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SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE GERALD RYAN OTTENHEIMER

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, this time I would like to make a statement on the situation which arose over the past weekend in one of our provincial parks. As hon. members are aware the parks opened for public use on Saturday, May 15. The past weekend which included the May 24th holiday is by tradition the first big weekend for families to get out into the parks to enjoy the natural attractions of our Province. Unfortunately in recent years it has also been a time when a segment of the more rowdy or less law-abiding element of our society choose to make some parks their playground and to make life miserable for those who have come to parks for the purposes for which they were intended.

Over the May 24th weekend a situation developed at Gushue's Pond Park which I am advised by my officials is the worst incident of disturbance and lawlessness that has yet been experienced in any park in the Province. The problems were created by a group of young people in the twenty-five and under age group whose activities made life miserable for other park users. The situation became such that the RCMP were called in and charges are now pending against some ten people including offenses such as underage drinking, impaired driving, dangerous driving and possession of drugs.

A trailer was broken into and some one hundred dollars stolen from a lady's purse. The rear window was broken in a police car by a rock. I will not go into any further detail on those incidents at this time except to say that those responsible will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Mr. Speaker, I will at this time however assure the law-abiding people of this Province that this kind of activity in provincial parks will not be tolerated.

We have in this Province a park system that is second to none in the country. In my term as minister in this department I have

MR. HICKEY:

heard nothing but praise for the way in which the parks are operated and maintained. Our parks serve as one of the few opportunities which many families have to get into the countryside and enjoy the natural beauties of our Province. Mr. Speaker, we do not intend to allow this enjoyment of parks to be spoiled by the activities of a few lawless individuals who have no respect for the property or rights of others.

As mentioned earlier, those responsible for the incidents which occurred at Gushue's Pond over the past weekend will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Also, Mr. Speaker, I now serve notice that under the powers given me under the Park Act that anyone convicted of any offense relating to rowdyism or disturbance while in a provincial park will be barred from the use of all parks in the Province for the remainder of this year. Parks are a place for people to relax and enjoy the beauties of our Province. We do not want to have to make them 'police states'. All across Canada, however, there has been an increase in the use of parks by the rowdy and lawless element. It has now been demonstrated that the trend is spreading into this Province.

Unfortunately, the main problem is with a small number of individuals in the under twenty-five age group. I trust, Mr. Speaker, this statement today will serve notice to all that any disturbance in parks will be dealt with in the severest manner. Let this be a warning to those who consider parks as an area where anything goes that we do not intend to tolerate disturbances in the parks. Any activities in parks which interfere with the property and rights of others will be dealt with as the law allows. In this regard I would like at this time to express our appreciation for the cooperation we have received from the RCMP and in particular their efforts in dealing with the situation at Gushue's Pond.

I hope by this statement I have not conveyed the impression that all parks are areas of disturbance. Mr. Speaker, nothing could

MR. HICKEY:

be further from the truth. The majority of parks never experience rowdyism, problems and users are law-abiding citizens who come to use parks for the purpose for which they were intended. It is a pleasure for the park staff to serve such people. But in some parks close to the larger centers the rowdy element has become more evident over the past several years and we intend to use every means at our disposal to eliminate this activity from parks so they can be enjoyed to the fullest extent by the people of the Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Trinity-Ray De Verde.

MR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, we on this side welcome indeed the statement made by the minister regarding future action he will be taking and the RCMP will be taking with respect to the breaking of the law in our provincial parks. Our provincial parks, Sir, are something which we should be extremely proud of and I think we have some of the best provincial parks in Eastern Canada, indeed in Canada. Unfortunately, Sir, every time there is a long weekend or some sort of a holiday, the one thing that we tend to hear over the radio and on television and in the printed media is the rowdyism, the underaged drinking, the impaired driving, the uses of drugs and presence of drugs. We hear about this on the radio coming from our provincial parks and it leaves the impression that our provincial parks are nothing but a drinking and drug scene. I am afraid it would scare off some of our more law-abiding citizens in this Province.

I think it is very timely that the minister should make this statement today right at the beginning of the Summer season and ensure the responsible citizens of our Province that our parks will be a safe place and a clean place and an enjoyable place in which to stay any day during the week, especially on the holidays, Sir.

Unfortunately there is only a small minority that make it bad and uncomfortable for the majority of our citizens. But we do welcome the minister's statement and I hope that it will go a long ways in

MR. ROWE:

allowing our people, or letting our people know that our provincial parks are indeed a safe and enjoyable place to stay during the Summer and that prompt action will be taken. I am particularly pleased over the fact that any people who are caught and convicted presumably and found guilty and convicted will be barred from any provincial park in this Province. I think that will go a long ways to solving the problem. So, Sir, we welcome the announcement indeed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Mount Pearl.

MR. N. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave on behalf of the hon. the Premier to present two petitions relating to the same topic. The first petition is signed by 119 voters. It reads as follows and I read it literally, "We the voters and fishermen of Great Harbour Deep do hereby urge that our federal and provincial governments take immediate action to put the fish plant at Bide Arm under Reid Products Limited into operation. We do think regardless of who buy the fish it is right to keep every industry we now have and try to improve them more where we can sell every species of fish. We do ever pray that our democratic rights will be kept alive and the prayer of our petition will be granted."

The second one, Mr. Speaker, "We the voters and fishermen of Roddickton do hereby request that the fish plant of Bide Arm be put into operation immediately for this coming season as we are ever on the increase of more fishermen and labourers and we are coming to the place that sometimes there is an overflow of fish which cannot be handled, especially of herring and mackerel. We the people of this town are sincerely asking your co-operation for we do think there is room for both plants to be improved and more jobs created for our unemployed people. Hoping that you will be very sympathetic towards our problem, we would rather see work and employment than we would see welfare. By your help we can improve it and your government. Hoping that

Mr. N. Windsor:

the prayer of our petition will be granted." That is signed by 271 voters. Mr. Speaker, I ask that these petitions be laid on the table of the House and referred to the departments to which they relate.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. A. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to support the two petitions presented on behalf of the Premier on behalf of the residents of Roddickton and Bide Arm. About ten days ago, Sir, I had a call from Pastor Reid asking me if I will support any move from the area to get the fish plant open and to get his - I believe it is his - little shipbuilding industry he had going there. I was only in Bide Arm I think once in my life. I went there with the Leader of the Opposition. I was tremendously impressed with the operation that I saw there, Sir. And I do not know why, Mr. Speaker, people scoff at Pastor Reid.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: I think he is to be congratulated,

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: and we need more Booth Reids in Newfoundland, Sir -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: - not just to scoff at the gentleman because, not only did he do a magnificent job of resettling these people, but also put in water and sewerage and they are living in fine homes there; but what they need is an industry, and they are near the good fishing grounds there, so they need to get this fish plant opened. And I think I read in the paper, or Pastor Reid told me in one of the many discussions that I have had with him, that what held up the whole operation there was the fact that he could not get the money to pay the customs duty or something on a piece of equipment that was supposed to be brought into Bide Arm, and I am not sure if it was auctioned off or sent back to the manufacturers. But I think it was a shame. And then, Sir, also it was virtually impossible for the gentleman to get the co-operation of the Government of Canada, of DREE to get his fish plant off the ground. I do not know if there was a strenuous

Mr. Neary:

effort made on behalf of Pastor Reid and the people in Bide Arm to persuade the Government of Canada of the importance of this industry, but certainly DREE apparently scoffed at it too and everybody who I talked to seemed to make a joke out of it. But it is no joke, Sir. It means a living for several hundred Newfoundlanders. And I hope that the prayer of the petition just presented by the member from Mount Pearl (Mr. N. Windsor) of both petitions, Sir, the prayer will be answered in the next few months.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Twillingate.

MR. J. R. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, I support the prayer of the petition and I congratulate the hon. member for Mount Pearl for having moved, I suppose as Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier. I am sorry that the Premier did not introduce this Resolution himself. And I certainly agree thoroughly with what has been said by the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary). Pastor Booth Reid is one of the most remarkable men in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SMALLWOOD: And I say that in the most complimentary way, he has been the butt of some witticisms and even of some sarcasm and even of some attack. But Newfoundland could do with more Booth Reids. Newfoundland would be a lot better off if she had ten or a dozen or fifty or a hundred Booth Reids, that is to say, men in their own locality enjoying the loyalty of the people of that locality and using their strength and their energy to get things done for that locality, that is what Booth Reid has done. Now if at times he has gone a little overboard he is not the first to go a little overboard -

MR. NEARY: And he will not be the last.

MR. SMALLWOOD: - and he will not be the last to go a little overboard. But far better a man who goes a little overboard than does not go anywhere, that does nothing, just loafs his life away and lives comfortably, as Pastor Booth Reid could so well do. He could have lived comfortably without a worry in the world if he had been that kind of man, but he is not that kind of Newfoundlander. I am not

Mr. Smallwood:

in touch with the situation; the last I heard of the matter Pastor Booth Reid came to see me as the Premier of the Province for help and he got it. He was assisted greatly in that by the present Leader of the Opposition, who was then the member for that constituency, and he gave strong support to Pastor Reid. Now there were times when Pastor Reid would rather grate on our nerves, because he never - he is something like the present member for the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow). The present member for the Bay of Islands never gave us a moment's rest. He wanted to get things done and he did them and just sent us the bill. Well now, Pastor Booth Reid did much the same thing, and Newfoundland is all the better for having had that turbulent priest - who was it said, would anyone rid him of this turbulent priest? - There were moments when I wondered who would rid me of that turbulent priest from the Bay of Islands and that other turbulent priest from Bide Arm. But Newfoundland could do with more men like that and not fewer.

I support the prayer of the petition, I am not sure what it is they are asking for, but whatever it is Booth Reid wants it is not for himself. It is for the people of that fine community in White Bay.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay.

MR. T. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the prayer of the petition as presented by the member from Mount Pearl (Mr. Windsor). I thought it might be interesting to note that the member presented the petition and did it very well, but I do not recall him saying whether he supported the prayer of the petition or not. Anyway, be that as it may, there have been a number of words said about the situation at Bide Arm here this afternoon and nobody is more aware of it than I am or than the Minister of Industrial and Rural Development. I am glad he is now in the House and he might have a word to say on the petition before it passes.

MR. SMALLWOOD: The member might add, a Minister of Canada, the Minister of DREE, the whole Canadian capital.

MR. RIDEOUT: That is right. But anyway, Sir, there are a number of problems related to the proposed operation at Bide Arm, Mr. George Lee of the Extension Department of Memorial University headed up a consultative committee to look into all of the aspects of the situation at Bide Arm and that committee has been working now for the past number of years. And it is only a few days ago I received the proposals that the committee finally came up with. I am sure the minister is

AN HON. MEMBER:

MR. RIDEOUT: I think it is a couple of years the Committee has been in progress. I received the report of that Committee only a few days ago and I believe the Minister of Industrial and Rural Development also has a copy of that report. I do believe that something will happen at Bide Arm in the very near future, and I am certainly pushing for that whether it will be related to the fishery or not my guess is as good as anybody else's. There have been a number of problems there in the past. Certainly something needs to be done to provide jobs and industry for that area, and in that spirit and in that light I certainly support the prayer of the petition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

HON. J. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has very adequately and responsibly summed up the situation. I have a firm responsibility to get some activity in the area. We are negotiating actively with Mr. Lee and his committee, and I hope that some concrete will result beneficial to the community. And his remarks were completely on the target.

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

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of capacities in which I should say a word in support of this petition, one of them is as a member who for nine or ten years had the privilege of representing the people who live in the communities represented in this petition, the people of Harbour Deep, I do not think it is called Great Harbour Deep

Mr. Roberts:

any longer, it has not been for ten or twelve years so called, and the people in Roddickton and the people in Bide Arm and Englee. And also, of course, as the gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) mentioned, as well he might, as a member who has from time to time had occasion to be involved in transactions involving Pastor Booth Reid, certainly a very unique man, and in many ways a man of the sort of spirit we must have if we are to get rural development and get development of this Province.

Mr. Sneaker, I support the petition of course, but I think I should add a note that perhaps is relevant. I have heard recently from Mr. Reid and from other people in the Bide Arm - Englee area, and of course I have been in close touch with my friend and colleague the member for Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout) who now represents these communities. I am not sure that Pastor Reid is overly involved in this matter any longer, and I say that because the gentleman from Mount Pearl (Mr. N. Windsor) in presenting the petition in behalf of the Premier did not mention Pastor Reid specifically. Now I know that Pastor Reid took up the petition, because he called me as he does quite frequently, a man who has learned the power of the telephone and learned how to use it as an effective means of communication.

MR. NEARY: He told me there is no way he is thinking about giving up his life's earnings.

MR. ROBERTS:

Well I appreciate that very much, Mr. Speaker. But I understand also that within Ride Arm itself there has been a change in the structure of that community, the corporate structure of the enterprise. I have not seen the report to which the gentleman from Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout) and the Minister of Rural Development referred, but my understanding is that Mr. Reid is no longer directly involved in the matter. That is not important. What is important is that the plant be made operational. I was very glad to hear the Minister of Rural Development tell us that he is approaching it in a very positive and very straightforward manner and I think that is the right way to approach it.

MR. RIDEOUT: He has for some time.

MR. ROBERTS: My friend from Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout) just interrupted me to say that the minister has done this for some time, and I am not surprised but I am pleased. It in no way takes away from Pastor Reid's undoubted abilities and undoubted drive and energy. I could keep the House for hours, Mr. Speaker, talking of Pastor Reid who is a unique man and a man of incredible drive and energy and persistence and vision and ability and doggedness and very many other very worthwhile qualities.

But, Mr. Speaker, the important thing is that the plant in Ride Arm be made operational. I would think it would have to be completed and it would have to be -

MR. DOODY: He was a great fan of Mr. Jamieson.

MR. ROBERTS: He may very well be a great fan of Mr. Jamieson. I do know that he was a great supporter and as far as I know is of a political party with which Mr. Jamieson is not unconnected. Ride Arm in one election, Mr. Speaker, I can recall went 114 for one crowd and zero for the other crowd. The hon. gentlemen can fill in the name of the hon. crowd on each of the figures as they wish. The election before that, Sir, had gone 112 to two and over the intervening period the people of Ride Arm had found out in sort of

MR. ROBERTS:

an inquest form who the two people were and, lo and behold! the democratic process worked and when the results were counted the next time it was 114 for one group or for one candidate and zero for the other candidate.

Mr. Speaker, while paying tribute to Mr. Reid and deservedly so -

MR. DOODY: Last Fall there was a change.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes I think there were twelve or fourteen for the Tories -

AN HON. MEMBER: Eleven.

MR. ROBERTS: Eleven for the Tories and about 150 for the Liberals last Fall. There has been a great switch to the Tory Party, Mr. Speaker, down there.

MR. SIMMONS: Sounds like Alec Hickman.

MR. ROBERTS: It sounded, I am reminded, a little like the Minister of Justice's famous campaign in Seal Cove in the Hermitage by-election when the Minister of Justice managed to raise the Tory vote there, Sir, from thirty to nine and lower the Liberal vote from 112-was it? -to 342, I think, because of the Minister of Justice's effective speech on behalf of the the then Tory candidate, Mr. Bert Meade.

MR. SIMMONS: If he had only stayed another day!

MR. ROBERTS: But a little more seriously, Mr. Speaker, the people of Bide Arm and the area make a very worthwhile request. There are very few employment opportunities in the area. There is a potential in the Bide Arm situation. It is a potential which should be developed to the fullest and we on this side, Sir, and personally with a heart and a half I would support any efforts to realize that potential. I commend the minister and I urge him to proceed with all speed and I can assure him, Sir, that based on my dealings over the years with Pastor Reid and with his other associates in the area that the minister will literally get no peace nor rest until he meets the just and legitimate aspirations of the people of that area. That is as it

MP. ROBERTS:

should be and I commend it to the minister and I hope we will have an early and satisfactory conclusion of the entire incident, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MP. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Placentia.

MP. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition from eighty-one residents of Fair Haven, Placentia Bay. The prayer of the petition reads, "This is a petition in the interests of the people of Fair Haven. This year as well as in the past years non-resident owners of horses and cattle have been bringing their animals to Fair Haven and turning them loose to roam around the community for the Summer. This has been the cause of much torment to the residents of the community as well as a disgrace to the community itself. We, the undersigned want an end put to this practice. We want all animals in the community that are the property of non-resident owners to be taken out of the community as soon as possible and some steps taken to ensure that such a practice does not reoccur in the future. We trust that action will be taken immediately on receipt of this petition." I request that this petition be tabled and referred to the department concerned.

