) be condemned and damned by the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition before he has even had a chance to perform his duties? That is what makes this so unheard of. Now the Opposition has had notice. They were told, before the House Leader was up this afternoon, that the government was going to propose the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) as the candidate for Deputy Chairman of Committees. That is all the government had any obligation to do. It is certainly not in the rules that you even have to do that. And then for the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) to get up with a lot of crocodile tears about he feels how bad the situation is and how fed up he is with it, he can only be directing those comments to his own Leader of the Opposition, the gentleman who forced this unwholesome and unhealthy and perfidious situation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSBIE: That is who caused this. Shameful! The member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) said this was shameful. It is shameful, and it was caused by the Leader of the Opposition who must have his own reasons for that. Is there any government in the world, Mr. Speaker, with a majority in the House of Assembly or Parliament that would have the Opposition dictate to them who they must not nominate for Speaker, Deputy Speaker or Deputy Chairman of Committees. Now the member for Trillington (Mr. Snallwood) is somewhat surprised at this turn of events. I am not. I was in the last House of Assembly;

Mr. Crosbie.

and in the last House of Assembly there was a calculated campaign by the Opposition and by the Leader of the Opposition against the then Deputy Speaker -

SOME NON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSBIE: - Mr. Fred Stagg, who was vilified and attacked on many occasions in his capacity as Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker. But, at least, the Deputy Speaker of that House was appointed to his office without any Opposition in accordance with the normal course of events, not condemned and attacked before he even got in the Chair. So the unheard of thing here, and the shameful thing and the disgusting thing is that this is all going on before anybody has even had a chance to judge whether the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) can do his job competently or not. The only

MR. CROSBIE:

reason for the Opposition opposing them has to be, although they have not stated it yet, that they think either one, he is prejudice or, two, he is incompetent or, three, that he is both. What other reason could there be for opposing him or any other member suggested by the House? He has not even gotten a chance to show whether he is that way or whether he is not that way because he is not even in that post yet. So I agree with the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) that this is a terrible situation and that it is shameful and I am fed up with it, and it is terrible if the House is forced to go through it. But the House is forced to go through it by the Leader of the Opposition.

I say to the Leader of the Opposition that he should either withdraw his opposition to the nomination or specify his charges against the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), not just say the Opposition is going to oppose it because they did not have enough notice. Whether they had five minutes notice or five hours would not have made any difference. So that is what is terrible about this situation and that is what is unheard of and this is what has never happened in any other House that I know of, and I believe the gentleman for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) said the same and he is a student of these matters. I do not believe there has been another House in the Commonwealth that ever had a suggested member put forward by the House defeated in this manner except perhaps where they had a tie.

I remember in Newfoundland one time there was a tie and each side supported another man from the other side to be Speaker so they get a majority. So this side of the House would vote for that fellow's candidate for Speaker and vice versa where they were tied. So this unwholesome situation is caused by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, and I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that if he has any decent regard for this House or its traditions that he now state that he withdraws his opposition and the House unanimously appoint

MR. CROSBIE:

the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) to the Chair so that we can see how the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) acts as a Deputy Chairman when he is called upon to act.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, it is not that important a position. The important positions in this House are Speaker and Deputy Speaker. The Deputy Chairman of Committees fills in when those gentlemen are absent or when the Deputy Speaker cannot act in Committee. So it is not the be-all and the end-all of this House. One would think that the whole fate of the House and the whole fate of the government hung on what the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) would do or not do as Deputy Chairman of Committees. So it is a disgraceful and unheard of and unwarranted personal attack on the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) to have the Opposition act in this way.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Is the House ready for the question?

The hon. member for Burgeo-Bay D'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say just a few words on this particular motion. I think it is worth reminding ourselves that it is a debatable motion and we tend to rely on the wisdom of the past, the traditions of the past and so on when it suits our convenience. A number of speakers today have reminded us of how well-founded a tradition this is. Well the founders of that tradition that they have referred to, Mr. Speaker, have founded another one, too. That is that this ought to be a debatable motion. Now I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, they did that for some very good reasons. One of these reasons, Mr. Speaker, is because it is the House, not the government, Mr. Speaker, which chooses its officers.

Now, the Minister of Mines and Energy - I just wrote it down I think exactly - said, the government is under no obligation to ask the Opposition. We are used to that kind of arrogance from the Minister of Mines and Energy, Mr. Speaker, but it does not conform to the facts, Mr. Speaker. Beauchesne, the appropriate reference on page 22, says,

MR. SIMMONS:

"The choice of Speaker is the choice of this House. The House chooses and elects its Speaker. He is in no sense the choice of the government!"

AN HON. MEMBER: Right on! Right on!

AN HON. MEMBER: The Speaker.

MR. SIMMONS: And that, Mr. Speaker, follows through for the other officers. They are not -

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, may I be heard in silence?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No!

MR. CROSSIE: Thank God the school children do not have to listen to you any longer.

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

MR. SIMMONS: Ah, ha! 'Old Mutton Chops' himself.

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

MR. SIMMONS: I do not expect him to agree, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CROSSIE: I do not want to hear you in silence.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Mines and Energy has said, the government is under no obligation. That is quite true, because it is not the government's prerogative, this matter, Mr. Speaker, is a matter for the House. We choose our officers here whether Speaker, Deputy Speaker or Deputy Chairman. We choose the officers.

Now, the tradition, if we want to talk about what the tradition has been, the tradition, Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, has been to ensure that the person chosen is acceptable to all members of the House because it is important.

PREMIER MOORES: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. That is the tradition.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the pragmatics of the situation require that if we have someone sitting in the Chair who is not acceptable to a segment of the House, to a group in the House, you have chaos

MR. SIMMONS:

from the beginning. The Minister of Mines and Energy has well referred to the last Deputy Speaker of the House. We know what happened there. We know that because of his very blatantly partisan performance that we had all kinds of problems. We want to avoid that kind of problem this time, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes more than others the members of the House have to participate more actively in the choice. I would have hoped, like my colleague from Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) has said that the choice could have been made outside and that the government House Leader of the Premier could have determined a member from among his ranks, his party's ranks, who would have been acceptable to all parties in the House and then have proposed it and it would have been a formality, as they hoped it would be. But, Mr. Speaker, that formality, that tradition, cannot be taken for granted and that is what the government has done here today. They have assigned to themselves a role which is really a role for the House membership, not for the government caucus, not for the Premier, not for the government House Leader. Let it be clearly understood that this is a choice, Mr. Speaker, for the House, not a choice for the Premier. Tradition says he nominates, of course. But tradition aside, Mr. Speaker, and all the other arguments aside, the pragmatics of the situation require that the person who sits in the Chair be a person who commands the acceptance of all members of the House. The workings, the functional, efficient workings of the House require that, Mr. Speaker. That does not even really need to be said. To insure that kind of acceptance the elementary, Mr. Speaker, it almost seems silly to have to say it, the elementary thing to have been done - it is almost axiomatic - would be that the Premier or the government House Leader would have insured that his nominee - I do not argue with the fact that it is his nominee. He has got the most votes in this House, or his group. I am not arguing with that - but I say it is practically axiomatic that he would have had the common sense to insure that his nominee would command the acceptance of all people, all members of this House and we would not be in this protracted debate. But, Mr. Speaker, -

MR. DODDY: What have you got against him?

MR. SIMONS: Mr. Speaker, this nonsense of - I do not have anything against him, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance asked me. I wish I could say, I wish I could report to the House the same in respect to the Minister of Finance's feelings about the Leader of the Opposition. If you want to talk about a personal attack, Mr. Speaker, one of the most vociferous and vicious personal attacks I have seen in a long time is the one that the Minister of Finance made on the Leader of the Opposition today. We are not going to get sucked into that kind of thing, Mr. Speaker, because that is not our purpose here. That is not our purpose at all.

PREMIER MOORES: Bunkum!

MR. SIMONS: Ah, Mr. Speaker, the Premier, old foul mouth himself and his Colgate smile again, eh! He will get on T.V. tonight because he has got more votes than we have and explain it, old foul mouth himself, eh. He can cover it up with the Colgate smile. Ah! Oh yes, except more and more people are getting to know what is really behind that smile. Ah!

AN HON. MEMBER: More Moores.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. B. PECKFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order has been raised.

MR. PECKFORD: The point of order simply being, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member who is now speaking is not speaking to the motion before the House, but is rather venting his venom on the hon. the Premier. I ask the hon. Speaker to please bring him to order.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any comments on that point of order?

MR. SIMONS: Mr. Speaker, I have no venom to vent on the Premier. We all love him. We all know that. If I hurt his feelings or hurt the minister's feelings from Green Bay, well you know, my humble apologies. Who likes the Premier more? Who in this House needs the pity of the House more than the Premier?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Forgetting the last few remarks because I do not think they are very relevant this afternoon, I think on the point of order we are discussing, Sir, it is now twenty to five - there are a great many things that could be said this afternoon. There was a lot of emotions pretty high, including myself on occasion as comments flew back and forth across the House. It is unfortunate that it has to, this particular nomination has to -

AN HON. MEMBER: Has he got the floor?

MR. SIMMONS: I yielded for a point of order, not a speech.

PREMIER MOORES: Yes, I am trying to be, yes, yes. I am on the point of order, yes. I would like to say, Sir, that I think, Sir, that what we have is the nomination of a person for Deputy Speaker. A debate on that particular subject means that somebody, whether it is the Opposition or ourselves, want to debate the individual himself and his qualifications. There is no criteria whereby the government has to consult with the Opposition regarding -

MR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, he is not speaking to the point of order.

MR. SIMMONS: Speak to the point of order.

PREMIER MOORES: Which point of order?

MR. MURPHY: What point of order?

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, to clarify the situation, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing raised the point of order, my colleague replied to it and I submit the Premier was speaking to the point of order.

PREMIER MOORES: I thought that had been dispensed with, Mr. Mr. Speaker. I am sorry!

MR. ROWE: No, he had not finished the point and this is why I asked the Premier if he was speaking to the point of order. My colleague had not yielded the floor.

MR. SPEAKER (Collins): Order, please! A ruling had not been made on the point of order. I understand that the hon. the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir has made a suitable withdrawal of any offending remarks and that the point of order is therefore disposed of.

The hon. the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PECKFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Did you say that the hon. the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) withdrew the remarks that were questionable as relevancy pertained to his speech when I made the original point of order?

MR. SPEAKER (Collins): That was the understanding by the Chair.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and for the benefit of the member for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford) I shall withdraw again in even more elementary terms. I withdraw, I withdraw, I withdraw.

I would like to get back to the subject under debate. I had hoped, as one member, that it would not take this much time. Indeed as the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) has said, the matter could well have been settled before, Mr. Speaker, walked into the House today. Not only courtesy to the House required that, not only courtesy to the various parties in the House required that, but courtesy to the nominee required that, Mr. Speaker, and the government House Leader and the Premier would not then have subjected the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) to this debate.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is we are in the debate. I would have hoped to have saved the member the embarrassment of

MR. SIMMONS: that debate but what we are doing here is not particularly unprecedented. If we are choosing an officer, Mr. Speaker -

MR. NEARY: Do not go against him.

MR. SMALLWOOD: You never know!

MR. SIMMONS: There are all kinds, Mr. Speaker, of situations. This is not a knighthood we are giving here, Mr. Speaker, it is a job of work for which the gentleman will get paid. And there are all kinds of instances where the matter of a persons suitability for the task is considered before it is rubber-stamped. I would have hoped, Mr. Speaker, for the sake of the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) that kind of adjudication or consideration could have been done in private. But, Mr. Speaker, if the government House Leader, for his own reasons, and I hope he will explain why he took this particular course, for whatever reason he wanted to drag it out in the House, if that is what he has inflicted upon us and upon the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), well then we have no choice but to go along with it and if necessary get into the matter of the acceptability of the person for the task. I would hope not to have to do that. I will, though. I cannot speak for my colleagues because we have not caucused on the matter. I will say, Mr. Speaker, that having been in this House for a session or two and having watched the performance of several members, I would have hoped, in the interest of having a candidate in the Chair who was acceptable to all groups, I would have hoped that the Premier and/or the government House Leader could have nominated any of several other people from their ranks for that particular task.

I will be voting against the resolution for two reasons. I will vote against it because I resent very deeply the manner in which it was done, and I will also vote against it - and I make it clear that I do not speak for my colleagues here. They may be quite opposed to my viewpoint on this - but I personally will vote

MR. SIMMONS: against the resolution because I consider the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) at once to be a gentleman, secondly, to be a fine member insofar as I know his work on behalf of his district, and, thirdly, I consider him to be unacceptable as a Deputy Chairman in this House. I cannot, Mr. Speaker, I cannot, Mr. Speaker,

MR. FICKMAN: Unacceptable!

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I say to the Minister of Justice -

MR. ROBERTS: An honest and an honourable member.

MR. SIMMONS: - I say that is the truth and it is the truth only from me. What the other members feel I do not know. I cannot honestly, Mr. Speaker, in conscience, Mr. Speaker, in conscience, Mr. Speaker, -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: The members opposite stood up and talked about playing petty politics and now they can think of nothing else at a quarter to five in the afternoon but an attempt to suck me into a partisan type discussion. I will not get involved in it, Mr. Speaker. All I say is this, that I, for me, in conscience cannot in selecting the officers of this House agree to the nomination of the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). That is all I say.

MR. F. R. ROWE: You would have wanted to do it in private.

MR. SIMMONS: I would have liked to have been able to say that in private, had I been given the opportunity. I regret very much that I was obliged to say it here in the public nature in which this House finds itself. I regret I had to do it here. I would much have preferred to have done it privately. The Premier and the government House Leader have robbed me of that. Now they will get up and attack me of having personal things against the member and all that kind of nonsense, Mr. Speaker.

I have

Mr. Simmons.

in my time in education had very often to hire people, and you could not hire everybody, but it did not mean that the people you did not hire, you did not like personally. It often meant that the people you put in place, you felt were more able to do a job than the other persons who you could not hire. Now I know they will get up and they will bamboozle me, and they will try and railroad the whole situation and cast aspersions and give the impression that somehow it is some kind of a personal vendetta against the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). It is nothing like that, Mr. Speaker, nothing of that at all. It is just a question of acceptability for the post, and I cannot in conscience, as one member, and I only speak for me, I cannot, Mr. Speaker, in conscience support the nomination of the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), and it has nothing to do with any personal considerations at all. It has to do with the functioning, the proper functioning, the successful functioning of this House. It has to do with that, Mr. Speaker, and that alone. I say, before I sit down, Mr. Speaker, that I predict that other members will get up and attempt to bamboozle and attempt to assign all kinds of motives to what I have said. But all I have said I have said in conscience. I cannot in terms of the - having due regard for the proper functioning of this House - I cannot in conscience support the nomination of the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). I repeat, I would rather have been given the opportunity to say those words in private. It would have been much fairer to the House. It would have been much fairer to the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). The Premier and the Government House Leader have chosen this course of action and have forced me to say here in this House, in this Chamber, what I would much have preferred to have said in the privacy of a caucus or in the privacy of a consultation with the representatives from the government side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, let us not get railroaded into whose choice this is. It is clearly the choice of the House. The formalities and the traditions that have been referred to, I think, have been

Mr. Simmons

represented pretty correctly. But the traditions and the courtesies must never be allowed to subtract from the real import of what we are trying to do here. Now concern has been expressed about the lateness of the hour, and whether or not we are conducting the kind of business we were sent here for. Well, yes and no.

I remember many occasions in the last session, Mr. Speaker, when we were hampered, and I do not want it to be repeated, when we were hampered. We wanted very much to do the business we were sent here to do, but, Mr. Speaker, if you have in the Chair, as we so often had in the last session, someone who was so blatantly partisan that we were prevented from doing our work then, Mr. Speaker -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, they will try, they will try. They would rather have a little petty exchange of politics than get on with the business of this House, Mr. Speaker, but I will not be sucked into that, and I am talking about the previous deputy speaker. And I say that on occasion, because he was -

MR. ROBERTS: We put down censure motions. It was never done before.

MR. SIMMONS: Pardon?

MR. ROBERTS: We put down censure motions.

MR. SIMMONS: That is right. We did and we made it clear, Mr. Speaker. We stood by what we believed. We even put down censure motions on the deputy speaker last time. I do not want that situation to repeat itself for that reason or for any other reason. Mr. Speaker, it is a regrettable set of circumstances in which we find ourselves, and I find myself wanting to repeat, because this could all have been avoided had the Government House Leader and/or the Premier taken it upon themselves to seek out privately a nominee who was acceptable to all persons in the House.

Now, Mr. Speaker, bamboozling, railroading aside, and all the words that one can bring to bear on the subject will not

Mr. Simmons.

subtract from the - you know, all the arguments about tradition and courtesies and what is unprecedented and what is shocking in this House this afternoon - will not subtract from the very fact that I state that this all could have been avoided if prior to three o'clock there had been a consultation in terms of a nominee who would be acceptable to all persons in the House. Now this will be railroaded through. The government will vote for it. But what a sad turn of events, Mr. Speaker, that we will have in the Chair not only somebody who does not have the support of all the members of the House in that capacity as Deputy Chairman but also, Mr. Speaker, the public knowledge that he does not have that support. And that is even more damaging, Mr. Speaker, to the pursuit of the functions of this House. And I find it extremely sad and extremely regrettable. Arrogance will force it through. I hope that saner minds would see the wisdom of withdrawing the nominee, and I invite the government House Leader to consider this, to withdraw the name placed in nomination. There is obviously not a big rush.

The gentleman in question has already been in the Chair a couple of times this week, if my memory serves me right. And the tradition of this House is such that we can call on other members. If the Deputy Speaker has reason to want to absent himself from the Chair for a period then we have other members. I believe, the member for Fogo (Capt. Winsor) on occasion last session occupied the Chair, and I believe there are other members. I believe I have seen the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) in the Chair and other persons as well. So we are not in short supply in terms of people to temporarily occupy the Chair. There is no real haste here, Mr. Speaker. We have gone ten or

Mr. Simmons:

twelve sitting days without a confirmed Deputy Chairman.

I invite the government House Leader to consider what has been said this afternoon, and to withdraw the name that has been placed the nomination, and to consult privately with all the parties represented in this House with a view to finding a nominee who is acceptable to all parties in this House and all members in this House. The normal, the ordinary successful functioning of the House, Mr. Speaker, requires at least that. And I invite the government House Leader to take that into serious consideration instead of rushing into the partisan thing to do here, to railroad it through as they will. We can count the votes, and we know how this will go. That is not the issue. It should not be a partisan issue. It should be an issue, Mr. Speaker, which commands the acceptance of every member of this House. The course of action is open to the government House Leader now to withdraw the name placed in nomination and to consult with all parties with a view to arriving at a nominee who will command the acceptance of every member of this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! Let me make an announcement. This being Thursday at 5:30 P.M., a motion to adjourn is deemed to be before the House and at that time subjects may be debated. I have received myself three questions to be debated and His Honour the Speaker had received two previous to that, which I ascertained just earlier today. I have therefore chosen the following as the subjects which will be debated at that time. The Leader of the Opposition relating to a question asked of the Minister of Health in pertaining to the government's response to the problem of asbestos in Baie Verte.

MR. ROBERTS: All right. Mr. Speaker, I think that was me, and my writing may be very bad. As I recollect, I raised the asbestos question not my friend and colleague from Trinity Bay de Verde (Mr. Rowe).

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): I am very sorry, if I said otherwise I meant the hon. Leader of the Opposition. The hon. member from LaPoile

Mr. Speaker (Dr. Collins):

(Mr. Neary) will debate the question relating to unemployment, which he asked of the Premier. And the hon. member from Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight) will debate a question which he asked of the Minister of Transportation and Communications relating to the reopening of the Trans-Canada Highway West of Grand Falls.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, is that the order in which the three matters will be called, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Yes.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS) The hon. member from Kilbride.

MR. ROBERTS: If the hon. gentleman speaks now, as I recall it, he closes the debate, is that correct?

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Yes.

MR. ROBERTS: Well perhaps he would allow me to say a few words.

MR. WELLS: Has not the hon. member spoken?

MR. ROBERTS: No, Sir, I have not spoken in this debate at all.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: Is it in order for me to proceed?

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Yes.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you.

No. I say to the hon. gentleman opposite that I had spoken once or twice on some of the innumerable points of order which have been raised.

Mr. Speaker, the issue which is before the House now, I submit, is very clear-cut. And it is most unfortunate that it had to be raised in the way in which it is raised or it has been raised, or it will be put to the test. Let me say right at the outset that I have no quarrel with the gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). Let me go on to say that we have had our differences of opinion. We certainly have, Mr. Speaker. We had an incident in the House four or five years ago of which I took no pride, and I believe the hon. gentleman took no pride, but that in itself is history, just as there was in this House the other day an incident which the Premier engaged in some behaviour that was in every way as reprehensible as anything which

Mr. Roberts:

the gentleman from Harbour Grace and I entered into. The Premier was not, I am sure, in any way proud of this. I am quite sure that he was ashamed of himself. I am quite sure that, as he said in the House, he withdrew unequivocally the remarks which he had made with reference to the gentleman from Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons). I have no personal quarrel with the gentleman from Harbour Grace. I have no political friendship for him, but he has no political friendship for me. That is fair enough, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Roberts.

He has sought election and he has been elected as a member opposing the party with which I am associated. Fair game! He has twice been elected in the district of Harbour Grace as the member for that district. In each time I believe he has won with quite a good vote. In fact I think this last time the hon. gentleman, if I am not mistaken, won with just about a majority of the votes in his constituency, which is somewhat to his credit or very much to his credit because it was a three-way fight in that district as in a number of districts throughout the Province, and many other members in a similar three-way fight did not come through with anything like the support of a majority of their constituents. The Premier himself did not win fifty per cent of the votes in his constituency. The gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) got forty per cent of the votes only cast in the district of Twillingate. He got more than any other candidate, which made him the member, in our system of the first man past the post gets elected, but he did not have the support of an absolute majority of those who voted.

Now hon. gentlemen opposite may or may not believe me and that is to be their choice. But I say without any hesitation or any reservation or any qualification, and without any fear of truthful contradiction, I do not question the validity of the beliefs of hon. gentlemen, I do not question their right to hold those beliefs or the fact that they may hold them. That is their choice, Sir. I am not responsible for what hon. gentlemen opposite believe any more than they are not responsible for what I believe. But I will say that I have nothing against the gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), nothing at all. I believe he does his best, which is all any of us can do, to represent his constituents in this House and outside. I believe he does his best, which is all that any of us can do, to represent his party, both in this House and outside. That is not the issue now, Sir, which

Mr. Roberts.

we have under discussion. It is a matter to me of infinite regret that hon. gentlemen opposite have chosen deliberately and knowingly Sir, to turn or to try to turn the debate in this way. That is their tactic. That is their device. We have seen it before. Well they can do what they wish, Sir. We will let the people judge. It is entirely up to them, the people who sent us here, to judge what goes on in this House. That is the way it should be, and that is the way it is. Hon. gentlemen opposite may well pretend - indeed I would not be surprised if at some point we are to turn on the television tonight and the Premier were to be saying, oh, it is all just a personal attack on the gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young).

SOME HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: Well, Sir, that is doing the gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) a disservice. It is doing the Premier a disservice. It is doing this House a disservice. Nobody on this side and in this, if nothing else, I know I speak for the gentleman from LaPoile (Mr. Neary), has anything against the gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), nothing at all.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: He is as good a man as the Tories have, Sir. He is as good a man as the Tories have.

MR. W. CARTER: To a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): A point of order.

MR. W. CARTER: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. Leader of the Opposition can tell the House then if the remarks made by his colleague, the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) a few moments ago, at which time he stated that the hon. member was unacceptable. That to me is hardly a vote of confidence in the member from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). I wonder will he say now if he was stating his party's policy when he made that remark just a few minutes ago in his speech?

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, to that point of order. The hon. gentleman from St. Mary's - The Capes (Mr. W. Carter), who should know better, is trying to enter into the debate. That is his right, but not his right under a point of order. There is no point of order, Sir, and unless Your Honour wishes to make a ruling I would propose to go ahead.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): I would rule that no point of order has been raised. Perhaps it would have been more proper to have asked the hon. Leader of the Opposition to yield momentarily.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the gentleman from St. Mary's - The Capes (Mr. W. Carter), who has sat in this and other Legislative Chambers for a long time, would heed Your Honour's advice and then follow it if he wishes.

Mr. Speaker, I was saying that I have no quarrel with the gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) - none at all. After the incident to which advertion has been made by those on the other side, which was four or five years ago, we shook hands outside. I have always been taught, and I do believe, that that is the end of anything. I have no quarrel with the hon. gentleman other than when election time comes I will do my best to defeat his party, as he will do his best to defeat my party. I really have no personal or professional quarrel with him. I am not convinced of his ability to be Deputy Chairman of the Committees of this House, but that is not the reason I am going to vote against this motion. I would be quite willing to let the hon. gentleman take the Chair and let his conduct of the Chair, Sir, be the determinate of whether my opinion was validly founded or not.

MR. ROBERTS:

My friend from Burgeo-Bay D'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) has made up his mind, and that is his right. On this side we make up our own minds as we wish. The hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) has not, I think it is fair to say, not been one of those, Sir, who enters into the back and forth of points of order and of parliamentary debate. He debates, he says his piece on a question that is of concern to him and gives us his views and his opinions, but I think it is fair to say, Sir, that he is not one of the members of this House who has made a bit of a study of the procedural matters. There are many hon. members who have.

The hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) knows quite a bit about parliamentary procedure. Not as much as he would believe, not as much as he would have us believe, but a certain amount, much more than most of us in this House. His friend and colleague, the gentleman from Kilbride (Mr. Wells) has certainly learned quite a bit about parliamentary procedure and is knowledgeable in it. Sir, the gentleman from St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), who was House Leader for, what, four sessions, three sessions, I believe, knows a certain amount about parliamentary procedure. The gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) has been twenty-four or twenty-five years of his life in this House dealing in points of order and dealing in parliamentary procedure, and a number of gentlemen on this side - my friend and colleague from Trinity-Bay de Verde (Mr. P. Rowe) has mastered large sections of the rules and the practices of this House. I do not claim to be an expert, but I have mixed up in enough debate that I have had my nose buffed in the metaphorical sense enough times that I have learned some of the rules or some of the 'not' rules.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) - and it is not disgrace to him - is not one of those who has made any study of parliamentary procedure. It is not anything against him. It is not anything for him. It is just a straight statement of fact. But those on the other side, Mr. Speaker, who say that those of us

MR. ROBERTS:

who will vote against this motion are doing so for personal animosity, Sir, I reject that. It is spurious. It is despicable.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: How do you know he has not studied parliamentary procedure?

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) asks how I know he has not studied parliamentary procedure. That is a good question, Sir, to which I would say he may have studied. He has never shown it. He has never made any effort to display it in the House. I would find it passing strange, Sir, that a man would enter into the somewhat esoteric realms of parliamentary procedure, because it is really of little import beyond the walls of this Chamber. Most of these points of order and these fine debates on parliamentary points are of little interest to any of our constituents, of little interest. I do not think anybody in - I have represented a district in this House now, Sir, for ten years. I have been elected in four general elections. Nobody has ever come up to me in my constituency, and I will wager the hon. gentleman from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) who has been elected thrice out of four tries if I am correct - yes thrice out of four tries. He is batting -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Six or seven times. I was defeated for town councils.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh, the hon. gentleman may - the people who know him best may well have defeated him, but that is neither here nor there. I am speaking of parliaments, this parliament here and the parliament at Ottawa. He has been elected thrice out of -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Thrice out of four times.

MR. ROBERTS: No, that is not parliamentary. But anyway he has been elected three times. I will wager, Sir, a modest amount that nobody, Sir, has ever come up to him in his campaigns and said, what do you know about parliamentary procedure. So while the gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) may very well have mastered parliamentary procedure - for all I know, Mr. Speaker, he goes home and he takes Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice and he reads it for an hour or two two before going to bed, as many people hitherto and, I fear, not today,

MR. ROBERTS:

as many people hitherto used to read the bible before going to bed. Maybe the hon. gentleman reads May and Beauchesne and all the authorities. I do not know that. But all I will say is, Mr. Speaker, if he has amassed and accumulated that knowledge he has kept it very much to himself.

Mr. Speaker, the mere fact that the hon. gentleman in our opinion is not a master, or not even I would suggest, a medium master or a minimum master of parliamentary practice, is not the issue here. The issue before this Chair now -

MP. LUNDRIGAN: You said a few moments ago that he was not informed on the rules.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) and persists in trying to harass. His only role in the House, Sir, is becoming one of that of the cheerleader. Now, Sir, I do not cheer him. I do not wish him to cheer me. All I would ask is that he restrain himself when we speak, just as we shall restrain ourselves when he speaks. He knows a fair bit about the rules of the House. He has been called to order enough times, here and in other houses, that he has learned a lot. I would merely ask that he

MR. ROBERTS: afford me and my colleagues the same courtesy which he would expect us and which we will endeavour to afford to him, namely that he shall remain silent when another hon. member speaks.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROBERTS: Now, Mr. Speaker, the issue before the House now, the issue which we will decide in casting our votes whenever the vote is called, the issue, Sir, before the House is quite simply the right and the rights of this House with respect to its officers. Let there be no hesitation in agreeing that the government have the responsibility and the privilege and the right, if one wishes to use that word, to organize the House, in that sense of the word. It is their responsibility.

The hon. gentleman from Kilbride (Mr. Wells) is the House Leader on the government side. He is the man who has been appointed by the Premier as the Leader on that side to speak for the government and thus he leads the House. He is not just the Government House Leader. He is the House Leader. He speaks and Your Honour, except on Private Members' Day, Your Honour looks to him for guidance on matters of procedure, on matters of government business. He is the House Leader. The government have the responsibility, Sir, to organize the House. They have the responsibility to select the men or the women, if they so wished, whom they feel should hold the offices in the House.

They have the responsibility, I believe, of proposing those. But, Mr. Speaker, it is not their responsibility to choose. It is the House's responsibility to choose. It is the House's responsibility to decide who should be our officers. And this, Mr. Speaker, is the third House of Assembly in which I have been the Leader of the Opposition. In each of the three elections of Speakers or of Deputy Speakers, or of Chairman of Committees, I have been consulted. Sometimes it was by phone call from the Premier saying we think we are going to ask so and so to take the Chair, will you go along with it and once or twice I have said yes. Once or twice I said, look I would like to talk to some

MR. ROBERTS: of our people, I will get back to you. But in each case I have been consulted.