MP. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Trinity-Bay De Verde.

MP. DOWE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the petition presented by the member for Placentia (Mr. Patterson). The reason I am supporting it is not just because of the particular community that was mentioned by the member but this appears to be a problem in many communities throughout the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. I do not know what the situation is in Labrador but certainly on the Island part of our Province this is a very big problem, roaming cattle through the various communities, walking through people's vegetable gardens and front yards and what have you.

Now, Sir, I have written or made a number of representations to both Ministers of Forestry and Agriculture in connection with trying to gain some assistance for various communities in order to enclose roaming cows and horses. In one instance the reply came back that

MR. ROBE:

there was - I was writing on behalf of the community of Heart's Content - and it was suggested that there was a community pasture as Victoria. I cannot remember the name of it now - Swansea. It was recommended that the people who had cattle in the Trinity South area could easily bring them across to Victoria in the Swansea community pasture. But at the bottom of the letter, Sir, it was distinctly pointed out that no horses were allowed in that community pasture. That is the main problem, roaming horses as well as cows throughout the various communities. I think it would be a good idea, Sir, if the Department of Forestry and Agriculture undertook to look into the possibility of not establishing the community pastures in the sense that we have them now but just simply enclosures.

There are a great number of open areas in many of these communities. If there was some sort of a fence put around these areas we could enclose the roaming cattle that are wandering through the various communities and destroying properties and are an extreme traffic hazard because most of the communities that we are talking about are not on the Trans-Canada Highway but on main highways or truck roads. For that reason, Sir, I think there is a great need for building something other than what we now call a community pasture but a cattle enclosure for both horses and cows. Now I do not know how compatible horses and cows are, but presumably if they can exist and co-exist on the streets of Heart's Content they can co-exist in some enclosure in the various communities, Sir. So it gives me a great deal of pleasure to support the petition and I hope that the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture could react to it and probably give some indication of some other concept for the enclosing of such cattle.

MR. ROBERTS: Well said, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to do any horsing around or anything but I would like to take the opportunity to have a few words to say in support of that petition. Myself and the hon.

MR. CALLAN:

member for Bay De Verde (Mr. Rowe) who just sat down were out in the district of Bellevue and also out in the district, part of the district of Trinity-Bay De Verde a couple of weeks ago and we dropped into a home there, had a cup of coffee on our way home, and a gentleman had a phone call that his horse had just been killed by a car, or at least knocked down, a horse that he had for his daughter as a riding horse. It seemed awfully strange to me that anybody who thought anything about the animal would have it on the loose. But I think this is just one of many cases where there was no place really to keep the animal penned up.

While I am on the topic of horses and animals I believe that it goes deeper than that just roaming horses. I know in our own community we have the same problem. Under the existing legislation of municipalities it would cost a great deal of money to hire somebody to, number one, fence some kind of an impoundment to keep these animals which are on the loose sometimes from other communities, it would cost a lot of money, of course, to feed them and to keep an eye on them for that matter because I know in my own community when I was chairman of the municipal government there a few years ago,

Mr. Callan.

we did have a system whereby we caught the roaming horses and impounded them. But then we would pay somebody a nominal fee for doing so, usually big boys. And those same big boys, when it got dark, would go and let the horses out again so that they would get some money again tomorrow to put them back in. So there is a problem. While I am on this same topic, I think, you know, the dog problem we have in the Province is just as bad. Again I am talking from personal experience, you know, within municipalities. You know the old saying that certain communities have gone to the dogs is quite literally true in many, many instances, in many, many communities.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we need some kind of impoundment, community pastures or something for these roaming horses and cattle. And also, as I have said, I think we need some legislation to look after the problem as well, and especially to look after the problems that pertain to other animals such as, well dogs in particular. So I support the prayer of that petition, and hope that the government sees the light.

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, just a couple of words on the petition. I have received a number of representations from hon. members in respect to the keeping of horses on regional pastures. We have an amount in this year's budget, some \$441,000 for maintenance, and \$300,000 for capital expenditures on regional pastures. Regional pastures are intended, Mr. Speaker, to assist the agricultural entrepreneur for greater production of milk and the growth of other livestock. But certainly it is not the intention of the programme as it now exists to keep horses for people who may be using them for any number of purposes, mostly which may be recreational. And we have a certain amount of feed available on the pastures, and in the opinion of the department of the government at this time the pastures will be put to better use in respect to livestock, be they sheep or cattle. But we will certainly take a look at it. It is a matter again of how many units we

Mr. Rousseau:

can put on a pasture, whether or not - I never said, by the way, nor would I want it to have been heard that horses and cattle will not get along together. I do not think that reason was ever given. That is not a fact. The fact is that a pasture can only accommodate so many animals, and our first responsibility, in our opinion, is to the agricultural people in respect to livestock and not in respect to horses.

Also I might mention by the way, and I brought it up the other day, and there was some sort of a smile permeating the House when I introduced the act respecting dogs which is now on the Order Paper, Order 21, Bill No. 7, which I think is of extreme importance, and I am very happy to see that the hon. member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) agrees with me that this is very important act in respect to the livestock production in the Province. Many of the communities do not have the power to enforce dog regulations. We would hope by this act to be able to do that and hopefully it will be passed in this session of the House. Then we will be in a better position to control dogs in the areas. So we will certainly take a look at the request from my colleague and friend from the area of Placentia (Mr. Patterson) and also from the other people who made the same sort of request from the department. But, as I say, it is a matter of economics. It is a matter of space. It is a matter of availability. And our first responsibility has to be to the bona fide and true farmer who is using the cow or sheep or any other livestock for production purposes in respect to an agricultural endeavour.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition to the House on behalf of some fifty residents of the Healey's Pond road area in Conception Harbour who are asking that the road be upgraded

Mr. Doody:

and perhaps paved during the coming season. They point out very correctly that the ball park, and the playground and the recreation area is on that road, that there is a gravel pit in there, which certainly increases the dust hazard, and they note the various amounts of work that have been done in the area during the past few years, and the other parts of Conception Harbour, Kitchuses, and Bacon Cove, and they ask that the same consideration be given to them.

MR. NEARY: Gallows Cove.

MR. DOODY: That is in Harbour Main, not Conception Harbour.

MR. NEARY: I thought you were talking about the whole area.

MR. DOODY: No, no, just the town of Conception Harbour which includes Kitchuses and Bacon Cove and Silver Springs. You know the place. You were up around there.

Anyway, Sir, I certainly support the petition and I would heartily recommend it to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. J. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the petition as presented by the hon. member for Harbour Main - Bell Island (Mr. Doody). I am quite sure that he has the same problem as anybody else with second-class roads in many areas, and quite a number of people using them. Apparently there are quite a number of recreational areas involved, and I think it certainly should be looked at. I, therefore, have much pleasure in supporting the petition.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Newfoundland Industrial Development Corporation Act" (Bill No. 72): and a bill, "An Act Further To Amend The Newfoundland Municipal Financing Corporation Act," (Bill No. 67).

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Strengthen Security Measures In Respect To Private Property." (Bill No. 66)

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

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

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 362 on the Order Paper of sometime ago that was asked by the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood), I find that it is almost impossible to get an answer for it, but I will give some information on it. The question was: "How many recommendations were made to the government in each of the financial years 1970-1975 by the Newfoundland Federation of Labour and how many of these have been accepted and acted upon by the government?" The only records we have, of course, are the briefs that have been presented to the government over the years by the federation, and out of these it is shown that a total of 218 recommendations were submitted to the government, many of them which were repetitions year after year, but many which were related to departments other than the Department of Labour, as it was, or the Department of Manpower and Industrial Relations. And there is no possible way that we can determine exactly what recommendations have been implemented or acted upon by other departments without a great deal of research and a great deal of time. It would have to be a question that would be aimed to all departments as opposed to just the one. I am sure the hon. member is aware when the federation presents a brief, presents a recommendation, they present it to the Cabinet, and, of course, the recommendations are not the responsibility of any one department. It is the responsibility of any relevant department that may be mentioned in the brief at that time. It would take a great deal of research and more time than we have to find out which ones have been implemented. But I suggest that quite a number of them have, especially in relation to labour legislation, as many at least as we can possibly implement, and there will be more implemented in the future. But the number itself is a total of 218 that we have been able to find so far in the briefs that have been submitted.

MR. SMAILWOOD: Is that number a net number? Is the same recommendation was made over several years, it is still only counted as one?

MR. MAYNARD: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, the

MR. HUNTER: request yesterday from the hon. member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) regarding the high school equivalency testing programme or the general educational development programme.

Now this is, for the benefit of the House, a commercial programme of international status and we rent the tests yearly from a firm in the United States, and the principle is that a lot of people in the Province of course did not have a high school education but the nature of their work has given them a very good education, and as a result this test is given and if they reach a certain level they will obtain a grade eleven diploma or a grade ten, however high they score on the programme.

In 1975 there were 478 people who wrote this test and 360 of them received a grade eleven equivalency, and 71 grade ten, 21 grade nine and the rest grade eight or did not qualify at all. And the people taking part in that ranged in ages from nineteen years to fifty-five years of age. This kind of a diploma that they get is accepted by universities and trade schools and so on as an ordinary grade eleven.

The programme has met with very much success in most parts of the Province, especially for those people of course who took part in it. But because there are certain pockets of the Province where it seems are not being reached and we are putting on a bigger advertising programme this year. And the second part of the question related to the normalizing of the standards for Newfoundland, this is an international test and we are not planning in terms of normalizing it for Newfoundland, but we are contemplating getting it normalized for Canada and Newfoundland will be in that standard.

MR. SHAW: We are in Canada.

MR. HUNTER: Right. Newfoundland of course will be in the sample.

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

MR. PROCKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the answers to questions number 617, asked by the hon. member for Lewisporte (Mr. F. White), 650, asked by the hon. member for Carbonear (Mr. R. Moores), 651, asked by the hon. member for Carbonear (Mr. R. Moores) and I table these answers.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: I would like to give, Mr. Speaker, the answer to question number 60, asked by the hon. the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood), on the Order Paper of November 24, 1975, directed to the hon. Premier, is that this intention has been largely implemented by the enactment of the two acts relating to the operation of the Newfoundland Liquor Commission and the Liquor Licensing Board and appeals from which are allowed to the Supreme Court of Newfoundland.

MR. CROSBIE: Hear! Hear! Hear! Hear!

MR. HICKMAN: The answer to 117, again by the hon. gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) is that there are no additional charges levied outside of the contract, a copy of which contract was tabled by me some months ago in response to and in answer to question number 108, and I table the answers to question 85 and question 575.

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the answer to question number 614, asked by the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) which I believe was prepared for me last November and I thought I had it tabled. So my apologies if it was not tabled, if it tabled then I am doing it for the second time.

MR. NEARY: I do not recollect that one.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: About the DURE and infrastructure agreements.

MR. NEARY: Oh yes.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the answer to question number 123 of the Order Paper dated November 24, 1975, asked by the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood). The question asked for the average rate of annual increase of electrical consumption in the Province in the period 1969-75 and the estimated rates of consumption in the period 1976 - 1990. The answer is prior to 1967, the load growth was approximately six per cent per year; that is below the long term national average of just over seven per cent. The average rate of growth in total consumption of electrical energy in the period 1969-74 has been eleven per cent. During the same period the Canadian growth rate has been 7.6 per cent. The Island load growth is projected for the period 1976 to 1990 at the rate of 5.1 per cent.

And the answer to question number 124, asked by the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) on the Order Paper of November 24, 1975. The question asks for a statement showing all increases in retail prices of electricity in the Province in the period 1970-75. The answer is information regarding increases in the retail prices of electricity in the Province in the period 1970-75 is on file with the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities and is available for examination. In other words, Mr. Speaker, the information is there and the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities keeps track of increases in retail prices and if the hon. gentleman wants to contact the Board they can give me the information.

Question number 135 of the Order Paper of November 24th., asked by the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood). The question is why was a total capital expenditure made by the Newfoundland and Labrador Power Commission or Corporation or by whatsoever name it has been or is known since its inception? The answer is approximately \$262,367,000 to October 31st., 1975. I will table that also, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CROSBIE: On the Order Paper of November 24th., 1975, question number 139, asked by the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood), a statement asked for the rates charged by Newfoundland and Labrador Power Corporation and/or Commission for electricity sold to Newfoundland Light and Power Company Limited in each of the financial years 1970-1975. The answer is that from April 1st., 1969 to October 31st., 1972 with respect to the first 8,250,000 kilowatt hours per months at four mils per kilowatt hour, with all the excess at six mils per kilowatt hour; **from November 1st., 1972 to March 31st., 1975** six mils per kilowatt hour for all energy; From April 1st., 1975 to December 31st., 1975, 9.7 mils per kilowatt hour for all energy.

On the Order Paper of November 24th., 1975, question number 140, asked by the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood). The question is for a statement showing for each financial year from 1970 to 1975 the rate charged to the consuming public for electricity by Newfoundland Light and Power Company Limited, or any other electrical or other utility company. The answer is that information regarding rates charged to the consuming public for electricity by Newfoundland Light and Power Company Limited or any other electrical or other utility company is on file with the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities and is available for examination there.

MR. NEARY: Is the minister going to table this?

MR. CROSBIE: Yes.

MR. NEARY: Why are you going to table it?

MR. CROSBIE: Because this is important information I want to give hon. gentlemen of the House, who might not otherwise have a chance to get the information.

MR. NEARY: It will be in Hansard.

MR. CROSBIE: Will Hansard have it? All right then I will speed it up.

I also have the answer, Mr. Speaker, to question number 755, on the Order Paper of May 3rd., asked by the hon. member for

MR. CROSBIE: LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: You have to give the answer to that.

MR. CROSBIE: Do you want me to read this one?

MR. NEARY: What is it?

MR. CROSBIE: This is about cost per cord of transporting wood from Goose Bay, the Linerboard Mill in Stephenville. Shipping and stevedoring only are required for the purpose of answering the above question. Answer - the cost per cord to transport wood from Goose Bay to the Linerboard Mill in Stephenville is as follows: for the year 1974-75 loading cost Goose Bay - \$3.06, this is per cord.

ANON. MEMBER: How much per cord.

MR. CROSBIE: \$3.06. This will be tabled so the hon. gentleman will get the copy of it.

The shipping cost \$23.44. Wood recycling and handling costs at Stephenville, this involves discharging from the ship into the water, having it pulled across the water and landed on shore and pulled back again to the jackladder so it can go up the jackladder and into the mill - \$2.00. In 1975-76 loading cost Goose Bay - \$2.02. Loading costs went down that year. The shipping cost \$25.48; wood recycling and handling - \$2.57, that was because they got more efficient handlers or pushers of wood. Now in the budget for this year the loading cost at Goose Bay is estimated at \$3.03 per cord. Shipping cost \$23.25, the wood recycling and handling \$2.41. And I will table the answer also, Mr. Speaker.

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Justice, Sir, and instead of asking a series of supplementaries I think I will just put the various questions to him on the same subject now because I think he is going to have to undertake to get the answer. Is the minister aware of the fact that at least in the Trinity South area, Winterton and New Harbour and Cavendish, Hopeall and these areas that there is some confusion over who owns the old Newfoundland railway land in the area. They do not know whether it is gone to the CN or whether it is gone back to the Crown or what have you? So could the minister undertake to find out what the status of that old Newfoundland railroad land is now in the particular area. And is he aware of the fact that some people feel that there is an on-going court case concerning the disposition of that particular land?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

HON. T. ALEX HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any of the facts relating to this alleged problem. If there is a matter before our courts it would presumably be a civil action.

MR. ROWE: But we do not know. It is a rumour.

MR. HICKMAN: That is a matter over which my department has no jurisdiction nor do they have any knowledge thereof. But I will make inquiries to see if we have any records in the Department of Justice indicating the ownership to the right-of-way to the old Trinity Bay, the Hearts Content branch.

MR. ROWE: Yes, it is not Reid railway, the old Newfoundland Railway.

MR. HICKMAN: The Newfoundland Railway. And the question, as I understand it, Mr. Speaker, is whether the title vested in the Canadian National Railways under the provisions of the Terms of Union between Newfoundland and Canada, am I right on?

MR. ROWE: And whether you can buy back from CN or whether -

MR. HICKMAN: Well that would be a matter of policy, Mr. Speaker, for the CN, I do not know what their policy is with respect to the

MR. HICKMAN:

disposition or sale of property, but we will work assiduously and diligently to find the answer.

MR. ROWE: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. ROWE: Well, Mr. Speaker, in view of the answer - I was not going to ask a supplementary - **but** would the minister think it would be desirable that the CN land, if CN owns it, that it be reverted back to the Crown here in Newfoundland, **would** not that be a desirable situation rather than having CN hold it as a piece of real estate?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, that will require even further research.

The question there would be whether or not the Crown in the right of Newfoundland has the right to expropriate land from the Crown in the right of Canada, and/or held by the CN which is a Crown corporation. And without being presumptuous I would suggest that we have not the right to do it, **and** it would only come to pass as a result of peaceful persuasion. And may I draw to the attention of the hon. gentleman that the member of Parliament for that area is a man of considerable influence in Ottawa, and I am sure that if he brought it to the attention of the Minister of Transport he would inquire of the Canadian National Railway as to whether, as a matter of policy, they are prepared to sell land along the abandoned right-of-way of Trinity South which they acquired, presumably for nothing, at the time of the union of Newfoundland and Canada.

MR. ROWE: I have another supplementary for the Minister of Justice.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary. The hon. member for Twillingate.

MR. J. R. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, can the Attorney General tell us whether or not shortly after, a year or two years, the coming of Confederation, the Government of Canada were supplied by the Government of Newfoundland with a list of the properties of one kind and another, passed over by Newfoundland to the Government of Canada

Mr. Smallwood:

consisting of buildings and other kinds of property, was that not done? And would not a copy of that be in the files? And would not consultation of those files show whether the land in question was passed over with the railway to the Government of Canada, in view of the fact that there was no railway there when this was done, that the railway had disappeared, that the rails had been taken up and there was no railway years and years before the coming of Confederation. In other words, would not the records of the properties passed over, transferred, the title to which was transferred to the Government of Canada, which was required to be done, would not those records show whether the title to that land was in fact passed over to the Government of Canada, not to the CNR, nothing was passed over by Newfoundland to the CNR, as the minister will agree, it was passed over to the Government of Canada which then in turn entrusted the operation of the railway to a company owned by the Crown namely the Canadian National Railway Company.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I cannot quite remember now where the hon. gentleman for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) started, but if there was a conveyance - and there probably was - from the Government of Newfoundland to the Government of Canada of land required by the Government of Canada for federal public work services, then a record of that would either be in the Department of Justice, but if it was in 1950 or 1951 it would be very difficult and time consuming to locate these records. On the other hand, I would assume that the Government of Canada, in the event of a conveyance, would have registered same in the Registry of Deeds for Newfoundland. What the relationship is between the CNR, which is a crown corporation, and the Government of Canada I do not know, and what they did with that land, if they indeed acquired it, because as the railway had been abandoned prior to 1949, which it was, it is quite conceivable that CN had no interest in it at all, and maybe it was not a part of the schedule setting forth the properties that were conveyed by the Government of Newfoundland to the Government of Canada. But it is in the - what is the area? - Greens Harbour area, and I will see what information we have and will furnish it to the hon. gentleman from Trinity - Bay de Verde (Mr. Rowe).

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Justice in connection with the Ombudsman. Apart from the special report that the Ombudsman has made to the House of Assembly in connection with access to the records at the Waterford Hospital, could the minister tell the House what other action the government has taken to expand the terms of reference of the Ombudsman, to amend the Provincial Ombudsman Act to give the Ombudsman more jurisdiction over municipalities, boards, crown corporations and so on?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, that is a matter of government policy. The report that was submitted to this hon. House by the parliamentary commissioner, as he is obliged to do in that he is a servant of this House and not of government, raised - the supplementary report - raised a

Mr. Hickman.

question of the right of access to records of the Waterford Hospital in view of the recent decision of Mr. Justice Noel of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland. I have asked officials in my department to direct their attention to the question as to whether legislation is required in this instance or whether it can be done by regulation. Insofar as the second part of the question from the hon. gentleman from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) is concerned, that is a matter of government policy, and I am not in a position to articulate government policy with respect to any legislation, and that most assuredly would require legislation, in my opinion, and what the government's policy is with respect to legislation which may come before the House in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, As the chief law officer for the Crown, for the Province, would the minister indicate to the House if this decision of the Supreme Court will restrict the Ombudsman in anyway, shape or form in gaining access to records of other boards and other crown corporations? Will the Ombudsman find himself now in a bind and be hamstrung in getting records? Or has the minister asked for any information on this particular matter?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am speaking from recollection now, and that is all dangerous. But my recollection is that the Waterford Hospital Board was created pursuant to the provisions of an act which was passed in this legislature around 1970 or 1971 governing hospital boards generally. There was a separate act for the General Hospital Corporation two years before that, but I believe that was repealed. I am not certain of that. Anyway it is a matter of public record. If there are several other boards governed by the same act

Mr. Hickman:

then the same restriction - hospital boards, that is - then the same restriction would prevail with respect to these boards as well. But that will only be answered after I get an opinion as to what procedure, if any, is required. And if it is decided by this House - and that could make, I suspect, for some agonizing debate as to where you pass the line of absolute confidentiality which is so essential in hospitals similar to that of the Waterford Hospital, and allow people to have access to it. It is not a situation where, in my opinion, you can simply say, this should be done without any further consideration.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker -

MR. SPEAKER: Is this a supplementary?

MR. NEARY: No, I am dissatisfied with the minister's answer, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to debate the matter tomorrow afternoon during the Late Show.

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

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, this question is to the Minister of Tourism. He referred to the Provincial Parks in his ministerial statement. I have noted over the weekend that there are a lot of Provincial Parks open, but there are a lot of Provincial Parks that are not open. What are the criteria? You know, why are some parks not open and there appears to be no effort to open the parks? You know, were all the parks to have been opened on one date or is the location of the park a consideration? Would the minister please clarify the situation?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, there is no difference in our policy with regards to parks this year as compared to any other year with the exception of the conditions of the particular park. And the same policy applies as has applied for many years and that is based on the conditions in a park, it is determined whether or not it will be opened on May 15. Usually that is the date that parks open in the Province.

Mr. Hickey.

We have been able to open most parks in the Province this year on that date. However, some are not open. And the information that I have is that conditions in those parks prevented them from being opened on May 15. However, I am also advised, when I questioned as to the date the remaining parks would be open, I was told not later than the last of May or the first of June. So I assume that those parks that are not opened are closed at the moment for the obvious reasons, road conditions, repairs being made to roads, flooding, etc.

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

MR. STRACHAN: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for my friend, the hon. Minister of Tourism. Could the minister tell us whether his department carries advertising in national journals and national magazines promoting the tourist industry of this Province?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. HICKEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a number of magazines.

MR. STRACHAN: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. STRACHAN: Could the minister then explain to us why the May 17 edition of Macleans carries advertising specifically for this Island Province and specifically for this Island people and with no mention of Labrador?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, whenever I get a question from my hon. friend, I hesitate because usually there is a supplementary question coming afterwards. I have - and I commend him for that having sat over on that side for five years - I have no explanation for my hon. friend. I must say that I am surprised, indeed amazed, to hear his comment. I certainly can advise him that I will attend to it forthwith and find out why. Because certainly it is not in keeping with the policy of my department to promote the Island as opposed to the Province.

Mr. Hickey.

Now we do not place as much emphasis on certain parts of the Province, and certainly that is not confined to the Labrador area. I can think of a number of areas in the Province simply because accommodations are not yet available. The tourist industry and the whole area of Tourism is not developed to the extent that we want it to be before we go out and promote it.

MR. HICKEY:

But I can assure my hon. friend and the people of Labrador that there is no deliberate attempt to exclude Labrador. In fact we certainly look upon it and acknowledge that it is one of the areas, and probably the most attractive area with the greatest potential in the entire Province.

MR. STPACHAN: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I am not quite sure, but the minister is stating then that if this is correct and he looks into it he will change this policy of advertising.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. HICKEY: I certainly will, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated I am surprised that the hon. member raises this point and I am unaware of it. If I find out that indeed this has been done—I am not aware of any such policy. In fact many, many times we have discussed Labrador in my department with officials. They are very clear on what government's policy is. Government's policy is that we acknowledge fully the potential of Labrador and that we in no way want to exclude or indeed play down the great potential that is there.

Now we do not go out, as I indicated, and do a first-rate job of promoting it because we think it would be certainly not of good timing to do so because of the lack of facilities at the moment.

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

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I have a further question for the Minister of Tourism. The tie which he is wearing, is it an official tie?

MR. LUNDRIGAN: I asked for one myself.

MR. ROBERTS: It is a lovely tie. I think every member should — is it an official tie? It is one that is given out by the Province, am I correct?

MR. HICKEY: No, no.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, may I ask from where the tie comes first of all. I have a reason for it.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I —

MR. DOODY: Are these soup stains?

MR. HICKEY: This is just not my day for questions. I have to say that, first of all, it is an official tie, yes. It bears the crest but they are not given out.

MR. ROBERTS: Now I will ask a supplementary question. Could the minister tell us what is written on the tie?

MR. NOLAN: They are on sale, are they not?

MR. HICKEY: I have noted this with interest too, Mr. Speaker, and this is one of the reasons why I picked up a sample of it. I notice it is 'Newfoundland'. But then again this is not an official tie. The Leader of the Opposition -

MR. ROBERTS: The minister just said it was an official tie.

MR. HICKEY: It is not, Mr. Speaker, an official tie put out by this government or on behalf of this Province.

MR. NOLAN: It is on sale down town, is it not?

MR. HICKEY: The tie is on sale at Bowring Brothers and the cost is \$7.50 each and they come in shades of blue, green and brown and I accept no responsibility for them other than the fact that I like the colour and I like the material and I will see to it if it is possible that it is changed to 'Newfoundland and Labrador'.

MR. ROBERTS: We admire the minister's taste.

Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary. In admiring the minister's taste and in welcoming his news, may I ask him whether the government - I mean I accept the fact the tie is a commercial venture, not one that is inspired by he and his officials - would the minister tell us whether the manufacturers of this tie, or Bowring Brothers Limited as the vendors of it, have been licensed by the Province to use our provincial crest because of course that crest, Sir, the copyright to that crest is vested in the government of this Province.

MR. HICKEY: A very appropriate question, Mr. Speaker. I can give a very definitive answer. The answer is no. I was made aware of the fact that the tie was on sale and quite sincerely and quite honestly it was one of the reasons that I asked that one of them be picked up. I am assured that no permission has been granted. I

MR. HICKEY:

know of, in fact, no instance where permission has been granted to a number of firms. But this matter we are addressing ourselves to at the moment to determine just what the situation is and what might be done to place some kind of control on this kind of thing.

MR. ROBERTS: We own it now. We own the copyright to the crest.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health if it is correct that there is a surplus of nursing assistants in this Province at the present time and what the minister is doing about this situation?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of nursing assistants graduated by the College of Trades and Technology and from some of the hospitals across the Province. The best information which I have been able to get would indicate that possibly too many have been trained in terms of the jobs available this year. I do not know what the reasons for that are, possibly because of the salaries offered, some of those young women are holding onto the jobs longer than they normally would. There could be other reasons of course also. But at any rate it is something which we have referred to the newly established manpower committee and hopefully we will be able to find out what the reasons are and what action we should take in future years.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary question, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Would the minister tell us where the cuts in the reduction in the number of classes will take place, whether it will be in the College of Trades or in other hospitals in Newfoundland? Where will the reduction in the number of students in the classes take place? Would the minister give us that information at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: No, Mr. Speaker, I certainly cannot provide that information at this time. There has been some consultation with the Department of Education not only dealing with the numbers which should be trained but also with respect to the curriculum. I will certainly take notice of the question and see if I can find out for the hon. member.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary question then, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Would the minister indicate to the House if there is a need now or a surplus of lab technicians and x-ray technicians in the Province? Where do we stand on these two classifications?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: No. Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, but I will certainly take notice of it. I am familiar with the nursing aide situation. But with regard to the other professions which the hon. member refers to I am not aware of any shortage or any surplus.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir followed by the hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. R. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industrial Development. It is a question which I asked on the 21st. of April, and on the 3rd. of May. I wonder if he has had the opportunity to get the answer. It relates to the land freeze in the Bay Bulls area.

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

HON. J. LUNDRIAN: Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government have no

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impediment to the federal project planned at the moment which involves the depot or the facilities for launching or dispatching ships relating to control and the like.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. SIMMONS: I wonder would the minister indicate - he referred to the project being undertaken by the Federal Government - I wonder would the minister indicate what involvement his department has had or is having with the planning for this centre announced some time ago by the Federal Government?

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately pretty near no involvement.

At my request the officials of the department contacted the Director General of the Department of the Environment for the Province, the Federal Department here in the Province, and indicated our willingness, desire and hoped intentions of becoming involved, at least in the planning. We were advised that, but I guess we were not told that we should not be involved, but we have not been involved, let us put it that way. We felt that we should have been involved at least to the point of having the discussions with us because we might have had some input of some nature or another that might have been relevant. Also in our own determination as a Province to develop marine related industries and to pursue a policy along these lines we hope that we will be compatible with the federal drift and the federal intention. They have chosen a site. They have made some fairly firm plans, I understand, and of course we have to support that and we are quite happy to do so.

In respect to the land freeze, I indicated that our intention is not to make it difficult in any sense of the word or to place any impediment in the way of the Federal Government to have a project of the nature described by the Federal Government to be impeded. At the same time we felt that there should have been some consultation. I could go on and make a comment but it would not perhaps serve any

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great purpose other than to just cause a little dissension or exacerbate what is the situation that should not be.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, would the minister indicate whether his department or indeed the Province is involved in any planning activity that might lead to alternate harbour and ports facilities, alternate to St. John's, any activity that would lead to the development in the Bay Bulls area of these alternate harbour and port facilities to supplement the St. John's operation?

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Could you restate it?

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, let me restate it. Is the Province or the minister's department in particular engaged in any on-going planning activity that would seek to provide alternate port facilities at Bay Bulls. When I say 'alternate' I mean alternate to the facilities which exists at -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: At Bay Bulls?

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, at Bay Bulls, which would be supplementary to existing facilities here in St. John's.

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

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, in the particular field relating to the dispatch of ships, the monitoring of activity relating to offshore patrol vessels and matters of surveillance of that nature we are not involved ourselves in looking at any other sites of anything relating to that, that is totally a federal responsibility. But we are involved in discussions with several companies that relate to marine industries which

Mr. Lundrigan.

will require port facilities, and if in the event that we cannot conclude any agreements then, of course - I could not make any comment on them at the moment, because it is very preliminary work that we are doing. We have had meetings with a number of companies that have activities relating to marine offshore activities of various variety of types. We are also, of course, as the member is aware from public comments, heavily involved in doing a detailed programme for potential for offshore platform construction in the Province. There is approximately \$500,000 allocated by Industrial Development and two private companies and the federal government that will get us involved in preparing all of the various elements that are required to enable us to avail of concern platform construction. For the information of members of the House, this is a major type of activity which has been refined to a considerable extent by the Norwegians. It is a major construction activity that at some point if it is ever brought to fruition would result in \$200 million outlays by private industry for the construction of one such facility. And that requires an unusual combination of geographic and other kinds of factors to enable that to be able to be progress with.

We are in the final stages at least. When I say final, this present year we will be able to identify all of the elements, and hopefully accommodate all of the elements and to be able to say to the industries of the world that Newfoundland is a location primarily suited for that type of construction. With this in mind, of course, quite a number of harbours and sites are being considered, several at least as having potential. And I might add that these involve several parts of the Province.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. George's,

MRS. MCISAAC: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio. With respect to a question asked yesterday by the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan), since the justification given for the

Mrs. McIsaac.

approval of the stadium at Ferryland apparently has nothing to do with the upcoming by-election. Does that same justification apply to St. George's which also has an outstanding commitment for a stadium for that area?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister without Portfolio.

MR. WELLS: Well, of course, the hon. member is quite right, Mr. Speaker. It has nothing to do with the by-election, because the commitment was made in August of last year in writing, and you know we have a copy of the letter. Could the hon. member tell me when the commitment was made for St. George's?