I do not think it is improper or unreasonable to expect that the Leader of the Opposition, who has a position in this House, is consulted, not dictated. The hon. gentleman I believe from St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) thinks I would like to become a dictator. He is thinking of his own time in Opposition, I assume. I have no right nor desire to dictate who officers should be. But, Sir, I have a right, I believe, and I believe my colleagues share this belief, to be consulted and there was no consultation in this case at all. I have seconded every man who has been proposed for the office of Speaker. I have seconded every man who has been proposed for the office of Deputy Speaker. And up until this afternoon I have seconded, and with glad heart, every man who was proposed for the office of Deputy Chairman of Committees, even though when we elected the gentleman from Bonavista North (Mr. Cross) at the start of this session we did so in the face of a warning, in Beauchesne, a respected authority, that he should not have been nominated. And if the hon. the House Leader is not familiar with that I would ask him to look at the bottom of page twenty where it says, "The person proposed should always be present and should properly be a member upon whose seat there is no probability of a question." At that time the hon. member for Bonavista North (Mr. Cross) then sat here, a writ had been filed in the Supreme Court in respect of three seats. The Courts have acted on two, the third one, of course, is still before the Supreme Court.

Let me while I am on that point, that citation, of course, refers to the Speaker, but Mr. Speaker, the procedure for election of the Speaker is precisely that, is our guide for the election of a Deputy Speaker or the election of the Deputy Deputy Speaker or the more correct title is the Deputy Chairman of Committees, just as Your Honour's correct title is not that of Deputy Speaker but rather of Chairman of Committees of the Whole House.

Mr. Speaker, the government have a responsibility to organize the House, but they do not have a responsibility to choose the officers of

MR. ROBERTS: this House. The officers, Sir, are officers of the whole House. They are not ministers. They are not there to defend the ministry or to harrass the ministry. They are officers of the whole House. In many ways they are like the referee in a game of hockey or football. I am not saying this is a game, but I am saying, Mr. Speaker that their impartiality must be above question and the only way to ensure that is to ensure that there is adequate consultation before hand.

I believe the Leader of the Opposition has the right to be consulted. I am quite prepared to believe that the Leader of the third party, the Liberal Reform Group, has the right to be consulted and I believe as well the gentleman from LaPoile (Mr. Neary), who has chosen to sit as an independent and while he does not lead a group has chosen not to associate himself with a group in this House, that he has a right to be consulted,

MR. ROBERTS: not a right to dictate -

MR. NEARY: Right!

MR. ROBERTS: - but a right to be consulted and that should be done privately. There has been no consultation here. The hon. the House Leader for the government came across the House a moment or so before Your Honour took the Chair to inform us of the government's intention. He did us that courtesy but he did not consult. I have been consulted before. I have been consulted by the Premier before, and I would hope we will be consulted again.

The hon. the member for Harbour Main (Mr. Doody) who made one of his rare interventions in debates, made a statement that rather went against the grain. If I can find the note I made at the time - the hon. gentleman said - ah yes! here we are -

MR. DOODY: Harbour Main-Bell Island.

MR. ROBERTS: I am sorry! Harbour Main-Bell Island. He said the business we are sent to perform - and he thought this was not the business we are sent to perform - Mr. Speaker, the first duty of this House is to preserve and to cherish and to defend this House because this is the people's House. Sir, the issue we are discussing here today is very basic in my belief to the very - not the existence of this House, that is putting it too strongly, but to the well-functioning, to the proper functioning of this House, because, Sir, if all members do not believe they have been fully involved in the choice of the officials, Sir, that is to invite less than a proper functioning of the House.

I am surprised that the government House Leader, the hon. the gentleman from Kilbride (Mr. Wells) had made no effort to consult. It would have been easy for him to pick up the phone. It is not an urgent matter. This House now - we are in our sixth or seventh day of this resumed sitting; it is the twenty-sixth or twenty-seventh day of this House of Assembly; it is the sixth or seventh day since the Speaker reported to us that the Supreme Court of Newfoundland had declared that the seat from Bonavista North had been vacated that therefore there was a vacancy in the office of the Deputy

MR. ROBERTS: Chairman of Committees, and today it comes in, it is sprung with no notice, with no apparent need. It is typical of this government's attitude, Sir.

The Standing Orders say specifically that within twenty sitting days of a session a Standing Committee shall be set up to strike the Committees of the House. Well, Mr. Speaker, that was on the twenty-second or twenty-third day and that motion has still not been called, it has still not been put, no such Committee is in existence. Am I not to be consulted on that now? Am I not to be consulted on those of my colleagues whom I would recommend or wish to sit on these Committees? Is this the new rule in this House?

Mr. Speaker, it is not a personal issue - and hon. gentlemen opposite who believe it is have a right to believe it, but they are wrong, Sir. I do not mind them doing me a discourtesy, I am accustomed to that, but they are doing this House a discourtesy, Sir, and they are doing themselves a dishonour. - it is not a personal issue and any honourable gentleman who says it is I shall reject it and it is wrong.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. the member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), who is hardly a member of tact and of conciliation, said, and I quote, "The government are under no obligation to consult." That is true, Sir. They are under no obligation to consult anybody. But, Sir, we are under no obligation to rubber-stamp their choice.

MR. ROWE: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: And if they choose not to consult us I choose to reject their choice.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the officers of this House are the choice of the whole House, of every one of us. It should not be a matter of government versus opposition, of Liberal versus Tory, it should be a matter, and it always has been a matter in this House, to my knowledge, until today. I cannot speak for what went

MR. ROBERTS: on when the hon. the gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) was Premier. I served in his cabinet, gladly so, I served as a supporter of his before I was asked by him to join his cabinet. Mr. Speaker, I was never involved in the decision to consult the Opposition or not to. I know nothing about that. All I know is what has happened in the three General Assemblies in which I have been here as Leader of the Opposition, and I can speak with firsthand knowledge of that, Sir. I can speak with firsthand knowledge of what has gone on for three General Assemblies. The government have a right to organize the House, Sir, they have the duty to organize the House but they have no right, Sir, to choose. The House chooses.

Mr. Speaker, I would just point out, and I will try to finish so we can - and perhaps we could agree to postpone the Late Show, Your Honour, maybe take it tomorrow so that we can resolve this matter today, because the House Leader will certainly wish to speak on this and we have only four or five minutes - I have only a couple of points left I wish to make.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentlemen opposite would seem to feel there has never been a contested election for this. Mr. Speaker, the most recent Speaker of the House of Commons in London, Mr. Speaker Lloyd, who has now announced his resignation after a term of six or seven years, was contested, as I recall it. There have been many, many precedents in the United Kingdom. I am not aware of any in Canada but I have not checked back through the Canadian authorities, but there are many, many precedents for contested elections to the Chair of the House. They are often unanimous, usually unanimous, hopefully unanimous, but not always so.

There was a contested election, I believe the most recent one held in the House of Commons at London, which would have been, I think, Mr. Speaker Lloyd, the Right Honourable Selwyn Lloyd,

Mr. Roberts:

the former cabinet minister who took the Chair of the House, but I believe he did so only after a contested election.

I apologize to the hon. gentleman from St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) for not having the opportunity to do him the courtesy of coming to him beforehand and saying, I am going to put your name in the nomination. I did that perfectly seriously, Sir. The hon. gentleman from St. John's North is the most senior backbencher on the government side. He has been elected three times. The hon. gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) has only sat in two Houses of Assembly. True, one was only one day. But the hon. gentleman from St. John's North, Sir, has also served in the Cabinet, and thus has a knowledge of the process of government which the hon. gentleman from Harbour Grace has not as yet got, as the hon. gentleman from Harbour Grace has not as yet gone into the Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, the other point that I would make, Sir, is that the hon. member for St. John's North, if they want to talk of partisan things, has been infinitely more partisan than the hon. gentleman from Harbour Grace. When the hon. gentleman from Harbour Grace was supporting the Liberal Party, he was a district officer in the Harbour Grace District Liberal Association, indeed he voted, I believe, early and often for the hon. gentleman from St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) to be leader of the party.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: The Premier is looking quizically. It is true.

PREMIER MOORES: What has that got to do with this?

MR. ROBERTS: It has got everything to do with everything. The point I am making, Mr. Speaker, is that the hon. gentleman from St. John's North has been infinitively more partisan, is infinitively truer a Tory than most anybody over there. Sir, back in the days when only the small game laws protected the Tory Party, the hon. gentleman from St. John's North carried their banners, Sir, and carried them laudably with honour. And I nominated him because he is a senior member and I believe he could discharge the job faithfully. I could have nominated my friend and colleague from Fogo (Capt. Winsor),

Mr. Roberts:

who is a very senior member of the House, and has served in this House as Deputy Chairman of Committees. But, Sir, that would have been wrong because I do not believe a man on this side has the right to expect that the House will choose him.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman from St. John's North is hardly a partisan friend of mine. He is as much as friend as the gentleman from Harbour Grace, and no more an enemy. The only enemy, Sir, I stress, is political.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have made the points I wanted to make. I shall vote against this motion, because it is the only way in which we can protest, the only way in which we can protest the government's procedure. The government, Sir, seem to feel they can do what they wish in this House. Well, Mr. Speaker, they cannot. The government have rights and they have responsibilities. But, Sir, the Opposition, and those of us who sit on this side or other than the Opposition, have rights and have responsibilities. And the government have the right, Sir, the government have the right to organize, they do not have the right to choose. And what was said of the Speaker by Mr. Arthur Beauchesne, the Clerk of the House of Commons, and a great expert on parliamentary matters, we refer to him all of the time, what was said of the Speaker is equally true, Sir, of the officers. The choice of Speaker is the choice of this House. The House chooses and elects a Speaker. He is in no sense the choice of the government, in no sense the choice of the Prime Minister. Well, Sir, that is equally true of the men - Sir, Your Honour has not yet been elected Speaker. That high office may come to Your Honour. Your Honour, I know, would discharge it with nobility. But, Mr. Speaker, Your Honour, although Your Honour has not been elected Speaker, today is as much the Speaker clothed with all of the authority of the Speaker, as the hon. member from St. Mary's - I am sorry, the hon. Member for Waterford-Kenmount (Mr. Ottenheimer), formerly the member for St. Mary's, the hon. member for Waterford-Kenmount whom we have elected as our Speaker. And the man who is elected by this House, Sir, to be Deputy Chairman of Committees, deputy to Your Honour, has the same right to take the Chair, Sir.

Mr. Roberts;

We are electing the officers of this House. We are electing a Speaker or a pro Speaker, a man that serves for the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the issue is very much the rights of this House.

The issue is the way in which the House Leader has proceeded.

The issue, Sir, is typical of the government's refusal to heed the rights of the House, and that is what the gentleman from LaPoile

is protesting, and that is what I am protesting. And I am surprised at the gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) who has always been such a great supporter of the rights of this House, I am surprised, Sir, that he will tolerate this. And I would be very surprised if he votes for this Motion. He may. It is his choice. But I would be very surprised if he or any of his colleagues. The issue is the right of the House, Sir, not the right to organize, Sir, but the right to choose. And it was well put by the member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie),

MR. ROBERTS: who knows a great deal about conciliation and a great deal about consultation, Sir, he said the government are under no obligation. Well I said that before and I will say it again, we, Sir, are under no obligation either. We shall do what we believe best, and what we believe best, Sir, is to reject the way in which this government have moved in this matter. We think they are wrong, Sir, and I for one shall vote to indicate my beliefs.

MR. SPEAKER (Collins): The hon. the member for St. Mary's-The Canes.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to take part in this debate because to do so, I think, would make me as guilty as the members opposite for wasting the time of the House and for obstructing the business of the House. But I think that the Leader of the Opposition, as usual, has been very inconsistent in his remarks in that he started off a moment ago talking about, praising the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) and saying what a great fellow he was and how he was not in any way reflecting on his ability to fill that office. But then he ended up by stating that he was objecting to the appointment on the basis that he felt that the hon. member was not qualified to fill the Chair.

MR. ROBERTS: I would not have voted against him for that.

MR. W. CARTER: That, Mr. Speaker, to me is insulting and I think that any member who would go to that extent - and I might add that the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir made the same kind of a statement in that he said the member was unacceptable, totally unacceptable to him to fill that role - now I think that any member who would go to that extent to discredit a fellow member of this House, a man who has been elected two or three times by a large majority of the electorate in his district, that any member who would go to that extent should be required, almost, to give his reasons why. Because to cast that kind of reflection -

MR. SIMMONS: A point of order, Mr. Speaker. A point of order.

MR. SPEAKER (Collins): A point of order has been raised.

MR. MURPHY: Up she comes!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Shut up or get out or lie down
or crawl away or answer the question the man set, is right
on the nose. An elected member representing a -

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, am I recognized by the Chair?

MR. SPEAKER (Collins): A point of order has been raised. The
hon. the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I did say, that I felt in conscience
that the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) -

MR. MORGAN: A point of order.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, may I make my point of order?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Collins): Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: Well just keep quiet fellows. Do not get too
yappy over there.

Mr. Speaker, I did say, and I acknowledge that I said, and
I stand by having said that I feel that for the role of Deputy
Chairman the nominee is unacceptable, and for that being one of
two reasons I gave I will vote against it. I did not, Mr. Speaker,
in any way attempt to discredit. The Minister of Fisheries has
gone beyond saying I attempted, and has charged me with discrediting.
Now, Mr. Speaker, that is an assignment of false motives. He is
not allowed to do that. He can differ with me, Mr. Speaker, but
he cannot assign to me that kind of motive. I did not intend,
did not set out and did not discredit the member for Harbour Grace
(Mr. Young) in any way, and I reject the suggestion, Mr. Speaker,
and I invite you to ask the member to withdraw his remarks in that
connection.

MR. SPEAKER (Collins): Order, please!

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, these remarks, which are an attempt by the
member to have another crack at the debate, are too spurious to
deserve even comment from the -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, the -

MR. SPEAKER (Collins): Is the hon. minister -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Wait now! Wait for the -

MR. W. CARTER: Oh, I am sorry!

MR. SPEAKER (Collins): Is the hon. minister commenting on the point of order? If not I would rule that the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) had risen to offer clarification of his remarks and that a point of order as such was not before the House.

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, despite what the hon. member has said the record will show tomorrow that he did, in fact, make the statement that the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) was totally unacceptable and he went on to talk about his partisanship. The record tomorrow will show that in Hansard.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, as usual, is being very much the hypocrite.

MR. SIMMONS: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh no!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, we will go on all night if necessary. I am not sitting here and have the Minister of Fisheries misquote me. I did not say at any time, or even infer, Mr. Speaker, that I felt the member was partisan. If we want to discuss that kind of thing privately I am prepared to do so. I am only discussing this at all publicly because I have been forced to do so by the government House Leader. I did not say at any time I felt the man was partisan. I said he was unacceptable, and that I stand by.

MR. WELLS: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMONS: I would ask the minister to withdraw the remarks as he is misquoting me.

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

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am speaking on a point of order. Is the minister -

MR. WELLS: It is not a point of order.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I am speaking -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Collins): Order, please!

MR. WELLS: It is not a legitimate point of order.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I was continuing my point of order,
and at least the government House Leader can learn that he
should allow me the courtesy of completing -

MR. SPEAKER (Collins): Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: I can wait all night, Mr. Speaker, if they want to
grumble aloud over there.

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

The hon. member for Burgeo-Pay d'Esprit has risen on a point of order to which I understand he is still speaking.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I would continue my point of order if I may do so. I would invite you -

MR. CROSSIE: The Burgeo blowfish!

AN HON. MEMBER: The Burgeo blowfish!

MR. MOODY: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, exactly, exactly. Thank you. My good friend, the Minister of Finance reminds me that the old windbag should recognize a blowfish when he sees one. We should really do that.

Mr. Speaker, to continue my point of order.

MR. ROBERTS: That was good 'focer', that was good.

MR. SIMMONS: Just as you write them, 'Ed'.

MR. MOODY: Ah, give us another broadside.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, it might be funny to the members opposite Mr. Speaker, but at least a member of this House deserves if he is going to be quoted to be quoted correctly. The Minister of Fisheries -

MR. HINDJICAN: Let us get going.

MR. ROBERTS: Let us get television in here.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I wish the people from Grand Falls could see the Minister of Industrial Development.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: At least they would see him, Mr. Speaker. They were looking for him when I was out there in January.

PREMIER MOOPES: What were you doing out there?

MR. SIMMONS: Oh, canvassing, getting ready, -

MR. MOODY: Gas bag!

MR. SIMMONS: Sit down 'Ank', sit down.

MR. DOODY: Carry on now 'Poger'.

MR. SIMMONS: I am prepared to wait, Mr. Speaker. I have a right to be heard in silence and the 'Yahoos' on the other side - I have got lots of time, lots of time. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I would, while still continuing my point of order, perhaps I would move the adjournment of the debate, it being five-thirty.

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

MR. WELLS: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMONS: I moved the adjournment of the debate.

MR. WELLS: No, Mr. Speaker, he cannot. The hon. member was making what he calls a point of order, although I suggest -

MR. SIMMONS: If the debate is not being adjourned I would like to continue with my point of order.

MR. WELLS: The hon. member for St. Mary's - the Capes was speaking.

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

MR. SIMMONS: I would like to continue my point of order if the debate is not adjourned.

MR. WELLS: I do not think the hon. member knows what a point of order is.

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

The point of order has to be ruled upon before the House can go on to the next proceeding. So I would -

MR. SIMMONS: I withdraw my motion to adjourn the debate and I would continue my point of order. I would ask, Mr. Speaker, if you would, please have the Minister of Fisheries withdraw his remarks which were falsely assigned to me. I did not make any allegations about the partisanship of the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), and if he is going to quote me in debate the least he can do is do me the courtesy of quoting me correctly. He has had not much experience in this House. I wish at least he would learn to participate with courtesy in the debate. The least he could do, the least courtesy he could afford me, is to quote me correctly or not quote me at all.

MR. MORCAN: Mr. Speaker, just briefly to that point of order. The hon. gentleman's point of order regarding the content of what he had to say, the Hansard will prove the hon. gentleman is saying that the hon. gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) was unacceptable as Deputy Chairman of the Committee.

MR. SIMONS: Oh, yes, that is right. I said that. Yes, exactly.

MR. FORBES: That is not partisan.

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

MR. WHITE: Of course, he said that.

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

I would rule on that point of order unless there are further comments.

It seems to the Chair that the point of order centers on what was said with some precision, and I am afraid that at this point I cannot make a ruling on that. With permission of the House I would delay ruling on that point of order until the tapes can be consulted and I will be in a position to rule on it at the next sitting of the House.

MR. F. DUFF: Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise on a separate point of order. In the Minister of Fisheries' comments, Sir, he referred to the Leader of the Opposition as a hypocrite, Sir, and I refer you to Beauchesne, Section 155, page 130.

"It will be useful to give examples here of expressions which are unparliamentary and call for prompt interference. These may be classified as follows:

"4. Abusive and insulting language." Amongst the words mentioned is 'hypocrite'. So, Sir, I ask the Minister of Fisheries to withdraw that particular phrase completely and without qualification.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Does the Minister of Fisheries wish to respond to that point of order?

MR. H. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, if I have offended the sensitivity of the hon. House Leader on the other side, I will certainly withdraw that remark. But in describing the hon. Leader of the Opposition as a hypocrite, I was going to use an analogy in that we heard this afternoon the former Premier

Mr. W. Carter.

state that at no time during his twenty-three years in office did he consult with the other leaders in the House with respect to the appointment -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, to a point of order, Sir. Did Your Honour make a ruling on the point of order? Or is the hon. gentleman attempting to carry on with his speech before a ruling?

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

I understood that the hon. minister was still responding to the point of order and in doing so he had indicated that he was about to withdraw the remark. I was not aware whether he had finished his remarks on the point of order.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I did withdraw the comments out of deference to Your Honour, but certainly I went on to explain the reason why I accused the hon. member for being hypocritical.

MR. ROBERTS: No, no, no!

MR. W. CARTER: I was pointing out to him, Mr. Speaker, the fact that -

MR. DOODY: Up again!

MR. ROBERTS: To a point of order.

The hon. gentleman from St. Mary's - The Capes (Mr. W. Carter) is obviously debating Your Honour's motion and that is not parliamentary, as he knows full well I submit or he ought to know. Your Honour has made a ruling. Your Honour has said that the hon. gentleman from St. Mary's - The Capes must withdraw it. There has been precedents in this House, Sir, that high. The withdrawal, Sir, must be without reservation or qualification or evasion or anything else.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: We can inform some of the members in this House -

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

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member -

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

A point of clarification. I had not actually ruled on that point of order. I was at the point where I was listening to

Mr. Speaker (Dr. Collins).

a comment made by the hon. Minister of Fisheries to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Trinity- Bay de Verde, (Mr. Rowe). If the hon. minister has now finished his comments on the point of order, I am ready to rule on it.

MR. W. CARTER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Has the hon. minister concluded his remarks on the point of order?

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I cannot hear what you are saying. There is noise from across the House there and others.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Has the hon. minister concluded his remarks on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Trinity - Bay de Verde (Mr. Rowe)?

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I withdrew the remark I made in which I called the hon. Leader of the Opposition a hypocrite. Is that satisfactory?

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): I would, therefore, rule that the point of order has been taken care of in that the hon. minister has withdrawn the offending remark which was unparliamentary.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct Your Honour's attention that it is 5:30 P. M. and under Standing Orders -

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): If the hon. member will permit?

MR. NEARY: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): I was about to call the House to order on that point, and indicate that the Standing Orders of the House indicate that we should now deem a motion to adjourn to be before the House. Now the House is in charge of its own rules. If a motion should be put that this rule should be temporarily laid aside the House clearly could take position on that point. But until such time as such a motion is put before the Chair, the Chair has to take it that an order to adjourn is now deemed before us.

MR. WELLS: On that matter, Mr. Speaker, certainly we would prefer to have this matter disposed of. It is a matter internal to the House itself, and I would move that we go on.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, we will consent to that but on one understanding only that it be disposed of before the House adjourned today. The one thing I do not want is the House to adjourn at six o'clock and our having coming back tomorrow and facing continuation of this debate. Let us settle it now.

MR. F. ROWE: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: There are twenty-five minutes left, and I cannot speak for other hon. gentleman here, but for our part, Sir, we will - you know, it should be disposed of. It should never have come up. But since the government wanted to bring it up, it has come up, let us dispose of it this day.

MR. F. ROWE: Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: Put the question now.

MR. ROBERTS: I will put the question now if hon. gentlemen wish.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, do I understand, Sir, that if your motion - it is an automatic thing the motion to adjourn - if it is defeated and apparently, Sir, that seems to be the implication here, that Your Honour then has no choice but to leave the Chair until 8:00 P.M. this evening. Is that the interpretation of the Chair?

MR. ROBERTS: We are asking to suspend rule 31 (g), as I understand it.

MR. NEARY: Well I think we should carry on with the Late Show myself. We have wasted enough time now on this matter, and we can settle this between ourselves overnight. Carry on with the Late Show.

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

It has been moved and seconded that the House temporarily lay aside the Standing Rule that would into effect at 5:30 P.M. Is the House ready to -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, that cannot be. That is not in order.

MR. ROBERTS: unless it is unanimous consent. But the hon. gentleman from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) has indicated he does not wish to consent.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): I have not asked the House to indicate consent yet.

MR. ROBERTS: I am sorry, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Is it the pleasure of the House that the said motion be adopted?

I hear no dissenting votes, so that the -

MR. NEARY: Nay, I am voting against it.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion has not been accepted unanimously so we revert to rules. A motion to adjourn is now before the House and the question for debate initially is that from the Leader of the Opposition relating to a question asked the Minister of Health pertaining to the problem of asbestosis at Baie Verte.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue that I have asked to raise on the late show this week is the problems, or the potential problems I guess would be more accurate, at Baie Verte in respect to the Advocate Mines operation there and with particular reference to the possibility that there will be some threat to the health of the men who work in the mine and in the mill there or the people of that community from asbestosis and asbestos related diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I am profoundly dissatisfied with the government's response to this. I am not certain that they accept the fact that there is certainly a very real potential hazard there. As far as I know there is no actual hazard that has been discovered. I am not aware of any cases of asbestosis or asbestos related diseases that have been discovered by physicians or by people treating the men who work in Baie Verte, but there certainly is a potential and Sir, the point is that this government have made no effort at all. They have set up a ministerial committee and they have set up a committee of officials, but Sir, that is not an effort, that is a substitute for effort. The problem is, the difficulty is, that the conditions continue.

MR. ROBERTS: Now, Mr. Speaker, in the short time I have I cannot go into anything approaching a technical debate on the threat that asbestos poses to the health of the men or of any people who come in contact with it. Suffice it to say, Sir, that reliable scientific evidence, and there is no argument against this that I am aware of, says that asbestos is one of the most dangerous substances known to man. The asbestos fibres get in a person's lungs and they then cause all sorts of terrible, terrible complications and terrible diseases and the death rate can be infinitely higher, and will be infinitely higher for men and women exposed to asbestos than it will be to those who are not exposed to asbestos.

My problem is the government have not recognized that problem. The government have not moved to deal with it. They have not moved to deal with it. They have not moved to deal with it in the three ways which I submit are essential.

First of all, Sir, the government should immediately have made and have carried out a major study of exactly what is the situation at Baie Verte with particular reference to the question of is there any problem. I think there is, and reliable authorities with whom I have consulted tell me that there almost certainly is. But nobody knows for sure. The people of this Province have a right to know, above all the men who work in that mine have a right to know, and the men and women and children who live in the town of Baie Verte have a right to know. That is the first step, Sir.

The second step they must take is to lower the permissible contamination levels of the asbestos dust in the air. We are now using in this Province the standard of five parts per million and that standard, Sir, was formerly widely followed across North America. It has now been discredited. It is much, much too high. Some authorities say it should be one part per million, others say it should be two and a half parts per million. But the fact remains that the standard we now follow is much too high.

MR. ROBERTS: The former Minister of Mines and Energy, Mr. Leo Barry, indicated in this House that the government would take some steps, and that was nearly twelve months ago. And I gather that other than the appointment of the committee, and this was the point of the question to the minister, nothing has been done.

Mr. Speaker, we do not want another St. Lawrence, in this Province. We had one and the cost in tragedy and in suffering is incalculably high. We now know there is a possibility, a potential of another such tragedy in human terms and the government,

MR. ROBERTS:

Sir, apparently are doing nothing about it. They should be doing something with it. They should be making a study. Get in somebody like the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York who know more about asbestos problems than anybody in the whole world, and let us find out. Then let us set a new, strict safety standard. Every asbestos mine in the world has turned up health problems, Sir. Let us not think we are any different. The problem has come in Thetford Mines. The problem has come in asbestos operations throughout North America. Newfoundland is going to be no different. Our people are no different and they are subject to the same hazards. If we do not take action, Sir, they will be subject to the same penalties. We have had one St. Lawrence. As God is our witness let it be enough! I say to the minister, let him act and let him act now. Let him act in the way I have suggested. A ministerial committee, Sir, is not the answer. A committee of officials is not the answer. That is just a tactic for delay and for avoiding the real issue. The issue is there. The response should be clear. It should not be a matter that must be debated in the House but it has been debated, Sir. We have had commitments made. The former Minister of Mines and Energy said on national television, after he had lost his seat but before he resigned his office, that we are going to have a study made and yet that has not been done. Sir, people are available. We know about the problem. Let us act and let us act now. That is the simple burden of what I say, Sir. But of all the matters that have been raised in this House, Sir, over the years that is as important as any, Sir. There are several thousand people who potentially could be affected and who potentially are being affected. Let us not wait fifteen or twenty years, which is the incubation period of these diseases. Let us not wait fifteen or twenty years to discover we have a problem. We have had one St. Lawrence. Let us learn from that and let us make sure we never ever have another.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition is genuinely concerned about the problem in Baie Verte then I can accept some of the things which he said. If he is merely taking the opportunity to

MR. COLLINS:

play on the emotions of the people then I refuse to accept that.

MR. ROBERTS: On a point of order, Sir. I am reluctant to interrupt the hon. gentleman in very limited time. But let me say simply that he has no right to question the genuineness of what I say. If he has any doubt about it let me tell him that I am quite genuine, that I resent bitterly his thought that I am not. But let me say, Sir, that under parliamentary rules he has no right, indeed, Sir, he has every right not to question. He can debate my opinions but he cannot debate the motives, Sir. Let him withdraw.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is in a pretty touchy mood this afternoon, obviously. If there is something there which I should withdraw I will withdraw it. But as I was about to say we are very much concerned about the condition which exists in Baie Verte or in any other mines for that matter.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Order, please! Order, please! On the point of order I understand that the hon. minister has withdrawn his offending remark.

MR. MURPHY: If there was anything to offend in it.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister, I understand, has withdrawn the offending remark and the debate may now continue.

MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was about to say again, we are concerned with the situation in Baie Verte. For the hon. Leader of the Opposition to make a blanket statement that nothing has been done, I cannot accept. This government have set up a directorship of occupational health and Doctor Colohan, who is a medical doctor, who is probably one of the most qualified certainly in the Province, maybe as qualified as any in Canada, has been appointed to that position, has been sent to the United Kingdom and has undertaken special training in this particular field and is getting his directorship straightened away now in terms of being able to accomplish the things which must be accomplished. I referred a few days ago in an answer, in response to a question from the Leader of the

MR. COLLINS:

Opposition, that no less than four ministers of the Crown constitute a committee to deal with this particular matter. We have enlisted a support staff to that committee, all of the knowledge we can find in the various departments to come to grips with it. I also indicated to the Leader of the Opposition that before this session was over we would be making some statements as to what we have done, what needs to be done, what government are doing. There has been liaison with all the unions in the Province, unions representing workers who work in mines and in mills. Everybody who is involved knows what the situation is. To repeat again, I would only hope the Leader of the Opposition is not taking advantage of the situation to cause any undue concern on the part of people but to be genuine in his concern.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) will debate a question that he put to the Premier concerning unemployment.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, in one of the newscasts this morning I heard a grim forecast, Sir, made that one million students across Canada will be jobless this Summer. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the dropping of the Opportunity For Youth Programmes and cutbacks by the Government of Canada may be partly responsible for this situation. But, Sir, I would like to draw to the attention of the members of the House what is on the other side of that coin.

The other side, Sir, in my opinion, is equally as grim. In February, Sir,-

MR. CROSBIE: You are wasting time.

MR. NEARY: Is the minister going to resign next week? In February, Mr. Speaker, figures show that Newfoundland is still heading the jobless index in Canada even under the flattering new formula that was introduced a couple of months ago by Statistics Canada.

MR. DOODY: He has Al Greene down there doing his work.

MR. NEARY: And most tragic, Mr. Speaker, the most tragic part of all this is that the greatest concentrations of unemployed here in Newfoundland are between the ages of sixteen to twenty-five.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when our university, colleges and vocational schools over the next two months pour out their graduates onto the job market, I would estimate, Mr. Speaker, that our unemployment rate will range somewhere in the vicinity of 40 per cent, and most of these, as I stated, Mr. Speaker, will be anywhere in the age sixteen to twenty-five age group.

MR. SMALLWOOD: 40 per cent in the new formula?

MR. NEARY: 40 per cent under the new formula, Sir. And they are being economically marooned, they are being unable to find jobs, Sir, just at a time when they should have a chance to lay the foundations for their adult lives.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I put the question to the hon. the Premier at least in three sessions of this hon. House. I asked the Premier point blank the other day, and I asked him on two previous occasions, what plans he or his government have for dealing with massive unemployment in our Province and when will he announce these plans. Each time, Mr. Speaker, over these three years the Premier almost gave me an identical answer, that he would be making an announcement shortly or that he would be making his announcement in due course.

Now, Mr. Speaker, for the fourth time, I put the question again to the Premier, what plans does the government have for dealing with this rising tide of unemployment in our Province and when will the government reveal these plans to the people of our Province?

Mr. Speaker, I am not asking for a miracle. I am just asking the Premier and the government for some indication that the government is conscious of the problem and contemplates some positive action instead of playing the game of industrial roulette with fly-by-night trips to Europe.

So, Mr. Speaker, would the hon. the Premier, if he is going to reply, or would the minister who he has delegated to reply, will the hon. Premier please let us have just one little candle of information and inspiration to light the way for the 10,000 young men and young women in this Province who are presently unemployed or will be unemployed when the graduates pour out of the university, the College of Trades and Technology, the vocational schools and the other colleges that we have in this Province.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Minister of Industrial and Rural Development.

MR. LINDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, the lateness of the day does not permit any kind of detailed response to the very legitimate observation by my hon. colleague from LaPoile (Mr. Neary). Obviously the government are doing everything in their power to create the kind of environment which will provide opportunities for our people, and perhaps we could have had three hours this afternoon to elaborate on some of the aspects of the question which -

MR. NEARY: That is why I was willing to give up the Late Show.

MR. LUNDRICAN: - are relevant and certainly it would be offensive and perhaps belittling to him, to the hon. gentleman, to try and take in five minutes the kinds of efforts that are necessary to allay his concerns. May I first assure him that throughout the rest of this year on every given occasion the government will be making references to the efforts made generally to alleviate the unemployment problem in this Province.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. member for Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight) will debate the motion concerning the Trans-Canada Highway West of Grand Falls. This arose from a question put to the Minister of Transportation and Communications recently.

The hon. member for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I wish to debate, or at least to add some thoughts to a question that I asked and to comment on the answer the minister gave. Mr. Speaker, I see no evidence and I am concerned that the Government of Newfoundland, the Department of Highways, is not as concerned as it should be with the detour on the Trans-Canada Highway West of Grand Falls. Flooding caused the Trans-Canada Highway to be closed on December 24. The cause of the flood, Sir, as was reported in the local press and as was stated by officials of the Department of Highways, was a Price dam on the Exploits River that has been raised. The raising of this dam caused the level of the river to rise six feet.

The question arose, Mr. Speaker, - and the question to this point in time has not been answered, at least to my knowledge, by the government - the question arose as to whether the action of Price (Nfld) to raise the level of that dam by six feet was indeed done with the consent or with the knowledge of the Newfoundland Government. If it was done, Sir, without the knowledge or consent, then certainly, Mr. Speaker, this is an intolerable situation when a private company can raise the level of one of our major rivers by six feet and in so doing cut communications, our major communication linking this Province, namely the Trans-Canada Highway. If this is done it points out the power that such corporations exercise in this Province and it points out the lack of control the government has over these corporations. Mr. Speaker, that remark is very significant in view of statements made by a minister referring to these corporations in yesterday's debate.

Every person who travels East, West in Newfoundland is inconvenienced. But there is a particular inconvenience for the people

MR. FLIGHT:

of Central Newfoundland. Eighty-five per cent of the work force of Badger has to travel that detour twice a day and practically 180 school children at least twice a day. Several incidents since the closing of the Trans-Canada have cut completely, have altered completely the traffic East and West of Newfoundland as a result of the driving conditions on that detour.

MR. MURPHY: How many extra miles is this?

MR. FLIGHT: The detour is a mile and a half, Sir. It is not the distance. It is the condition. Very knowledgeable people, Mr. Speaker, have indicated their fear that when the Spring thaw comes the detour will not be capable of carrying the traffic that our Trans-Canada Highway is now experiencing. The detour was originally the old Trans-Canada Highway, the old road, the old gravel road. Sir, when it was being used it was being used strictly for vehicular traffic. Now in the next month with the Spring thaw it will be expected to carry the loads, the type that we are aware of on it. Everything that moves will have to try to cross that access road and very knowledgeable people, Sir, have declared that they doubt very much if that road bed will stand the weight and that there is a very great danger that that detour, in the condition it is in now, will stand up under the type of traffic loads that it will indeed have to carry.

In the event that it does not, Sir, then the Trans-Canada will be closed, virtually closed, and all transportation, all communication severed in Newfoundland. Mr. Speaker, I now call on the minister that if reconstruction on the Trans-Canada Highway cannot be done until the Spring thaw, then he immediately direct the Department of Highways to upgrade the detour to a point where we can assure the travelling public that no disruption of traffic or no undue driving hazards will exist on that detour while we are indeed waiting for the Trans-Canada Highway to be rebuilt.

MR. FLIGHT:

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the situation that the travelling public of this Province, and particularly the people of Central Newfoundland have been subject to, the conditions they have been subject to for the past three months and may be subject to for the next three months would not be tolerated anywhere else in Canada. Mr. Speaker, I realize that in this debate one cannot expect or is not entitled to get support. If such were so I would expect my hon. friend, the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan), to support my plea to the government in this case because he represents a district that is very much concerned.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, again

Mr. Morgan:

I repeat my answer as given to the same question a few days ago in the House of Assembly that the raising of the Trans-Canada Highway, and the repair of the shoulders damaged to the Trans-Canada Highway by ice and flooding conditions which is being caused by the rising of the water level in the Exploits River, possibly caused by the increased height of the dam which was carried out last year by Price (Nfld.) Limited, that this work will be carried out and there would be no need for the further use of the two mile detour, which is now presently being used as soon as three conditions take place; No. (1), as soon as the water level goes down; No. (2) as soon as the ice accumulation on the river disappears, mainly in the main channel of the Exploits River disappears; and No. (3) as soon as weather conditions permit, in other words, the construction season commences.

The estimated cost of the work to be carried out is \$350,000, and I can assure the hon. gentleman this work will be done,

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MORGAN: as soon as possible.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please. It is moved and seconded that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the House that this motion be adopted.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay! Nay! Nay!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): I take it that the Nays have it.

This House does now adjourn until 8:00 P.M. this evening.

The House resumed at 8:00 P.M.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins) in the Chair.

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

The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, before the debate adjourned this evening I was making a point with respect to the indignation now being expressed by the Leader of the Opposition. The fact that the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood), the former Premier, made a point of saying that during his administration -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, could the hon. member just wait until the hon. minister has finished. It is very distracting here. It is very distracting. It is amazingly distracting.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, would you mind telling these members to -

MR. NEARY: 'Frank', I thought he went across the House and joined the Premier's administration.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. W. CARTER: The point I was trying to make is that the former Premier who this afternoon stated that during his administration, twenty-two or twenty-three years, that at no time did he consult with the opposition parties with respect to the appointment of officers of the House other than the Speaker. And I accept the hon. gentleman's word, and that he is a great parliamentarian and probably one of the greatest parliamentarians in our Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. CARTER: I can speak with some authority with respect to the procedure in the House of Commons in Ottawa in that I did sit through

Mr. W. Carter.

three such occasions when the Prime Minister would rise in his seat and would nominate the name of a member to act as Speaker, of course the leader of our party and the other opposition parties would concur.

MR. ROBERTS: No prior consultation?

MR. W. CARTER: On one occasion there was no prior consultation. I will come to that later.

MR. ROBERTS: On one occasion?

MR. W. CARTER: On one occasion only, yes, but I am talking about the Speaker, not about the Deputy Speaker or the Chairman of Committees. At no time was the leader of our party consulted by the Prime Minister with respect to the appointment of people other than the Speaker of the House. I recall -

MR. SMALLWOOD: No consultation on a Speaker.

MR. W. CARTER: I recall on the appointment of Mr. Speaker Jerome back in 1972, I think it was, when the Prime Minister did not consult with the official Opposition leader.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: That is right.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Even on a Speaker?

MR. W. CARTER: Right. We learned of the appointment by way of the news media. We had no objection whatever to the appointment of the hon. member, Mr. Speaker Jerome other than the fact that we were not consulted. On that occasion we did object.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. CARTER: No, no!

We objected to that appointment of the Speaker only. On no other occasion were we consulted with respect to the appointment of a Deputy Speaker or the Chairman of the Committees or anybody else. That was the prerogative of the Prime Minister, and he exercised that prerogative. Now there were people appointed - I am sure my colleague from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) will attest - that made us sick. We did not agree with the people who were appointed on many occasions. You

Mr. M. Carter.

know, just the mere mention of their names would almost make us sick, but we dare not, we did not object to their nomination by the Prime Minister because we recognized the fact that that was his prerogative. As my friend can verify, at no time was there any objections raised by the official Opposition in Ottawa, by either party, with respect to the appointment of a Speaker - except for the occasion that I mentioned - Deputy Speaker, Chairman of Committees or anybody else who served in that role.

MR. J. SMALLWOOD: Would the minister allow me for a moment?

MR. W. CARTER: Certainly.

MR. SMALLWOOD: When the Prime Minister nominated Mr. "X" to be Speaker of the House at the private, secret session the Leader of the Opposition was supposed, of course, to second it. That is the customary practice. But in this case he had not been informed the minister says. Did the Leader of the Opposition nevertheless second the motion?

MR. NEAHEY: Yes, Yes, he did.

MR. SMALLWOOD: He did on the occasion when he had not been told privately who was to be nominated as the Speaker.

MR. CARTER: Yes he did, Mr. Speaker. He did second that nomination and we respect him for it. Obviously he was a much broader minded person than the hon. Leader of the Opposition in this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CARTER: He did second that nomination.

MR. SIMMONS: You would know Walter.

MR. CARTER: I am sure you would not, when it comes to being broad-minded.

MR. SIMMONS: Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. CARTER: He did second that nomination, but in doing so he did raise the question and the fact that he was not consulted. We objected to it. Certainly there was no -

MR. SIMMONS: So you know what it is like!

MR. CARTER: Would you mind staying - Mr. Speaker, would this hon. member -

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

MR. CARTER: You know, you can increase your statue but not your stature -

MR. DOODY: With your pumps.

MR. CARTER: - with your high heels.

MR. WHITE: Pretty dirty now, are you not?

MR. CARTER: No, I am not being dirty, Mr. Speaker, but I demand a right to be heard -

MR. WHITE: You are being dirty.

MR. CARTER: - as I have listened to these people who will speak for hours on end, Mr. Speaker, and we have to sit here and listen to them. So at least if you can do it, is listen to us once in a while.

MR. SIMONS: Tit for tat, Walter. You have interrupted all afternoon.

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

MR. WELLS: On a point of order. I do say, Mr. Speaker, that this is getting out of hand. If the hon. member has a comment or a speech to make at the proper time and place, that is one thing. But to keep on interrupting, interrupting and making comments as though he were somewhere outside of this House is a bit much, Mr. Speaker, and a stop has got to be put to it.

PREMIER MOORES: He has not even got a band.

MR. ROBERTS: To that point of order, if I might, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the House Leader's intervention at long last because he sat there mute this afternoon and watched gentlemen on his side of the House harass people on this side. All I will say is that my colleague from Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir is being encouraged, aided and abetted in this by the gentleman from St. Mary's-The Capes, the Minister of Fisheries. If my colleague is out of order Your Honour will so rule and that will settle it, but I might add that the gentleman from St. Mary's-The Capes is inviting this sort of interchange and indeed seems to be encouraging it, encouraging it even if he is coming off second best. But I do hope, Sir, that the House Leader will be as tender of susceptibilities of the gentlemen on that side as he is of gentlemen on this side. What is sauce for the goose, Mr. -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Let us get to work.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what I am talking of, Sir. I do not see the House Leader objecting now. What is sauce for the goose, Sir, should be sauce for the gander as well, and that goes for Grand Falls.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Get away from the gander.

MR. ROBERTS: You got away from Gander and ran to Grand Falls.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order, please! It is a -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, before I -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! It is a rule well known to the members of the House that the hon. member has the right to have silence whilst he is addressing the House unless he encourages or condones interruption. In this instance I do not think the hon. minister is doing either. So I would request hon. members to give him the right to silence.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I might add, Sir, that the longer I sit and the longer I observe the hon. Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues, the more secure I feel in this government and in my seat.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, it is not hard to understand, Sir, why the hon. leader is on that side of the House and why he will probably never be on this side, because he is obviously a man of two standards, double standards. I think his behaviour and his attitude - for example, I will go back to the morning after the election in September when I heard him talk about the fact and brag about the fact that the government, we won, but we did not have the right to govern because we did not have a clear majority of the popular vote in the Province.

MR. ROBERTS: True, that is right.

MR. CARTER: But what he did not tell the people of this country and this Province is that he has spent the past eight years paying homage to the Prime Minister of Canada who on - what day was it? - in 1972 or even, indeed, in the most recent election went back and governed the country with a smaller percentage of the popular vote than we attained last September in the provincial election.

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MR. CARTER:

So there you are, double standards.

MR. NEARY: Double standards.

MR. CARTER: It is all right for him. It is very well for the Prime Minister of Canada to govern with a minority of the popular vote, but it is not all right for us.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Call it hypocrisy.

MR. W. CARTER: That is hypocrisy of the worst kind, Mr. Speaker,

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

MR. W. CARTER: and I think the House will have to accept that.

MR. ROWE: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I just heard the word "hypocrisy" mentioned by the Minister of Industrial Development there once again. I believe Your Honour has ruled on this once before this afternoon. I will ask Your Honour to ask the minister to withdraw that statement, please.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Was that a point of order?

MR. ROWE: Yes it was a point of order.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: I was classifying and taxonmizing - is that the word "taxonomy"?classifying the remarks of my hon. colleague as hypocrisy. And I thought he used a perfect definition of hypocrisy. I did not attribute it to the hon. gentleman.

MR. ROWE: Come off it!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Is he interpreting my remarks as being attributed to the hon. gentleman?

MR. ROWE: Withdraw the remark.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Or the Leader of the Opposition?

MR. ROWE: Stick to the rules.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: I could very easily do that, Your Honour, but I just taxonomize the remarks of my colleague as a good definition of hypocrisy, if it applies, then certainly it should be interpreted that way.

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

SOME HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The imputing of motives of hypocrisy is out of order, and I would ask the hon. member if he would withdraw.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Am I asked to withdraw the -

MR. CROSBIE: Taxonomy.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The reference to hypocrisy.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: To whom? Your Honour, it is only because of my respect for Your Honour and the Chair -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Withdraw it! Withdraw it!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: - and my respect for the Chair and the heritage of Parliament, and my respect for the institution do I withdraw the remarks, and certainly not because I made any attribution to the hon. gentleman across the House. And I do that without qualification.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Maybe I have been unfair, maybe I should say that only some of the members opposite are hypocrites.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. ROBERTS: It is useless to put it to the House.

MR. ROWE: Look I am trying to be co-operative with the Minister of Fisheries because we got a problem -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: We are not interested in being co-operative with you bunch any longer.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, we had a session recently in this House of Assembly where it deteriorated into a bear pit, and it was precisely because people were flinging back and forth unparliamentary language. Now the minister insists and persists in using that word and it is definitely, and it is printed right there in Beauchesne, page 130, that hypocrisy is an unparliamentary word. Now he switched from accusing the Leader of the Opposition of being a hypocrite, and saying that just some members on the opposite side of the House are hypocrites. Now, Sir, that is clearly unparliamentary and I simply ask the minister to withdraw -

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I - Mr. Speaker, on that point -

MR. ROWE: I am not finished, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

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

MR. DOODY: Now I agree with -

MR. ROWE: And to restore some calm and peace, and sense, and common sense, and dignity to this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, maybe I have been out of order by saying that some of the members are hypocrites, so I will retract and say that some of them are not hypocrites.

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Speaker, -

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. A person -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE: I mean I am going to be persistent on this, on a point of order. An hon. member, Sir, cannot say indirectly what he has been ruled out of order in saying directly, and this is precisely what the member done now. He is saying indirectly something which he has been ruled out of order on, when he said it directly. So I again ask him to withdraw that statement. And if we are going to have a play on words and waste the time of this House sobeit as members persist opposite.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! It is the tradition of the House that a withdrawal is done in an unqualified manner, and I would ask the hon. minister if he wishes to make a withdrawal in an unqualified manner, in which case I am sure he will then continue his remarks.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I will retract that statement, When I say that some of them are hypocrites, I will take it back and

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Not all of them are.

MR. W. CARTER: say not all of them are.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WOODROW: Let us have some order.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to prolong this debate because I feel now that I have maybe contributed to wasting a lot of the time of the House. But it seems to me rather ironic that before

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Mr. W. Carter:

the House opened we were listening to the various newscasts, we were hearing from the hon. members opposite, including the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) demanding that the House be called back because we

MR. W. CARTER: had some very serious problems facing the Province.

MR. NEARY: Hear! Hear!

MR. W. CARTER: But since I have been in this House, since this session started, it has been nothing but a colossal waste of time. I have sat here for hours and listened to the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) make speeches, and others. We have done very little in this session and I suspect that unless we take stock of ourselves that we will do very little, do much less.

MR. NEARY: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): A point of order has been raised.

MR. NEARY: I want to point out, Sir, to the hon. gentleman that I have not yet in this sitting of the House, since we resumed our sittings, entered into one single debate in this House, so far this sitting.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that if you were to check Hansard, Sir, that you will find that 30 per cent of the time of this House has been taken up listening to that member speak on petitions -

MR. NEARY: Oh definitely.

MR. W. CARTER: - and on other things. I am not criticizing you for it. It is your right to do.

MR. DOODY: Hon. member.

MR. W. CARTER: It is your right to do, but let us not waste all the time of the House by listening to your speeches and that of the other members of the Opposition.

MR. DOODY: Here he comes again.

MR. W. CARTER: We have more important things to do.

MR. NEARY: When my constituents ask me to present petitions am I not to present them?

MR. DOODY: Why do you not get a set of roller skates?

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! I do not think a point of order in its true sense is before the House, and I would ask the hon. minister to continue his remarks remembering that we are speaking to a substantive motion and that remarks should be clearly relevant to the motion itself.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why can we not vote?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes. Right.

MR. W. CARTER: Yes, I agree with the Speaker, I will bring my remarks to an end, Mr. Speaker, but again I would want to point out to the Leader of the Opposition and to the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) that in stating that we have this afternoon with respect to the appointment of the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), they have cast a very serious reflection on that member.

AN HON. MEMBER: On the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER: You have.

MR. W. CARTER: They have. The hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) did say that he was in his opinion unfit to serve in that role -

MR. DOODY: Hear! Hear! He did indeed.

MR. W. CARTER: - and that he was political -

MR. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker!

MR. DOODY: Check Hansard.

MR. SIMMONS: On a point of order, at no time did I use the term unfit, Mr. Speaker. I said unacceptable. I repeat it. I believe it, in conscience I do.

AN HON. MEMBER: Never come around the bay my son -

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

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, if the minister is going to quote me he must do so correctly.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! I believe the member -

AN HON. MEMBER: What is wrong with him? What is wrong with him?

MR. SIMMONS: There is nothing wrong with him!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! I believe the hon. member

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): from Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir was explaining his remarks for the benefit of the House and that a point of order does not exist and the hon. minister has the floor.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, to say that the hon. member was unacceptable is in my opinion in fact saying that he is unfit to serve, and I am sure that is what the hon. member meant. But certainly I think we have reason to take exception to that kind of treatment, and I am sure the people of Harbour Grace who elected the hon. member to represent them will not soon forget the insult that is being rendered on them and to them by the Opposition -

MR. DOODY: Harbour Grace, Conception Bay.

MR. W. CARTER: - in their refusal to accept their member to the role for which he was nominated. The member has been untried. He has not served in that role before, and I do not think it is fair for the Opposition members to judge him and to condemn him for being maybe, as the hon. members would say, too partisan -

MR. LUNDREGAN: Unacceptable, he said.

MR. W. CARTER: - unacceptable. He has not been tried, and he has no right to judge him, but certainly I am sure that the people of Harbour Grace will not soon forget that insult and I offer my complete support, Mr. Speaker, to the motion that the hon. member be nominated, be accepted and I am sure that my colleagues on this side of the House will vote accordingly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. member for Placentia.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I represent a district that is in very serious trouble. Come By Chance is on shaky ground, the fishery is not in all that good a shape, and I came here to represent these people.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

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MP. PATTERSON: I have never in all my life seen anything as despicable as this. All of my life I wanted to get elected and I thought that I possibly would learn something by mixing with various educated people. But now I shun educated people. Honest to God I am frightened to death of an educated man after what I have seen from the Opposition over there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. PATTERSON:

For thirty-five years I have been involved in steel work, and that is one job where you have got to get co-operation, that is if you are going to stay alive. Now if you want to represent a district, we want to do something for Newfoundland, we have to get co-operation in here. The member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) said in his twenty-three years he followed the same procedure. Why did not the hon. member for White Bay butt him? He would not dare butt him because he knew he would get the boot, as the hon. member for Burgeo (Mr. Simmons) says. He would get the royal boot if he objected to Mr. Smallwood. I have every respect in the world for Mr. Smallwood. I will guarantee you that. I worked with him in Confederation and I have an undying respect for him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs,

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, in 1932-1933 when the Amulree Commission presented its report, they said a few nasty things at that time about the state of politics in this Province, or then as it was a colony that had Responsible Government and then lost it under Commission and later came Confederation. One of the things they said that I read about a week or so ago, politics have come to be regarded as an unclean thing which no self-respecting man should touch. The very word politician is virtually a term of abuse which carries with it a suggestion of crookedness and sharp practice. Mr. Speaker, that was in 1933.

Over the past five or six years, especially, in this House, in the last three or four that I have been here, from time to time we have gotten into situations somewhat similar to the present one and we have heard hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House speak rather emotionally about the state of politics in Newfoundland, the state of the House of Assembly, and we have heard, we have read, really, and heard radio commentators and people in the newspapers from time to time take a few swipes at politicians, how they act here in the House,

MR. PECKFORD:

that the politician and politics has become lowered and it has become a cliché. I do not know whether it is really true or not.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, today's situation has become rather comical when a government, in good faith, granted with only limited knowledge of the Opposition, presents for approval an individual from this side of the House who is to fill a position which is third in rank or in order of importance for the staff of this House - the position does not demand the same qualifications as the Speaker needs to have - who will spend most of his time at the table here when we are doing the estimates -

AN HON. MEMBER: Deputy Speaker?

MR. PECKFORD: No, the position that is to be filled.

MR. MORGAN: Deputy Chairman of Committees.

MR. PECKFORD: The Deputy Chairman of Committees, the position that you people, you hon. people, object to. Surely we are talking about the Speaker of the House. We are not talking about Your Honour who is now in the Chair or his position. We are putting forward, granted there was limited knowledge to the Opposition only just before the House opened, putting forward this hon. gentleman's name. It seems to me rather frivolous and not one of great principle that the Opposition is trying to object to this kind of an appointment by all members of the House. Why

MR. PECKFORD: is it that such an appointment would generate such sharp divisions within this hon. House?

AN HON. MEMBER: What happened the last time?

MR. PECKFORD: You are not talking about the same position, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MORGAN: Do not be quiet.

MR. PECKFORD: All you have is this position which the hon. gentleman will fill and the amount of time that will be spent by that hon. gentleman, fulfilling his role in that position, is extremely limited. And yet we find that the Opposition are trying to defend their position on one of great principle, when the principle has been established, as hon. gentlemen have pointed out so clearly already in this hon. House, that if there is any principle established the principle is one that the government can, does, has in all parliamentary history, through all parliaments, nominated the person from their side of the House and automatically the Leader of the Opposition would second that nomination. And then when you add to that kind of parliamentary principle or tradition that has come down through history which we from time to time pay some adherence to, add to that that the position is not one of Speaker, Your Honour, not one of Deputy Speaker, but third in the line of priority in this hon. House.

MR. SIMMONS: It is not important. It is not important.

MR. PECKFORD: No, no, no. It is important.

MR. SIMMONS: Not according to you.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, before I continue with my remarks could I have some silence?

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. minister requests silence, which is his right.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why do you not continue?

MR. PECKFORD: So, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the principle or the tradition that has been established down through the years in all the parliaments in the British system, when you look at the position that is

MR. PECKFORD: being filled, and then the government nominates an hon. member from this side to put in this position which normally is automatic with or without notice. We are quibbling over if - the Opposition can call it a principle, a very, very small principle in the priority of principles that any man possesses through his lifetime.

Therefore, I call upon members of the official Opposition to stop this quibbling, to stop this quibbling. It is unimportant. It is normal procedure and let us get on with the business now if we can get this out of the way within the next five minutes -

MR. ROBERTS: Hear! Hear!

MR. PECKFORD: - spend the rest of the time tonight, stay in session until eleven o'clock getting on with more substantive issues of the House and hence of the Province. So, Mr. Speaker, I trust that the -

MR. POWE: Would the hon. minister permit a question?

MR. PECKFORD: Not right now, Mr. Speaker, I am just cluing up what I - So what can we not now, as true legislators, get on with the business of the House. Let us get the Opposition to agree because it is only a small point on which they are disagreeing -

AN HON. MEMBER: Unanimous consent of all members.

MR. PECKFORD: - a unanimous consent, to put this hon. gentleman in the position that we have asked him to serve in and get on with the business of the House and forget this as if it never happened, Mr. Speaker.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Unanimous consent.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. member for St. John's East.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, everybody says, why can we not get on with the question, and then everybody gets up on their feet. I had no intention of entering this debate today, Mr. Speaker, because I perhaps have not too much to contribute to it. Perhaps there is nothing that can be contributed to it anyway. But I felt that I must enter the debate briefly because unfortunately what should have been a simple

MR. MARSHALL: procedure has turned really into an attack upon the capabilities, and what is even more important the integrity of a member of this House, the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. MARSHALL: - a member for whom I have a great deal of esteem.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. MARSHALL: Also, Mr. Speaker, for another point I enter into the debate because I think this heralds, is the beginning or the harbinger of this Assembly for the degeneration of the Thirty-Sixth Assembly which began with such promise to the stage that the Thirty-Fifth was and I think we all want to avoid that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what possible excuse can there be for this type of debate? There is absolutely none, none under the sun at all. If the Opposition felt that the Premier and/or the government House Leader should have consulted with them that is one thing. They could have registered their disapproval if they wished to, recorded briefly their disapproval and simply voted against it. Although it would be unusual that would be the way to register their protest. Instead of that they chose to go on a line of attack which constitutes a base and vile attack on the capabilities and the integrity of a member of this House, and that concerns all members of this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: While, Mr. Speaker, it may be possible -

MR. SIMMONS: Would the hon. member -

MR. MARSHALL: Now, Mr. Speaker, I have the floor and I do not, Mr. Speaker, choose to have interruptions to come from the hon. the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir. I do not particularly chose to listen to him at any time but certainly right now I do not want his enjoinders.

Now, Mr. Speaker, look! While it might be permissible in this House - let us take the attack on the capabilities of the hon. gentleman - in this House people are attacked from time to time with respect to their capability in government. That is the nature of government. Ministers come here before the House and they are questioned as to what they did. Fair game! But, Mr. Speaker, there is no excuse under this world of attacking the personal capabilities of a man particularly when such attack is completely and absolutely unjustified.

MR. MARSHALL: The member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) happens to be now one of the senior members in the House of Assembly having been elected more than once and served here. He is senior in rank in the benches of this government. He is a self-made man. He is a man of noted great wit and intelligence, a highly respected man eminently suitable for the job, and I fail to see why in these circumstances we get into this debate which I gainsay is the first debate of this nature that has ever occurred in this House.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are many men who have preceded the hon. the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) in his position, and it does not do anybody any good for the office of this House to be attacked, which is really what is happening when you have a member attacked in this nature. We have always expected - and I know that I do not want to inject these things, but the hon. the member for St. George's (Mr. Dunphy), who was the Assistant Deputy Speaker, carried out his duties quite admirably when he was here. There was no hue and cry with the previous Assistant Deputy Speaker who was, I believe, then the member for Burgeo-LaPoile, the father, I believe, of the present member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) and a man who conducted himself with a great deal of dignity and a great deal of respect in this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: While we were on the Opposition side the government exercised its right and proposed the then member and he carried out his duties eminently.

Now there are procedures if people accept positions of this nature and do not carry them out in the rules, and at least a person should be given a chance as every other person has been. And certainly somebody should be given a chance when he is obviously the first choice that the government would make from the benches of the government.

Now the matter of integrity is another matter altogether, Mr. Speaker, because this involves a matter of privilege in this

MR. MARSHALL: House and dare any member in this House attack the integrity of anybody else. Dare any member presume that he has one iota of integrity more than anybody else.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, my interpretation is how I interpret the Official Opposition has reacted being misled, and I use that in the sense of led in the wrong direction -

MR. MURPHY: Misled? Misled? Misled?

MR. MARSHALL: Misled by the leader of the Opposition. Now I have no desire to tangle, Mr. Speaker, with the Leader of the Opposition. We have tangled ourselves before in this House, but I just want to

MR. MARSHALL:

say one or two things to the members of the Opposition. The Leader of the official Opposition has never yet accepted the fact that there was an election in 1971 and that he is no longer in government. He allows, I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, as I see, he had in the last Assembly - and I will be quite frank, I mean, I am here as a private member now and I have on occasion myself in this House and I will in the future if I feel the hon. Premier and the members of the Cabinet are making wrong decisions, I will speak up on them as I did on the Gull Island, as I did on the public tendering system of the government when they erred and they erred badly. So I would have no hesitation whatsoever in condemning the government if I thought they were at fault in this particular instance. But I feel this is the harbinger of things to come.

In the last Assembly we took steps in this government-which is no feather in our hat that we should brag about - to make this legislature more relevant. We brought in and formalized the Oral Question Period where one did not exist really before, not in a formal sense. We brought in the Late Show that we saw this afternoon. We generally went over the rules and we took positions with respect to the estimates. We did everything we possibly could to open this place up and make it more meaningful. But I have to say, and I have to appeal because all right, the Opposition choose to inject personalities, I do not want to get off on them but unfortunately the Leader of the Opposition from time to time has a tendency to allow his own personal animosities to come into play in this House and it ruins the tenor of this House. I am going to appeal right now to certain people on the opposite side to restrain their leader, people, respected people, such as the member for Lewisporte (Mr. White) who has been known to speak out from time to time; the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) and Trinity-Bay de Verde (Mr. F. Rowe). All hon. members have respect but I would suggest to them that they might try to curb this particular thing that comes in because this is

MR. MARSHALL:

the harbinger of things to come, Mr. Speaker.