MRS. MCISAAC: It has gone on now for quite some time, but I think it was July of last year when the commitment was made.

MR. ROBERTS: Alec Dunphy, just before the election.

MR. WELLS: Commitments of this sort will be honoured. The question is that obviously financial problems have made deferral necessary in some cases, but I presume there is ongoing work and planning on that stadium exactly the same as there is on the Ferryland stadium, I would think so. At least I have no information to the contrary.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the acting Minister of Public Works and Services could tell us if a replacement has been found yet for Scrivener Projects Newfoundland Limited in connection with the Health Science Complex?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. acting Minister of Public Works and Services.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I feel like the proverbial yo-yo. Last week I was not and this week I am. No, not to my knowledge yet. It is still under consideration by government, as to what our reaction is to the receiver's suggestion to government.

MR. NEARY: Would you repeat that again?

MR. ROUSSEAU: What government's reaction is to the receiver's suggestion to government as to which way to go in respect to the contract on the Health Science Complex.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Would the minister then indicate who is overseeing the project at the moment? Is it the same people that were there before? Is the minister's own engineers? Who is overseeing the project now?

MR. ROUSSEAU: I presume the minister is ultimately responsible, but I would assume the engineering staff are still on it as well as the receiver. The receiver is also responsible now since the contract has not been sold nor has the company been sold. In other words, the receiver has taken over, and in effect is running the project and is responsible for it until such time as government makes a decision in respect to who goes in there to replace Scrivener.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. How long does the minister think that the project can continue that way? Can it go on indefinitely with the present engineers on the site? Or is it necessary at all to award a contract? Can the minister's own engineers carry on and finish this project?

MR. ROUSSEAU: No, it cannot go on indefinitely. I can only say now that it is getting very, very active consideration by government, and it cannot go on, you know, indefinitely under this situation. Certainly a decision has to be arrived at. I have said on a number of occasions, and I will say it again, that although we have two of the very finest of engineers that I have been associated with in government or anywhere else, Mr. Bursey, the assistant deputy minister and Mr. Brophy, the chief construction engineer, who are carrying the responsibility from an engineering point of view in respect to capital projects in this Province, funded by government of - what? - \$200 million,

Mr. Rousseau.

there is only so much that a man can stretch himself over that amount of project.

MR. NEARY: Yes, but you have engineers on the site.

There are engineers on the site. Mr. Purdy is still there, and Mr. Thomas is still there.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Yes, Mr. Thomas is there, but Mr. Purdy is there on a consulting basis.

MR. NEARY: But why -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The thirty minutes have transpired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. Today being Private Members' Day we proceed to the adjourned debate on motion 11, adjourned by the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did adjourn the debate last Wednesday and I would hope that this is the end of the debate on this motion. By my count, which may not be complete although I think it is. I think it is accurate, I think this is the twelfth day in which this motion has been debated by the House or before the House and by my count again twenty-nine of the forty-eight members of this House have spoken on it. I think, Sir, it has probably been the most useful debate we have had in this session. It has been a far ranging debate, one which has covered, I suppose, in a way every aspect of government activity. And many of the ministers have spoken, some have even been positive and helpful and the private members who have spoken I think without exception have added to the knowledge of the House and hopefully to the discussions of the House.

I do not propose to be very long, Sir, in closing the debate.

MR. NEARY: Hear! Hear!

MR. ROBERTS: I will not be nearly as long as the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) has been and I hope to be infinitely more interesting and infinitely more worthwhile.

MR. NEARY: Impossible.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman says, "impossible." That may be a matter of opinion. Often, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman's speeches remind me of the famous Dr. Johnston's comment about the dog -

MR. NEARY: Well if I had a snoot on me like you -

MR. ROBERTS: - about the dog who stood on his hind legs; the wonder was not that he did it so badly but that he did it at all. And many of the hon. gentleman's speeches fall into that category.

MR. NEARY: That about your own speeches, like the rear end of a horse.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. VOINIC): Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker -

MR. NEARY: He hates me.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is mistaken if he thinks I hate him. I pity him but I have no hate for him. Indeed I even have some sympathy for him.

MR. NEARY: Typical snobbery.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, the most useful way I think in which I can proceed is to view some of the remarks which have been made by members in this debate. I have not read all of the Hansards, indeed I am not sure that all of the Hansards are yet available, but I have read those which are available and I think that a brief review of the points made by hon. gentlemen will show the type of debate, the very useful debate which I think has taken place on this motion.

The initial response came from the gentleman from Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan), the Minister of Rural Development, the Minister of Industrial Development, when he spoke. I think it was the same day in fact that I moved the motion, November 26, and when he got off his attempt to be a debater and got on to talking a little bit about some of his ideas I thought he made some sense. Indeed I was quite taken with some of his suggestions. He talked about blueberry harvesting and he talked about fish farming and he talked about caplin processing; he talked about the Pelcon Enterprise here in the St. John's area which is developing this new kind of underwater connector, a new step forward in technology. He put these forth as some examples of the type of project which we can carry out in this Province. I think that he is very much in point and all I need say about it is that I hope very much that during his tenure of office, he has been there now for six or eight or nine months, I hope that we will see a number of these projects come to fruition.

One of them, the blueberry plant, the blueberry harvesting scheme which is in the capable hands of his colleague, the Minister

MR. ROBERTS: of Forestry and Agriculture, I think has come along very well already. And if we can succeed in avoiding burning down Bryants Cove, or was it Upper Island Cove where the fire nearly - the blueberry burning fire got out of hand one day two or three weeks ago, I would think there is a very great potential for blueberry farming and if -

MR. ROUSSEAU: It should not have gotten out of hand.

MR. ROBERTS: The Minister of Forestry and Agriculture says it should not have gotten out of hand. I quite agree.

MR. ROUSSEAU: He was told not to burn after noon.

MR. ROBERTS: I was not aware that the contractor - was it? - was told not to burn brush in the afternoon when the heat of the day had come upon it. He ignored that. I hope he will be sent the bill for the firefighting because the public chest of this Province has had to find several thousand dollars to fight that fire and if it was caused by the negligence of the contractor, and negligence particularly in ignoring a direct instruction from the Department of Forestry and Agriculture, then he should certainly be made to pay a portion or all of the cost of fighting that fire. I am sure we would probably have a sound case in law, but whether we have a case in law or not we certainly have one in policy.

But in any event, Mr. Speaker, the important thing is that the fire did not destroy any homes or any communities and the equally important thing growing out of it is that we do have a future in blueberry farming. We have a very good future and I hope it is the sort of thing which we will see developed. If we can get the select committee which this motion requests I would think there are many more types of project and the only thing along those lines, the only thing I need say to the minister is to implore of him to remember that he does not necessarily have in his own mind or in his department or in the minds of his colleagues access to all of the suggestions which could be made, and indeed one of the prime reasons which could be made in support of this request for a select committee is that suggestions such as he put forward

MR. ROBERTS: would come from many people throughout this Province.

I had a man in my office today, a constituent of mine who wants to develop a scallop industry in the Hare Bay area of my district, the Hare Bay just south of St. Anthony, and there are considerable beds of scallops there and they have been in the past harvested and this man is interested. He is more an entrepreneur than a fisherman but he is interested in seeing if they can be developed further.

Down in Fortune Bay, in the Harbour Breton area, magnificent scallops are taken. I am not aware of them being widely available for sale commercially. I do not know whether they can support a large scale commercial operation but I am sure there is a potential there that can be developed. It is hard to find a part of this Province, Mr. Speaker, where there are not examples of this sort.

The hon. gentleman from Eagle River (Mr. Strachan) when he spoke last Wednesday, as I recall it, in this debate talked of salmon, of smoked salmon and of what Mr. Glen Newman of the Cabot Seafoods Firm is doing here today to develop that particular part of the industry.

And the hon. gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. Spallone) said, and rightly so, that for years people have been saying why can we not have a smoked salmon industry in this Province. Why must so much of the salmon which is caught by our fishermen in our waters and sold by them - for what? \$1.00, \$1.05, or \$1.10 a pound is what they are getting now - why must that salmon be sold to England or to New York and in New York it becomes lox, to go with the lox and bagels; and in England and in Scotland it is smoked and if you go into a restaurant in London or anywhere in England, and I do not know what the prices are now, but five or six years ago for a pound you could get enough, a pound used to be in those days about \$2.50, it is considerably less now.

MR. STRACHAN: \$15 a course.

MR. ROBERTS: Well I was going to say, for a pound sterling, as opposed to a pound avoirdupois, for a pound sterling you could get enough smoked salmon to cover an ordinary dinner platter, and it was sliced so thinly that you could have read the order paper through it. Masters, absolutely masters in slicing smoked salmon so thinly. Well that shows the sort of value that goes into it.

The lump fish roe is another one. The herring, almost all of our herring goes into herring meal plants and yet we could produce surely a butterfly fillet in Newfoundland.

Mr. ROBERTS:

Indeed Mr. Newman is now producing some. There are any number of potentials. There is not a place in this Island, Sir, not a place on the Labrador part of this Province where there are not suggestions of this sort which could be brought forward and with relatively little cash and with perhaps a great deal of help on the technical side they could be made into workable enterprises. They may not be large. They may only be one job or two jobs or five jobs or ten jobs, but I think we all agree, Sir, that in the day and age in which we live that is the sort of economic and industrial and rural development which we need in this Province. It is desirable economically. It is desirable even more of that from the point of view of our life style and of the kind of Province we wish to make.

So I would say to the Minister of Industrial and Rural Development that I very much appreciated his contribution to the debate. Once he got off his self assigned effort to try to be a hatchet man, once he got off that and got on to talking about his department and some of his ideas I think he did very well indeed. I think his suggestions were very good ones. Whether they are original or not is beside the point. They were excellent suggestions. They have been made many times by many people and I hope the minister can arrange to bring them into being, can arrange to make the suggestions into reality.

I would say to him further, to repeat that there is not a community in this Island or on the Labrador where similar ideas cannot be put forward. If there was no other argument in favour of setting up this select committee than the one which the gentleman for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) put forward, then, Sir, that in itself should be enough to carry the day.

The gentleman for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) then spoke, Sir, and he was entertaining, interesting. He spoke at some length. As I read his speech he spoke at some length on the history of this type of thing and gave us a very useful review of the types of things,

MR. ROBERTS:

types of commissions and boards which we have had. He had a dim view, as has been put to me, of the way in which a committee would operate. I am not sure I followed his line of argument because he then went on to say he preferred to see the committee bring in the best brains available to get their ideas. Well, that is precisely the things that the committee would do. It could send for experts. It could send for the government's officials and the government's advisors and above all it could let the ordinary people of Newfoundland and Labrador come in and appear before it and say what they thought.

The hon. gentleman went on and he said that he did not think a select committee would be the best way to find the answers needed. He talked of royal commissions. But I am not sure, Sir, that we have not come to the point in this Province where royal commissions of this type or for this purpose have ceased to be useful. We have had any number of large royal commissions including the most useful of all, I suppose, the Pushie Royal Commission report, a report which, by the way, is now out of print and very much regretably so. There is an immense amount of information in that. It stood up very well under the test of time. If hon. gentleman, Sir, want to read only one document, and I so advise my newer colleagues who want to read only one document, to get some understanding of the public policy of this Province and of the problems we face and of the possible solutions, then that one document in my view should be the report of that particular royal commission headed by Mr. Gordon Pushie and including twelve or fifteen or fourteen prominent Newfoundlanders. Indeed the Premier himself was one and there were a number of others even more eminent.

It is a very useful document. It became unfortunately the subject of politically controversy at the time. It became embroiled in political arguments. I suppose that is the fate of royal commissions or royal commission reports. It is unfortunate

MR. ROBERTS:

because in the heat and the dust of battle the very real value of that commission was overlooked.

But in any event I think we have come to the point where we do not need more royal commissions. What we need now is an opportunity for the ordinary people of this Province to say what they think and then what we need now is a government that is prepared to act. The next speaker was my friend, the then member for Exploits (Mr. Steven Mulrooney) whose career in the House has been interrupted briefly, who I hope will be with us again if ever the government summon the courage to enable them to make it possible for the people of the district of Exploits and of Bonavista North and of Ferryland and Ferryland district to voice their wishes in the matter of who should be their member in the House. I am sure that Mr. Mulrooney will be back here again. Mr. Mulrooney made an excellent speech. He talked of some of the ways we should proceed and brought to the debate the viewpoint of a very young man, well educated, a teacher and a very good teacher. I thought what he had to say was very much in point.

Then we had Mr. Charles Power, who was then the member for Ferryland and who is in a position similar to that of Mr. Mulrooney, that is that his career has been interrupted. In Mr. Mulrooney's case I believe it was temporary. In Mr. Power's case it will be permanent. Whether the Tory Party make it permanent in the interests of Mr. Thomas Doyle or whether the voters of Ferryland make it permanent it will be equally permanent. But in any event Mr. Power went off on a bit of a kick of his own. He announced that he would vote against the resolution and the reason is that the basis of resolution is to find out what Newfoundland needs to develop. He went on to say that if any member does not know what needs to be developed in his own district he should not be sitting in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I find that offensive. I do not think any member could ever claim that the fifty-one men and women who from time to time sit in this House represent the wisdom of this Province.

MR. ROBERTS:

Each of us has been elected to speak and to bring our minds and our training and our experience to bear on the problems of this Province. But anybody who would claim that all wisdom resides within the walls of this House, Sir, is either on an egomaniacal trip of incredible proportions or is completely and utterly out of touch with what is happening. In the case of Mr. Charles Power I would prefer to believe the latter is the explanation. His suggestion is a very bad one.

He did however go on to talk about something which should be done. He talked about the crown land system needing improvement, RIP projects more inclined towards provincial needs, consolidation of fish marketing efforts, developing facilities to cater to tourist dollars; all of them good ideas, all of them ideas that have been well rehearsed before, all of them ideas on which the government have taken no action. I wish the government would take some action on this. The fact they have not is one of the reasons why I have advocated this particular select committee be set up.

We then had the gentleman for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) making one of his typical contributions. I have had it précised and taking out the guff I have had two or three minutes worth of substance out of it. He did say, as I understand it, that what is needed is a select committee to study the future - no! - what is not needed is a select committee but rather what is needed is a plan of action. He and I Sir, are all fours on that point. That is the basic point which I made when I moved the motion originally.

Then we went on and I think this is a quotation. He believed that my intentions were honourable and positive in placing the resolution on the Order Paper, and I thank him for that. He suggests, however, that sending the select committee out around the Province would give every crackpot a chance to get whatever he has on his mind into print. I find that appropriate, Sir, coming from the gentleman for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), that he would take that viewpoint

MR. ROBERTS:

and I would suggest simply that if the shoe fits, Sir, he should not hesitate to wear it.

We then had the Minister of Mines and Energy who gave us his gloom and doom speech, his original gloom and doom speech. Anybody who reads that speech, Mr. Speaker, or anybody who heard it made here in the House, cannot but be taken by the fact that the Minister of Mines and Energy has just about given up on the future of this Province, just about thrown down the desire - no, I am sure he has the desire - thrown down the belief that the government of this Province are able to grapple with the problems of the Province. It is a cry of despair from start to finish. It is the cry of a man who is old beyond his years, weary beyond his years, a man who really cannot see any way out of the morass in which he considers himself and his colleagues to be. It was not the cry of a man or a group of men, a government, feeling they have some answers, feeling that they have some solutions, feeling that they have some proposals to put forward. It was a desperately bad speech.

I was surprised that the gentleman for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) made it. I was surprised at the time, but having heard him since I have come to the conclusion that he meant every word of it, and that he is a man, Sir, who has given up the fight and that he is just now, I venture it is fair to say, looking around for a safe berth away from the turmoil of the politics of this Province and what used to be called in the old days a safe berth for the Winter.

Then we had an excellent speech by my friend from Burgeo-Bay D'Espoir (Mr. Simmons), an absolutely excellent speech in which he thought there should be a committee and thought that the minister's gloom and doom speech was a counsel of despair and should be rejected and gave his reasons for rejecting it. He gave his reasons for saying that the people of this Province should be consulted, an excellent speech indeed.

MR. ROBERTS:

We then got to the Minister of Justice, who stated himself firmly in support of the principle that we should not ask the people of the Province what they think about the future prospects of this Province. If ever,

Mr. Roberts.

Sir, there was a more revealing statement of a Tory administration than that, I do not know what it could be. There is no possible way, Sir, that in one sentence you could more succinctly summarize what the Tory party stands for and what they stand against. It is worth comparing him to what its own leader said in the 1971 election when the cry around the Province was, "We are not going to do things for us, we are going to do things for you. You tell us what you want, and we will do it." But how they have changed, and how the Minister of Justice, a man hitherto known in his own words for his adherence to principle, has put it aside.

We then had a speech by the gentleman from Lewisporte, a very positive speech naming a great number of areas where actions should be taken, crown lands, the need for greater departmental co-ordination, a broader role for the Department of Rural Development, the need for some action in crop marketing, the need for positive proposals in the tourist industry, He mentioned the need to develop the seal meat resource, another of the fisheries resources that can be developed in this Province, and above all going on record as saying that the select committee should listen to what the ordinary people of this Province has to say about what can be done for our future.

We then came, Mr. Speaker, to the speech of the member of St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), who made his usual speech and was listened to with the usual interest, and well-spent it was. He felt that a select committee was not the answer, but that we should spend our time as a House on that. Well, I would agree with him, and if there were any realistic hope of the government directing the attention of the House to these matters then I would endorse his suggestion. The problem is, and he above all should know it because he had the responsibility of the House or leading the House for two or three years, he above all else, Sir, should know that the government of which he was a part have no intention whatsoever of having such a discussion. Indeed, their whole record since they became a government has been

Mr. Roberts.

to avoid discussing these fundamental issues. That may be one of the reasons why the hon. gentleman now sits where he does on the fringe of the Tory party. There was a lot in what he said, a lot in his speech, Sir, that is well worth consideration by anybody interested in this Province. I do not agree with all of it by any means, but I think that a lot of his points were well made. He was very eloquent again on the Guil Island project, and very eloquent on the need to look to the Scandinavian Countries. The only problem was, Sir, he was not specific and he was again even more eloquent on the fact the biggest contribution that the government could make was the contribution that they were going to exercise leadership, and I find it interesting, Sir, that the hon. gentleman still sits in support of that government. I am not suggesting that he join us. We have standards, Sir, and he would not want to join us, and I assure him that we would not want him. But there are independents. There are cross benches in this House, and he and the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) would be seat mates if not soul mates. And, Mr. Speaker, I am surprised the hon. gentleman for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), after his speech in this motion, his speech in other motions in this House, can still sit, and as he did last night, vote in support of this administration. He says one thing, Sir, but his votes tend to be different, and I am surprised at him. I figured that he would be man enough to act upon what he knows to be right. And I expect that before this session is over - I am not calling for a coalition, Sir, indeed the hon. gentleman and I would make an unlikely coalition. - but I expect, Sir, that before this session is over or before it is too long gone, if not before it is over, the hon. gentleman will act in accord with his words.

We had a first-class speech from the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture who told us about his department. I could only hope that he is in that department long enough to allow his ideas to come

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into fact. We have had a succession of ministers in that department most of whom have been disasters, particularly the gentleman For Gander (Mr. Collins) who, in a political sense, is a disaster in every department he goes into it. It comes down around his ear. But the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, is just the opposite. He brings lustre to every position he takes. He brings his mind to bear on it. He comes to grips with the political and policy problems. He works out solutions. All I ask is that he be given time enough to make them come into effect. Again, Sir, I hasten to say I am not having a coalition. The hon. gentleman, I would not suggest to him that he front up the coalition that I have in mind.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Everybody's choice.

MR. ROBERTS: Well he is everybody's choice, I would think so, Sir, and the word is that he is not unwilling to accept the laurel if it is proffered to him. But, Mr. Speaker, I said the word is that the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture is not unwilling to accept the laurel if it is proffered to him.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Keep up the good work.

MR. ROBERTS: I will yield if the hon. gentleman wishes to say a word. Stand up! If the hon. gentleman wishes to say something, stand up, and I will yield for the hon. gentleman any time. He may be my coalition leader the way things are going.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman made an excellent speech as he often does. When he stays off partisan politics, he is usually very good, and his heart is not in partisan politics. His heart really is in a different place altogether.

A magnificent speech then from the young member for Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout). I had thought that I might read it again, because it is a brilliant exposition of political philosophy, but all I will say is that I suggest every member of the House read it, an excellent speech.

Mr. Roberts.

We then came to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The usual stuff we had from him, not even school-boy debating. He is not a patch on his predecessor, Mr. Leo Barry, who was formerly a member, and the original school-boy debater. The present Minister of Municipal Affairs tries hard, but his speech just was not up to scratch.

My friend from Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) made a magnificent speech. My friend from Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Canning) made a magnificent speech. We had a very interesting speech from the Minister of Tourism, the first time, I believe, that we have had a speech from him on his department. It was very interesting, particularly given the fact that the last two years, Sir, we have not been allowed to debate the estimates of that department, which means, Sir, that it has been more than three years now since the Department of Tourism was examined in any way by any public body.

There are a number of other speakers, Mr. Speaker. I do not need to say anything about the speech of the absent Minister of Provincial Affairs and Environment. Where is 'Ank', by the way? Is he on holiday?

MR. STRACHAN: He is gone to Scotland.

MR. ROBERTS: He is gone to Scotland. What is he doing in Scotland? Is it a holiday? But is he gone on a holiday or are we paying the shot?

MR. STRACHAN: He is gone on a holiday.

MR. ROBERTS: He is gone on a holiday. Well in that case he deserves a holiday, and I am very glad he is gone on a holiday, because it is a holiday for all of us.

But he made a speech, Sir -

MR. CROSBIE: It is well-deserved.

MR. ROBERTS: I have no doubt it is well-deserved. And as I said when the hon. minister, Sir, went to Bechuanaland I did not begrudge him in the least sending him there, but I did get unhappy at the thought that we had to pay to bring him back. If he is on a holiday, at least it will be at his own expense and not ours.

Mr. Roberts.

We heard from the member for Mount Pearl (Mr. N. Windsor), the member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow). We had a dreary whine from the Minister of Fisheries whose only policy is to be against the Government of Canada. He seems to have no positive ideas. Every expression and exposition he makes is one against Ottawa, but he has no suggestions of his own, and when we get some action from the Federal Department of Fisheries or from the federal government on fisheries matters his one complaint is that he is not consulted. Well I reject that. I do not know whether he is consulted or not, and I do not really care. It is his problem. What concerns me is that the minister does not seem to put forward any real programme for dealing with the fisheries, a programme which would be partially within the legislative and financial responsibility of this Province, a programme which would be in the large part the legislative and financial responsibility of the Government of Canada. We are seeing no thinking on fisheries in this House, Mr. Speaker, no thinking at all. All we are seeing, as I have said, is whining by the Minister of Fisheries on almost every conceivable subject.

We also had excellent speeches from the gentleman from Fogo (Capt. Winsor), the gentleman from Stephenville (Mr. Wm. McNeil), the gentleman from Trinity - Bay de Verde (Mr. Rowe), the gentleman from Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. J. Winsor), the gentleman from Windsor - Buchans (Mr. Flight), the gentleman from Terra Nova (Mr. Lush), all of whom made speeches that I thought were simply superb. It shows why each of them was elected to the House, and why each of them will be re-elected for many times to come.

Mr. Speaker, there was a common theme in the speeches, or rather there were two common themes, one on this side, one on the other side. On this side of the House, Sir, every speaker, as my notes show it, said that he would support the motion. Some may have done so grudgingly, some may have done so gladly, some may have done so for one reason, some for another reason. On the other side no speaker

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said he would support it. Some said nothing. Most others did say that they would vote against it, obviously a caucus decision, and fair enough. But, Mr. Speaker, underlying the refusal of the ministry to accept this resolution is the fact that the ministry have not come to grips with the problem of working out a plan for the development of this Province. Some of the ministers said something of their plans, and I have mentioned,

MR. ROBERTS:

I think, everyone who did. Even taking into account the excellent speech of the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture and the one or two other excellent speeches including the excellent portions of the speech made by the Minister of Industrial Development, it all comes to very little. It is very thin gruel. The fact remains that this government, Sir, have once again shown that they have no idea of how to deal with the problems of this Province, no idea of how to solve those problems and furthermore not even a concern to try to get those problems solved. We have sat here now for five years, Sir. The government have brought in pious platitude after pious platitude. All we have seen is growing unemployment, an increasing debt and a group of men who are more and more in less and less control of what is happening.

If ever, Sir, there was a need for a select committee it is now. The government will not take up their responsibilities. I say to them that since they will not take up their responsibilities let the House of Assembly take it up. If the government will not do their job, then let them set up a select committee so that that committee can do the job, because if the job is not done it is the fault of the government. But it is not the government who suffer. It is the people of this Province who suffer, suffer as they are with ever increasing taxes. Every single tax we have had has been increased during the Tory times, every single tax, some of them more than once and more yet to come, I venture. Services are being cut back. Unemployment is growing and we have a group of ministers, Sir, who are dithering, who are more and more giving the impression of a group of men who do not know how to make this Province work, who do not know where this Province should go and how to make it get there.

That is why I brought in this resolution. There is no sound or sensible reason for rejecting it. It is sad. It will be rejected. The government have caucused, they will not accept it. So be it. But it is sad, Sir, because it is the people of this Province

MR. ROBERTS:

who will be the losers. Where do we go from here, Sir? We have had the gloom and doom speech of the Minister of Mines and Energy representing his considered judgement after five years as one of the leading ministers of the Crown, a speech of despair, a counsel of despair. We have had the views of the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) on the bankruptcy, as he sees it, of the Province. We have had the abject poverty of the Order Paper. As of today, Sir, there are fifty-one or fifty-two pieces of legislation before the House. The most important of them are a flag and a lottery. That shows what this government's priorities are. Oh sure, there are lots of pieces of legislation there but you have a look at them. Look at the printed bills as they are circulated to us and time after time there is nothing of any substance. There is nothing on this Order Paper, nothing in the government's plans to show any idea of how to develop this Province or where to create jobs.

We have not seen it in the budget. What did we see in the budget? In fisheries we saw a cut back, fifty per cent less this year or the expenditures this year to be only one half of what they were last year in the fisheries. What do we see on the Order Paper? A flag and a lottery! Marvellous things! Oh they will really put 25,000 people to work! They will develop our resources, a flag and a lottery and a group of men who in all conscience believe that these are the priority problems of this Province. The rest of the Order Paper, Sir, nothing, absolutely nothing. Act after act, bill after bill, the merest sort of housekeeping.

I mean, I have nothing against an act to recognize Queen's counsels and to provide for their precedence. I do not doubt that is very important. But what has it got to do with the real problems of this Province. "An Act To Amend The Local Governments Elections Act", sure it is great. Lower the voting age to eighteen. But that should not be the only priority of this government. "An Act For The Avoidance Of Uncertainty Concerning Certain Judgements Issued Out Of The Supreme Court of Newfoundland", necessary, I have no doubt because

MR. ROBERTS:

apparently there is some uncertainty about certain judgements of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland. But hardly, Sir, the sort of thing that should require the priority attention of the government.

Yet the Minister of Justice must have twenty-five pieces of legislation standing in his name on that Order Paper today. He must have twenty-five. I have not counted them up, but I will say that is the most important one. That is the most important one, to lay at rest what apparently are some doubts about certain judgements issuing out of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland. So the government, Sir, do not know where we are going. They have no plans. They have no ambitions, no aims. They do not even have hopes any more, and we put the motion on the Order Paper in the hope, Sir, that they would accept it and say, all right, we might not have all the answers. We will admit that. Let us set up a committee and let it sit throughout the Province during the next three or four months and let us see what people bring forward. If they bring forward a good idea, we will adopt it. If they do not, what have we lost? A few thousand dollars in travel expenses, less than some of the ministers spend in twelve months going hither and yon on matters of no import, less than you spend on helicopters on hunting parties and partridge shooting expeditions.

I would say to the Minister of Transportation and Communications, except he is not here, that he might be well advised to look at how the government helicopters are being used. It is not a major point but it is an irritating one to many citizens of this Province judging by the numbers of telephone calls I get about it of private citizens who are seen getting out of government helicopters paid for out of public funds that are used on hunting expeditions and fishing expeditions and partridge shooting expeditions and the like.

But that is all this government are concerned with, Sir. No indication of coming to grips with the real problem. The

MR. ROBERTS:

unemployment figures go up and up and up. The Government of Canada, Sir, are going to take the couple of hundred million dollars that will allegedly be saved by these Unemployment Insurance Act changes and use them for job creation programmes. Well we need job creation programmes in this Province. Have the government of this Province put forward any suggestions to Ottawa? I do not know. But if so they have done it secretly and covertly and quietly. That is not like them. I do not think they have put forward any programmes. They have no plans. They have no programmes. All they had was a plan last Summer to try to get back into office. To do that, Sir, we had a budget brought in - well, I have got to be careful because it is not parliamentary what I think of that budget - we had a budget brought in and another one brought in this Fall after the election. We had promises of stadiums and hospitals and roads and anything else anybody could think of until the day after the election. That is all this government had plans for and now they have nothing.

The Minister of Recreation is going to have to go around this Summer saying as he did to the lady from St. George's a few moments ago, "We had to defer that." I will bet there is a stadium in Ferryland this year. We will see about priority. Why? Because there is going to be a by-election in Ferryland and they will try to buy a few votes with a stadium. Well I say that the people of Hermitage gave the answer to that. Take whatever you can get. You are entitled to it and you pay for it and laugh at them. I say now to the gentleman for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) that whether he likes it or not - and I do not think he would be party to this sort of scurvy treatment - there will be a stadium built in Ferryland, this in a year when we cannot keep hospital beds open, this in a year when we cannot keep the highways in decent driving order. But we will have a stadium in Ferryland and nowhere else this Summer, and all the talk of surveys and commitments be damned.

MR. ROBERTS:

The commitments were made before the election, of course they were, and so was the one in St. George's and the one in Placentia to which the hon. gentleman for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) speaks, and a number of other similar projects just like - what was it? - the great leap forward in sports. We were going to have three or four million dollars a year and that was announced before the election. After the election, Sir, it got the royal order of the boot. But we will have the stadium in Ferryland this year, and I welcome it and I wish we would get one in St. George's and one in Bellevue. If I thought the government would call by-elections I would say to my colleague from St. George's (Mrs. McIsaac), "Resign." And she will come flying back in. It would surely be a great vote if the government had the courage to call it and we would get a stadium there and much else besides.

Mr. Speaker, the government, Sir, have no plan, no programme and that is what is lacking. It is the government's job to develop that plan and develop that programme, to present it here to this House, to present it to the people of this Province. That is the essence of leadership. It is not our job to develop it. We do not have access to the government's 5,000 or 10,000 civil servants and experts. We do not have access to the ministers, the deputy ministers and all the advisors. It is not our job to develop it. It is not the job of the hon. gentleman for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) to develop it or the job of the gentleman for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) to develop it. It is the job of the government, only their job, and I would say it is their only job.

They have not done it, Sir. They have the expertise available to them. They have had the time. How many plans and plans and more plans have there been, and priorities and plannings and restructurings, all of them avoiding the evil day. The evil day comes closer, Sir, the evil day when they will have to admit to the people of Newfoundland that they have failed completely. They came into office with high hopes and I believe those hopes were genuinely held.

Mr. Roberts:

Mr. Speaker, **their four or five years in office brought disillusionment upon disillusionment, and now, Sir, the disillusionment is spreading in the Cabinet itself, minister after minister, the hearts going out of them, feeling that the job cannot be done, that we are not able to do it. Now he may say that nobody else is able to do it as well. That, Sir, is a matter for the electorate of this Province to decide, not for any group of men or women.**

Mr. Speaker, our job in this House is to consider and to debate and to suggest, and this we do and this we have done and this we will do. This motion was put forward in an effort to fill the void. The government have not put forward a programme. You can read all of the Throne **Speeches, Sir, and we are getting the same empty, trite phrases now that we had five years ago. I can go through them, and I have, and take them and wind up having the same phrases crop up, and I could name all of the broken promises—the great drug plan we were going to have, we were told, in 1970; the great dental care plan; all the new hospitals that were going to be built along the Northwest Coast; the great fishery gear insurance plan; the great trawler plan; the Dutch auctions we used to hear so much about; the further processing of fish. I could go on and on in every single field of government and list the plans which do not exist, the promises which have been broken, the pious hopes which have not materialized.** Mr. Speaker, if the government have brought forth their plan and their programme and their policy there would have been no need for this motion, but they have not, Sir. They have failed completely and utterly. And now, Sir, they are hiding. They will not face the electorate. That is why we have not got our three by-elections, straight political cowardice. Those three districts, Sir, were not voided, not made vacant by any action of any member, not as if a member had resigned or a member had died. No, Sir, they were all vacated because the Supreme Court of this Province, **acting under the terms of the law passed by this Legislature, found that the results of the**

Mr. Roberts:

election that there - the result of the election was that there was no member elected according to the law. And so the people in these three districts have no member. The election was null and void. And in each case there are two judges of our Supreme Court sitting as an election court so certified to Your Honour in writing, and now those people have no member. And until the government give them the right to elect their member they will not have anybody to speak for them or to work for them or to fight for them. It is only political cowardice and every single member of the Cabinet is guilty of that, Sir.