Now, I stand here today and I am speaking because I see a man attacked in a base fashion that I do not accept as a member of the House, even before he enters the Chair.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: I have seen since we came back, Mr. Speaker, to this House, I am seen certain things happen, like, for instance, petitions go on for ages outside completely of the rules of the House. They are not suppose to go on too long a time. Valuable debate is curbed and it is just as if, Mr. Speaker, we are fiddling while Rome burns, because when all of this stuff is going on we have a crisis out there in the country such as this Province has never seen and this Legislature is being emasculated and completely unable to deal with it.

Mr. Speaker, I have a distaste for saying these types of things myself. I have a distaste for attack on an hon. member and I underline the word 'hon. member' such as the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) and I will close by saying to the Leader of the Opposition that if he and I together were one-half of the man that the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) is, we would both be 100 per cent better, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. Minister of Provincial Affairs.

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, I think I should have just a few short words to add to this debate. I have been in the House some seventeen years. When I heard today the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) go back and say what the precedent has been in this House, I wonder where he was sitting for the seventeen years. He certainly was not in this House. Mr. Speaker -

MR. NEARY: A point of order. The member has not been in the House seventeen years. He has been here fourteen years.

MR. MURPHY: Fifteen years. It seems like twenty-two. The last

MR. MURPHY:

three have been like ten. But, Mr. Speaker, just to get back to the point, there have been so many distortions in this motion today. The member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) almost sacrificed his life today for what was happening here. He promised that after the vote he will withdraw from the House. There will be another by-election. That will be four that we will have coming up.

MR. NEARY: Three, Sir.

AN HON. MEMBER: Three.

MR. MURPHY: Three is right, three by-elections and there might possibly be I do not know. But, Sir, there are more ways to hurt a person than physically assault him, Sir.

Mr. Murphy.

and I think today that my hon. friend from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) has been hurt very deeply, perhaps not by anything that was stated - that he was a crook, a gangster, a reprobate or anything else - but why the very fact of insinuation that he was not capable or worthy to take a seat as Deputy Chairman of Debates. I sometimes wonder, Sir, if we are all in this House for the same purpose. We may be P. C.'s. We may be Liberals. We may be anything else. But I think we are all elected by the people whom we represent to come in here and to do to the best of our ability, within our intellectual means, to do something for our districts. The hon. member for Placentia (Mr. Patterson), whom I have known for many years, has worked his guts out, if you will pardon the expression, to become a member of this House, is the most disenchanted man, I would say, since he has been elected to this House with what goes on in here. What has been happening? Here today we have been in the House since three o'clock debating an issue that since 1962 onwards has been just taken as a matter of form; we went through the ritual, the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier at that time, the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood). They nominated the Speaker.

MR. SMALLWOOD: The hon. gentleman has erred. It was from 1946 on.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MURPHY: I erred in the sense that I was only referring to my own experience since 1962, if I will be pardoned for that. I do not think there is any great transgression on my part that that happened. But since 1962, Sir, within my memory, within my being in the House, this is what happened no matter who sat at that table, Sir, and I do not know to my knowledge - I was Leader of the Opposition for a short period. I was very close to the Leader of the Opposition, because there was one thing in the Opposition that we had at that time and that was great lines of communication. There were only three of us, and you could not even speak in a whisper but we heard each other talk. So there was no dearth of communication.

Mr. Murphy.

We did at many times as happened, we did perhaps have a vote on the Speaker's decision, which I think is parliamentary. But I think, Sir, I can say this quite honestly, that never at any time did we impugn any motives other than pure honourable to anybody in this House. I recall, Sir - and unfortunately I could not bring it in this House with me tonight - an editorial written in The Evening Telegram by whom I do not know, and it was the sort of a Black Monday thing, Sir, where the first time, Sir, in the history of our beloved Province and country, some one dared impugn the honesty and integrity of the Speaker at that time. Never before had it happened. That was the Leader of the Opposition, Sir, against the hon. Deputy Speaker at that time, Mr. Stagg.

MR. NEAPY: Does the minister remember the time -

MR. MURPHY: There was an editorial in The Evening Telegram, Sir, and I wish I had it, and it was an exact forerunner of what has happened here today, Sir, what has happened here today, that here is a man here, the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) is not fit, not worthy to take that seat, because if it has not been done actually by the spoken word it is being done by insinuation and innuendo here today in this hon. House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MURPHY: I would say this -

MR. FLIGHT: All we want is consultation, Sir.

MR. MURPHY: Look, I did not want to get into personalities but I have heard the member for Windsor - Bouchans (Mr. Flight) talk about bulldozing in this hon. House. I do not know how long he has been in here, but I doubt up to a few years ago if he knew where Confederation Building was situated, not talk about being a great -

MR. FLIGHT: Who is into personalities now?

MR. MURPHY: I said I did not want to, but I am being driven to it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MURPHY: I am being driven to it by the interjections here.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MURPHY: You know everybody today is an expert.

MR. FLIGHT: That does not include you.

MR. MURPHY: Does the hon. member want to make a speech?

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

If an hon. member is addressing the House he may be asked to yield but otherwise he should not be interrupted.

MR. FLIGHT: Sit down 'Ank' while the Speaker is talking.

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, and will continue to say, that what has happened in this House in the past few years has been no credit to any of us. What has happened today, and I think someone used the word 'despicable', and I would say despicable and contemptible, contemptible

Mr. Murphy:

by some people who spoke. Some have not spoken yet. I have not heard the hon. member for Burin-Placentia (Mr. Canning) speak yet, that is a man who occupied much the same position in this House, and I think he can say that not one of dare to say we did not want the gentleman occupying the position, that we did not think he was worthy, did not think he was fit.

MR. SIMMONS: Who said that?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MURPHY: You did not hear us say that. You did not hear us insinuate that, by objecting to it, and hiding behind the pretense, "We were not consulted."

MR. SIMMONS: You really have troubles!

MR. MURPHY: We were not consulted. God help us whoever heard of the Leader of the Opposition or anybody on the Opposition being consulted with the Deputy Speaker or the assistant Deputy Speaker?

MR. ROBERTS: I have heard of it. I have.

MR. MURPHY: Whoever heard of it?

MR. ROBERTS: I tell you I have heard of it and I have been consulted.

MR. MURPHY: The hon. Leader of the Opposition, you know, I just leave him, because he gets out of bed in the morning wondering who he can insult during the day. That is his one ambition.

MR. ROBERTS: No objection.

MR. SIMMONS: No personalities!

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

MR. MURPHY: No personality. That is not a personality to me.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CROSBIE: We have wasted all this time since three o'clock.

MR. MURPHY: So, Mr. Speaker, all I say is this, in Heaven's name the damage has been done, I know, the damage has been done. Because it will go down in history, the first time in this Hansard, the first time in this Hansard, where this hon. House or anybody in the House objected to a nomination for a position such as the hon. member from

Mr. Murphy:

Harbour Grace has been nominated.

AN HON. MEMBER: For what reason?

AN HON. MEMBER: For what reason?

MR. MURPHY: No reasons given. Guess for yourself. He is a gangster. Guess for yourself. Why did we not - we cannot tell you. We are not going to say it, eh. There is something wrong with the man. He is not the right character to be there. This is what you read between the lines.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. MURPHY: You do not have to make a charge.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. MURPHY: You do not have to make a charge. You can destroy a man by innuendo, by insinuation.

AN HON. MEMBER: You certainly can.

MR. MURPHY: You do not have to make any charges, you do not have to come out and say it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Destroy him.

MR. MURPHY: No, do it the cowardly way.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MURPHY: Do it the cowardly way. The low despicable way like is being done here today.

I think, Mr. Speaker, we should hang our heads in shame.

MR. SIMMONS: Especially your head 'Ank'.

MR. MURPHY: Hang our heads in shame to have this happen.

MR. SIMMONS: Go ahead, hang it.

MR. MURPHY: Now 'Roger the Codger, you have gone far enough.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Why do we not have the question.

MR. MURPHY: I will say this, if there is a vote on it, and there should never be a vote taken on it, Sir, if there is that I will vote for a man who, in my opinion, and I think the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) said it, has as much character and integrity as all you fellows over there put together.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to get involved in this debate at all. And I think that everybody in this House will realize that I have never been involved in silly points of order, silly procedural arguments or whatever.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. H. COLLINS: I believe that I can also say, and the House will agree, that I have done my best to represent the people who have elected me and sent me in here to do a job.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. H. COLLINS: There are different ways to do a job for one's constituents than standing up in this House and going into an exercise which we have witnessed today.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder sometimes why I got involved in politics at all. I ran twice and was defeated. The third time running in 1967, which can be attributed to a mistake on the part of the hon. member from Twillingate now (Mr. Smallwood), and after calling that by-election, I came in here and I was told that we were going to go down to the Government House and be sworn in. That did not happen.

AN HON. MEMBER: That was the start of the tide.

MR. H. COLLINS: I went down to the Supreme Court and got sworn in. And I will never forget that, it is an experience which I will never forget and neither will my family. Because, Mr. Speaker, I thought I was going to be put in jail. The Leader of the Opposition at that time, who is the Speaker of this hon. House now (Mr. Ottenheimer), he and I went to the Supreme Court and I was convinced that I was going to be put in jail because I had been elected to this House. Things progressed after that, and we saw a lot of things happen. I am a little bit amazed tonight or this afternoon to hear the hon. member from Twillingate, you know, make statements that he is amazed at the conduct of members in this House today.

I remember after going down to the Supreme Court and not being put in jail, we came back here, and my colleague the Leader of the Opposition stood up to introduce me to the House of Assembly. And he was doing fine until he mentioned the fact that I was the son of

Mr. Collins —

a fisherman, and there was no way that he was going to get a past that. Because there were points of order, and that was the first points of order ever I heard. I could not understand it at that time. I do not understand a lot

MR. COLLINS: of them now, but there were points of order raised, and the Leader of the Opposition had to sit down and I had to sit down, I believe, Mr. Speaker, it was mainly because at that particular time that there was no place in this House of Assembly, in this people's House, for a man from an outport. And this is what we have reached today, in my opinion.

There is a gentleman, the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) -

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh!

MR. COLLINS: - which is a good outport district in this Province who has been nominated and has been elected -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. COLLINS: - has been elected twice or three times, I do not know what it is, two or three times by the people of that great district of Harbour Grace to represent them. Who does the Leader of the Opposition think he is? Who do hon. members opposite think they are to question the wisdom of the people of Harbour Grace to elect my hon. friend to represent them.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. COLLINS: That is what is happening, Mr. Speaker, make no doubt about it. The hon. member is here, he has been nominated by our House Leader to be the, what is the title?

MR. NEARY: Deputy Chairman.

MR. COLLINS: Deputy Chairman of Committees. What is wrong? What is wrong with a good outport member to occupy that position? I do not see anything wrong with that.

MR. ROWE: Neither do we.

MR. COLLINS: I do not see anything wrong with that.

AN HON. MEMBER: But what are you going to do you know -

MR. COLLINS: But, Mr. Speaker, you know, the more you examine what is going on here this day and I would hope, I would hope - and I am going to say some things now which I might not have said before - I would hope that the members who are sitting behind the hon. Leader of the Opposition will be, when they go home tonight and sit down, you know, away from this madhouse - that is all it is - God forbid that

MR. COLLINS: the people could ever see us! When they get home tonight I hope that they will question the motives of their Leader. Because Mr. Speaker make no doubt about it at all in this world, there is some ploy - I think I might have my hand on it, but I am not ready to say it yet - but there is a plot on that side of this House to discredit not only the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), to discredit me, to discredit every member sitting over here, to discredit the Premier of this Province, even though the people in this Province of Newfoundland have elected us to govern this Province.

The Leader of the Opposition comes up and says there was no consultation. What he is saying is there was not negotiation. Consultation means one thing, negotiation means something else. Consultation is consulting and telling the people what we are going to do in this particular case. What he is asking for is negotiation.

come over with your tail between your legs, with your finger in your mouth and say, "Eddie do you agree with this or do you not?"

MR. DOODY: ___ Never. Never. Never.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear! Hear!

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition knows better. He sat where my hon. friend from Naskaupi (Mr. Coudie) sits right now, keeping tally, I can see him now, keeping tally. He knows what the score is. He knows the way things were done. So does my hon. friend from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) know the way that things were done. One thing I will say for him -

MR. DOODY: He had the honour to say it.

MR. COLLINS: - is that he did have the decency to say that this was always done. The Leader of the Opposition, what is he trying to prove?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. member for the Bay of Islands.

MR. WOODROW: Although just a neophyte or a fledgling in the House of Assembly, I have had many years of experience in public life. Now I want to say also that I have known the Premier for many years and

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MR. WOODROW: I have always found one thing about him which is important. That man has tried to be fair with everybody. And not only has he tried to be fair but I know for a fact that he has consulted people on any decisions that he has made and I am sure that

Mr. Woodrow:

in asking that the member from Harbour Grace be accepted as the Deputy Chairman of Committees, he did not just dream this up. He thought it over and talked it over with his colleagues.

MR. HICKMAN: The House Leader made a fool out of him.

MR. WOODROW: I want to say that I, like the hon. member from Placentia (Mr. Patterson), I was elected to this House to work for the people of Corner Brook or rather the people of the Bay of Islands district in particular, and for the Province in general, and that is what I intend doing -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. WOODROW: - as long as God gives me the strength to stand here.

Now, although a lot of work has been done, there is still an awful that remains to be done. And it is tragic, I think, to think that we today, full-grown men, men, in fact, none of us, I suppose, under twenty-five years of age, some of us even up to seventy-five and seventy-six - it is a kind of tragic to think that this day has passed, in fact, I have been worried all day, with absolutely nothing done. I think it is really tragic. I regret to say, and I say this from the bottom of my heart, I feel that there are three men on the opposite side of this House who are causing this trouble, and as the hon. member from Gander (Mr. Collins) says, I do not know why. It sounds so darn silly to think that something like this, in fact, is going to continue on and on and on.

I support whole-heartedly, in fact, and in an unqualified manner -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. WOODROW: - the member from Harbour Grace. In fact, I have only known him a short time, but I know him to be a man, and that is the main thing. I know members on that side of the House, I can say it now, the member, in fact, from Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan), I have told him myself, I think he is a man, and when I say a man I really mean a man in the true sense of the word. And I say that about the member from Harbour Grace. It is a shame -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. WOODROW: - in fact, that this gentleman tonight has been attacked. As a man is tried - as iron is tried in the fires, so is a man tried. He has not even been tried yet. I mean, you would almost get the notion that the member from Harbour Grace is stupid. He is not stupid. In fact, he has been elected, as has already been said two or three times to this House of Assembly -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. WOODROW: - and I know tonight that he must be terribly hurt today by what is going on, and how hurt must the people be who elected him.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. WOODROW: So I would like for us to get on with this election, put this nonsense aside, and let us, in fact, work not for the destruction of the Province, but let us work for the good of the Province. We have a lot to do. We have, in fact, miles to go, as it were, We have a lot of work here. Let us not be foolish. Let us not be acting like children, because, after all, to my mind, that is what to my mind it is. Let us get on with the election and get on with the work of the Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Minister of Justice.

HON. T. A. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, if I may have but a few brief words in this debate. We are told by hon. gentlemen opposite, in the official Opposition, that this debate has not been generated by any malice toward the hon. member from Harbour Grace, that it has not been generated to cast any reflection upon the hon. gentleman from Harbour Grace, that it has not been cause for the - or brought on for the purpose of causing any reflection upon the office that the government side of the House has nominated him to occupy.

This debate, according to hon. gentlemen opposite, is simply because there was not adequate consultation. Now let me refresh hon. gentlemen's memories. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition set forth very clearly what the responsibility of the government was. The government according - and properly so, and correctly so - according

Mr. Hickman:

to the hon. Leader of the Opposition has the sole and exclusive responsibility to arrange the business and the operation of the House. That is quite correct. No one could argue with it. But then he says that there was not adequate consultation. And he admits, as he must, based on the statement of the hon. member from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) that in this House, and certainly we know in other Houses, other than for the election of Speaker -

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

MR. HICKMAN: - there was no consultation.

MR. ROBERTS: On a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): A point of order has been raised.

MR. ROBERTS: The hon. member for Grand Bank (Mr. Hickman) has every right to say what he wishes, with but one or two significant exceptions and one of them is that he has no right to misquote - accidentally, I am sure. The hon. gentleman would never do it deliberately - to misquote another member. His words were that "I must admit" that the - and then he went on. I made no such admission.

MR. LINDRIGAN: I am sorry, I cannot hear.

MR. ROBERTS: I am sorry that the hon. gentleman cannot hear. That is not entirely of my fault. It may partially be his. The point I was making is that the hon. Minister of Justice said that I admitted that that had always been so in this House. Sir, that is directly contrary to what I said. What I said, and I say again - and I would invite the hon. gentleman to retract his error, I am sure it was not a deliberate one - was that the Premier of this Province, the present Premier has specifically consulted me in respect of the three previous Deputy - four, I am sorry, counting Mr. Leo Barry, who is no longer with us, Mr. Alex Dunphy, who is no longer with us, and then the two other gentlemen. There have been four elections in the time I have been in this House: Mr. George Cross, Mr. Leo Barry -

MR. HICKMAN: : What about -

MR. ROBERTS: - and, you know, I rise on that point of order to set the record straight. The hon. gentleman is out there trying to make an argument out of whole cloth as best he can. Let him do it, Sir, but let him confine himself to his brief and not add comments that are not correct.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker -

MR. CROSBIE: There is no point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HICKMAN: There is no point of order and if the hon. Leader of the Opposition had waited until I completed the sentence, he would not have had to rise.

MR. SIMMONS: You only got until eleven o'clock.

MR. HICKMAN: The point I was making was that the hon. Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Hickman .

has to admit that prior to the Moores Administration assuming office, that there was no consultation in this Legislature on the appointment between the Leader of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition -

MR. ROBERTS I did not say that. It was the hon. gentleman for Trillineate (Mr. Smallwood).

MR. HICKMAN I said, "The hon. Leader of the Opposition has to admit that prior to the Moores Administration assuming office there was no consultation between the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition except over the nomination to the House of Speakers." Now since then, since 1972, the Premier, not based on custom, not based on usage, not based on any rule of the House, not based on any rule of parliament at all -

MR. SMALLWOOD Mainly because they did not know the difference.

MR. HICKMAN Whatever the reason -

MR. DOODY They did it out of courtesy.

MR. SMALLWOOD Pardon?

MR. DOODY They did it out of courtesy.

MR. SMALLWOOD Yes.

MR. HICKMAN Out of courtesy -

MR. SMALLWOOD Unprecedented.

MR. HICKMAN - has telephoned -

MR. DOODY Unheard of.

MR. HICKMAN - has telephoned according to the Leader of the Opposition and said, "I propose to nominate Mr. So-and-So for the office of Speaker and Mr. So-and-So for the office of Deputy Speaker. Does that meet with your approval?" And he says, "Yes." Now what is the purpose of all this consultation? Because do not forget as the hon. Leader of the Opposition has said that the government has the responsibility for organizing the business of the House. The government

Mr. Hickman.

has the responsibility to nominate. Now then, so the government goes over today, through its House Leader, and says, Mr. Leader of the Opposition we intend to nominate the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). We intend to nominate for the office of Deputy Chairman of Debates, and we are going to do it this afternoon. So there was consultation, so that obviously the complaint has to be that the consultation was not long enough, that there was not sufficient notice. Now then, having consulted, but at the same time accepting the responsibility of government, because they remember the screaming and shouting from the Opposition for months has been when is the government going to start to lead, when is the government going to start to govern?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: So immediately the government comes in in exercise of its responsibility to lead, to govern, courteously, a courtesy that was unprecedented before 1972, advises of the name of the person to be nominated, and the hon. Leader of the Opposition said that there was not enough consultation. Now let us follow that to its logical conclusion, bearing in mind the government's responsibility to lead. So the hon. House Leader goes over and he says to the Leader of the Opposition, "I am going to nominate the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young)."

MR. ROBERTS: While the Speaker was on his way to the Chair.

MR. HICKMAN: Never mind when. It could have been a week ago, two weeks ago. So the Leader of the Opposition says, I am going to caucus on this, and he comes back and he says, we do not want the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). What is the point in having consultation -

MR. F. POPE: Who are you quoting?

MR. HICKMAN: I am quoting no one.

MR. HICKMAN:

Mr. Speaker, if the hon. the member for Bay de Verde (Mr. F. Powe) will only listen as to what the purpose of this consultation is.

AN HON. MEMBER: He does not know where Bill is at.

MR. HICKMAN: Now, remember, let me repeat again, the government's responsibility to nominate - the hon. the member opposite says there must be consultation. So there is consultation, ten days ago. I am using it as an example, a hypothetical case. Listen to this hypothetical case. There is consultation and the House Leader says to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I nominate John Jones, I am going to nominate John Jones a week today, And he says, I will have a caucus. So back he comes and he says, my caucus do not like John Jones. So then what do we do? Come back! Now the government then abdicates its right to lead, its right and obligation to govern, its right to arrange the business of the House and then says, all right we will try Bill Smith. So back we come for further consultation. Now, Mr. Speaker -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS: Is that what you want? You will never get it from me.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS: You will never get it from me.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, when you analyze the Opposition's position on this, you can see that not only does it lack common sense but it lacks logic, because, Mr. Speaker, if this courtesy, this new-found courtesy of 1972 vintage, if the consultation carries with it the right of veto, because that is what it would be, it would mean the right of veto if the rejection meant that the government had to come back, and then come back with John Jones and then Bill Smith and eventually we exhaust every backbencher over here because there might be someone in the caucus who says, no. How do you run the House?

MR. HICKMAN:

It is when you look at the logic, Mr. Speaker, that you realize why under the British parliamentary system there is provision only for consultation on the office of Speaker. The logic just strikes you in the face and there is no answer to it. Now, let us assume that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition says, "Well I am a bit annoyed, I am a bit offended because there was not this consultation that we have had in the last three years. I enjoy it. It is something that is new but I like it. It is the kind of democracy that we have been waiting for for a long time. But you did not do it this time, you only gave us one minute's notice. I think that I should voice my disapproval of the fact that the notice was not as long, as lengthy as it was in the past. Is there a way to do that without bringing any embarrassment upon the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young)?"

MR. ROBERTS: Yes.

MR. HICKMAN: Very easy.

MR. ROBERTS: Control.

MR. HICKMAN: The Leader of the Opposition gets up and he says, when the House Leader nominated the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), he gets up and he says, "Mr. Speaker, there was not the consultation with us as there had been during the past two or three years. I simply note my objection to it. I recognize the government's responsibility to make this nomination and with pleasure I second it."

He has made his point. We know that he is not happy with the consultation. But that was not the way it happened. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition got up and without consultation looked across the House and said, "I nominate the learned and hon. gentleman from St. John's North (Mr. Carter)" without any consultation with him and he immediately withdrew.

In an effort this afternoon to try and convince the House that this was not done in a fit of pique but it was done logically, he

MR. HICKMAN:

gave his reasons because the hon. the gentleman from St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) - and I am quoting correctly this time, very correctly - "is the senior backbencher on the government side and was a former member of the Cabinet."

MR. DOODY: But a strong Tory.

MR. HICKMAN: And a strong Tory. Now the hon. the Leader of the Opposition overlooked a very obvious fact, that the hon. the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) is at least a year and a half senior to the hon. the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter), he is a past president of the Tory Party of Newfoundland. He was a Tory when very few of us were, and an unflinching one at that. He is learned in the law. He performed his duties as House Leader eminently. He showed clearly to all hon. members his knowledge of the rules.

MR. HICKMAN:

He met all the qualifications that were laid down by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. So I pose the question that if this was not done in a fit of pique or for an attempt to embarrass the hon. the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), then why was not the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) nominated based on these qualifications which he met.

I do not say that at all in disrespect for the hon. member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) but he so happens to have been fortunate enough to not be senior in the House to the hon. the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall). Now, Mr. Speaker, -

MR. SIMMONS: Is the minister -

MR. GOODY: No, no.

MR. SIMMONS: If the minister will nominate the member for St. John's East, I will back him.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, the simple fact is this, that if there had been the slightest bit of anxiety on the part of the Opposition, that is the official Opposition, to avoid embarrassing the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) they could so simply and so easily have made their discontent known by simply stating it and seconding the nomination.

MR. W. MARSHALL: That would have been decent.

MR. HICKMAN: It would have been a very decent thing to do. It certainly would have been one that would have increased the understandable pride that the people of Upper Island Cove have in their native son. They will not forget this, make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, it would have allowed this great tradition of maintaining the impartiality of the Chair that is so essential to our parliamentary system. Everyone knows, Mr. Speaker, that when a person is nominated to the office of Speaker or the Deputy Speaker or to the Deputy Chairman of Debates that that person was elected to this House as a partisan politician. He is a partisan politician or she is a partisan politician so long as she sits in the House. But the minute that he or she steps into that Chair, takes his or her seat in that Chair, then all partisanship disappears. I have seen nothing - and I have seen the most partisan politicians, the most

MR. HICKMAN:

partisan politicians occupy that Chair - and the minute they take their seat in that Chair there is no evidence at all of partiality. That is the way it should work. But this exercise today, this unprecedented debate, Mr. Speaker, is an attempt - let us not fool ourselves - is an attempt and will result in the partisanship of that Chair being questioned before it is even occupied.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: That, Mr. Speaker, is disastrous to the free flow of business in this House.

MR. DOODY: That is the heart and soul of the matter.

MR. ROBERTS: Why did they not nominate the House!

MR. DOODY: The House runs the House.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, the House runs the House, right.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: The House runs the House, no question about it.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: But the government has the responsibility and as the Leader of the Opposition says, an exclusive responsibility to organize and arrange the business and the operation of this House, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOODY: Nobody has ever suggested otherwise.

MR. HICKMAN: I have been in this House now for nearly nine years.

MR. ROBERTS: Oh, you have been in here for ten.

MR. HICKMAN: Well, it is getting close -

MR. ROBERTS: You and I came here together.

MR. HICKMAN: It is getting close to ten. It will be ten, Mr. Speaker, it will be ten years in December of 1976 since I first took my seat in this House. Mr. Speaker, I have seen no signs, and certainly and particularly in this session, of a government attempting to dominate this House, no signs at all. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the first few days of the sitting of the present session, it was rather a delight to be at the House. There seemed to be a determination

MR. HICKMAN:

on the part of most hon. members to get on with the business of the House and to debate some of the real issues that are troubling the people of Newfoundland.

MR. MURPHY: Yesterday was the best day.

MR. HICKMAN: Yesterday was the best day we have had since the House re-opened, no question about that.

MR. MURPHY: The Leader of the Opposition was not here nor the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons).

MR. HICKMAN: But whatever the reason was, yesterday was by far the best day we have had.

MR. MURPHY: It was really good.

MR. HICKMAN: But I think it is very relevant, Mr. Speaker, that since the House re-opened following the recess, and since we have spent pretty well our entire time listening to petitions, that the House has totally lost its relevancy. I do not know how many hon. gentlemen watched the CBC main provincial news bulletin tonight, but it was not mentioned. The House of Assembly, the peoples' House was not mentioned.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear! Rightly so!

MR. HICKMAN: Two

MR. HICKMAN:

or three years ago, Mr. Speaker, this same kind of issue would have blocked the galleries tonight. Look at them, empty! Does that not show, Mr. Speaker, that the people of this Province have come to the conclusion that this House may no longer be relevant. The report that the hon. gentleman from Green Bay (Mr. Peckford) read from tonight, the Amulree Report, which talked about the esteem or lack of esteem for politicians in 1932. It was not brought on by the people who voted for them. It was brought on because - and I am only going by what I have read and the hon. gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) can correct me if I am wrong - was because the hon. members of the day who sat in this same Assembly brought the disgrace upon themselves by totally ignoring the issues and allowing that House and that Assembly to degenerate into personal partisan politics, ignoring the conventions - and the conventions, more parliaments have been destroyed by ignoring the conventions than the actual rules.

It was an ignoring of the conventions during one of the Pearson administrations, the first Pearson administration, that destroyed that parliament, not the rules, the conventions. We are ignoring convention today, ignoring it like it has not been ignored before, I suggest, in the history of this House. And it ill behooves anyone to get up - at least those who generated this debate today have abdicated the right to get up and point the finger at the government and say, why are you not debating the issues? Why have you not debated Come By Chance? Why have you not debated unemployment? Why have you not debated all the other problems of inflation, etc. that are facing the Government of Newfoundland and the people of Newfoundland?

Mr. Speaker, so that the hon. gentleman for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), and for what good this will do him, at least I want to say to him that he has the confidence of every hon. gentleman on this side of the House. I know he has the confidence of the hon. gentleman of the new Liberal Party, the Liberal Reform Party, and I

MR. HICKMAN:

hope that he has the confidence of the other hon. gentlemen of this House and that they will show so in their vote.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: Hear, hear! Well said! Well said!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. Minister of Industrial and Rural Development,

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, the reason for my participation in the debate is perhaps—in terms of the lateness of the evening and the extent of the commentary—is questionable because I guess pretty nearly everything has been said.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition as I stood up indicated that now comes the heavyweights, and earlier on this afternoon my colleague and tonight my colleague formerly from St. John's West, St. Mary's-The Capes (Mr. W. Carter) at the present moment, spoke. Ever since we have been in the House I guess that this has been the attitude of the Leader of the Opposition. He has had two kinds of attitudes. One is the heavyweights from Ottawa and that we are supposed to know all the rules; the other is one of condescension that we are new members of the House and we do not know the history and traditions and the behaviour and so on of the House and consequently, we should sit back and behave ourselves. That is pretty near what I have done. As a matter of fact there are people whom I look up at in the gallery this evening, and people behind the gallery who are listening, who wonder what happened to the member, formerly from Cander-Twillington who got defeated in Bonavista-Trinity Conception with no embarrassment, presently elected in Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) and from Upper Island Cove, people who wonder what happened to the hon. member, what happened to him that he has not said a lot more and he has not been more provocative and more outspoken.