The fact today that we have three out of fifty-one seats empty in this House equivalent to fifteen in the House of Commons, fifteen in the House of Commons, there would be a revolution. There are two empty in the House of Commons now and both of them have dates set. The dates may be long, long away - mid-October, is it? - the 15th. of October, I think, or whatever the day is. But the date, Sir, is set. We know there will be an election in St. John's West, and there will be one in Ottawa-Carlton. But do we know there will be one in Ferryland district or in Bonavista North or in Exploits district? We hope, we believe, but until the government get up the political courage and everyone of them in that Cabinet, Sir, is responsible, every one of them in that Cabinet has to assume the blame where the blame falls. And that is just the final blow, Mr. Speaker, the final count in the indictment. The Tory Party, Sir, have failed this Province. The Tory Government have failed.

But we bring this motion in, Sir, in the hope that the House of Assembly can pick up that lack and pick up that defect and give the people of this Province the opportunity, Sir, to say what they want, and to give the government some ideas and some suggestions as they do not seem to have any of their own, and to tell the government how we feel about lifestyles and what kind of Newfoundland and Labrador we want to build. That is why we move this motion, Sir, and that is why I will vote for it, and that is why I ask every member of this House to vote for it. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (MR. YOUNG): Is the House ready for the question? All those in favour "Aye", contrary minded "Nay". I consider the "Nays" have it.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. YOUNG): Motion 12. The hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. J. NOLAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually this motion has been on the Order Paper so long I had almost forgotten that it has been there. I think it went on some time last Fall, and perhaps this is an indication of the type of urgency or importance that has been devoted to the recommendations by the Prices Review Board since it came in in November of 1974. And prior to that you may recall, Mr. Speaker, that when it was decided to have such a report conducted by the Prices Review Board and Mrs. Plumptre and her committee that we were told—it is a matter of public record in the press in this Province — to wait until the study is done, and then the consumers of this Province will have something to look to. Well, of course, you know what happened. The fact is that it has been in the government's hands since 1974, in the Fall, and not a thing has been done insofar as the recommendations of which there are about eight or ten I believe, but at least the majority of them asked for Provincial action, and nothing of course has been done. Eight of the ten recommendations made by the Prices Review Board asked for action by the government. This is most unfortunate, particularly in view of the fact that we have heard so much criticism from so many quarters, the press, members of the government, backbenchers, no matter what side of the House they are on, indicating that we have been studied to death in Newfoundland and so on. Now I do not know how much money this report cost the people of Canada. But you may be sure that in all reports where there are so-called experts involved that it did cost a pretty penny. And where do we find ourselves?

The fact is that we, and I am not just directing this at the government, I believe that as far as the members of this House of Assembly are concerned we have lost all credibility insofar as the

Mr. Nolan:

average consumer is concerned in this Province. And I am sure that when various members go to their districts that more often than not if you mention anything or when they talk to you about prices of one kind or another, whether it be the cost of oil, of fuel, of electric energy, of food, clothing, housing and so on, you are usually met with some scepticism as to how we devote our time. Is it any wonder that one member privately in this House not too long ago referred to this House of Assembly as the only mental institution in the world run by the inmates. Because nothing is being done, at least we have not been able to convince the people in our various districts that anything of any real substance has been done to help them.

And another thing that is somewhat discouraging to me is this, and that is the total dishonesty of some people in references to consumer affairs and so on. For example, if a lady out in Green Bay has a problem and feels she is being gyped or overcharged for a product in a supermarket or the neighbourhood store, if someone says, for example, to phone the Minister of Provincial Affairs without knowing what he or she is talking about, I think that that is misleading that person unless you know (1) what the legislation is, (2) if the minister or his officials really have the power to do anything about it. I think that is cheap political gain, and I do not care who says it, on what side of the House. That is wrong. The fact is we do not have sufficient teeth, if any, of the Provincial Affairs legislation as it refers to the - or to the hoped for Department of Consumer Affairs. And by the way, we are not yet clear on what the situation is going to be on the department anyway. I noticed in one of the booklets furnished with the estimates that there is a reference to the Department of Consumer Affairs, but legally in this Province at this moment there is no such thing because the Department of Provincial Affairs name to the best of my knowledge has not been changed in any way.

PREMIER MOORES: We are bringing it in tomorrow.

MR. NOLAN: Pardon?

HON. F. D. MOORES (PREMIER): Tomorrow.

MR. NOLAN: Tomorrow? All right, then I thank the Premier very, very much. And this in itself is encouraging to me and I do thank him because now we have a situation where we will have a department hopefully that will go to work on some of the recommendations that have been made by Mrs. Plumptre and her committee.

Let us take a look at some of them and see if they are worthwhile. And by the way while I am at it, although the motion refers to those recommendations that refer to the Province, I am not going to be foolish or evasive enough to try to avoid the ones that refer to the Federal Government. I mean if the hat fits let him have it as far as I am concerned.

MR. NOLAN: The items here are, first of all, improving the Gulf service. This refers to the Federal Government and I have no hesitation at all before I get to the recommendations that refer to the Provincial Government of having a go with these two, the improvements in the Gulf service, which is an absolute disgrace. And by the way, while I am on that one, I talked to some people in the last few days who spent I believe in the case of the couple or the foursome that I am thinking about, about \$10 in phone calls from Toronto to North Sydney. When they arrived there, having made their reservations, no one knew what they were talking about. They might just as well have arrived without making any reservation at all. It is an absolute disgrace and I suggest to the Premier today that if he is interested in tourist dollars coming into this Province, or the Minister of Transportation who is not here, that he run some kind of a check and that is if we could only have someone, perhaps appointed by the government, go over there; not an obvious official that people will do some bowing and scraping to, but send any representative that you like on a given day and if what I am told is true by the people who reported to me in the last week, it is absolutely discouraging.

Now I mention this in terms of Consumer Affairs because we need the dollars that are going to come in here, and not only that, it is not just for tourists coming in, I would say that Newfoundlanders, and they are the ones I am thinking about at the moment, Newfoundlanders are being turned off by the type of service that is going on there and there are a few other items privately that I certainly intend to pass along to the Minister of Transportation because I do not want to mention them in the House, concerning some of the statements made by some of the people involved that are the most horrible things that you could possibly imagine. It is an absolute, bloody disgrace.

MR. NEARY: In connection with the Gulf?

MR. NOLAN: Yes, with the Gulf, just shocking, and I do not mind telling the hon. member also when I have an opportunity. But not in the House.

All right, now the Provincial Government should encourage the development of a more integrated and a more competitive system of food marketing in Newfoundland. Now this has been something that has been talked about from time to time. It is a recommendation here and I notice that Mrs. Plumptre made reference to it again in a recent television appearance in this Province when she appeared with the Anti-Inflation Board just recently.

Newfoundland has often been referred to as an island of agents. It is unbelievable the number of middle men that are involved with certain products, whether it be food products, car parts, God knows what! It is just shocking the number of people who can get between the manufacturer on the one hand and the consumer on the other. What happens in between is a scandal and someone needs to take a look at it.

Now the thing that I cannot understand, and I would certainly bring the government to task on this, is when, first of all, if you looked at the ballyhoo during the time that this study was being done and when it was presented to the Province, why the government did not appoint a committee of Cabinet to take the recommendations, whether they be federal or provincial, have two or three ministers, perhaps, and some officials work on it, and then present the paper to the public of the Province at least indicating, one, that the report was received; two, what they felt about it, how they could act and in what way and in what they intended to do. But to ignore it completely is one of the most savage things I have ever seen done in this Province. It is an absolute disgrace.

Now perhaps, perhaps the government might have taken the approach that this report is not worth the paper it is written on, but at least have the guts to say that. Not to ignore it completely, which

MR. NOLAN: is what was done, and no wonder we are in for so much criticism. I mean I am fed up with reports of one kind or another, done by so-called experts. **One of those days** if you looked at all of the reports in the Atlantic Provinces where we have so many needs, one of those days the whole Atlantic area is going to sink under the weight of the reports which have been done, and if you look at what has been done as a result of many of these reports well then it is a real shocker and people are losing their patience with it.

We have a situation right now where the consumers are really feeling the pinch. We have a lot of unemployment in Newfoundland. We have a situation where, and anyone can do this, any of the news people can do it, if they will check with major employers in the construction industry in this Province who normally are responsible for a great majority of the working force during the fine weather, during the Spring, Summer and Fall, you will now find that quite a number of skilled men are leaving, have left and will leave this Province because of little or no work on the planning boards right now for this year. And these are men and women whom we cannot afford to lose, Mr. Speaker, and they are going off now to Toronto or New Brunswick or wherever they are going and it is not likely once they establish there if they have to because of the lack of work in this Province, as to whether they are going to ever return or not and this in itself is a tragedy.

Now the other situation on employment are the number of people who are coming out of our trade schools, and again they have in many cases little or no hope and this to me is a real shame and we have not, we have not offered any **handout** at all, some kind of encouragement for people, because they do not seem to know which end is up and they certainly do not seem to look anymore to this House of Assembly for any guidance or advice on as to what the future of this Province is going to be, not only on Consumer Affairs but on anything else.

MR. NOTMAN: Now what we have is a build-up of big companies, many of whom perhaps are carrying on a very fine business and giving good service and good produce and so on, but the thing is the whole market place has changed drastically, not only here in this Province but in many other places as well. And by the way, while I make reference to Consumer Affairs and I was thinking primarily of the Province, I think what is needed in Labrador, for example, is a special unit of Consumer Affairs, separated from the Province of Newfoundland altogether, because when you talk about Labrador and talk about Consumer Affairs and the cost of various commodities of one kind or another you are talking about an entirely different quintal of fish. God knows it is bad enough in Newfoundland, but in Labrador it is just wicked, and unfortunately I am afraid one of those days we are going to find out to our sorrow that many of us who acknowledge the fact that, sure, Newfoundland and Labrador are all one and so on, the fact is that the ignorance in the Island portion of the Province, of the needs and the aspirations of the people of Labrador is something I am afraid that one of those days is going to come to us in such a forceful way that we will be kicking ourselves that we did not recognize the potential and the needs of the people in that area.

So the market place is changing in every way that you can possibly think about. Most of us in this House when we were growing up were shopping in a more or less a nostalgic way because we knew the people we were shopping with. We were going to the neighbourhood store. We knew the families. We knew the proprietors and so on. But all this **has changed**. Today, as you know, Mr. Speaker, consumers buy products that are made by large and distant companies, conglomerates and the like, and you have big advertising campaigns and we have to pay for these things.

One of the things that we need in Consumer Affairs very, very badly and I am sure - I am sorry the minister is not here today but I am sure he will agree with it - is this, and that is education. How many of us know and have been guilty ourselves of coming out of

MR. NOTIAN: school, whether it is grade eleven, whether it is technical school or university, what is almost the first thing we do? Go buy a new car. Fine. So the car is listed at \$3,000 or \$4,000, but the fact is that is not the true price. Because if you are thinking about it at all, or should think about it as the consumer, you have got to look at what it is costing you to finance the thing over a one or two year period. Now how many students in our schools are taught that? Not too many, and this is where we have to lend some particular emphasis. People are getting up to their ears in debt. Now there is no law to prevent someone from going up to their ears in debt, but our responsibility as legislators surely is to see to it that if we can put a hinge on money that is spent on education that we can see to it that children in school, young people, at least are made aware of the economic chaos that they can get themselves involved in unless they know what they are doing. Example; if someone goes and gets a \$40,000 mortgage for a house and supposing they are paying at ten per cent about \$364 a month, or whatever it is, and if the rate of interest at ten per cent remains constant, which it does not because it is reviewed every five years, he is not buying a \$40,000 house, he is buying a \$125,000 house.

These are the things we should be telling people. We should really be spending money in this Province. We have not learned to use the media the way that we do. We have many rules, laws, regulations on our books today that are beneficial to the people but people do not know about it. They do not know how to take advantage of it. They feel that they have to know some member of the House of Assembly, some member of the government; they feel, and unfortunately they are right in some cases, that they have to have a lawyer to represent them and so on and this is where

Mr. Nolan:

some of our legislation and so on is so wrong because it does not mean anything to the people to whom it should matter the most. These are the things we have got to look at. Now out in British Columbia they have, I believe, a fantastic Department of Consumer Affairs. In fact, they have there within the department not only specialists but they have areas throughout the Province where people are encouraged to come in. They are encouraged to come and talk to these people. Not only that, in their debt services they have specialists there so that if you are up to your ears in debt, if you go and sit down and talk to these people they will talk to the people with whom you have been dealing and will help you. As a matter of fact the record shows that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been repaid by consumers as a result of the advice and so on that they were given by this department.

They have a Trade Practices Act and this is something they have in any number of provinces. But it is no good of us setting up a Department of Consumer Affairs in this Province unless we have legislation that means something to the people out there. If we do not do that we are wasting our time, and we are wasting the people's money, what is more. Now I could go into any number of items here in reference to this report and so on but let me mention just a few of them. It is not my intention, Mr. Speaker, to delay the House unduly. But much of the legislation that we have, in my opinion - and I have tried to study as much of it as I can, including some of the federal legislation - is purely mechanical.

We have regulations for licensing. But virtually none of the acts provide the consumer with easy and low cost means of redress, none of it. The people do not understand most of the legislation in consumer affairs. Now I am not just talking about provincially. I am talking about federally as well. It might just as well be done in Latin. The most protective legislation possible is no use whatsoever if the process by which the consumer must make a claim is

MR. NOLAN:

restricted only to those who have access to lawyers and so on. If that is the case we are wrong, we are not representing the people properly, and the legislation - well it is a type of legislation that looks like it has been rigged against the people.

Now the basic problem that arises in almost every consideration of the consumer affairs field is that the general level of education of the consumer - and this is the point that I referred to earlier - is such that his or her ability to communicate effectively with parties involved, be that the government, the merchants involved or a protection agency, are limited in that these organizations respond to letters primarily, Mr. Speaker, and are not readily accessible by telephone or on a walk-in basis. That is the way it has got to be. If we are going to have truly effective consumer legislation in this Province we have got to have it available to the people. We have got to have the people from the department accessible all the time. We have got to get away from the idea that unless some poor devil who is being shafted by some unscrupulous type in this Province cannot reach the minister concerned, that he has nowhere else to turn. This is wrong and in my opinion it puts the minister, whoever he or she may be, in a most unfortunate position. It cannot continue. This is what is happening in many, many cases.

Now the Food Prices Review Board knows that the direct costs of transportation are not, I repeat 'not', the major costs which result in higher food prices in Newfoundland. But it is the indirect costs, Mr. Speaker, associated with an inefficient transportation system - we have unreliable delivery times as I am sure you know, we have breakage, pilferage, spoilage. We are not adequately examined in terms of their indirect effects on the operational costs of businesses. We have got slow delivery times. This of course means that a firm has to carry higher than normal inventories which cost money and of course adds to the overhead of the firms concerned. It has got to be passed on to the consumer.

MP. NOLAN:

So legislation of the nature of, for example, the Funeral Directors Act, that really protects the industry and makes it a closed shop. It does not really, in many instances, ask any member or any constituent of yours - and you will find that they do not acquaint themselves with this type of legislation. We have the automobile -

AN NON. MEMBER: You are insulting the Chairman.

MP. NOLAN: Well, it is not aimed directly at the Chairman, for God's sake! However, legislation like the Automobile Dealers Act is for purely licensing and for regulatory purposes. There is no mechanism for consumer protection in there, absolutely none. We have investigations, inspections and general policing functioning of existing legislation. They are not being carried out adequately. And I might say I am not aiming these barbs at just the provincial area but at the federal government as well. Some of it might just as well be done in Japanese. The people do not know it exists. They do not know how to use it. They do not know who to see. They do not know who to talk to. They do not know how to protect themselves.

For God's sake, who is there out in, say, Baie Verte if you had a consumer problem tomorrow. Who do they talk to other than possibly to the member? They do not know where to go. They do not know what to do. For example, it has been discovered in the Department of Provincial Affairs - and I certainly compliment the minister on this - where he has departmental offices in various parts of the Province now rather than having it all come into St. John's. And he is perfectly right in what he has done, perfectly right. I believe it is working out very well. This is the type of thing that they are handling in consumer affairs in British Columbia.

Now we have the role of the superintendent of insurance in Newfoundland that has neither the priority nor the legislative backup that is needed. It is just not working as far as the people are concerned, not working at all. We have consumer or other groups that should be publicly funded to enable them to counter

MR. NOLAN:

applications for rate increases.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: You know, it is a shame for anyone in this House, as someone did I believe, to say that any five people, I believe it was, can appear before the Public Utilities Commission.

MR. ROBERTS: That was helpful Hickman over there.

MR. NOLAN: Oh, I do not know who it was. But the fact is, I mean, you are misleading the people in saying that.

MR. HICKMAN: Who do you think paid the Consumer Affairs employee who visited the board last year?

MR. ROBERTS: - the Consumer Affairs Board, Mr. John Peddle.

MR. HICKMAN: The costs were awarded against the utilities.

MR. ROBERTS: How much would you say was paid to John Peddle?

MR. HICKMAN: I do not know, Mr. Speaker, but I would say he certainly received costs.

MR. NOLAN: Yes. Well anyway, of course, that brings up another area where Mr. Peddle was challenged because he tried to appear there in the first place because of certain items. It is a sort of a special -

MR. ROBERTS: Not in the lawyer's category.

MR. NOLAN: Not in the lawyer's category.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. NOLAN: Is that correct?

MR. HICKMAN: That is right and there was a very good decision from the board saying that he had the right to be there.

MR. NOLAN: I see. So in other words, a member of the House of Assembly cannot appear before the Public Utilities Commission to represent his constituency or his constituents unless he is a lawyer.

MR. HICKMAN: I said that the board's decision was the reverse, that you could.

MR. ROBERTS: He has no right in the Statutes, the lawyers have not made it statutory.

MP. NOLAN: Exactly, perfectly right. According to the law he cannot, a member of the House of Assembly cannot.

MP. HICKMAN: The board decided to let him appear.

MP. NOLAN: Correct, but that is the board, not the government, not this House. That is wrong.

MP. HICKMAN: That is not so either.

MP. NOLAN: Well, perhaps the minister would like to tell us what is so?

MP. HICKMAN: The hon. gentleman could go down and appear before the Utilities Board tomorrow morning.

MP. ROBERTS: He has no right to appear before them.

MP. NEAPY: Oh, oh!

MP. HICKMAN: Sure he can.

MP. ROBERTS: He has no right to appear before them.

MP. NEAPY: He cannot represent a group under the Newfoundland Law Society Act. I have copies here in my bag if the minister wants -

MP. HICKMAN: I know the Law Society Act. Peddle was -

MP. NOLAN: Well, if we could leave the bag for the moment, Mr. Speaker, and go on to some of the other items I have here. I hope you will forgive me because I have a bit of a cold. I am not in full flight as our friend down to my far right would sometimes refer to it.

MP. SIMONS: They would not want to see you in full flight.

MP. NOLAN: Yes, right. Well, now the provincial Consumer Affairs Bureau is actively, as I understand it, enforcing existing legislation. The one thing we have to get to somehow, some way, is to make especially young people understand what they are getting into when they go in debt. They just do not know what is happening. Not only young people, it happens to adults as well. But why see a young kid come out of school, out of, say, finishing Grade XI, as I mentioned earlier, or Trades School or College and almost immediately whip into a new car without really examining the true costs involved.

MR. NOLAN:

This is not a criticism of the automobile dealers. I am saying you have to look at the whole thing, the cost, the licensing, insurance and the interest that you will pay on the amount of money that you need to pay it off. We have to educate. We have got to do this. If we do not do it, if we do not learn to tell people what they are getting into - and it has to be our responsibility. We are the people who allocate the money for education in this Province. If we have not got enough trust to indicate to those in charge of education that this is a priority in education, that it is needed and unless, by the way, we spend some money perhaps in having people either, one, do some more advertising, pointing out the true facts, the true costs, unless we have more people appearing before various school groups and so on, then we are negligent in our duties. We really are.

MR. HICKMAN: Does the hon. gentleman realize that civics

MR. HICKMAN: was taken out of the programme two or three years ago?

MR. NOLAN: Yes, I have heard that. I could not say that I was aware of it.

MR. HICKMAN: Not by any government.

MR. NOLAN: Yes, but I mean -

MR. HICKMAN: Ah, but a good civics programme should -

MR. SIMMONS: It is not relevant anyway.

MR. HICKMAN: Yes, but it could be relevant. I think it is very relevant.

MR. ROBERTS: It should never be made relevant.

MR. HICKMAN: And it should be relevant, yes, right.

MR. NOLAN : So I think that, Mr. Chairman, that, at least, some of the members appreciate some of my remarks on this thing because I mean it is easy enough for me to get up and flail at the would-be minister, whoever he will be, of Consumer Affairs.

MR. DOODY: Or she might be.

MR. NOLAN: Or she might be.

 But the fact is that that is not enough. The fact is that we have a great responsibility here in this House, all of us. And what I am saying is that more and more people, when you mention Consumer Affairs to them, really do not know what, if anything, is available to them. They do not know the acts.

 Some of the acts, for example, in the laws that the present government has passed are not familiar to the people. The people do not know, and unless we find a way to let people know what we have on our Statute Books that is good for them, without them having to engage a lawyer, then we have failed, we have failed, and we have got to do something about it. Now in the recommendations we have seven which require direct and indirect action on the part of the provincial government. And of these recommendations one of the most important is for the department or the establishment of the Department of Consumer Affairs. And the hon. Premier has just indicated to me a moment ago that tomorrow apparently there will be a name change in the department.

MR. NEARY: There will be a shuffle tomorrow.

MR. NOLAN: There will be a shuffle tomorrow? Well, the Premier did not say that. But anyway, the fact is that if it is only going to be a department in name then it is going to be a shame, and I am sure it is not what any of us in this House, no matter what side we are on, really want. But we have got to have, if we have that department, the legislative backup. We have got to have some legislation in there with some teeth in it, and not the kind of teeth that some people are screaming for to get the company. That is wrong. That is not consumer legislation. Proper consumer legislation protects the consumer, but also it will be fair and equitable, and it would be a form of protection for the businessman as well. This is the way it works, for example, in British Columbia where they bring them together. The business people know that they are doing the job, and the consumer knows that legislation is there and personnel to aid and assist them. And unless we go in that direction we are going to fail. We will be spending good dollars and really to no avail in this Province. So the main advantage that I see for - one thing by the way that someone might want to think about one of those days is some kind of an independent agency, and this is something that could work also, and that is in matters relating to consumers and government agencies like Hydro or the Public Utilities Commission. An independent agency would have a higher degree of credibility for its chosen course of action than would, say, a department of government. Now I am not sure that the government or even the House might want to go this far at this time. But it is certainly something that could be thought about because there will always be the suspicion, whether it is right or wrong, that, oh, here is the government department, and they are not going to rock the boat to do anything to disturb people, for example, with big businesses and so on.

One of the things, by the way, that many people, when you talk about consumer affairs, just laugh at you, whether you are a member of the House of Assembly or not they laugh at you. They laugh you right out of their home. Because when they talk

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about this investigation or, at least, hearing that was recently conducted by a federal board here in St. John's in reference to ophthalmologists in the eyeglass situation. So a couple of days later here in the House I asked a question of one of the ministers - I am sure other people did as well - as to whether the provincial government or the Consumer Affairs Department intended to do anything about it. The answer was, "No, this is a federal matter." So what is going to happen federally surely is that they will put all their findings together from all provinces of Canada. They will then make recommendation for perhaps legislation to close certain doors, and we may get the legislation through federally or we may not. But the fact is - and here is the thing that I think about, and here is what came out in the hearings-

MR. NEARY: I was at that hearing.

MR. NOLAN: This went on for fifty years in this Province, fifty years, fifty years. When I think of the people that I knew when I was growing up trying to scrounge a few dollars to get a pair of eyeglasses for their children or for themselves, going without something they needed themselves so their children would have the proper glasses in going to school and doing their studies, when I think about that and someone tells me, oh, that is a federal matter I could get sick. Not only that, but here we have a situation where if you go, as I am sure the Minister of Justice certainly knows, if you go to an ophthalmologist, you just give your MCP number and card -

MR. NEARY: He is referred first.

MR. NOLAN: Well, yes. But if you go to an ophthalmologist then it is taken care of by MCP whereas with some of the others I understand you have to pay, and then you go to MCP and then the money comes back. But you talk about conflict of interest. Here is a situation where you have a government agency, MCP, paying the doctor concerned, and here you have also the doctor taking money from the mutual company, and it has been going on for fifty years, and you tell me we are interested in consumers in this Province.

MR. NEARY: They are interested.

MR. NOLAN: Yes. But there is more than that. It is more than that. Who is responsible? Will the company get the business without the money? Or will the doctor get the client without the company? You would be surprised how some of it works. You would be surprised. And I think we owe it to ourselves to carry out an investigation, provincially, here and now, because I will tell you why, Mr. Chairman. There is a great feeling throughout this Province that this House of Assembly will never set up any kind of an inquiry that will look at any professional group, whether they be lawyers, doctors, ophthalmologists, engineers or anything else. We will not rock the boat in here.

MR. NEARY: Investment companies, brokers.

MR. NOLAN: Well, I mean, I do not care who they are. Apparently the minister or the government are going to bring in some legislation on the bonusing and so on. So I mean if that is so, and if it cures the problem -

MR. NEARY: That will not cure the damage that has been done.

MR. NOLAN: Well there might be something come around on that, I certainly hope so.

But I wonder if I am adequately getting across to people, Mr. Speaker, the fact that people are not taking it seriously. I mean here we have a situation where you have the hearings I have described, and the only mention of it in this House of Assembly was a question or two from this side, and a non-committal thing from the other side. You know, no one is taking it seriously, and it has been going on for fifty years. How many poor people are wearing glasses who did not need them at all? Would you believe it if I told you that a member of this House of Assembly had glasses prescribed when he was nine or ten years old, and when he eventually went on to high school and so on he went to another doctor, and he did not need any glasses. Now you could argue that he was cured. But the argument that person makes to me privately is that he did not need them in the first place.

MR. ROWE: Eyeglasses do not cure.

MR. NOLAN: Exactly. Glasses do not cure.

I mean these are the type of things. I mean are we scared? Are we frightened of it? If it is wrong, it is wrong, and we should take a good, hard look at it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: Now I could go on on any number of items here about the specific recommendations that are - we need a strong Trade Practices Act, and we need it backed up by adequate staff, and they have this in British Columbia and other provinces as well. As a matter of fact I have gone to the trouble for the Committee, if they are interested, in having drawn up a comparison of major consumer related legislation in Alberta and similar legislation in other jurisdictions. In other words on this sheet of paper right here, you have the consumer legislation as it refers to all provinces, including Canada as a whole, I mean the federal legislation, and it gives all provinces, covering Conditional Sales Act, which we have, Consumer Affairs Act, Highway Traffic Act - how that involves consumer affairs I am not sure at the moment, but I am sure it must be tied in in some way - the Securities Act, Seizures Act and so on. So perhaps someone might take it. Maybe the Minister of Justice might be good enough to accept it.

MR. ROBERTS: Maybe we could put it in Hansard. I am not sure the House would agree to have it

MR. HICKMAN: If the hon. member will table it I assure him it will be referred.

MR. NOLAN: Right, all right then. Well whatever. I do not want to read it, but I believe there is some information here that perhaps the Minister of Consumer Affairs or Provincial Affairs might want to take a look at. Maybe you might want to have it copied so that you know what is available in other provinces. But in the Trade Practices Act that I referred to, here is where you have

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some real muscle that is very, very effectively used out in British Columbia and I have some information on this year. For example, the first priority was the enactment of better laws, but in the Trade Practices Act, Mr. Speaker, it spells out deceptive and unfair trade practices and makes them illegal. That is in British Columbia. This is a handbook,

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by the way, from the British Columbia Consumer Affairs Division. Most importantly, the act can be and is being effectively enforced. In addition, ordinary citizens now have the tools to protect themselves and to recover their losses. If someone feels that he or she has suffered an injustice the first step is to talk with the business. Often a dispute can be resolved by a direct communication between buyer and seller.

Now what I tried to convey, or one of the things that I have tried to convey this afternoon is the fact that if we start out on the premise that we are eager and anxious to get consumer legislation in order to put the boots to some professional group or some company we are gone wrong, gone wrong, because this is vengeance we are looking for, not justice, vengeance. There are too many companies doing, and have been doing, practicing in business in this Province for years and years and years, but it is a darn shame what is happening when I see, for example, in the case that our friends referred to earlier, men, for example, in the practice of law whose ethics are being questioned when they should not be. It is a shame. It is a shame. The Law Society of Newfoundland had the lousiest public relations in the world as far as I am concerned. They should tell their story, because there is a story there to be told. Good men and women who have been practicing for years and they should not all be washed into the one bunch with some of those who have decided for whatever reason to deal in what appears to be some unscrupulous matters involving financing and so on of this Province. It is wrong. And it is not right.

And the unfortunate part about it is, you know, you talk about the consumer not having the muscle and so on. How can they possibly have it when members of this House of Assembly have people coming to them privately, teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, saying, "Why do you not get up in the House and say this? Why do you not mention that?" If these professional people cannot stand up for themselves within their own societies, which are strong and in

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many cases a closed shop, in the name of God, Mr. Speaker, what chance does an ordinary poor housewife have out in Rose Blanche? Not a chance in hell! And if we do not do something about it we should all be fired out, and I do not care if it is Liberal, Tory or what it is! We are not fit to be here unless we get something that people can understand, something that they can work with. We are not doing our job here; we are just not in this matter. And it is no good to make light of it because we cannot any more. It is a shame.

While I am getting close to time, I had a lot more to say but maybe I have said enough. But the fact is there is so much to be done in this field, and the primary thing we have to do is not just pass legislation, not create a Department of Consumer Affairs. The first thing we have to do is to convince the people out there that we represent that we are serious, that we are serious, that we do care, that we are concerned about them, that we know the problems they have. We have a situation where there is high unemployment, where skilled tradesmen are leaving the Province. We have a situation where in years past the construction industry was going, people were working; in the Fall when they were laid off they had sufficient unemployment insurance stamps to carry them through the Winter. This Winter I prophesy could be a bitter lesson, a bitter lesson.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NOLAN: I am quite serious; it could be a bitter lesson this Winter, because while they are not getting unemployment insurance they have to get money somewhere so that means that they have to go to the Department of Social Services. And there are men and women in the constituency of every one of us in this House who have never been on welfare before, and they do not want to be. It is a great blow to their pride. That is true. But the fact is this is a particularly serious year. And we had to watch ourselves in this House of Assembly, we have to watch what we are saying, we have to watch how we say it because we could very quickly become a laughing stock, a laughing

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stock, If you mention the House of Assembly to so many people today they shrug their shoulders and laugh, laugh.

But why I want, and I am sure many others do as well, good consumer legislation, a proper department, properly staffed and a sufficient backup, and accessible to the people of the Province whether they be in Labrador or wherever they are, unless we have that, we have not really carried out our function. By why I want it is that people need it, people need protection. There are those who do business in this Province who are unscrupulous, unfair, who will do anything for a dollar, who will skin some poor devil alive just for another nickel or a dime, and it is going on. Now this to me is the unacceptable face of capitalism or free enterprise if you like. Unacceptable, and it cannot go on! And when we hear that there are businessmen, no matter what field they are engaged in, allegedly educated, allegedly professional, whatever that means, performing acts like this, and the suffering that people are going through in constant debt, it is a shame that we have not done more to try and protect them. And not only that, to protect the businessmen, ethical, good business people that have been in business for years and years, and want to continue in business, and doing a good job. So let us not when we talk about businesses and so on try to tar everyone with the one brush. We are not being very smart when we do that. We are not doing the job that we should be doing here in the House.