Perhaps the reason, Mr. Speaker, that I have not been is that I sat in the gallery for six or seven weeks, almost every day, and looked down on the members in the House of Assembly. That is exactly what I

MR. LINDRIGAN:

'id. That is exactly what I did, I looked down on the members of the House of Assembly. I am standing here tonight and I look up to a lot of members of the House of Assembly. Firstly I look up to a lot of newcomers who are here, like my steel friend who sits immediately behind me and a lot of other hon. colleagues, from Naskaupi and from Windsor-Buchans and from other parts of the Province of Newfoundland, young, good members, older members, people with an interest in Newfoundland and an interest in politics who bother to get elected to come to the House of Assembly.

Now these, Mr. Speaker, are my first remarks that I have made with a heart and a half in the House of Assembly, maybe

Mr. Lundrigan:

the first time that I have been provoked, and I would like to ask one little favour of the Leader of the Opposition if he could sit through my remarks and listen to what I have to say. I am sure he will do that. Because what I have to say might not be as instructive as I can learn from some hon. member, but I want him to hear it because I believe there is a point here that every hon. member should listen to.

I looked down on the House of Assembly, and I am here today and I look up to a lot of hon. members. And one hon. member that I do look up to is the member from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood). Why? Is it because he overwhelms me? Or he is so all knowlegeable in his presence that I am in awe of him? Or is it that he lends some kind of an air of dignity, because of his respect for the system?

I lived through six years in the House of Commons; I did not learn all of the rules, did not go to bed with Beauchesne in my back pocket, did not understand all of the procedures. Hopefully I had a little bit of common sense, hopefully I understood what Parliament was all about. I lived to a large extent in the shadow of men like John Diefenbaker, that I sat with for an hour a week for six consecutive weeks. I tried to understand what Parliament was about. I never did fully appreciate the depths of Parliament that he did because he was so much more a brilliant man than I was. Always in awe of a lot of people, and in the presence of 264 members of the House of Commons, I learned to respect what Parliament was all about. I learned to understand that Parliament by tradition, by its nature, by its presence is an essential ingredient to protect the way of life we have, and to preserve the economy and the democracy that we have.

I have come here and I have watched - today has been dramatic - to watch the Leader of the Opposition try to argue on the one hand that he is talking about consultation. My friend points out, my colleague from St. Mary's-The Capes (Mr. W. Carter) that that is not what he means, consultation. I believe that my colleague from Kilbride (Mr. Wells) was not as honourable a man as he is, he might even want to relate to the House the remarks that the Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Lundrigan:

made to him when he approached him on the business of the reason for our nomination of the member from Harbour Grace. Perhaps he would like to do that, but I am sure he will not.

My colleague from Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) not with quite the level of - I cannot use the word 'deceit', I am not permitted to use the word 'hypocrisy', I am not allowed to use those words, so. I will not use them - but not being so quite cagey he opened up and gave us some of the reasons why he would not support the member from Harbour Grace. The member for the Straits (Mr. Roberts) is a dramatic example of the reason why the parliamentary system is in so much trouble today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: The lack of integrity, the lack of honesty on the part of politicians today is what has convinced the public that there is something amiss, and there is something wrong with our system, people berating in their attitudes. The Leader of the Opposition would have gained some respect from me as a member of the Legislature and a Newfoundlander had he stood up in his place and said: he does not like the member from Harbour Grace, he hates the member from Harbour Grace, he is not a learned member, he has not read Beauchesne, he does not understand May, he is from Island Cove, he grew up next to a fishing boat, he is uncultured, he goes to the Legion Club, he made an insult to him a few years ago - I do not like him, therefore I will not vote for him.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: But he does not do that. He stands there in his pompous place and he tries to tell the people of this Province that the reason being is lack of consultation. I have never heard as much consultation in my life. In Ottawa you have to go up with an eyebrow tweezer to get something out of Trudeau. You had to get a dentist to get something from him. He did not give us anything.

I have watched the member here, the Minister of Mines and Energy stand up and he has revealed and revealed and opened up and told the

Mr. Lundrigan:

people and told the House detail after detail. It is almost like we are one great family when it comes to our side of the House, our ability to want to deliberate, our eagerness to want to participate, to want to open up and give the public the information. The Leader of the Opposition has not recognized the fact that we are elected as the government, as my colleague from Gander indicated. We have the responsibility to govern. And he has not accepted that. And it does not make any difference what we do on this side of the House, the Leader of the Opposition is going to play his silly little games.

MR. W. CARTER: A spoiled brat.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: That is what this is

Mr. Lundrigan.

all about. It has got nothing to do with the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). I would like to try to remind him of one little thing, that parliament - this is our parliament, the people of Newfoundland's parliament - is more important than this kind of pettiness. That is the first issue that we have to reconcile ourselves with in this House, and I would like for him to throw his paper down, give up his conversation and listen to what I have to say. This pettiness and small-mindedness is not becoming of a leader -

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: - of government. Sit down and take your seat!

MR. SIMMONS: Point of order.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: These spurious points of order are one of the problems we have in this House of Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Order! A point of order has been raised.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, perhaps if he could take his seat -

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: - after the debate -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Order, please! Order, please! A point of order has been raised.

MR. DOODY: I think he must have a saddle under his burr.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to the hon. gentleman for some time.

MR. DOODY: Congratulations!

MR. SIMMONS: I have been attending with all the interest -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a point of order. Come on!

MR. HICKEY: Sit down and take it like a man.

MR. W. CARTER: Do not get mad now Roger. Do not lose your temper.

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

The hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the minister, of course, is entitled to participate in this debate, but I believe he ought to be as relevant as the rest of us have been required to be. What I have heard in the last five or ten minutes has been nothing less than a very vicious and vociferous attack on the Leader of the Opposition. Apart from being very undignified it is very irrelevant, and I would request, Mr. Speaker, to instruct the minister to either take his seat or be relevant to the motion under debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: To that point of order.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: That is all right, Bob!

MR. WELLS: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker. There is no point of order, but there is a certain stinging truth in what he member is saying, and I guess it hurts. There is no point of order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

The point of order has been raised as to whether the hon. minister's remarks are relevant to the debate. In context of what has been said by other speakers in this debate, I find the hon. minister's remarks pretty well in line with those. I do not really think that he has been any further from the motion than most of the other hon. members.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, I have one comment. You know, this is an amazing thing. Here I am a Tory. I am one of those four letter Tories on this side of the House, but I have learned, although I have never always agreed with my friend from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) and a lot of his policies, I always have always admired his energy and his broadmindedness, his spirit, and his perspective. Why is it not that some of the people on that side of the House, including that hon. gentleman, cannot rub shoulders with some of those great men and learn that this is broader than this pettiness? This hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, who

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has been an educator for years and a colleague of mine,embarrasses me when I understand that he was a teacher in this Province. I believe that teachers and politicians are people who afterwards should have a bit of leadership. It is not always the cheap little trick. You have to rub shoulders, Mr. Speaker, with great men, travel a bit, understand that we are living in a big world and that there are a lot of important issues .

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: And that is what I would like for him to do. I will work with him. I will humble myself. I will do anything to help his constituents. I will do anything to help his area, to help his people, Mr. Speaker, but I would like for him to try to recognize that this system is much bigger than our petty little people. The greatest people in the world have had to show some semblance of humility - some semblance of humility, some respect for the little man, some respect for the system. All of us are little guys, even the greatest people in history_ and I do not know much history. I spent a few years studying it. I have not read many books like some great people in the world just enough to know that all of us are little men, little small men. little roles to play. We go through our system. We have a little bit of responsibility and hopefully if we work really hard we can make some small,little contribution to our system. That is what I would like

MR. LUNDRIGAN:

my friend from Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) to remember that there are a lot of great men in the world. I could not put a patch on the pants of the least of them. Yet I feel confident standing here in the House. I feel confident. I feel my friend from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) - I said there were three issues. One is the importance of parliament. The other is the importance of the individual. My friend from Harbour Grace district, who happens to have been born about two gunshots from where I grew up, and I lived along side of him - he is an outport fellow - I believe implicitly - and I was taught this maybe by Professor Rowe at Memorial University. My friend might remember Professor Rowe, Professor Billy Rowe - used to teach a little bit of psychology. I used to sit down in the back of the hall behind Jumbo Fraser - he was the biggest fellow in the group - and the reason I sat behind Jumbo Fraser was that I could not speak very good English, and I was afraid that Billy Rowe was going to ask me a question. So I kept down in the back of the room behind the biggest fellow in the room. Why? Because I was from out in Upper Island Cove and I had this queer old accent. I did not pronounce all the words right.

MR. SMALLWOOD: From Island Cove came.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Like Uncle Joe Dover. But all of a sudden I realized it, after a few years, you know - if I can be evangelical for a moment - that maybe that was the most important thing I had going for me, that I was from Island Cove with neither silver spoon in my mouth, understood a bit in the pit of my stomach about all kinds of poverty, and fellows, next door neighbours and myself and everything else, and your lassey bread and your kippers and your caplin - and the worst, and do not laugh at it either -

AN HON. MEMBER: Nobody's laughing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: - it is fairly important stuff to remember. My hon. friend from the Straits, who is embarrassed when he got to go down to his riding

MR. LUNDRIGAN:

and mix among the poor people from the Straits -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: He has been able to fool them all these years. Mr. Trudeau fooled them - fuddle duddle - remember Mr. Trudeau when we said he was arrogant? Nobody believed it. Then his fuddle duddle came in. A lot of people believed it. But they are starting to believe it today. This today, that happened in this House, and other kinds of issues will enlighten the people of Newfoundland as to the attitude of the hon. member. Now I sat here and I have been abused. I was not in the House twenty minutes when he stood up one day, ah this gentleman here and said that I was in the House of Commons -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hon. gentleman.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: and I got a couple of black eyes. He had some kind of a little story, a little mystery about me. I have played cards, I believe, up in the House of Commons and all kinds of stuff. And he was going to embarrass me and I almost felt belittled, almost sat back in my seat. I have, ever since, I have observed the hon. gentleman, this hon. gentleman, this hon. gentleman - the only two I am pointing fingers at. I have watched them. They are doing no good to our system.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: They are doing no good to our system. They are hurting our system. They are hurting the people of this Province. They are not a productive part of the political system. This hon. gentleman is a productive part. He sits in Opposition and I will say this hon. gentleman with all of his quaintness and whatever else, sometimes makes an enormous contribution. These two gentlemen, I wonder, I wonder and I should not go beyond this and say that someday somebody should examine the reason why they could develop so much ugliness towards the parliamentary system of government, which has been manifested here today in this House of Assembly. I am saying this and I want it to be recorded, recorded in the books, my friend from Harbour Grace district (Mr. Young) from Upper Island Cove has no right to be abused the way he has been here today. We learned one thing - Pierre Elliot Trudeau, John Diefenbaker, Robert L. Stanfield,

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Walter Carter, Jim McGrath, Bill Romphrey, Don

Jamieson - we were all peers. Does the hon. gentleman know what peers means?

We are all equals - no matter how bitter you became in debate, no matter how bitter you became on the issues, you never belittled your colleagues, you never downgraded the system, you never destroyed somebody.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Because we are not here to take up arms against each other. We are here to try to give -

AN HON. MEMBER: We are all Newfoundlanders.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Laugh, scorn, sneer!

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, I will scorn that.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Sneer, sneer!

MR. ROBERTS: Look, it is not allowed to use the other words.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Sneer, sneer!

AN HON. MEMBER: Inaudible.

MR. ROBERTS: To cook up in a caucus a deliberate, malicious -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Sneer, sneer.

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

MR. ROBERTS: I will laugh. I will laugh at it.

MR. SIMMONS: It is so obvious it is not even funny.

MR. DOODY: No wonder -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, with his greatest effort to restrain himself, the essence of his ugliness is coming through, malignency of personality is coming through, and that is great stuff because that is what I want to see. If we had television in this House the hon. member would not get fifteen votes, Mr. Speaker, let alone fifteen seats.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! A point of order has been raised.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I recognize that they have the majority and they can shout louder, but this is completely unparliamentary and completely uncalled for. Mr. Speaker, if this is order, Mr. Speaker, with respect, you have a different set of rules than I have. This is

MR. SIMMONS:

shocking, Mr. Speaker, what is going on here.

MR. DOODY: I beg your pardon?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to continue my point of order. This is completely unparliamentary. It is a vicious, personal attack on a member of this House. The language that the minister has used here, Mr. Speaker, is completely out of order. Apart from being irrelevant -

AN HON. MEMBER: What is all this about?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, may I continue my point.

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

MR. DOODY: Now that we are listening, carry on!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, apart from being quite irrelevant to the subject at hand - and I cannot be convinced that this is relevant, that this personal vindictive attack that is going on now - but apart from being irrelevant, Mr. Speaker, it is completely uncalled for. We have heard a lot today about dignity and how we ought to preserve the traditions of this House. Well, if what is going on the last fifteen minutes, Mr. Speaker, if what is going on the last fifteen minutes is anything we should take as an example, I want to be no part of it. I ask

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker to direct to the minister to be relevant and to be parliamentary.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear, hear! Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker; that is no point of order but rather the response of a man who does not like what he is hearing. That is all it is.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

The debate on the motion -

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The debate on the motion before the House has, I think, understandably raised the temperature of the House somewhat, and I think it was reasonable to make allowances for the latitude of remarks. However, some line has to be drawn. It is sometimes difficult to draw the line as to what is relevant and what is not relevant. But I think that the hon. minister was straying very close to that line, and I would ask him if he would keep a little bit more onto the direct nature of the motion.

MP. LUNDRIGAN: Thank you, Your Honour, and I certainly will. I believe, Sir, again perhaps I have learned more about the rules from the gallery than from the House, but I think it is a very grave error for us to restrain ourselves to the point where we do not tell it as it is. That is the reason perhaps why I am opening up a little bit and that is the first time I have really gotten involved. It is the first of many times because I am just about ready to say some of the things I am saying not only in the House but to the public of our Province where I think it should be said. That is where I will say it, in debate and in any kind of a situation.

But let me get back to the point I was stating about peers, what it is all about. I never saw at any occasion in the House, even

MR. LUNDRIGAN:

with the famous fuddle-duddle where the Prime Minister got a bit annoyed with me and I was on the economic issues, where we did not have a certain respect for each, and that there was a point where politics became secondary, and genuinely secondary, not because it was the thing to do on a motherhood issue like the seals or something like that, but because we knew that parliamentary was greater than we were. You know, you ask somebody who the Minister of Labour was ten years ago and nobody hardly except four or five members of the House can tell you who it was. So really what you have got to do is subjugate yourself or submerge yourself or place yourself in a position -

MR. SMALLWOOD: William Keough.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: -That is correct. It was the hon. William Keough - but place yourselves in a position which is very much secondary to the system. I have a sneaky feeling - and I say this with great humility - that a lot of our members do not recognize the importance of the system, especially the importance of the individual. Always I recognized that, even though sometimes you do not adhere to your knowledge.

My friend was elected by the people of the district of Harbour Grace, and I say to the Leader of the Opposition, and especially that member over there, that this is degrading.

AN HON. MEMBER: The hon. member, the hon. member!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: And I will say right now if they have any respect for their political party that they will not run another member in the district of Harbour Grace, because this is the most embarrassing situation I have seen where a member - I am sincere about this - a member of our group, one of our peers, one of the persons elected with a majority by the population of that area, was proposed and has been belittled, not because of consultation, not because of that, but I am not permitted to use hypocrisy and all such words, but that is the reason for it, Mr. Speaker. That is the reason for it.

MR. LUNDPIGAN:

The hon. Leader of the Opposition--and I hope, like my colleague from St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) said, that a lot of the members - Let me tell you hon. gentlemen across the way - and I am watching your behavior from day to day - please, for goodness' sake, do not get let astray by a quality of leadership which is not worth emulating. It is not worth emulating. Take your time. Watch the hon. gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood). Watch the leader of our party. You had better believe it that you will not find, with all of his frailties and so on, you will never find an example of pettiness and smallness and belittlement and the rest of it. That is why he is the leader of our party. That is why. Go to Ottawa. Sit out in the gallery. Look at the leaders of the parties. Have a look at them. Look at Eddy Broadbent. Look at Neal Caouette. Look at Mr. Trudeau and Joe Clarke and Mr. Stanfield and Mr. Diefenbaker, and see will you not find exceptional qualities that ingratiate themselves.

Why is it? Because they recognize one factor, Mr. Speaker, and that is an essential part of government, an essential part of democracy is Oppositions. A leader of an opposition

Mr. Lundrigan:

is a shadow Prime Minister. He is a shadow Prime Minister. Have a look at your shadow Prime Minister across the way, hon. gentlemen of our Chamber through you, Mr. Speaker, have a look at the shadow Prime Minister of our country! There is our Prime Minister that you are looking at in the shadows right here, with his glasses on reading his newspaper, there he is, manifesting the statesmanship -

MR. FLIGHT: On a point of order.

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: - the leadership -

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

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: - the qualities that we have to look up to in a potential Premier.

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

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

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

MR. FLIGHT: Would I be permitted, Mr. Speaker, as an hon. -

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): May I just make one comment. I think the hon. minister, as I mentioned a little while ago, the temperature of the House has raised a little bit. I think the speakers have become a little agitated, and therefore are straying from the point. And I would ask the hon. minister if he would again pay attention to that point I bring up.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, I apologize for straying and for raising the temperature of the House, but I want to serve a little bit of notice, Your Honour, that the temperature of the House has not gotten really as hot as it is going to be in the future, if we continue to have the kind of behaviour that we saw here today. I serve that kind of a notice, and I am here to serve my people, and my people are the people of our Province in Newfoundland. And I am here to serve my colleagues as well, and I will not stand by and see the member from Harbour Grace, elected with a plurality in a riding, and

Mr. Lundrigan:

also a person whom I grew up with - that sort of strikes a little bit of a feeling. That is perhaps why this evening I am a little bit carried away.

It is always the people from the little communities, the fellows with the queer and funny accents, the fellows who do not always have the savoir-faire,

MR. W. CARTER: Pringle Place.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: and the rest of the stuff.

MR. W. CARTER: Pringle Place.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: They sort of, you know, they do not have the sophistication of a pompous persons from Pringle Place -

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: - and other parts of the Province of Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SMALLWOOD: The out harbour men will be pleased to hear that.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: The hon. gentleman from Twillingate is absolutely correct. We do not have all of the sophistication, but may I remind hon. members that the vast majority of people from the biggest outport in Newfoundland, the city of St. John's, do not have that attitude either.

MR. DOODY: We speaks well!

MR. LUNDRIGAN: We speak a lot of funny languages from this big outport of St. John's, but there is a little select group for some reason or another who think that us, ninety-five per cent of our people in our Province, us outport fellows, ninety-five per cent of our people, including Gander, including Grand Falls where I got elected as an outport fellow, us fellows got a little something to offer.

MR. W. CARTER: We have common sense.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Maybe the biggest thing we got to offer, Mr. Speaker,

MR. W. CARTER: 'John' we have common sense.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: like I think my colleague has, has to do with our attitude, has to do with our attitude, has to do with our willingness to work towards the betterment of our people; has to do with a sincere

Mr. Lundrigan:

belief that there is something worth working for on this little rock, otherwise we would have gone West to Alberta somewhere, where I spent a number of years. And I say to my colleagues across the way to cut out this nonsense, cut out this nonsense, cut out this nonsense! Let us get on with governing our Province and let us show this shadow Prime Minister across the way here, with his newspaper and so on, let us show him, through you, Mr. Speaker, hon. gentlemen show him that Parliament is bigger than personalities and prejudices and small mindnesses, hypocrisies and all the rest of it, and this is a place worth work for our people, Let us cut it all out, and let us start to emulate some of the great leaders that we have had in our history, and let us make Newfoundland through our House a place worth living in.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hurrah! Hear, hear!

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

I am going to exercise a prerogative of the Chair, and just for the benefit I think of the debate, we will have a recess for just five minutes.

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

The hon. member for Naskaupí.

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Speaker, I rise with some emotion this evening to speak in the debate which is now taking place. In my mind, and this is just my own personal interpretation of what has gone on here in the house so far today, there are probably now two issues at stake, the motion being number one, and, for me, the dignity of the House.

Just before Christmas there were three or four lines in The Evening Telegram which made reference to this member, and it had to do with ethnic tokenism, something to the effect that if I had ever been appointed to the Cabinet in this Provincial Government right now, it will be because of ethnic tokenism.

My reaction, Mr. Speaker, in the House to the debate which is taking place today is if it were not unparliamentary I may very well take advantage of that ethnic background I have and scalp half the lot in the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. GOUDIE: But as I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that would be rather unparliamentary.

MR. WELLS: And messy.

MR. GOUDIE: And messy, yes.

MR. SIMMONS: Watch out, 'Bob'.

MR. GOUDIE: I came to this House I guess with the feeling, and I still have it, of naivete. I had not seen the inside of this chamber until the House opened for this session. I was looking forward to meeting the members in the House who had experience in the dealings of this House for the last number of years, and the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) obviously having the most of the members here present, and I guess I am disappointed, not only in the exchange which has taken place here today but in what I feel, and this may be a wrong interpretation, but what I feel is the questioning of the character of one of the members of this House, the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young).

MR. GOUDIE: Now that may be a misinterpretation on my part. I am not going to point any finger at any particular members on the other side of the House, or on this side for that matter. But I come from a part of the country where the district has traditionally been Liberal since 1949. This marks the first time that it has not been. And I come with the feelings of a heritage, which I am sure is shared by just about every member in this House, and that is a heritage of struggle, of effort, of co-operation on the part of every person in this Province, not just the Island part but the other part, the part that I am from, Labrador, as well and without that co-operation this Province would not be what it is right now.

We have that heritage to carry on, I think, and that heritage as far as I am concerned is not being carried out in the House of Assembly at this particular point in time. It disappoints me, but I have to live with it. I am embarrassed about the whole situation. I guess all I want to say is that I am adding my vote for the hon. member from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) to take the position of Deputy Chairman of Committees and Debates, I think that is the correct or proper title. I just want to place a little challenge on the floor right now - I do not know how many more speakers there are going to be after I am done, but we have heard speakers from the other side of the House today, we have heard speakers from this side of the House - and all I want to ask is does every member of this House have the nerve to vote for the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young)?

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I just want to add a few short comments before what I hope will be the vote.

AN HON. MEMBER: None of your colleagues want to speak.

MR. HICKEY:

Unlike some of my colleagues, who indicated they were not going to speak, I certainly wanted to make some comments because I believe, Mr. Speaker, politics has taken another blow today. Maybe it has been brought to its knees as a result of the performance of this House today. I believe I have a record in this House, Mr. Speaker, of which I am certainly not proud, of being suspended from the House twice in the one term.

MR. NEARY: You do not have the record. I can match that.

MR. HICKEY: Oh, well I see. I have an equal partner on the other side. In either case, Mr. Speaker, I am not proud of it and I am sure my friend across the way is not either.

I learned some of the rules of the House, Sir, the hard way, by sitting in the gallery for three days and two days respectively.

MR. NEARY: I had five in one sentence.

MR. HICKEY: My hon. friend is ahead of me again.

MR. NEARY: As a matter of fact -

MR. DOODY: Is this a duet or does the hon. gentleman have the floor?

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I remember my hon. friend from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) in an interview on one occasion when asked if the criticism by the press, sometimes completely unwarranted, bothered him, and he gave an answer which has stuck with me and which will stick with me for as long as I live. He said, "My friends I do not have to convince; my enemies I shall never convince." I remember that, Mr. Speaker, and since I have been in government I doubt that there is anyone on this side of the House who has felt the wrath of the press anymore than I have, but I can say in all sincerity and all honesty, Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, on each occasion unwarranted not being responsible as an individual minister for the things for which I have been accused.

But I followed the advice of my hon. friend from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) and adhered to his philosophy, and for the most part took it. It is ironic, Mr. Speaker, that this debate is going on

MR. HICKEY:

today because I took a decision this morning which hon. members might be interested in. Whether this be my last term in public life or whether it will not, I have decided no more to accept criticism from the press or from any member in this House with silence, no longer, no more.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Would the minister say that again?

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I said that I have taken a decision just today, this morning, that I will accept a criticism or at least a type of criticism that I have been in receipt of for the last year or so no longer with silence. I will respond in future, whatever that means. When I am on the receiving end of anything which borders on libel, and I have been, politics or not, Mr. Speaker, whoever is on the other end, we will settle the matter somewhere else and not through the media.

I have good reasons for that. I have a thirteen year old daughter, Your Honour, who is like many children today, very intelligent. Apart from her education she receives in school, she follows politics and as all children of politicians have come to live with the barbs that are thrown at their father or mother, whoever might be in public life. If for no other reason, Your Honour, I will defend myself in future, whatever I get in return from the press, because I think I owe it to her, if no one else, so that she has a clear mind.

MR. NEARY: I was sitting in the gallery one day when the member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy) let go at me, when I was sitting out there and could not defend myself.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: It certainly was not true.

MR. HICKEY: The reason I refer to this -

MR. NEARY: It certainly was not true.

MR. HICKEY: The reason I refer to this is because -

MR. NEARY: If the member said it outside the House he would know it was not true.

MR. HICKEY: - it is very closely related to what we are debating tonight. It is very closely related. Because I believe, Sir, when I said politics has probably been brought to its knees today, I believe that unless there is a change in this House, unfortunately, and I hope I am wrong, we might well see a repeat performance of 1932.

As my friend from Green Bay (Mr. Peckford) commented, that particular event was preceded by a complete lack of confidence in politicians. We might well question why the press abuses politicians as they do very often and gets away with it. I say, Mr. Speaker, in certain instances it is the example that is set by politicians that warrants that kind of abuse or criticism.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Hear, hear, 'Tom'!

MR. HICKEY: The example that is set - unfortunately all of us are not guilty, some of us are innocent - but nevertheless we too are on the receiving end of it. I believe that hon. gentlemen who come here, elected, should after this performance today ask themselves a number of questions but one very special one and very important one. There have been words such as hypocrisy used. I will not use it, I will simply say this, it probably means the same thing, I think all of us should question how sincere we are. I think all of us should question just how sincere we are in doing the job that we have been sent here to do. I think we might all question how interested, indeed, we are in the Province, our children and those who will come after us, because the performance, Mr. Speaker, on many an occasion in this House would indicate that we are not at all interested in the future citizens of this Province or indeed our Province. It would seem very often that the most we are

MR. HICKEY: interested, or that we are motivated by self-interest, by scoring cheap political points or by being the smart aleck of the day at the expense, very often at the expense of important business to do with the Province.

I have said on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker, that the rule of the House with regard to immunity should be changed. I repeat it again, for many, many times hon. members will utter things inside this House that they will not dare utter outside. And I repeat what I have said on a number of occasions, no hon. member should have that right against any citizen of this Province, no more than any member of the media should possess the right or think he or she has a licence to castigate or reflect on the character of an individual without facing some kind of a tribunal and answering equally as anybody else.

MR. SMALLWOOD: The tribunal is the House itself. Does the hon. minister not know the blood that was shed to win the right of complete immunity in the peoples' House? Complete and absolute immunity under the laws of the House. The House can deal with anyone but no one else except the electorate on polling day.

MR. R. WOORES: Right!

MR. HICKEY: Yes, I understand that, Mr. Speaker. I understand that, Mr. Speaker. The law or the rule of immunity is fine as long as it is not abused. My quarrel is that it has been abused. Maybe there might be some changes made. There might be, obviously, a necessity for it from time to time, maybe when there is a crisis or an emergency, but certainly, Mr. Speaker, it should not be abused as indeed it has been.

It might well be argued, it might well be argued that today's performance borders on an abuse of the rule of immunity in this House.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Bad enough.

MR. HICKEY: I think the important thing, Mr. Speaker, to point out is that there is a whole lot more to this than a debate. And every hon. gentleman in this House should state where he stands for in making his decision to vote tonight he is not just voting

Mr. Hickey:

in favour of the Leader of the Opposition or the official Opposition, and the government or the Leader of the Opposition, and my colleague the member from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). He is voting on the very existence of a tradition that this House has been governed by, and all other Houses and all other Parliaments. It would seem to me, as many hon. members have indicated, that the official Opposition from time to time seems to indicate or at least leave the impression that they are the government, not the Opposition.

God knows, Mr. Speaker, I had five years on the other side of the House. There was never any time when I thought I was in government. It was very clear to me where I sat, and so it should be. For really when the people decides in an election where you sit, that is it. That is it, you accept it, and you act and behave accordingly.

I do not know, Mr. Speaker, who made the utterance this evening after this whole, or on or about the time this whole issue started. And I do not believe it is recorded in Hansard because hon. gentlemen were in their seats. But I can state without any fear of contradiction I heard very clearly 'incompetent' in relation to the member from Harbour Grace. And I say, Mr. Speaker -

MR. MORGAN: The Opposition leader.

MR. HICKEY: - that is a complete insult, the most low-down insult against any member of the House -

MR. MORGAN: The Opposition leader said it.

MR. HICKEY: - especially when that member is being proposed for the position such as Deputy Chairman of Committees.

Mr. Speaker, it may well be agreed that some members can be alleged to be incompetent. There are some people in this House who have papers to prove they are incompetent. So, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest, as some other hon. members have, that before hon. gentleman on the other side vote to take into account that this should be a free vote. It should be a vote by the individual -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hickey: - in relation to a principle, not a party against a party, not Opposition against the government, but a vote on a principle. And any hon. gentlemen, Mr. Speaker, who votes against the nominating and the acceptance of the member from Harbour Grace must obviously be against the very tradition and everything that this House stands for.

Hon. gentlemen can get upset and get emotional all they wish, but if you are going to vote against this motion you must live with it. Well you must live with it, because you are against a Parliamentary system -

AN HON. MEMBER: Who said?

MR. HICKEY: Says everybody, it is a fact of life. As my friend from Gander (Mr. Collins) said, consultation to you people means negotiation. You know, if you are going to govern, you are going to have to get elected, and get over here. We are not just going to pass the authority over to you.

It might well be argued again, Mr. Speaker, and I have said this on a number of occasions, and I am the last person in the world to say that we should not give them all they want when it comes to information, but I have suggested many times, and I think it is borne out again today, Your Honour, that you give an inch and they want a foot.

So the Premier did consult, so the House Leader did consult. does that mean that you have to hold up the proceedings of the House, if indeed you did not consult this time? That you did not give five or ten days notice this time? There is a clear indication, just because somebody consulted before we are going to hold up the whole show now, because they do not consult this time. Surely this is a clear-cut indication that you give an inch and they want a foot. I would never suggest, Your Honour, that we take a backward step from any changes that we have made in this House. But I would suggest to members of the Opposition that they realize that real progress has been made in this House in changes in the rules, real progress. I do not think they should abuse that, I think they should, maybe show some appreciation by abiding by it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. member for Mount Scio.

DR. R. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, as a new member to this House of Assembly I am shocked and dismayed with the display that the official Opposition has given today. The waste of time with petty hatreds while this Province reels from crisis to crisis is atrocious. The member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) has been a good MHA for his district. He has the ability, he has the integrity to warrant the appointment as the Deputy Chairman of Committees.

Mr. Speaker, this display today by the official Opposition is not only an insult to him but to all the voters of the district of Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). Mr. Speaker, the official Opposition today has insulted all the concerned people of Newfoundland. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Carbonear.

MR. R. MCORES: I have not said much to date in either session of the House of Assembly. If I could stand here for a second as a quasi-judge of the debate and the activities that have gone on, I might point out a number of what I believe to be very significant occurrences. Both parties, that is to say the Opposition, the official Opposition, and the government, have in my opinion been guilty of a camouflage of purpose. The official Opposition says that the lack of consultation is the reason why they are not particularly enthusiastic about the appointment of the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young).

On the other hand the government says that the Opposition is using the argument of consultation as a means, or an indirect means of attacking the personality of the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). On the other hand the government tonight has been guilty, in my opinion, of over emphasis of both the position and the member, and this whole dialogue of parliamentary and democratic privilege to impress, both upon this House and the public, the undeserving, and perhaps undeserving, and inestimable commentary by the Opposition.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, they may have indirectly and unnecessarily upheld the position, and the member, as a means of attacking

MR. R. MOORES:

the Opposition and its leader.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. P. MOORES: Now, where do I stand on this as a rookie member in the House of Assembly? Personally I started out today wanting to vote against the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) - and I will be quite frank and quite honest, because of personal reasons. I have a personal reason why I would not want to vote for him. But Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me, and this House will allow me I do not think I will be that petty tonight. I will stand with my party and with its very dignified leader, put aside my petty and personal grudges and vote for the position and the man who is going to fill it. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. member for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, it would have seemed to me that the hon. House Leader rose to close the debate. A lot of points have been made tonight about having to sleep with yourself, or having to live with yourself in the future, and I would have found it a lot harder to have lived with myself if I would not have stood up and said the few things - and it will be very brief and it will not be as flamboyant or as inspiring as some of the speeches I have heard here tonight, Mr. Speaker. But I have never seen an attempt, or people trying to succeed in turning something around the way this issue has been turned around today.

We came in this House, Mr. Speaker, and the point was made that with one minute's notice the Premier or the House Leader indicated to this Opposition that an individual from the other side, an hon. member, had been named to the assistant Deputy Speaker's office. This was not in keeping with the attitudes and

MR. FLIGHT:

not in keeping with the way things have been done in this House during this past three or four years and immediately we said, "Well if that is not in keeping then we will oppose it. We will oppose the method with which the Deputy Speaker or the Assistant Deputy Speaker is named." Now if nobody else in the House, Mr. Speaker, believes me, if not one other member believes me, certainly the member for Harbour Main must believe me because I have not spoken to the man three times in my lifetime. He has not been a member who drew -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Harbour Main?

MR. FLIGHT: I am sorry. My apologies to the member.

MR. DOODY: Think about the poor people in Harbour Main.

MR. FLIGHT: My apologies to the member for Harbour Main.

MR. DOODY: And Bell Island.

MR. FLIGHT: And Bell Island. I have not spoken, as the member well knows, to the hon. member more than three or four times since I have been in the House, not being one of the people who have dominated debate in this House and I would have no reason to oppose him for any position that the hon. Premier would name the man to. I simply said, okay if that is not the way it is done then we will oppose that being bulldozed, as the hon. minister indicated I say. We will oppose being told this is the way it will be done. And that is the way the issue got off the ground.

And, Mr. Speaker, there was no mention—I want to refer to this fact; two or three of the hon. members from the other side of the House have stood up tonight and have said we have wasted the time of the House, we have wasted all night and part of the afternoon in debating this nonsense. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the minister, the hon. Member for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford) at seven-thirty when he was finished speaking made an appeal to the House to let us vote, and unanimously the Opposition call question, and the Premier can deny this if he likes,

MR. FLIGHT: Sir, the Premier made it very clear because I overheard it, he said in a sense it was no question, everybody on that other side was going to speak. And every hon. member -

MR. MURPHY: Would you like to correct seven-thirty?

MR. FLIGHT: Well a quarter to eight.

MR. MURPHY: You know, just for the Hansard.

MR. DOODY: I was not here seven-thirty.

MR. FLIGHT: Eight-thirty I am sorry. The House did not open until, did not open until -

MR. MURPHY: It is in Hansard.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, we could have had the question and we could have spent this past two hours doing the business of this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is right.

MR. FLIGHT: But instead of that every hon. member on the other side, and I can only presume that the only reason there has not been another speaker is because nobody has agreed to speak, everyone has stood up and made a speech and in this speech there was one purpose and one purpose only and that is to switch the subject and say, "You miserable Opposition you are attacking the hon. member," when indeed not one word was spoken in this House of Assembly, and every member who spoke on that side attacked and cast more aspersions on the hon. member, eight speakers, eight

MR. MORGAN: Next thing you will be leader.

MR. ROBERTS: Twelve.

AN HON. MEMBER: Twelve.

MR. FLIGHT: Twelve speakers, I have been the first speaker in the Opposition since the hon. member for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford).

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you going to make a statement.

MR. COLLINS: How about -

MR. FLIGHT: It did not come from me, Sir. I am speaking now as the hon. member. I would suggest something, Mr. Speaker, that my hon. friend from Grand Falls, I listened intently to what he said, talked about the - he indicated that the reason we may be against the hon.

MR. FLIGHT: member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Collins) is because he comes from the bay. Well, Sir, let me tell you I came from the bay, I was born on Cottle's Island, probably more insignificant than Island Cove, and I grew up there until I was ten years old. I do not make any apologies for that and I do not claim that this is any reason I should make any great points in debate because I came from Cottle's Island. I do not see where it is relevant, you know.

The issue is, Mr. Speaker, simply that the Opposition is not agreeing to the method used in naming the Speaker. Has the Premier or has not the Premier over the years given an hour's notice to the Leader of the Opposition? The government names the business of the House, but I have heard on three or four occasions here today that the officers of the House are the choice of the House and if they are the choice of the House, and this is the House, the Opposition is part of the House. It is not the choice of the government. It is the choice of the House, and if it is going to be the

Mr. Flight.

choice of the House then certainly somebody must be in a position to say, well that is our choice or that is not our choice, and we were not in that position. Is that right or wrong?

MR. CROSBIE: It is wrong.

MR. ROBERTS: We were in no position the House discloses.

MR. FLIGHT: So, Mr. Speaker -

MR. ROBERTS: We are indicating our views on its disclosure.

MR. FLIGHT: There has been an attempt, Mr. Speaker, by one of the speakers today, the hon. member for Harbour Main - Bell Island (Mr. Doody) - there is no way that I can envision somebody getting up in this House and attacking the Opposition in a more vindictive way than he did. 'Discretion' was the word he used - the discredited members of the Opposition. I am not aware of any discredit amongst the Opposition. I am not aware of any discredit amongst the government benches.

MR. DOODY: On a point of order. I said that the public of Newfoundland had discredited them on three consecutive election periods, and this, I think, was borne out by statistics and certainly not by any oratory -

MR. ROBERTS: Just as the Tories did not receive a majority of the vote.

MR. DOODY: That is right, you know, and it is just as accurate.

MR. ROWE: That is just a point of explanation.

MR. FLIGHT: I have no objections, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure the hon. member for Harbour Main - Bell Island (Mr. Doody) knows that I have no objections to the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) filling that Chair or any other office the Premier appoints him to. But I do take exception to an attempt by practically every member of the government today attempting to smear - it is a good word, if it is not unparliamentary - to cast the Opposition in the light as opposing the man. I agree with everything that is said about anybody who opposes the man, but what I am saying is that there has been no indication that anybody on this side is opposing the man, or is opposing the principle of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT: We are opposing the method by which the man was -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. FLIGHT: Maybe some learned gentleman on the other side can explain this to me. Why, if there is to be no consultation, does Beauchesne or whoever it is say that the officers of the House are the choice of the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Speaker of the house.

MR. FLIGHT: Speaker?

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, it calls for -

MR. FLIGHT: But it follows down, the officers. It is a matter of interpretation then, Mr. Speaker. It is matter of interpretation.

MR. DOODY: No, someone is going to give you a reading now.

MR. FLIGHT: So, Mr. Speaker, I want to let every hon. member on the other side of the House and every minister know that I am not going out of this Chamber tonight feeling anyway ashamed of the fact that I opposed the method by which this, you know -

MR. DOODY: You are out of it.

MR. FLIGHT: - I am not going out feeling that I have done any disservice or any injustice to the system of this House or lowered the honour or the decorum or the dignity of this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT: I would not do it -

MR. MORGAN: Why are you voting against it?

MR. FLIGHT: I am serving notice. I am serving notice on the government that anything that is the choice of the House is the choice of the House -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT: - and if it is not the choice of the House take it out.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT: I am saying that if we are deserving of anything, we are deserving to be notified that a certain person has been nominated and

Mr. Flight.

not be told two minutes after that this is the guy. If there is to be no consultation why bother in the first place? You know why not even serve notice on the House?

MR. PECKFORD: It has never been done.

MR. FLIGHT: Well, it has been done. The Premier has admitted that it has been done, that you have consulted with the Leader of the Opposition in appointments for officers in this House. You have not?

MR. MOORES: What?

MR. FLIGHT: Consulted.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. FLIGHT: Pardon me?

MR. MOORES: Out of courtesy.

MR. FLIGHT: No, but you indicated earlier tonight or earlier in today's debate, you indicated that you had indeed consulted with the Opposition Leader in prior appointments in this House.

MR. MOORES: I certainly did not say it today.

MR. ROBERTS: But you have done it.

MR. MOORES: Out of courtesy, not because of necessity.

MR. FLIGHT: Well that is all right.

MR. MOORES: And you were notified today out of courtesy.

MR. WELLS: That is the reason I came over, out of courtesy.

MR. ROBERTS: Consultation on the floor.

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

The hon. member for Windsor - Buchans has the floor.

MR. FLIGHT: So, Mr. Speaker, have no doubt about this, that the point was made that we can speak to the general public. Well so can we all speak to the general public. The members of this Opposition are just as capable of defending their stand taken in this House today as members of the government

MR. FLIGHT:

just as capable of defending their attitude as to why they voted for or why they voted against, just as capable of explaining what has happened these past seven hours. I will concede that maybe this afternoon, maybe the reason why we wasted the afternoon was because the Opposition continue to debate until the late show. But tonight the blame for the two and a half hours that has been wasted on this issue lies squarely with the government. We indicated unanimously that we were ready for the question when the hon. member for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford) sat down. The government had no intention of letting the question come to the floor. The government is going to have to explain why they took this past two and a half hours doing nothing only making a vicious attack on certain members of the Opposition, maybe not on me personally but certainly on members of the Opposition. They used this issue, they used this issue to attack the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Speaker, that is just as easy to explain to the general public as any explanations that will come from the other side.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. member for Pleasantville.

MR. J. DINN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that this House not adjourn at eleven o'clock because I am sure I want to speak to this.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: Hear, hear! Let us sit all night now. We have come back to three or four years ago.

MR. SPEAKER: A motion has been -

MR. ROBERTS: He has made his speech now. That is it.

MR. SPEAKER: A motion has been -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, to a point of order. The hon. member from Pleasantville may not realize it, and I do not certainly want to hold him to it, but unless he makes his speech now he has made his speech, he has spoken in this debate.

AN HON. MEMBER: He can carry on.

MR. ROBERTS: What I am saying is let him carry on now and make his speech. I do not want him to try to get in later and be ruled out of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Pleasantville.

MR. ROBERTS: I would like to hear what Gerry Korbai has written for him.

MR. DINN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully the hon. the Leader of the Opposition will give me an opportunity to speak and remain quiet in his seat just for a change.

AN HON. MEMBER: Be quiet all night.

MR. DINN: Now, Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to speak today. I was waiting for another occasion.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Order, order, please! Order, please! On a matter of procedure, it is my understanding that a motion is before the House. This should be disposed of unless it is the unanimous wish of the House that the hon. member continue to speak before the motion is put to the vote.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is that a debatable motion?

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is not debatable.

The Chair understands that the hon. member for Pleasantville (Mr. Dinn) has the agreement of the House to continue speaking.

MR. DINN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, as I said in opening, I had not intended to speak, but I feel that - The hon. member for Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight) mentioned that many of the speakers on this side of the House decided to speak here tonight on this motion. I had not intended when I came in here today, but certainly I could not let this go by without getting up to say just a few words about what has gone on here today in this House and to support the member who had been proposed by the hon. House Leader.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DINN: I have listened to words like 'not competent'. I have listened to people making points of order.

MR. ROBERTS: Who said that?

MR. ROWE: On a point of order please, if I may.

MR. ROBERTS: Nobody - I did not say that.

MR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I do not have the citation in front of me but it is clearly stated that a member cannot misrepresent the language of another member. Nobody on this side of the House, or from this Party in particular, said that word today, incompetent.

MR. ROBERTS: Let him say who said it.

MR. ROWE: Nobody has said it. If the member thinks he heard somebody say it, let him say who said it. Then we can check the tapes and check it out on the point of order. But I ask the hon. member to withdraw that statement because it simply was not said.

MR. ROBERTS: Or prove it.

MR. ROWE: And he is misrepresenting the language of hon. members.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): If there is no one to comment in speaking to the point of order that is raised, I must confess that I cannot recall every word that was said in the debate on this motion. If the point of order is to be pursued I think the only way out is for me to consult the tapes to see whether or not the word incompetent was used any hon. member and to so inform the House at a later date.

MR. ROWE: I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that there has not been an objection to the point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the wish of the House that I make a firm ruling on this point of order bearing in mind that I would not feel competent in doing so without consulting the tapes, presumably of the whole debate?

MR. LUNDRIAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a word on that point of order. I think

Mr. Lundrigan:

the hon. gentleman was making a general observation. Certainly if we have to be limited to the point in making speeches in the House, to the point where we have got to be restricted to the extent that the hon. the House Leader suggests, there is no way that you can carry on debate in the House. The hon. member did not accuse anybody of making statements. He said he has listened to phrases. I have heard phrases like incompetent, I have heard phrases like crooks, I have heard phrases like unacceptable, I have heard phrases like hypocrisy, and all kinds of phrases. That is all the hon. member said. What kind of argument is the hon. Opposition Leader presenting when he asks to withdraw a statement like that?

MR. W. CARTER: Its conscience.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: My goodness gracious, I mean if they know anything about parliamentary debate that is completely acceptable. There is no accusation about an hon. member. I am sure if anybody has been in the House for a number of years have heard all kinds of stuff. There is no accusation, no charge, no levelling of an attack on an hon. member. And I think the hon. House Leader right now is just being a little bit picayune, I think he knows it, and I trust Your Honour will make that kind of a ruling.

MR. DOODY: Conscience doth make cowards of us all!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you. If I might say a word on this. The hon. gentleman from Pleasantville (Mr. Dinn) did not name any hon. member.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: That is right.

MR. ROBERTS: I thank the gentleman from Grand Falls. I agree it is correct, but there are also, Sir, certain things known as privileges of the House which over and above privileges of the members, and when the hon. gentleman from Pleasantville makes a statement that he has heard certain statements made all he is required to do is to say from whence he heard the statements, from whom, I am sorry, he heard the statements come, either that or he has offended the House.

Mr. Roberts:

Because, Sir, the statements are not correct. And he has no right, nor has he any privilege to make statements rhetorical or otherwise. I do not mind the gentleman from Grand Falls who got up with a tirade. We let him go, because we felt, you know, let him get it out of his system. But, Mr. Speaker,

MR. LUNDRIGAN: I have not started yet.

MR. ROBERTS: The hon. gentleman says, he has not started. Well that is fair enough, Mr. Speaker.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: You will hear from us.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member from Pleasantville all he has to do, and all that my colleague has said, is that he must be specific. There is going to be plenty of time. We are here all night, and we have sat all night, maybe we are again. We have not yet come to Orders of the Day. The government have wasted the whole day deliberately, maliciously,

AN HON. MEMBER: Nonsense!

MR. ROBERTS: But, Mr. Speaker, the point is -

AN HON. MEMBER: Bunkum!

MR. ROBERTS: The point is that the hon. gentleman from Pleasantville has got made and made a statement. All we say is he must substantiate it. He says he has heard certain words. I do not know what he has heard. Heavens knows what he has heard.

MR. ROWE: He may have heard that in their Common Room.

MR. ROBERTS: All I want for him to make it clear is from whence they came, because they did not come from anybody on this side of the House, and that is a valid.

MR. MURPHY: What has he heard?

MR. ROBERTS: I do not know what he heard -

MR. MURPHY: What is the uproar about?

MR. ROBERTS: I have no idea what he heard. Nobody over here said that the gentleman from Harbour Grace was not competent.

MR. ROBERTS: My friend from Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) said that in his view the gentleman from Harbour Grace was not acceptable. That is a perfectly valid opinion, whether one accepts it or not.

MR. SIMMONS: I stand by it.

MR. ROBERTS: But, Mr. Speaker, nobody on this side said that the gentleman from Harbour Grace was not competent. And if -

MR. DINN: You said it.

MR. ROBERTS: - the gentleman from Pleasantville - I am sorry.

MR. DINN: You said it.

MR. ROBERTS: I did not say that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DINN: You did. You did.

MR. ROBERTS: I did not.

MR. DINN: Well I will speak in a minute.

MR. ROBERTS: The hon. gentleman can say what he wants in a minute, subject to the Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ROBERTS: Let us get the tapes. Let us have a look at it, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ROBERTS: Let the gentleman from Pleasantville make it clear that if he heard those words uttered, they were uttered by his friends and colleagues who sit with him, not from this side of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): If I may just make one point. One of the points raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition was that the honour of the House or the correctness of the House may be called into question here. It would seem to me that the remarks made by the hon. member from Pleasantville (Mr. Dinn) did not cast any adverse light on the proceedings of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The proceedings of the House I do not think were involved in the remarks that he made. So I do not accept that as

Mr. Speaker (Dr. Collins):

being a valid point. On the other hand the question seems to be whether the remarks of the hon. member from Pleasantville indicated that another hon. member called into question the competence of the hon. member from Harbour Grace. I can only say to that, reiterate, that I cannot recall whether such a remark was made or not. And my only course of action would be to consult the tapes.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, you could do that if you wanted to.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): On the other hand if the hon. member, I do not wish to put words in his mouth, but if the hon. member from Pleasantville wished to state, I think, in a clear fashion that he was not referring to a specific member

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins):

who indicated incompetence but was making a general remark in terms of his understanding of the tenor of the debate. I do not think a point of order would really be an issue.

The hon. Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, this is only, I submit, a difference of opinion on fact between two hon. members. This is not the subject of a proper point of order as to whether x called y incompetent or not, and as to whether one member thought he did and another member did not think he had. That is just a difference of opinion between two hon. members and it does not justify the House being adjourned to get the tapes for questions like that. You would not be able to debate anything in the House if that was to be the case. That is my first submission, it is not a proper point of order.

All that the hon. gentleman has said is that it has been suggested that the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) is not competent or that he is incompetent. He has not even said that x said it or y said it. Now how can there be a point of order on that.

Number two, I heard myself the Leader of the Opposition say that one of the reasons he was not for the appointment of the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) was that he was not up on House procedures and House rules and he did not know Beauchesne and so on. So he is incompetent in the matter of House rules, that is the only interpretation you could take from that.

And the question of the difference of opinion about fact, the Leader of the Opposition has clearly implied that the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) is not competent and that solves the problem also.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. member for Pleasantville.

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker -

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, to that point of order or is the -

MR. DINN: Yes, to the point of order if I may.

MR. F. ROWE: Okay. Fine! All right!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. member is speaking to the point of order.

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, if I happened to report every word that I hear during the day around the corridors of this House, and where I heard them, whom I heard them from, I would be here all night. I cannot utter another word because I have heard a word -

MR. ROBERTS: You are speaking in the House. You are not speaking out in the street.

MR. DINN: I know where I am speaking. And if you would just give me a little time and be silent like I have been for you on many occasions -

AN HON. MEMBER: And on a point of order no less!

MR. ROBERTS: Let us settle the point of order.

MR. DINN: I heard words like incompetent today.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where? Where?

MR. DINN: I have not been ruled by the Speaker and I am waiting for a ruling. I will wait for a ruling from the Speaker and I am willing to let the Speaker listen to the tapes and report on tomorrow, and if I have broken some rule of the House then I will retract, you know.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, that seems fair enough. The simple principle here is this, that an hon. member cannot misrepresent the language of another hon. member of this House.

MR. WELLS: But he could interpret.

MR. ROBERTS: Not naming him.

MR. F. ROWE: And not naming him cast aspersions on all members of this House.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE: Well this is precisely the point and -

MR. NOLAN: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE: - you have heard him just saying did he hear it in his own common room or the washroom, where?

MR. HICKMAN: Oh, finish it up, finish it up. Come on.

MR. F. ROWE: Unless the hon. member is prepared to back it up, Mr. Speaker, I suggest he has no business whatsoever in suggesting that he has heard any such word.

MR. ROBERTS: Maybe he heard the Premier say it.

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. F. ROWE: The word 'incompetent' is not unparliamentary.

MR. DOODY: Joan of Arc heard voices and they burned her at the stake. Let us get on with the debate.

MR. F. ROWE: Listen to Newfoundland's equivalent of Joan of Arc, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

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

MR. F. ROWE: The word itself, 'incompetent,' is not unparliamentary, but the fact that the member has accused somebody or said that he has heard the word is misrepresenting the language of some hon. members, maybe his own colleagues.

MR. ROBERTS: He said he has heard it but he will not say where he heard it.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: You should get right back to university teaching.

MR. F. ROWE: Now, Mr. Speaker, I assume that we are going to be checking the tapes on this.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh yes.

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

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, if I may to that point of order, just to clear the whole thing up. I was the one used the word 'incompetent'.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MURPHY: Because I said you do not have to accuse a person by words but by innuendo or insinuation that the man was incompetent. That is everything I said, and that was it. I did not say anybody said he was incompetent, but I said by the very insinuation or what

MR. MURPHY:

else you insinuated that the gentleman was not competent.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. MURPHY: That is all right, he heard it.

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

MR. MURPHY: That is all he said.

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

I think that the Chair would take it that the hon. Minister of Provincial Affairs has cleared up the doubt as to whether the word 'incompetent' was used. We do not therefore have to consult the tapes. I would take it therefore that the hon. members on my right hand would not wish to press the point of order further.

The hon. member for Pleasantville.

MR. DIAN: Can I go on, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. member for Pleasantville.

MR. DINN:

Mr. Speaker, as I have said, I have heard words used today like incompetence in this House. I have heard a member stand up today and point a finger at one of the hon. members on this side, to say that he was unacceptable to sit at the table.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Partisan.

MR. DINN: I am absolutely disgusted. I have sat here since the first day this House opened. I have never interrupted. I have listened to them all. I have heard it all, and today tops it all.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is right.

MR. DINN: The hon. the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) must view the hon. Leader of the Opposition as the Brutus of the Liberal Party -

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MR. DINN: - for he dragged him into political life, he made him a part of all of the wheels and deals, and then to be given a knife by that very gentleman! Taught everything he knows by the hon. the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) and then as sure as anything -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Please, not everything he knows, please.

AN HON. MEMBER: I do not blame you.

MR. DINN: I would deny it too. I would deny it too. The Brutus of the Liberal Party, and he is trying the same thing, the same knife tactics on the hon. the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), the same tactics.

AN HON. MEMBER: Another personal attack on the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. DINN: Would you mind being quiet while I speak?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. DINN: I will be quiet while you are.

MR. ROBERTS: On a point of order.

MR. DOODY: Et tu, Brute!

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, et tu, Brute! Beware you Cassius, the Premier has said to me of the gentleman from Harbour Main-Bell Island (Mr. Doody). He hath the lean and hungry look.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I am quite willing to sit and listen to the gentleman from Pleasantville(Mr. Dinn) make a personal attack on me if it is relevant to the matter under debate. But I had understood the motion before the Chair was that the gentleman from Harbour Grace be appointed as Deputy Chairman of Committees. With all the good will in the world, and I bear nothing but good will to the gentleman from Pleasantville(Mr. Dinn) who is only doing what he has been told to do, Mr. Speaker, I -

MR. DINN: Do you want to read my speech?

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, it would save a lot of time if the hon. gentleman would table his speech, Mr. Speaker, just as it has been written for him. Mr. Speaker, the point is that if it is relevant to make a personal attack on me, then let the hon. gentleman make it. If it is not relevant to make a personal attack on me, let the hon. gentleman be asked not to make a personal attack on me. He will have loads of opportunity. His colleagues have been doing it for the last four years. He will have loads of opportunity, if it makes him feel happier. If that is the way he gets his jollies, Sir, let him jolly. Let him do it only when it is relevant.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker. Of course, there is no point of order at all because the hon. the Leader of the Opposition several hours ago choose the subject matter of this debate and the way the thing would have to be dealt with, the only possible way, and that is to deal with it head on. Insofar as the hon. member for Pleasantville is concerned he is making a speech, and I think it is a gross distortion of the truth to suggest that he has been told to say anything. I have no idea, nor anybody else what he is going to say. I hope he says it, Mr. Speaker, and is allowed to say it in silence.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: He is four days late for the ides of March.

MR. SPEAKER: The objective of the debate is to decide for or against

MR. SPEAKER:

the reason why the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) should be or should not be appointed to the position in question. I think that the hon. member for Pleasantville was delving into that area, and I do not consider a point of order to be before the House. The hon. member.

MR. DINN: The point I was trying to make, Mr. Speaker, although the hon. the Leader of the Opposition may think it is a personal attack, I have no personal animosity towards the gentleman at all, none. But the hon. gentleman from Harbour Grace has been attacked today by innuendo and in every other manner. If I were proposed to be Deputy Chairman of Committees today and I received such a personal attack as he has today, I think I would just about walk out of this House. I would consider it an insult to me, an insult to the hon. gentleman and below the dignity of this House. I came into this House. I was elected much like the hon. gentleman was. It is my first time. I have listened for many days. I have tried to learn. I have listened to the hon. gentleman on this side and that, hoping against hope that I have learned something from the hon. the Leader of the Opposition who has been here for so many years.

MR. DINN:

But today he has done it again, every time he speaks the old hoof and mouth disease sets in!

The same can be said for the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons). And it prompted a caller to one of the open line shows, Mr. Speaker, to say, to refer to the three as three little pigs. And that lowered the dignity of every hon. gentleman in this House. And I would think that Brutus would stop this type of thing in this House, that this type of personal attack cease from this day forth, and that he mend his ways.

MR. SIMMONS: It is okay for you to do it.

MR. DINN: Now, Mr. Speaker, I consider this House to be a seat, the Legislature of this great Province of ours, and would think that if we could get on with the business in this House, if this type of tactic were not used, the crocodile tears.

AN HON. MEMBER: Have you not finished?

MR. DINN: No I will speak, I will go on. I have listened to you -

AN HON. MEMBER: Finish it up!

MR. DINN: I have listened to you -

AN HON. MEMBER: It is unbearable!

MR. DINN: I have listened to you in silence, and I expect the same courtesy from you. I know I will not get, but I expect you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DINN: I will continue to expect it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in closing I would just like to say that I whole-heartedly support the member for Harbour Grace for the position he was nominated for today, and intend to vote that way. And I will be watching for the members, and the hon. members opposite, as to who votes against it, because there is a certain principle here today that we have to watch for.

MR. SIMMONS: I am shocked, scared to death!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! The Chair understands that there is a motion before the House put by the hon. member for Pleasantville (Mr. Dinn). I do not understand that that motion has

Mr. Speaker (Dr. Collins):

been withdrawn. It is an undebatable motion. The motion before the House is that this House do not adjourn at 11:00 o'clock.

Is the House ready to vote on the motion?

All those in favour?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): All those against?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): I take it that the ayes have it.

The hon. Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, the only funny part of this today's proceeding is being the poor member from Conception Bay South who -

MR. NOLAN: True.

MR. ROUSSEAU: - was going to leave after the vote and he found out it to be a much longer day than he had anticipated.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. ROUSSEAU: I can say for my part I remember the advertisement on television, and the boy biting into the Crispy Crunch Bar, and he starts a stampede, and I think this is the sort of thing that has happened here today. Now I stand up, and I was not too happy about coming back tonight, to be quite frank with the House. I had previous commitments. But I will say to this House, notwithstanding the forty-nine other members on my side of the House or on that side of the House, that I do not consider a more important issue than is occurring in this House today for me to stand up and speak to. I think it is very important. I think it is very pertinent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have never attacked in this House except on one occasion. I remember early in 1973 when I was a fledgling Minister of Recreation and Rehabilitation, at 4:00 A.M. in the morning the hon. Leader of the Opposition tore me apart -

AN HON. MEMBER: Was he awake?

MR. ROUSSEAU: -embarrassed me.

MR. DOODY: He provoked you.

MR. ROUSSEAU: No, he did not provoke me because I did not have enough sense, I did not have enough common sense or ability or whatever you may have at that point in time, to accept it. The Premier, as a matter of fact - I do not think I felt more low in my life and the Premier had to sit up in my seat and take me by the hand and guide me through my estimates. But I would like to think that I rebounded from that rather mad night, Premier, and hope that you will never have to do it again.

MR. DOODY: We are with you now, buddy.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I hope it will never happen again, and I think it was an unfortunate thing. It was one of the lowest points in my life, and I will not forget it to my grave.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Last year I think on one occasion the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons), Hermitage at that time, on a Wednesday afternoon, Private Members' Day, when I got upset they were all sort of surprised and I indicated to him after, when everybody was coming along to me saying, "What is the matter with you? You are not usually like that," that if somebody steps on your tail after a while you bark. And I think today what you have seen here is the only day that I know of since March of 1972 when the Premier has lost complete control of the party, today, this side of the House. He has no power over this today. He is not telling anybody what they have to do, because one member on this side of the House has been maligned today -

MR. SIMMONS: No such thing.

MR. ROUSSEAU: - and I do not care what hon. members - I am saying what I believe. The members across the House may say what they believe. I do not impute their intentions. I would hope that they would not impute my intentions. I do not question their opinions, but I also have my opinion and I would like to state it.

The suggestion has been made that they are not opposing the member. Maybe I am not too smart an individual, Heaven help me, but I cannot understand what else the other side of the House is doing but opposing the member, and that is very unfortunate.

I can say this to the hon. Leader of the Opposition - and I thank him for it - first of all, I thank him for making me a little better politician than I was on that four o'clock in the morning in March 1973, relatively speaking. But I also thank him today for one thing which is much more important, for bringing this side of the House together as it has never been before. I will stand up today and I will say this in my district, the people of Labrador West support the member voted by the people of Harbour Grace, who was nominated as a Progressive Conservative candidate in a convention and who was elected by the people of Harbour Grace. When the hon. the House Leader stood up today he did not nominate one Haig Young, and one Frank Moores did not get up, or one Bob Wells get up, or one Joe Rousseau or one Roger Simmons or Ed Roberts, the hon. members get up.

MR. ROUSSEAU: And I think the situation that has occurred today is one that is detrimental and repulsive to the people who elected the member in Harbour Grace. And I say to you that I am prepared to say to the people of my district who voted me in to speak on their behalf that the people of Labrador West, not Joe Rousseau, because I will go back and answer it because if the people of Labrador West are not prepared to accept my support of the people's choice in Harbour Grace, then I am prepared to accept the consequences. And I think it is a shocking situation that has occurred in this House today, but I think it has been a good debate because I think for the first time in a long while that people on this side of the House have gotten up and said what they felt instead of sitting down here and slithering and wondering whether we should say anything or not. And believe me, gentlemen across the House, this is not the first and the last time it is going to happen because we have no reason to be ashamed of what we have done.

I stood up in this House on Wednesday and talked about what we had done in the department which I am in now which the other three ministers before me had started, and other ministers have the same ability to stand up and say what we have done. There is only one thing in this Province that the people can accuse the Progressive Conservative Party of doing and we will agree with them one hundred per cent; of not defending what we have done and there we have been wrong and there is no question about that and the Premier and every member on this side of the House will say that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROUSSEAU: We tried and we are going to continue to try. But let it not be forgotten, gentlemen, that on September 16, 1975 the people of this Province voted these people and myself on this side of the House as the government. We are the government. We control the House. And when the majority rules, as the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has said many times, we have more members than he has, sure we do, and it is our intention to govern in this Province.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Now I would say one thing, and I am looking forward to it and I would be the most disappointed man in the world, but I know the man has the "guts", if that is unparliamentary I will withdraw it, but the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) when he is elected will continue to serve in the capacity of Deputy Chairman of Committees.

Mr. Rousseau.

We certainly have every confidence in him. It was not a decision that was made very lightly. The decision was transmitted in this House today, in a proceeding since then and gone on for hours and hours and hours, has been an important debate in the sense of in these four walls gentlemen. The press today and the people outside probably do not understand the full impact of what is going on here. As one member said there was no report on either the CBC or CJOX. There may be some in the newspapers tomorrow morning- I do not know, and I do not much care. Because we know what is happening today inside the four walls of this House and for this day we are the only ones that are important, because from this day flows four more years of power by the Progressive Conservative Government in this Province, and we do not intend to take things like happened today as lightly as we have in the past. It is certainly not my intention.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROUSSEAU: And the hon. members across on this side of the House who stood up tonight on their own, Mr. Speaker, and not at the prompting of anybody on this side of the House. I said today, you know, the Premier lost control today. I feel it in my guts, you know. I think if the Premier had said tonight to me, do not speak, I would have said, "Sorry, Sir, I have to speak." I feel it down here. I really do, and it is very important. The government did not waste the day as far as I am concerned, as a couple of hon. members suggested. I think it is a very important day for us within these four walls, not for anybody outside. As I say I do not think the press understands really the issues that are going on here today. We do. Let the House decide. Good! Wonderful! I could not agree more with the hon. member across the House who said that. The House is going to decide. There is no question about that, and that is about the only point of agreement I have with members on the other side. Unacceptable is a very strong word.

MR. HICKMAN: How would you vote?

MR. ROUSSEAU: Unacceptable is a very, very strong word but the word 'incompetent' was thrown around here tonight. And if the House would vote me a research assistant to go through the Hansards since March of 1972 I would think that possibly I might have the record for being called incompetent from the other side of the House.

MR. NEARY: You are not incompetent.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Okay, then, but I am just saying the term 'incompetent.' I do not think there is anybody in this House who has been called incompetent as many times as I have been, and I will go back and look for it, because I know the hon. members across the House, a few, one in particular, and there may be another one or two on occasion who have called me incompetent, and that does not sit too well with me and things like that you do not forget. But they are not words that we should be bandying around in this House. The hon. Leader of the Opposition says to the effect that, you know, the hon. leader has not personally attacked anybody on this side of the House, but we have been constantly attacking him for four years. Now my God Almighty, you know, in all sincerity I say to you, those of us who have sat for four years, that is not the truth. Okay? Now I am not saying that we have not attacked the hon. Leader of the Opposition. Certainly we have. But do not let the hon. Opposition Leader stand up and say that he has not done it to us, on time and time, on occasion and occasion. We are not ashamed of taking our share of the blame, and we have. We are prepared to do that. We are not all perfect men, but do not let the hon. Leader of the Opposition suggest in the way a martyr would suggest that we are always attacking, and he is never attacking or other members are not attacking. That is part of the parliamentary process. I think maybe it might be an idea you know after hearing some of the things tonight and after watching for a while the House of Commons on a number of occasions and listening to my two friends and hon. colleagues from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) and St. Mary's - The Capes (Mr. W. Carter), maybe we should adjourn the House for a week. Take fifty-one seats, pay for them if we have to, and bill

Mr. Rousseau.

them and go to Ottawa and take a look at it. Gentlemen, today is not a wasted day. One day is not important to us. It is the next four years. And this is not a warning or a threat, and please, the hon. members across the House who know me, know that I am not giving them that sort of thing, but I say to you across the House, here is one man, and I am sure there are many over here, who are not going to stand for it any more -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROUSSEAU: - that we will

MR. ROUSSEAU:

stand up and defend ourselves. And I say that in all sincerity, and vice versa, you have every right to do so. But none of the malicious attacks. Let us sit down and let us get on with the business of the House. I appreciate the fact, you know, that I stand up and nobody is talking. I appreciate that, very much so and other members do not have it that good. But nevertheless I can assure you that I sit with members on my side of the House and I can say to you that of all the members on this side of the House, all of them, none are less sincere, less honest, less hard working than I am. They should be given, I think, the same courtesy.

But anyway, Mr. Speaker, I do not think it was a wasted day. I think it is very important. I think that as the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay D'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) mentioned tonight, you know, let us vote on it, and I yelled over and I said, Roger you lit a fuse. That is exactly what happened on this side of the House today, you lit a fuse. I think it is about time that we responded and we are going to respond, Mr. Speaker, and we are going to respond often.

Many people have said - I remember the hon. member for Labrador South when he was a member of the House who always commanded the respect of the House in those days, Mr. Mike Martin, who many times got up and gave us the same advise. We have had thus far a fairly good session in relation to the ones we have had before. Let us attempt to get on with the job we have to do, and let us attempt to co-operate, and let us attempt to support tonight our good friend on this side of the House and colleague, the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). And do not forget gentlemen when the vote comes - and I know how you are going to vote and I am not asking you to vote otherwise - but let me tell you one thing right now, the man that I am voting for is the man chosen by the people in the district of Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). The man who votes against him is voting against a man chosen by the voters in Harbour Grace (Mr. Young).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: (Dr. Collins): The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to be very brief.

I think there are two issues at stake here tonight and today.

First of all is the waste of time of the House, and secondly is the procedure of nominating and electing a Deputy Chairman of Committees. First of all there has been a great deal said about who is responsible for the delay of the real and meaningful business of the Province and the many issues that are to come before us. I think it is fair to say, Sir, that this afternoon the Opposition prolonged this particular and unnecessary debate, and I think it is also fair to say tonight the government side has done the same thing. I would say, Sir, that what we are talking about here - and I think it is important to say it and to illustrate it - is that it is natural when individual members get up to speak on an issue which they feel personally, because personalities are involved, in this case a member of our House, it is fundamental that they want to stress their loyalty, or lack of it, or whatever the case may be. But once one starts it is very difficult for others not to start. I think that is a fair comment.

This debate we have had today, Sir, is, I think, fundamental to the problem we have had in the House itself. We talk about questions like today, what are the governments plans for the economy of the Province. We talk about the budget. We talk about the things that are relevant and meaningful to us and to our people, the people of this Province. Sir, for the last two weeks there was more time taken scoring political points by both sides on petitions than there has been on the business, the meaningful business of the House. I think to deny that would be to state an incorrect position.

Today we have seen the classic example of a debate being prolonged on what should be and always has been to my knowledge in the British parliamentary system a formality, and one that should take no time and very little debate. Sir, as I understand it, the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) was nominated to be Deputy Chairman of Committees and for no reason other than one of consultation this was voted against by the Opposition. Now, let us get one thing

PREMIER MOORES:

straight, Sir, here - and I am sure the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) has had experience in this and other members here who had experience in it - there is no prerequisite, there is no demand on any government to notify the Opposition in any circumstances for the appointment of a Deputy Chairman of Committees, for a

PREMIER MOORES: Deputy Speaker, but through courtesy it always has been the case for the Speaker of the House. The fact is, Sir, that here we have an example of opposing what is in fact one of either political strategy or whatever the case may have been, but there is no bona fide reason. If at any time in the past I have notified the Leader of the Opposition who the officers of the House we were nominating were going to be, it was done out of courtesy, Sir, and not necessity.

The fact is, Sir, that today we have heard that the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) is unacceptable. He has been said to be unacceptable before he has even had a chance to serve and to prove that he could or could not do the job. Last year at least when the Deputy Speaker was openly condemned by the Opposition it was because of a ruling from the Chair, but not because of a personal dislike for the hon. member involved. And, Sir, that is not good enough. The fact is that here we are taking a man, an hon. man, and unnecessarily having a debate on his qualifications or lack of them, whichever side of the House you are on. That is not what this House is all about. Sir, personalities and personality attacks, and we heard a point of order tonight on words that were or were not used. I have heard them all here today, I used most of them. I was shouting them back and forth across the House and so were others.

Let us be honest. Of course we said words that were unparliamentary. We were not speaking at the time but we sure as heck said them. And we have done it far too often.

AN HON. MEMBER: But that does not make it right.

PREMIER MOORES: No, that does not make it right, of course it does not make it right. But let us not try to be simon-pure at the same time. What I am saying is there has been too much of it. I am saying, Sir, that we do have main issues in this Province. We have a responsibility to govern on this side. We have a responsibility to debate in this House the issues that are relevant to our Province. If we do not debate the issues, if we try to score political points, if we try to drag out debates on just formalities or idiosyncrasies

PREMIER MOORES: or points like today, we are wasting not only the taxpayers dollars but any ability that we jointly and mutually have, and I mean all members, in not trying to do something about what is much more important in our society.

I can understand the passion, if you like, the fervor which the debate took today. I can totally understand it. But let us hope that today teaches us all a lesson on what a bad example we can all be to each other.

SOME HDN. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. member for Lewisporte.

MR. WHITE: Mr. Speaker, like some other members here in the House I had not planned to get into this debate. And even after I came back tonight I did not plan to enter this particular debate on this subject. But I stand here to say a few words, Mr. Speaker, because I feel that I am being falsely accused. I think it has been a deliberate attempt on the part of members opposite to turn this debate around so that it has become a personal thing and they have painted members on this side of the House, at least here in the official Opposition, to be deliberately opposed on a personal basis to the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young).

Mr. Speaker, that is simply not so, at least for my part. I have been a long-time friend of the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), and would like to state categorically at the moment that I am voting on this because of the principle involved in it, the principle as outlined and articulated by my hon. colleagues here today.

There is a certain gentleman here who has not yet spoken in the debate, but I feel he will, who should accept, Mr. Speaker, I feel, some of the blame for what has happened here in the House of Assembly today, and that is the Government House Leader. I think, Mr. Speaker, that it was a mistake - I do not think it was deliberate - but I think it was a mistake on the part of the Government House Leader in failing to notify the Leader of the Opposition.

The member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) when he spoke in this debate today, tonight, or today, this afternoon said that

MR. WHITE: he knew this morning that the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) was going to be nominated today as the Chairman of Debates -

AN HON. MEMBER: Deputy Chairman.

MR. WHITE: Deputy Chairman of Debates. So if the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter), who is not in all that good standing in the Conservative Party from what I am told, knew this morning, surely the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells), the hon. the House Leader, knew as well this morning. He probably

MR. WHITE:

intended to notify the Leader of the Opposition but he did not do that. He should have done that, Mr. Speaker, I maintain. He should have this morning called, or the Premier should have, as he said himself tonight and as he said today he has traditionally consulted or notified at least the Leader of the Opposition with respect to the nomination of officers for the House. I think that they have changed, themselves, the rules, or tried to change the rules from a traditional standpoint and they should accept some of the blame, or all of the blame. The Minister without Portfolio, the government House Leader should himself accept some of the blame for this. He failed to do what he should have done this morning, and he came across - it slipped his mind and all of a sudden he thought about it and rushed across the House and said, "Oh, yes, this is going to happen today." Well, that is just not good enough, Mr. Speaker. It is an issue of principle here in this House. I am a new member in the House. I came in here, you know, it is a new forum for me. It takes me a while to get used to this kind of debate. I feel that other members are the same. Yet we sit here and see a government deliberately try to use the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) as a scapegoat for something somebody else failed to do. That is the way I would like to put it.

Mr. Speaker, the government House Leader should accept some of the blame or all of the blame for this particular happening today. It irritates me that members opposite have tried to accuse us of being deliberately opposed to the member from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). I just do not see that and I do not think we should accept it and I am not going to accept it for myself.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WHITE: There are only a couple of more points I wanted to raise, Mr. Speaker. We have heard a lot tonight from members opposite, a lot of them my friends, about personal attacks on people. Now I have heard a lot of personal attacks on individuals here in this House tonight, Mr. Speaker, personal attacks by innuendo and personal attacks by outright

MR. WHITE:

stating something. I just do not accept it. I have not heard the same kinds of things come from this side of the House today as I have heard over there. The Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Speaker, case in point, referred to the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons), referred to some part of his clothing or his shoes or something. Is that necessary in a debate such as this? Really though, it is shameful. I mean why can you not just get up and participate in the debate without entering into personal things.

MR. MURPHY: Did you not hear one of your members ask me to stand up when I was speaking?

MR. WHITE: Mr. Speaker, when I was covering the House, and working elsewhere outside the House, it used to occur to me that if I ever got into the House I would not want to be participating in the kinds of personal attacks that we heard and the quotes we have seen in the newspapers and that kind of thing. But it has still gone on tonight from some of the members opposite and I wish they would stop doing it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. WHITE: The member from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan), the Minister of Industrial Development, a good friend of mine, Mr. Speaker, but he could not finish his remarks without an attack on the Leader of the Opposition and a reference to the former residence of the Opposition Leader's parents. I mean there was no need for that. It should not have been brought out in the debate. Those kinds of things should be avoided at all cost.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to vote against this particular motion that is here mainly because it is a principle that we are facing here in this House. We are all fifty-one members elected. There are a couple not here at the moment. By-elections will fill those seats. It is a matter of principle. Tradition has it, Mr. Speaker, down through the years - it was admitted by the Premier today. It was admitted by the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) today - that tradition has been that the Leader of the Opposition is notified in good time about the appointment or nomination of officers to this House. Yet the government House Leader, deliberately or otherwise, did not notify the Leader of the Opposition in time today. He should accept some of the responsibility or all of the

MR. WHITE:

responsibility for what has happened here today. The member from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) has been dragged over the coals by his own colleagues -

AN HON. MEMBER: Not by us!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WHITE: - not by us, by his own colleagues.

MR. ROBERTS: Not a word out of us.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WHITE: Mainly -

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, come on!

MR. ROBERTS: Not a word out of us.

MR. WHITE: Mainly because, Mr. Speaker, the government House Leader did not notify the Leader of the Opposition. That is the only reason why they decided to use him as a scapegoat. Let us go back to the House and accuse the Opposition of using our friend, the bayman from Harbour Grace, the man who was raised in Upper Island Cove or Lower Island Cove, whichever particular Cove it was, let us say that they are attacking him. It was a deliberate ploy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WHITE: No sincerity in what some of them had to say, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is telling the truth.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WHITE: I just could not sit here and take that kind of thing. It is okay to engage in debate. It is okay to figure out, - Mr. Speaker -

MR. SIMMONS: Where are you from? St. John's, 'Freeman'?

MR. WHITE: Mr. Speaker, to engage in the kind of tactic they have done tonight is a disservice to parliamentary democracy in Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WHITE: It is a disservice to this House and above all, Mr. Speaker, it is a disservice to the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) and because of the embarrassment he has gone through at the hands of his colleagues tonight, why he does not deliberately stand to his feet and say, "I want

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MR. WHITE:

no part of this anymore," I do not know. But if I were in his place, if I were in his place and used as a scapegoat for a mistake that was made by the government today, I would have to do that, Mr. Speaker. I would have to do it. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. member for Burin-Placentia West.

MR. CANNING: Mr. Speaker, about approximately eight hours ago I think I was when this debate started, I established in my own thinking, to my own conscience, the principle of what I was going to have to vote for at a later hour. I did not think that it would be this hour.

Mr. Speaker, I have been here a long time. Everybody knows that; I should not repeat it, I suppose. But I have never heard anything like it in my life. And it is quite a record, a long life here - of what I have heard since 3:00 o' clock this afternoon, irrelevancies, attacks, names, name-calling. Mr. Speaker, I have been wondering to myself where this House is going, where it is going to go? We have had some good debates down through the years, both from the Opposition, a good speech from the Opposition, and the government. Some times I thought we were rough. I was often concerned if we made a few shouts at somebody. But I have heard more shouting today and more insults, more trash, more nonsense than I have heard for the whole twenty-three years, almost twenty-four years here in this House. I think it is just terrible.

Mr. Speaker, what has happened, as I see it, when this issue came before the House today, when the Leader of the Opposition spoke, he spoke against the principle, and I considered the principle then and I have not heard anything to convince me differently since. And I have listened attentively. I am going to vote as I have always voted, according to my conscience. I am going to vote as I think the people who sent me here - now I did not slip in through the back door. I came in with a very good majority -

MR. ROBERTS: Hear, hear!

MR. CANNING: -I have always come with a good majority.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CANNING: -I am going to vote as I think they want me to vote. And I think, Mr. Speaker, if they were in this House today, I think the impression they would have gotten is this, that this debate started on

Mr. Canning:

the principle of the Leader of the House not informing the Opposition. It was stated and admitted that it had been their custom, I suppose, for the last four years, and today they come in and they do not consult him until the last moment. I am surprised at the Leader of the House because I have great regard and great respect for him, I can assure him.

So, Mr. Speaker, when I vote I want to assure the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) that I am not voting against him in no way. Mr. Speaker, I will be fair enough and honest enough, with one exception on this side of the House - I am not going to name him - with one exception on this side of the House I do not think that anybody even insinuated that they would vote against him personally.

MR. MORGAN: Who is it?

MR. CANNING: There was one exception, I mean I cannot accept - in one case, yes, in this Opposition here. I think there were some people on that side were justified when they blamed somebody on this side for saying, and he did not insinuate, he said it pretty plainly, that he was not acceptable. He may not have used that word.

But, Mr. Speaker, I did not come in here to be overruled I did not come in here to be bullied by the government. Their numbers do not mean anything to me, Mr. Speaker, because I know, like the rest of Newfoundland knows, how they got here. I am surprised that they are boasting, we are the government, we were voted - you know,

Mr. Canning.

a minority vote and the other help that they got. So it does not surprise me today when I hear bouquets going in the direction where they got that help. They got it without doubt, and Mr. Speaker, I do not mind bouquets going towards that gentleman, because I have a lot I could throw at him. I threw a lot at him down through the years, and he deserved them, but, Mr. Speaker, when I hear him today - that crowd who a few years ago were bombasting him, that he was a dictator, and he was this, and he was that, and a rogue and I do not know what, but when they got a little bit of help from him to get where they are today, they have changed.

No, Mr. Speaker, I am voting against the principle initiated here today. When this debate started the issue was that the Opposition had not been informed, as it had been the custom to do for the last four years, and I think that the Premier would - I do not know why he did not do it, but I think he is the type of man who would do it and would want to co-operate and would want to carry out the rules or the regulations or the customs of this House in the proper way. So I will again guarantee the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), whom I do not know very well, but I do know him slightly; I do not know anything about his ability, but I do not have any doubts about it, that he can carry on his duties. But when I vote, I vote against the fact that the principle formed from what went on this morning, and the political speeches that were made today, irrelevant speeches, Mr. Speaker, I was flabbergasted. I was wondering why they were made. Sometimes I come to the conclusion, well, I think the government realizes just how low their credibility is in the Province today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CANNING: Because, Mr. Speaker, I can assure them now that this government - at the present moment there are people asking this Province how do you get rid of a government without voting, without an election.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CANNING: They cannot wait for an election to come. The credibility, Mr. Speaker, of this government at the moment is as low as it possibly can be. The people have been waiting for four years for some action from that government which have not given it. This House is waiting for some leadership, which is not here.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CANNING: We are waiting for policies, to formulate some policies that are not here. I think the political speeches made this afternoon and the attack on the Leader of the Opposition was nothing except politics. They are trying to put something before the people, some kind of an image, to try to gain a little bit of favour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CANNING: Mr. Speaker, I think the attack on the hon. Leader of the Opposition is unjustified. I do not think that the government are able to gain anything by it. With personal attacks like that, I do not think so. I think they will judge their leader on his performance here in the House, and they will judge the government on their performance. And the government has caused all this row and rumpus here today, and like other speakers previous to me, they are the only ones who have caused a reflection to be cast on the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to speak in this debate because I wanted to wait until I got a chance to speak on another occasion. But not very often I do get emotional, but this afternoon - I will not say so much tonight, in the sitting tonight - but this afternoon I think most of us felt very emotional about what was going on, and I do not care

Mr. House.

what we said across the House today, what is being said across the House tonight. The fact was that the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) was at least mildly maligned by the speeches from the members of the Opposition. We did hear the word 'unacceptable', and if the people are going to vote on principle - if they are going to vote on principle, say, "We are not going to vote for the member for a particular office," I think

MR. HOUSE:

it could have been shown in a different way because when he was talked about, we talked about being unlearned and these sort of things. Of course it all reflected on the person's ability. The way I read the speeches - and you can say I am incompetent for not reading them properly, if you like - that the person was not acceptable because he was not capable of doing the job. That is the way I read it. Now I went out from this House this afternoon about six o'clock, and the first thing struck me was somebody said something that insulted me because - and it did not insult me politically - they said, "just like a crowd of youngsters." My orientation has been for the last thirty years working with children, and I never saw children attack one another like the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) was attacked today.

I have seen junior Red Cross meetings. I have seen mild debates, student debates, where people were very charitable, and young people who elected people to offices, even if they did not like them, accepted them and were willing to give them a chance. What we done here today, we were prejudging the gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) saying definitely that he is not able to do the job.

We talk about consultation. I came in this House last November, whenever the House opened, and I have a lot of fear of standing up and speaking. I am not a very eloquent speaker. I never got into education because of my ability to make great speeches and I had a lot of awe, I had a lot of awe when I came into this House. The day that the Premier of the Province, I guess, consulted with the Leader of the Opposition on the appointment of the previous member - and I refer to George Cross who was then the member for Bonavista North - when the Leader of the Opposition got up and nominated him. He got up - it is not recorded in Hansard the whole way it was said - but I remember him saying I second the nomination of the new member or the present member for Bonavista -

MR. POBERTS: Temporary.

MR. HOUSE: Temporary, right.

AN HON. MEMBER: It was true.

MR. HOUSE: And it was truthful but do you not think it did hurt the feelings of that young gentleman first coming in the House? It was uncalled for. I said to myself today, after that kind of a seconding, if I were the Premier and I did not have to consult with the hon. the Leader of the Opposition I would not do it.

Now, I think it was very uncharitable and the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is often picking other people up on quotations of the bible. He refers to it quite often. I think he must have read the chapter somewhere, or the verse, that "Not everybody says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who doeth the will." That is what is called partly charitableness. Being uncharitable like we were today to the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), that really hits people in the right spot - or in the wrong spot, whatever you may say.

I think as the member for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford) mentioned a little earlier in the first part of the debate tonight, that this position is third down the line from Speaker, it is a learning process and if the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) may not have Beauchesne down - a lot of us do not - if he does not have it down, it is a learning process and it is not as if he was being appointed as Speaker. I think he should have been given the opportunity without what has gone on today. I am very proud to stand here tonight and support the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) for the position.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations.

HON. E. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I have listened all day, approximately eight hours, or a little bit over eight hours now, with a great deal of interest, at times a great deal of amazement to the debate that has gone on here with the selection of a Deputy Chairman of Committees for this hon. House. It is not often that I do speak in a debate. I doubt if I will set any fires tonight by my eloquence. There are people in this House that can set fires a lot better than I can.

I can only repeat probably what many other people have said throughout the debate today, that is, I am appalled, I am amazed that an hon. member of this House, regardless of which side of the House that hon. member sits on, should be dragged out in the middle of the floor, trampled on in such a way as the hon. member from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) has been trampled on in this hon. House today.

I could almost say that, I am using the word 'hon.' very loosely from the performance that has gone on here by the members of the Opposition who initiated this whole thing, this whole debate. He has been dragged out not only as a person, but the people he represents, the district he represents, the people of Newfoundland, the people of this Province that we hopefully all respect, admire so much, been trampled on on the floor of this House.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the Opposition today thought that when they opposed the motion that we would cower back in our seats, we would hide away, we would accept their little game, and go along with it. Well, obviously they must know by this time that they are wrong.

And now in the last hour, Mr. Speaker, I have seen an exhibition such as I have never seen in this House before, or anywhere else, where I have heard three or four speakers from the Opposition side, and that is the official Opposition I am referring to, tried to squirm their way, squirm out of this hole that they have dug themselves into all throughout the day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MAYNARD: They are trying desperately to go on this so-called principle thing. At least one member of their group, Mr. Speaker, came out and said what he thought that it was not principle, that it was the personalities. But now they are trying to hide behind this principle thing. Mr. Speaker, it is not working, and it is not going to work. I do trust that the people of Newfoundland, the people of this Province will take note of the things that have gone on here today, and what has been said.

MR. ROBERTS: Right.

MR. MAYNARD: I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Newfoundland will hold the members of the Opposition accountable for it in the next election.

MR. ROBERTS: Right.

MR. MAYNARD: There is no way, Mr. Speaker, that they can talk their way out of this one, as much as they would like to. They know that they have boxed themselves into a corner. They know that they personally attacked the member from Harbour Grace. They are trying to find some way to cover it up, trying to find some way to find it. And there is no way with all their so-called eloquence, and all their points of order, and all their references to Beauchesne are not going to cover up the true nature of the attack that they have made and they are continuing to make on the member from Harbour Grace. And the Leader of the Opposition can chuckle, Mr. Speaker -

MR. ROBERTS: Who chuckled?

MR. MAYNARD: all he can chuckle -

MR. ROBERTS: I did not chuckle, I laughed.

MR. MAYNARD: He is a very eloquent man and he knows all of the sections of Beauchesne and all this sort of thing. Well he has got to learn a few things yet, Mr. Speaker. Because he really dug himself into a hole today, and he is going to take a long time digging his way back out.

MR. ROBERTS: Right.

MR. MAYNARD: I can assure the -

AN HON. MEMBER: He might get out.

MR. MAYNARD: - people of this house that, that it is going to take a long time before the people of Newfoundland accepts the hon. Leader of the Opposition as the Leader of this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MR. ROBERTS: Let us have an election!

MR. MAYNARD: I think, Mr. Speaker, that the people of this Province are well aware of what they have as the Leader of the Liberal Party in this Province, and that is why the Leader of the Opposition is sitting over there today instead of sitting over here.

Mr. Maynard.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is shameful the way that the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) has been treated by these gentlemen, so-called hon. gentlemen. I would hope that in the future, Mr. Speaker, that no other hon. gentleman in this House will be personally attacked in such a manner. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I am new to this House and I have been sitting here all day. For a while I tried to figure out what was really going on here. At three o'clock today we protested a method which the government had used to appoint an Assistant Deputy Speaker. We felt that there should be consultation. There had been consultation in the past, and we voiced our disapproval. For some reason or other members opposite decided then that they would decide to twist it around and to pretend that the honour of the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) was at stake, and this has been going on all night. We have been accused of wasting time earlier today. I might say that this afternoon the Premier said that we had wasted time in the House this afternoon, and perhaps the government side had wasted time tonight; but this afternoon there were four people from the official Opposition who spoke, and there were four people from the government side who spoke. So who wasted the time this afternoon?

We have heard the point made that we have been wasting time with this debate earlier today, and that there was lots of work to do. One member alluded to the Come By Chance situation and the problems in the Province, and here we were talking about small matters earlier today. Another hon. member across the House mentioned about the petitions and the time the petitions were talking. Well if those petitions are taking so much time why is it that we have not been meeting at night? Why is it that is the first night session? If the Newfoundland people feel that petitions must be sent in, that they feel that they must protest something that has happened, and we take the

Mr. Hodder.

time to present those petitions then certainly -
and we were not getting our business done, the normal business was
not being done - we could have met at night. I, for one, am quite willing
to do that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: The other thing, Mr. Speaker, that bothers me, that
upsets me, not only the fact that the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young)
who I think I have only said good morning to yet so far - I have nothing
against. I do not think anybody here has anything against him, and I
do not think anybody on the government side actually believes that
anybody on the Opposition side has anything against him. I think it is
just a cheap political trick.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. F. ROWE: Right on! Right on!

MR. HODDER: But the one thing that disturbs me most of all is
that this incident - tonight when the government side came back,
they decided, "Ah, ha! we have an issue. We have something that we
can discredit, the Leader of the Opposition." I am very proud of
the Leader of the Opposition, because if -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: - he has raised so much emotion across the
house then he certainly must be effective from day to day. To
me, Mr. Speaker, this is just an exercise in frustration. The
government are frustrated, and they have used the proceedings today
to take out their frustrations on the Leader of the Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): The hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. J. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, being in the southeast corner and on
your blind side is very awkward sometimes. It is very difficult
to get the Speaker's attention. I must say -

MR. J. WINSOR:

a few words about what has gone on here today. Like my colleagues, a couple of them who just spoke, I am a newcomer, and like a few more of the gentlemen have said I have not felt much like getting up because some of the starch was taken out of me today. I came in here for the same reason that all of you came here, to represent a bunch of people, Baymen if you like. I do not happen to be a Bayman, but I am proud to serve for the Baymen in my district. I do not think there is any need to bring up what people are or are not or where they came from.

I spent three years in the Allied Merchants Seamen's Club on the War Memorial in the Mechanics Hall, and I have seen many a rousing fight, but I never saw as many white faces or as much bad temper as I have seen here this afternoon. And to tell you the truth I was never as much afraid in that Seamen's Club as I was here this afternoon, because we were certainly in the minority as far as numbers were concerned. I do not know about weight. We will have to weigh us all to find out about that.

It was a bit disappointing to me. I expected better. I did not like sitting in the southeast corner being accused of vilification of the hon. gentleman from Harbour Grace. I really - sometimes I would have to ask who the gentleman was and what he represented, because I do not know him that well. Therefore I could not cast any aspersions on his character, and truth to tell I have not heard anybody on this side of the House cast any aspersions on his character and I would not want to.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. J. WINSOR: I am an independent member -

MR. MORGAN: -the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. J. WINSOR: Not on his character, not on his character. I did not hear anything. The only aspersions and the fancy names made up for what was said about him, and I have to say it to you gentleman, was from your side of the House. I am being honest. I have a lot of friends of there I hope. But I am saying it the way I heard it -

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MR. J. WINSOR: - and I think if I was the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) I would not be walking through that door back and forth here, I would be out of this place if my team let me down as badly as you have let him down.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. J. WINSOR: I am sincere about that. I am not joking. I am not trying to make a political point. I am trying to tell you how I feel about it. I know one thing, I can certainly appreciate that you all let off steam. I am a qualified steam engineer and if we want to test the safety valve we put too much pressure on it and it will blow, and you darn well blew your safety here today. You blew your cool, too.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. J. WINSOR: The worst part of it is you blew your cool. Gentlemen who normally I would not have expected to get up and give us the business did it. Now I am giving you the business and I do not suppose you expected me to do it.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear! Hear!

MR. J. WINSOR: But I hope to come back on another day in a better mood and better people for what happened here today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. member for Baie Verte - White Bay.

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, I had intended to say a few words in this debate that is going on here tonight. I had intended to say a few words regarding the principle, as I saw it, of the debate, but as the debate dragged on here this afternoon and tonight I do not think it is as much the principle of the debate that is involved anymore, as the personalities that I have been witnessing going back and forth across the House.

First of all we have been accused on this side of the House of character assassination. We have been accused of vilification of an hon. member of this House and that, Sir, is not true. The only character assassination, the only personalities that I know of or that I have heard in this House today and tonight came from that

MR. RIDEOUT: side of the House to the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROWE: Fight.

MR. RIDEOUT: The hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir, as I recollect, and the Hansard is not out yet, but as I recollect what he had to say this evening, he had two reasons for opposing what went on here today with regard to the nomination of the hon. member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). One was the principle and all of us, Sir, on this side are opposed to the principle involved. The other one, and he said it quite plainly, that as far as he was concerned, him personally, he found the hon. gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) unacceptable for the position. He did not say unacceptable because of character. He did not say unacceptable -

MR. MORGAN: Then tell us why?

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, do I have the floor?

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

MR. RIDEOUT: He did not say unacceptable because he was incompetent. He did not say unacceptable because he was unlearned. He said he was unacceptable because,

MR. RIDEOUT:

because - and he said it plainly as far as I know - because of his quick wit, because of his sharp tongue at times. He even said to me earlier this evening out in the room that I would consider myself to be unacceptable for that position.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MR. RIDEOUT: I would consider maybe myself to be unacceptable for that position.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. RIDEOUT: Just now, I said, out in the room. Now if that is character assassination then, Mr. Speaker, it is character assassination. I do not consider it such. That is honesty as far as I am concerned.

MR. ROBERTS: The only character assassination comes from over there.

MR. RIDEOUT: The only character assassination, Sir, that I have seen here in this debate tonight has come from gentlemen on the other side. The hon. Leader of the Opposition, Sir, has been discredited. He has been called everything except a gentleman. It makes me really believe, Sir, that the hon. gentleman on the other side is scared of him because he is making his mark to discredit this government. They cannot do it. They will not do it. They will not discredit him and the people of this Province will not let them. That is what they are trying to turn this debate into.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. F. FOWE: They know 'Ed' is not dead.

MR. RIDEOUT: Yes, they know 'Ed' is not dead.

Now, Sir, as I see it, the hon. gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) has been made a scapegoat by his own colleagues.

MR. ROBERTS: Thrown to the wolves.

MR. RIDEOUT: He has been thrown to the wolves, to borrow your phrase, Sir -

MR. ROBERTS: The wolves of his own colleagues.

MR. RIDEOUT: - by his own colleagues. The House Leader made a mistake this afternoon by jumping over here about a few seconds before

MR. RIDEOUT:

the House opened and informing the hon. Leader of the Opposition who was going to be nominated for the position. He made the mistake. I do not know for what reasons but he made it, and because of that mistake the hon. gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) has been subjected to embarrassment by his own colleagues. He has been subjected to threats of character assassination. His name has been drawn across the floor of this House by his own colleagues, not by members of this side, Sir.

MR. ROBERTS: They are trying to humiliate him, why?

MR. RIDEOUT: There was no mention, as I recall it, Sir, in this debate today of the integrity of the gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) until the gentleman from St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) who is not in his seat right now, got up and started talking about the integrity of the hon. gentleman. That was the first time in this House today that I heard the word 'integrity' mentioned. I never heard it from anybody over here. I never heard the word 'incompetent'. I have explained, as I saw it, the word unacceptable. So it is all, Sir, a charade of the hon. gentlemen on that side. They wanted something to cling onto and they found it. But, Sir, in regards to the hole that the hon. minister was talking about, I would say that they have gone in the hole and pulled the hole in after them.

Now, the principle, Sir, of this debate is what I intended to talk about, and the principle has been established in this House. The Premier has admitted it. The last three or four sittings of this House, or sessions of this House, he has consulted the Leader of the Opposition and the various officers of the House. That has been admitted. It did not happen today. That is the principle, Sir, that we objected to, and that is the principle that we are still objecting to.

MR. ROBERTS: Right on.

MR. RIDEOUT: Now I do not care -

AN HON. MEMBER: Do you commend him for it?

MR. RIDEOUT: Yes, I commend him for it. I do not care. The hon. gentlemen on the other side every time they get a chance they jump on the coattails, with all due respect, Sir, of the hon. gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood). They shift their sails, Sir, to catch the political breeze. That is what they are doing, shifting their sails to catch the political breeze. Not all the time they have jumped on the hon. gentleman's coattails, not because he did not do it for twenty-three years it was right. I am not to say if it is right or wrong. But the principle and the precedent have been established. It has gone on in this hon. House as I understand it for the last three or four sessions. It did not go on today. Why? That is the principle, Sir, we object to and we will object to it.

MR. ROBERTS: Right on!

MR. RIDEOUT: As I understand it, and I am no master to the rules of this House, but this House is a master of itself, and the officers of this House are servants of this House, and I think the practice established by the Premier with the Leader of the Opposition in the past was a good one. It was a sensible one.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT: It was a necessary one. If the decorum of this House is to remain anything then I would suggest that it be continued.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Well said. Well said.

MR. SPEAKER: (Dr. Wells): When the hon. House Leader now speaks, we will close the debate.

MR. WELLS: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have listened and I thank hon. gentleman who have remained, and members of the press, too, for that matter who have remained -

MR. ROBERTS: They get paid overtime.

MR. WELLS: Oh, yes. Because at least I can get a chance to tell what took place in this thing. I feel very sorry for the members, most of the hon. members of the Opposition, because I think they are

MR. WELLS:

very decent, honourable men who deserve better than the leadership that they get.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: And if we have nailed the Leader of the Opposition on this side today, it is only because no man deserved it more. Now

MR. WELLS:

he can laugh and he can laugh and cackle loudly, but let us get the facts out.

MR. ROBERTS: Tell the truth.

MR. WELLS: Right. On this question - well we all know that Mr. George Cross is no longer a member, and a replacement had to be found. Now I checked into the procedures and what has been said about Ottawa today by the hon. member from St. Mary's (Mr. W. Carter), what has been said about the Newfoundland procedures and tradition in this House by the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) was what I found, that we were electing a Deputy Chairman of Committee - not electing, I am sorry - appointing. The House would appoint -

PREMIER MOORES: Nominating.

MR. WELLS: We would nominate, the House would appoint a Deputy Chairman of Committees. And the procedure as I found it to be, and this has been confirmed in the debate today, was that the government nominates and there is no obligation at all on the government or the government's side of the House to say anything to those on the Opposition side at all.

MR. ROBERTS: But the Premier has done it.

MR. WELLS: Now that is the position Ottawa and here. So let us make clear the position of the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). He was our choice and is our choice on this side of the House.

MR. ROBERTS: There is no question about that.

MR. WELLS: All right. I would have been perfectly within my rights today, or any member of the government, the Premier, to have come in and simply nominated him and that is that, because as the Opposition Leader said today the government has the responsibility to propose. All right. But instead of just doing that, what did I do? If I had had an opportunity before hand, an hour before hand, two hours before hand, I would have come over or spoken to the Leader of the Opposition. But I did not have such an opportunity. So I came over immediately before the House was to start. I said, and I will quote verbatim, "I am going to propose

MR. WELLS:

Haig Young for Deputy Chairman of Committees." Now here comes the clincher and this is what gives the lie to so much of what has been said today, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hold it, hold it.

MR. WELLS: "Haig Young," that was the answer; "No, we do not agree."

MR. ROBERTS: That is not - Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. gentleman has quoted a private conversation. I do not object to that in the circumstances, but he has not quoted it verbatim, Sir. His version is inaccurate and that is that.

MR. WELLS: Well, it is a disagreement then. If there has to be a disagreement, let it be a disagreement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ROBERTS: Well, of course there has to be a disagreement. Ask my colleague. He was there.

MR. F. ROWE: On a matter of privilege, Mr. Speaker, if I may.

MR. WELLS: Privilege? You have not been referred to. The hon. member has not been referred to any way. There is no point of privilege.

MR. F. ROWE: On a matter of privilege. On a matter of privilege. Can I rise on a matter of privilege?

MR. WELLS: No point of privilege.

MR. ROWE: Sir, this is a very serious -

MR. ROBERTS: It is the lateness of the hour, boys.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROWE: Sir, I hope that I can explain this properly. Quite often hon. members on both sides of the House become engaged in private conversation, on this side, on that side, here in the House before the Assembly starts.

MR. WELLS: This was an official conversation.

MR. ROWE: There was nothing official, Sir. While the Speaker was - Mr. Speaker, while you were on your way to the Chair, the hon. the

MR. ROWE:

government House Leader came over and shoved this at us and there were some words said, the same type of words said that are said privately around, that if the hon. - Mr. Speaker, if I can pursue my matter of privilege, Mr. Speaker -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

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

MR. F.B. ROWE: Can I pursue the matter of privilege?

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order has arisen.

MR. WELLS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member who is speaking now to a point of privilege - as I understand it a point of privilege can be raised in this House when something has been said either inside or outside about a member, a member, which would have to be the hon. gentleman himself.

MR. ROBERTS: No, no! No, no!

MR. WELLS: You cannot raise, as I understand it, a point of privilege for someone else.

MR. ROBERTS: Of course one can.

MR. WELLS: You raise your own point of privilege.

MR. ROBERTS: The hon. gentleman is quite wrong.

MR. WELLS: There is no point of privilege here. The hon. gentleman was not the person to whom I was referring.

MR. ROBERTS: The hon. gentleman was privy to the conversation.

MR. ROWE: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker. I submit that there was - there is no point of -

AN HON. MEMBER: Privilege.

MR. ROWE: - no point of order raised by the hon. the House Leader because, Sir, I will be quite frank with you at this very moment, that when the hon. House Leader shoved this at us -

MR. WELLS: Shoved?

MR. ROWE: Shoved - while the hon. the Speaker was on his way to the Chair.

MR. MURPHY: Is that the only word you can find to use?

MR. ROWE: We were quite taken aback. I will say from the heart that

MR. ROWE:

I personally made a joke, as I quite often do about my own hon. colleagues or about hon. members opposite. If this hon. the House Leader is going to start to divulge the contents of private conversations I will only too happy, Sir, to stand in this House and say some of the things that that hon. member said about his own Leader.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: Say them! Say them!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROWE: Now I mean that, because we did have a private conversation.

MR. WELLS: Say them! Say them!

MR. ROWE: This was the conversation. This was not consultation.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, to a point of order. Is this a point of privilege or not, Mr. Speaker. You have to rule, I think, on it.

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: This is what you call a House Leader?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. ROBERTS: The House Leader in the House.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

It is my understanding that a point of privilege has to be of some substance, and it is not really up to the Speaker to decide. This is a matter for the House to decide if the point raised is of a matter of substance to give rise to a question of privilege. I might go further, before deciding one way or the other, and say this, that a point of order was raised as to what was said in a private conversation. I would take the view, and this is subject to appeal, I would take the view that the hon. member for Trinity - Bay de Verde (Mr. Rowe) was discussing this same subject matter. A point of order had been raised in regard to this private conversation, what was said in the interpretation of one member and what was said to the recollection of the other, and the hon. member for Trinity - Bay de Verde (Mr. Rowe) then went into the same area of discussion, discussing what was said in the private conversation. I would, therefore, take it that he was speaking to the point of order rather than bringing up a matter of such substance as it would qualify to be a point of privilege. That is the ruling from the Chair, and any ruling from the Chair is subject to appeal.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, the point that I am making in explaining what happened this afternoon was - the hon. members, no doubt they will say that what I am saying is not correct. They are perfectly free to say that if they want to. But it was made clear to me, not that they did not have enough notice or not that the Leader of the Opposition did not have enough notice - that did not come up at all - what was made crystal clear to me was that the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) was not acceptable to him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: That is what was made clear. Now if the hon. member has his version, he is at liberty to say.

MR. ROBERTS: Will the hon. gentleman yield?

MR. WELLS: No, I will not yield. I have listend for eight or nine hours.

MR. ROBERTS: An untruthful statement.

MR. F. ROWE: Point of order!

MR. WELLS: Ah, ha!

MR. F. ROWE: That is off the major point of order.

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

MR. F. ROWE: A point of order.

MR. WELLS: No, I have the floor, and I have listened all day.

MR. F. ROWE: It is completely untrue.

AN HON. MEMBER: The hon. gentleman is telling a lie.

MR. CROSBIE: Weasel! Weasel!

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

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, it was made clear to me. Now if the hon. Leader of the Opposition had said we need more time. Will you do it tomorrow or the next day? We would like to think about this. We would like to talk to you. We would like to talk to the Premier, it would have been perfectly all right, but that was not the issue or the point.

MR. ROBERTS: A completely untruthful statement by the gentleman from Kilbride.

MR. CROSBIE: Do not weasel out of it.

MR. WELLS: That was not the point.

MR. ROBERTS: It is a completely untruthful statement.

MR. WELLS: That was not the point, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMONS: It is a lie!

MR WELLS: Now at this point what was I to do?

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: He just wants to get in the press, that is all!

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

MR. DOODY: The gentleman across the House, I think, just referred to the hon. House Leader as having stated that what was said was a lie. I think that that is unparliamentary in the worst and most impossible way. That is not acceptable in any way and, Sir, I would ask for a ruling on that immediately, because in this House that is something that is not acceptable under any circumstances.

MR. ROWE: He does not even know what -

MR. DOODY: I think I heard that.

MR. ROWE: He does not even know what he heard.

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

MR. SIMMONS:

MR. DOODY: It does not matter whether he thinks it is a lie or not. A lie is not acceptable in this House. Mr. Speaker, you are not allowed to use that term. I am just asking you.

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

The word 'lie' was distinctly audible. One may express disagreement as to the interpretation of what another hon. member says, but to say it is a 'lie' is not questioning an interpretation. It is stating that the hon. member is being untruthful. This is clearly unparliamentary and calls for an unqualified withdrawal of the remark.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I did indeed say the word 'lie', and that is why it was audible. I did say it. I was privy to the conversation, and I was standing nearby when the Government House Leader came over, Mr. Speaker. I have my feelings on it. I am sorry I said that.

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

MR. SIMMONS: I am about -

MR. ROBERTS: He is speaking to a point of order. Sit down, bully boy!

MR. CROSBIE: Is the hon. member appealing the Speaker's ruling, or is he withdrawing the word 'lie.'

MR. ROBERTS: Sit down, bully boy!

MR. CROSBIE: There is no question, Mr. Speaker, of 'bully boy'.

Is he doing what you directed him or not?

MR. SIMMONS: I think, Mr. Speaker, the House is entitled to an explanation.

MR. CROSBIE: No! No!

MR. SIMMONS: I am trying to give it.

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

MR. MORGAN: Withdraw it and sit down!

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

MR. HORGAN: 'Roger,' sit down boy.

MR. SIMMONS: I am trying to give the explanation.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Withdraw it!

MR. SIMMONS: I was privy to a conversation -

AN HON. MEMBER: Come on! Come on!

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

MR. SIMMONS: I think it to be a lie, but it is unparliamentary so I withdraw,

AN HON. MEMBER: Withdraw!

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame on you!

MR. SIMMONS: I withdraw having said it, but I still believe it, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: No, it is all right, Mr. Speaker, because from that gentleman I really do not care, Mr. Speaker, nor does it matter to me what he thinks -

MR. CROSBIE: Or what he says.

MR. WELLS: Or what he says.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS: I do not know if he was lurking on the periphery or not, I do not go around, Mr. Speaker, when I am speaking to the Leader of the Opposition wondering how many people are there listening. It is not in my nature, it is not in the way that I do business.

MR. CROSBIE: Big ears!

MR. WELLS: It does not matter to me what he thinks, Mr. Speaker.

The point is that it was made clear to me that our choice was unacceptable.

MR. ROBERTS: That I said was. "Can't you do better than that?"

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: Now then gentlemen -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS: Now gentlemen -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS: "Can't you do better than that?"

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, to a point of order.

MR. WELLS: These were the words!

MR. ROBERTS: To a point of order, Sir.

MR. WELLS: These were the words!

MR. ROBERTS: My exact words were -

MR. WELLS: "Can't you do better than that."

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

MR. ROBERTS: To a point of order, Sir.

MR. WELLS: Now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you!

MR. ROBERTS: I have no hesitations - I said can you not -

AN HON. MEMBER: Sit down!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS: He said, "Can't you do better than that."

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

MR. ROBERTS: I said, "Can't you do better than that." The hon. gentleman's reporting of the conversation has been inaccurate, incorrect, untruthful and not, well, not accurate, I guess, to repeat that term, and I believe, can you not do better than that?

MR. MORGAN: "Can't you do better than that?"

MR. ROBERTS: And I still say it, "Can't you do better than that?"

MR. CROSBIE: So you are going to -

MR. ROBERTS: That is a very good question to ask: Can they do better than that? I believe they can. And if the hon. gentleman does not regard that as a request for more time, then, Sir, he is beyond regarding anything in our eyes.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS: I will say this and quite -

MR. ROBERTS: No man needs fear the truth, -

MR. WELLS: - seriously -

MR. ROBERTS: - and I do not.

MR. WELLS: I thank the hon. member for admitting what he said.

MR. ROBERTS: No admission, I do not fear the truth.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Admission.

MR. WELLS: Its an admission.

MR. ROBERTS: Nothing of the kind.

MR. WELLS: I thank the hon.member. I thank the hon. member.

I do not remember, I do not going jotting down every word that is said. I do not remember. But the gist of it, it was quite clear to me as the hon. gentleman has admitted -

MR. ROBERTS: And I ask the hon. gentleman now -

MR. WELLS: - that the hon. member for Harbour Grace was unacceptable.

MR. ROBERTS: I ask the hon. gentleman now, can they not do better than the hon. member from Harbour Grace?

MR. WELLS: Yes.

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. WELLS: And I think the hon. member went on to say why not so and so, and so and so?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS: Excuse me, please gentlemen. Now let me continue. And he mentioned a couple of other hon. members whose names or seats I forget, but it does not matter anyway, saying, why not him? or why not him?

MR. ROBERTS: Sure -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS: Now at that point let us consider the position of the government which I represented in that exchange and at that moment. Was I then to come back to my colleagues on this side of the House and say, Premier, colleagues, we are asked, "Can we do better than this?"

AN HON. MEMBER: Right!

MR. WELLS: He is unacceptable to the other side. Now we are the government, and we were elected, but, you know, can we not do better? So what would I do then? We would get another name -

MR. ROBERTS: Come back and say, yes or no.

MR. WELLS: suggest - come back - well perhaps we can get someone - maybe I should have gone to the hon. member from LaPoile(Mr. Neary) then, and say, now they agree with that, maybe I should have gone to the

Mr. Wells:

hon. member from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood), and they agree with that, and he says somebody else. Now what can we do?

MR. ROWE: We were not consulted.

MR. WELLS: In other words, to negotiate.

MR. SIMMONS: Dictatorship is not a House function yet.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh my God!

MR. WELLS: To negotiate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS: Now I do not conceive that to be the role of the government. I do not want to provoke an altercation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS: Please gentlemen, I do not want to provoke an altercation but if I see this role or a role that I am in wrongly -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS: Please! If I see the role I am in wrongly -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, order, please!

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

MR. WELLS: If I see the role I am in wrongly, than that is fine.

It is an easy matter for me to be removed from it. But I saw the role of government at that point was to lead, and that if our choice was the member for Harbour Grace, then he was our choice!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: There is no question of saying, "Can't you do better than that?"

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: He was our choice.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: In other words you cannot do better than that?

MR. WELLS: He was our choice.

MR. ROBERTS: All right, so you cannot do better than that?

MR. WELLS: As far as I am concerned he is our choice, and he is the

Mr. Wells:

best choice.

MR. ROBERTS: All right, the hon. gentleman -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: He is our choice.

MR. ROBERTS: Well that is fine.

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

MR. MURPHY: That is our choice.

AN HON. MEMBER: Put it to a vote.

MR. WELLS: No, no, let us finish the debate--

MR. ROBERTS: Well that is arguable.

MR. WELLS: -you have been at it all day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WELLS: Now where does the great principle come into it?

MR. CROSSBIE: Roberts rides roughshod!

MR. WELLS: The principle was not: you have acted too quickly; you have not given us enough notice.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right!

MR. WELLS: No, it was not.

MR. ROBERTS: Sure.

MR. WELLS: The question was, can you not do better than that? It was the choice of the man. And that is why, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has been exposed today, exposed in this House and in this country for what he is.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBER: Haw, haw, haw

MR. WELLS: Yes, but he has been exposed, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CROSBIE: He thinks he has a veto.

MR. WELLS: He has been exposed.

MR. ROBERTS: You can do better than that.

MR. WELLS: Oh no, I do not have to do any better than that, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Fair exposure.

MR. WELLS: I thank him. I thank him for admitting it. I thank him for admitting it, and the hon. members on the other side whom I have respect for and that, can see now what they were exposed to today in this great debate on the principle of the thing -

MR. ROBERTS: But for the minister.

MR. WELLS: Principle, Mr. Speaker, my foot! There was no principle. There was the refusal to accept the choice of the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) - "Can't you do better than that?"

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MR. WELLS: - from the very same person who, when a lot of these hon. members were not in this House, the very same person who had to be expelled from a previous session because of an attack on the Deputy Speaker who occupied that Chair.

MR. ROBERTS: The Assistant Deputy -

MR. WELLS: The Assistant Deputy, whoever it was.

PREMIER MOORES: The Deputy Speaker,

MR. WELLS: The Deputy Speaker.-

MR. ROBERTS: Cost him his seat!

MR. WELLS: - lost his seat honourably. He sought a seat and he lost it. That has happened to me too. That is no disgrace. It happened to a lot of us. But I would rather never sit in this House of Assembly again -

MR. ROBERTS: Hear! Hear!

MR. WELLS: - than bring a cooked up version of events, debate for eight hours on a phoney principle, Mr. Speaker -

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

MR. WELLS: - eight hours on a phoney principle.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

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

MR. ROWE: Now 'Ed', now.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, their morale must be pretty bad if they have to convince themselves of that sally.

Mr. Speaker, the point of order is this; the hon. gentleman may say what he wishes, of course, subject to the rules but the rules are quite clear -

MR. CROSBIE: Subject to your veto.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the bully boy would be well advised to keep quiet.

The phrase, Mr. Speaker, "cooked up;" he may believe it, I mean I do not know what - the hon. gentleman is capable of believing almost anything but, Mr. Speaker, the phrase "cooked up" has been ruled out of order in this House. I can give Your Honour comparable citations from the Beauchesne -

MR. WELLS: There is no need. There is no need.

MR. ROBERTS: Well then all I say to the hon. gentleman let him withdraw it. Let him find more eloquent language.

MR. WELLS: I do not shilly-shally with words, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw it if it is unparliamentary but a spurious phoney principle.

MR. ROBERTS: Perfectly -

MR. WELLS: A spurious, phoney principle because the objection was to the man, not the timing or not the notice or anything like that and the hon. gentleman has admitted it. He has admitted it before the press, the public and the members of this House.

MR. ROWE: Did we say we were against that man?

MR. CROSBIE: An enemy of the parliamentary system!

MR. WELLS: He is not acceptable. "Can't you do better than that? "Can't you do better than that?" I had forgotten the words, and I thank the hon. gentleman for reminding me.

MR. ROBERTS: Very good words, elegant, polite, decent, honest and honourable.

MR. WELLS: And at that point I saw that the position of the government—and if I was wrong, you know, as I say, Premier, you can have my resignation tonight.

MR. ROBERTS: He will have it over the Craig Dobbin affairs, I would think.

MR. WELLS: But the point is that at that point I saw the role of this government to stand by its decision to nominate the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), and I myself will vote for him for this position supposing I am the only man in the House to do so. I do not care.

MR. SMALLWOOD: You will not be the only one.

MR. WELLS: Thank you. I thank the hon. member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: When in this debate I will speak of something else -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Watch out my friend.

MR. WELLS: When the phoney issue was raised, Mr. Speaker, then came one of the most discourteous things that I have seen in the four years I have been in this House when the hon. the Leader of the Opposition jumped to his feet, objected and without any consultation nominated the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter). There was no consultation there! The phoney issue of consultation!

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. WELLS: No of course there was not.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Hypocrisy.

MR. WELLS: There was an effort to drag a red herring into the whole proceedings, Mr. Speaker, and that effort continued throughout the afternoon. It is a pity that the hon. member has not seen fit as yet to stand up in this House and apologize to the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter).

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, to a point of order again; the hon. House Leader, I thought, was listening today, but obviously he either was not listening or did not hear. I certainly said to the gentleman from St. John's North (Mr. Carter) -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: What was said by your former leader? Take a little lesson, a page out of his book; understand a bit about -

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

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) has already made a -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: We are embarrassed by your behaviour.

MR. ROBERTS: - a notable contribution to this debate, Sir. The point I was making, for the benefit of the House Leader, is that I most certainly apologize to the gentleman from St. John's North (Mr. Carter), again with any hesitation, without any - and when I nominated him for the position I said that I had not had the opportunity to consult with him, nor had I, but it was

MR. ROBERTS: the only remedy open in the face of the dictatorial action of the government House Leader.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: I suggest, Mr. speaker, the remedy was simply to have said to me either in the House, when I proposed the hon. member, or before I did it, "Will you wait a day or two; will you give us a little more notice?" I would have said, "Gladly!" But that is water under the bridge now because that is not the tack they took.

So I would say something to the hon. the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) tonight, Mr. Speaker. I would say this to him; that I do not think there is any doubt from the speeches that have been made on this side of the House, and some of the speeches that have been made on the other side of the House, that the great majority of members of this House have every confidence in him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: I would say to him also that he knows - he has sat in this House exactly as long as I have - he has seen what has gone on in the previous session, and what has begun in this session. He knows what to expect, just as any of us who are in public life know what to expect, and he knows, unfortunately, just to what depths this House can sink. But I say to him, "Have no concern for that, get in the Chair, be completely impartial and do the job for which you will be elected to do." That is what I say to him. And, Mr. Speaker, I say something else, I am glad this debate has taken place, I think it has opened a few eyes. I hope it has opened a few eyes of the newer members of this House, I hope it has opened the eyes of the press who will report this, and I hope it has opened the eyes of the people of Newfoundland who, I hope, will hear it through the press. And perhaps we can make a beginning tonight, Mr. Speaker, to make this a better House. I move that the hon. the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) be nominated as Deputy Chairman of Committees of this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Is the House ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? Those in favour of the motion say 'aye', those against 'no'.

MR. ROBERTS: A recorded vote, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: In my opinion the 'ayes' have it.

MR. ROBERTS: Record the vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

Order, please! Those in favour of the motion please rise:

The hon. the Premier, the hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the hon. the Minister of Transportation and Communications, the hon. the Minister of Tourism, the hon. the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations, the hon. the Minister of Health, the hon. the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Environment, the hon. the Minister of Justice, the hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy, the hon. Mr. Wells -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

- the hon. the Minister of Finance, the hon. the Minister of Industrial and Rural Development -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

- the hon. the Minister of Fisheries, the hon. the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, the hon. the Minister of Education, Mr. Power, Mr. Coudie, Mr. Dinn, Mr. Patterson, Mr. John Carter, Mr. Woodrow, Dr. Winsor, the hon. Mr. Smallwood, Mr. R. Moores.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Those against the motion please rise.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition; Mr. Hodder; Mr. Canning; Mr. Rowe; Mr. Simmons; Mr. White; Mr. C.J. Winsor; Mr. Flight; Mr. Rideout; Mr. Nolan.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): I declare the motion carried.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

Are there further reports of Standing and Select Committee?

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, I do move that this House do now adjourn until today, March 19 at three of the clock.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I know that the adjournment motion is not debatable and I will not debate it, but now that the motion has been put and carried, let me -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Out of order! Out of order!

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I realize it is out of order, and I am indulging on the well-known charity of the House, which has been done many times with many people. I wish to say something and unless the hon. gentleman from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) wishes to silence me, which is his right, Sir -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: There is nothing I would like better!

MR. ROBERTS: All right then. That is fine, Sir. I will say it outside the House. Thank you.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, the House, I think, should adjourn now. The motion has been moved and if the hon. member -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, to a point of order. If I am not allowed to say anything then the hon. gentleman from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) is not. All I wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, was that we on this side -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, the motion has been moved and the hon. gentleman -

MR. ROBERTS: I am speaking to the point of order. Quite genuinely Sir, we on this side will, now that the House has expressed its rule, its wish, we accept it gladly and without any reservation or qualification,

MR. ROBERTS:

we will respect the gentleman from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) in the Chair and we shall do our very best to make his tenure of the Deputy Chairmanship of Committees as long as it may be, successful and happy and all together in the traditions of the House, Sir. The vote is over. We accept the decision without any qualification. We wish him well in his new position.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: You do not have to believe your own propaganda. You do not have to believe your own propaganda.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: I cannot just find the word.

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

On that point of order, the Chair will accept that as an explanatory statement.

On motion the House at its rising do now adjourn until tomorrow, Friday, March 19, 1976 at three of the clock.

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