So I will not detain the House any further, Mr. Speaker, I realize I might be slightly overtime, I would like to speak on this matter some more and maybe at greater length at another time, if not in this session the next. But I hope that at least some of the things today might have made some sense. And I have by the way a considerable amount of background, for example, -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Carry on by leave.

MR. NOLAN: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the House.

I have here an Inter-Provincial Conference of Consumer Administrators this was in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in September 1975, and I do not know what members opposite might have had some of the information on this. But some of the information in here is quite good. I am not saying everything here is Holy Writ and it should be adopted by this Province. But, for example, out in British Columbia that I referred to earlier within their Department of Consumer Affairs they have lawyers whose job it is working on consumer legislation all of the time, updating it, improving it. But it is done in a thoroughly professional way from what I can hear. And I am not suggesting, for example, that the Department of Consumer Affairs here in this Province can start off with a back-up of lawyers. I understand from my private conversations with the Minister of Justice over the years that he has a devil's own job getting lawyers within the department. I think he is probably better staffed now than ever before, but I know he had his trials.

MR. NICKMAN: I still have them.

MR. NOLAN: He still has them. So therefore, you know, I do not want to go all the way and say you must have lawyers in there and so on. But I do think in terms - and by the way there is one thing I failed to mention today and I should have, and I made some reference to him while he was out of the House, and that is the Minister of Municipal Affairs, I was referring to the fact that I would like to see Consumer Affairs handled in some way similar to what the minister has done in Municipal Affairs, and that is you have regional representatives now in various areas of the Province. Before people, councils had to converge, if you like, into St. John's. Now they can go and get decisions, hopefully and so on. Municipal officials are now accessible where they were not previously, and this is something that was badly needed, and it is this type of thing we need for consumer affairs if it is going to work properly. For example, it is no good expecting the people in Labrador to have to come down and knock on a door here in St. John's if they want to get some action on consumer affairs, if you have to do

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that it is just as well for you to forget it. It is not just going to work.

And by the way, in reference to consumer affairs, and I had thought of it earlier and I neglected to mention it, one of the things that really stands out in my mind is one of the things that the Minister of Municipal Affairs was recently engaged in and that is in reference to the insurance for homeowners - badly needed, badly needed!- and I compliment the minister and the other ministers and officials who work with him on this. I mean this was savage. It is all right for people in the trade to get up and say, "Oh, you know, we have this, and we have that." But they were not telling the whole truth or they are just ignorant or speaking out of ignorance. Some shoddy, terrible building in this Province! When you realize, as I have often said, that there was more of a guarantee on a \$2 pair of socks from Woolco than there was on a \$40,000 or \$50,000 house there had to be something wrong. There had to be something wrong. And I believe the minister has made the first step. Now I am sure there are going to be probably some problems with it, and I am equally sure perhaps knowing the political climate the way it is always in this Province that someone is going to jump on him and say, "Ah, ha! That is not the way!" He started it now, give him a chance, let us help him. If you got any recommendations go and see him, and mention it here in the House. I mean this is the type of thing that people can understand. This is the type of thing we need. And I might say again, as I am sure the minister can verify it, not only is this good for the consumer and the purchaser, but it is good for the contractor and the builder.

And by the way, may I also say in connection with that, it is not legislation, but regulations or whatever it is, that people -

MR. PECKFORD: It is going to be privately run because we threatened the industry with legislation if they did not honour that kind of a programme.

MR. NOLAN: Yes.

MR. PECKFORD: It goes back to private enterprise until they prove that they can operate it the way we want it operated so we giving them a chance to.

MR. NOLAN: However may I say for the benefit of all present and the consumer is this that if I am

MR. NOLAN: building houses tomorrow and I am not a member of that group. There is no guarantee about getting a house for me. So people must acquaint themselves with those that are insured under the plan. Now I suggest to the minister, for God's sake in some way find -

MR. ROBERTS: The contractors are not all in it?

MR. NOLAN: No. No. I do not say you have to be in it. You do not have to be in it, you see.

MR. ROBERTS: But surely there should be a requirement that everybody be in it?

MR. PECKFORD: May I make a few remarks?

MR. NOLAN: Please.

MR. PECKFORD: What happened in Alberta was, because we are using the Alberta plan, for the first couple of months there was only about fifty per cent of the builders who registered under the plan - and I know what the hon. member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) is going to say and I agree with him, that we have got to publicize this extensively and I will appreciate his recommendations along those lines - but within six months, ninety per cent of the builders were registered under the plan because they could not get a house to build otherwise. But what is important, and I am anticipating what the member is going to say, is that we must make sure that every single person in the Province who is contemplating building a home through contractors and the industry, that they are aware, and that their first question must be to these people who want to build a house for them, "Are you registered under the Home Warranty Insurance Scheme? If you are not I am sorry I am going to get somebody else who is registered to build my home." That is very, very, very important and I could not agree more, and it is incumbent upon me as minister and upon the government to fully publicize that fact.

It is the considered opinion of myself and of the industry right now that we are going to have most of the builders registered long before the plan is even into effect in any meaningful way. The

MR. PECKFORD: Home Builders Association have taken it upon themselves to register everybody in this area and then go to Cander and Grand Falls and so on across the Province to register all the builders and get them in from the start, because as you can appreciate the Home Builders Association want to get as many people registered as they can because if you get a guy who is not registered and he goes ahead and builds a home and has trouble, it is going to hurt the whole industry and the rest of the contractors.

MR. NOLAN: I thank the minister and as a matter of fact while he says it is incumbent on the government and the department to tell the people I say more than that; I say it is incumbent on every member of this House to tell his constituents, say it publicly in your district. Say it if you are going to turn out a press release on housing. Mention it. We have got to learn to tell people what is good coming out of this House. We have got to learn. Maybe I have been exposed to the media too long, but the fact is Coca Cola does not run one commercial a day.

MR. ROBERTS: And they sell a lot.

MR. NOLAN: So how could we get some big formal act and run it to this House - and it is no good blaming it on the press. The press reported it that evening or the next day and then that is it. That is all they require. They have to take care of the next day's business whatever it is, the next day's news. We have got to keep these things before the public. We have got to. And if we do not do it we have failed. We have failed miserably. So I am hoping that this home thing that the minister has worked out in conjunction with other provinces and so on will be very successful, and I hope that before very long everyone will understand to ask the question, is my builder a member of this conglomerate or company or whatever it is.

MR. PECKFORD: The sad part about it was that while the plan was being contemplated the media seemed to be awfully interested in it, but once it became a fait accompli I did not get too many calls about it.

MR. NOLAN: Well I hope I have attempted to give the minister some mileage today then, because I wanted to compliment him on this because I believe in it. It is as simple as that. And I hope that something will come of it and I hope that people will learn to contact someone to find out, as a matter of fact I do not know how the minister can get some kind of a - through the Building Association or someone so that anyone who is building a house can have a little pamphlet delivered to them or something. There has to be a way. It is not beyond the wit of man. It can be done.

So, Mr. Speaker, again on debtor assistance that I referred to earlier, if I can just go on for a moment to something else. As I have said we all live in a credit society, we are now as a matter of fact moving very rapidly, every man and his dog it seems has got a credit card. By the way some of the profits being made from credit cards is absolutely astronomical. It is fantastic. I do not know if people realize what they are paying for money on some of these credit cards, eighteen per cent. It is only a joke, a joke.

MR. HICKEY: There is legislation on that.

MR. NOLAN: Legislation on it?

MR. HICKEY: Credit cards?

MR. NOLAN: Well not in terms of the percentage though is it, the interest?

MR. HICKEY: I am not quite sure but we brought in legislation back in 1973.

MR. NOLAN: Yes, but all I am saying is that as money becomes more and more accessible and easy to get and so on there is a tendency on behalf of all of us one way or another to get further and further in debt.

MR. HICKEY: Right.

MR. NOLAN: And I am hoping that through education we can help people to realize that when they buy a \$3,000 car - never mind whether

MR. MOLAY: the company is cheating him, that is another matter - they should realize that they are not buying a \$3,000 car, and you do not find very many of those brand new today. Well, let us say a \$5,000 car. You have to consider the interest. You have to consider, especially if you are very young, the cost for insurance and all the other things. Why not tell people the truth and this is where we have failed miserably in our educational system. The minister mentioned earlier that we have dropped Civics, I think, in some areas and this is a crime. It is a real shame and this is why in British Columbia they have a better assistance programme and they have done some wonderful things out there. They have regional offices and they have a Debtors Assistance Division and people are assisted with debt problems and they are counselled on a follow-up basis to help keep them from falling back into bad spending habits.

But these are things that we can do. The Minister of Education has got to use whatever influence he has to get this through to those involved in education in this Province that this is an important matter, very, very important. God knows I know he has enough on his plate, but here is another one for him. We have got to find a way so that young people are not coming out of school defenceless and getting themselves up over their heels, up over the neck in debt, and they get discouraged, disillusioned, mad with their employer, angry with their parents, angry with the world, angry with everyone. They did not know what they were getting into in the first place because they were never told properly.

Now I am afraid, I have certainly exceeded my limit, thanks to the courtesy of the House, Mr. Speaker, and the members, I certainly will conclude with the hope that, one, the government will take a look at the recommendations by the Food Prices Commission, make their stand, release their paper, let us have it. Where do you stand on this? What are you going to do if anything and if not why not?

MR. NOLAN: And also if we have legislation coming in for Consumer Affairs I hope it will be effective and meaningful to the people and I thank you very, very much.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. NOLAN: Is it permissible, Mr. Speaker, to say that the credit card legislation was not proclaimed?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: It is getting near six o'clock. I would like to move the adjournment of the debate, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed that it be called six o'clock? This House therefore adjourns until tomorrow, Thursday at 2:00 P.M. This House now adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday at 2:00 P.M.

I N D E X

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TABLED

MAY 26, 1976

MAY 26 1976

QUESTION NO. 617 BY MR. WHITE (LEWISPORTE)
ORDERS OF THE DAY DATED 27 NOVEMBER 1975.

Mr. White (Lewisporte) - To ask the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

QUESTION

- (1) The number of artesian wells dug in Newfoundland since January 1, 1975.
- (2) The number of places where wells exist but have not been equipped with pumps.

ANSWER

As per attached Schedule.

MAY 26 1976

The number of wells dug in Newfoundland by the Water Services Division since January 1st., 1975. The wells without the asterisks (*) are ones that have not been equipped with pumps.

<u>WELL</u>	<u>DRILLER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
* Burnt Point (Mervin Milley)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	2,788.50
Gull Island (Andrew Delaney)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	2,665.50
* Northern Bay (Dominic Mullay)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	2,194.40
* Abrahams Cove (Mrs. Lepage)	West Coast Drilling	2,847.63
Barachois Brook (Mrs. Hinks)	West Coast Drilling	2,490.10
Bay Bulls (William Glyn)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	3,416.60
Bay Bulls (A. Mulcahay)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	2,597.80
* Bay Bulls (William T. Oates)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	2,080.20
Bay Bulls (Ken Williams)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	2,063.30
* Bay Bulls (Ray Williams)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	2,520.00
Black Duck Cove (Calvin Dredge)	Waltson's Drilling Co. Ltd	2,641.16
* Blaketown (Gordon Drover)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	3,647.30
Blaketown (Fred Russell Jr.)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	3,528.50
* Blaketown (Eric Hefford)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd.	2,600.70
Bloomfield (Clarence Abbott)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	3,405.93
Boswarlus (Clyde Harvey)	West Coast Drilling Co. Ltd	3,501.00
* Brazils Mill (Azariah Smith)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	2,737.60
Brighton (Arthur Pinsent)	J. Goodyear & Sons Ltd	18,049.26
Brigus South (Annie Hayes)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	2,933.60
Brigus South (Michael Morgan)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	1,826.30
Brooklyn (Goerge Hancock)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	2,990.33
Buchan's Junction (Melvin Best)	J. Goodyear & Sons Ltd	1,506.00
Bunyan's Cove (Arthur Oldford)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	2,917.13
Bunyan's Cove (Gus Oldford)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	1,453.83
* Burgoyne's Cove (Martin Sceviour)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	4,110.73
* Burgoyne's Cove (Herbert Carberry)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	2,810.93
Burnt Point (C. Wicks)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	2,512.90
Campbell Creek (John McDonald)	West Coast Drilling Ltd	3,280.05
Campbell Creek (Mike McDonald)	West Coast Drilling Ltd	2,623.27
Campbell Creek (Ron McDonald)	West Coast Drilling Ltd	2,056.40

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<u>WELL</u>	<u>DRILLER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Cape Broyle (Joan O'Brien)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	2,791.60
* Caplin Cove (C. Bursey)	Dynamic Drilling Ltd	2,992.90
* Cavendish (Richard Critch)	Lewis A. Potter	3,503.78
* Cavendish (Norman Jackson)	Lewis A. Potter	2,039.78
* Champney's Arm (Augustus Pippy)	Dynamic Drilling Ltd	950.40
* Champney's West	Dynamic Drilling Ltd	4,034.90
* Champney's West (Blanche Moody)	Dynamic Drilling Ltd	712.50
* Champney's West (Hickey)	Dynamic Drilling Ltd	562.50
Charleston (Charles E. Fry)	Dynamic Drilling Ltd	3,245.73
Dildo (Carl Pinsent)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	2,173.40
Dunfield (James March)	Dynamic Drilling Ltd	1,214.63
* Fairy Pond (Robert O'Brian)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	2,779.20
Fairy Pond (Frank Dalton)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	1,613.40
* Flat Bay	Waltson's Drilling Co Ltd	5,482.53
Foxtrap-Dunn's Hill Rd. (E. Rideout)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	3,566.20
Foxtrap-Peachytown Rd. (G. Hiscock)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	3,692.80
Grand Bay (Isaac Lomond)	Waltson's Drilling Co Ltd	2,841.16
#11 Grates Cove (Samuel Anthony)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	2,694.10
Grates Cove (Gerald Doyle) #D-3	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	3,159.10
* #1 Grates Cove (Murdock Driscoll)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	3,088.90
* #4 Grates Cove (Daniel Vey)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	3,767.90
Great Codroy (Francis Gall)	Waltson's Drilling Co. Ltd	3,039.50
* Green's Hr. (Leonard Brace)	Lewis A. Potter	2,548.61
Gull Island (Walter Doyle)	Lewis A. Potter	2,506.26
* Gull Island (Patrick Doyle)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	2,917.90
Gull Island (Leo Doyle)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	1,577.90
* Hallstown (Nick Hurley)	Martin B. Hammond	3,468.90
* Harry's Hr. (Raymond King)	J. Goodyear & Sons Ltd	4,241.86
Hay Cove (Lewis Hedderson)	Waltson's Drilling Co. Ltd.	12,402.00
* Holyrood (Leo Quinlan)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	383.50
* Hopeall (William Cumby)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	3,535.40
Jamestown (Gordon Elliott)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	3,032.93

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<u>WELL</u>	<u>DRILLER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Jackson's Cove (Robert A. Knight)	J. Goodyear & Sons	14,718.48
Jeffreys (Herbert Mooris)	Waltson's Drilling Co. Ltd	2,932.96
Jerry's Nose (Carrol Leone)	West Coast Drilling Ltd	1,244.00
* Lunce Cove (Cummings)	Martin B. Hammond	4,063.36
Langdon's Cove (Cecil Budgell)	J. Goodyear & Sons Ltd	3,121.88
Long Beach (James Doyle)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	2,742.90
Lower Cove (Jerry Campbell)	West Coast Drilling Ltd	2,158.89
* Lower Island Cove (Sandy Morris)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	3,152.90
New Bonaventure (George Miller)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	2,955.23
* New Harbour (Gerald Goosney)	P. Sullivan & Son Ltd	9,376.62
New Harbour (Lewis March)	Lewis A. Potter	3,199.36
* Northern Bay (Leo Hogan)	Lewis A. Potter	2,836.45
O'Regan's (Bert Downey)	Waltson's Drilling Co. Ltd	3,173.60
* O'Regan's (Edward T. Ryan)	Waltson's Drilling Co. Ltd	6,336.50
Open Hall (Samuel Clements)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	5,288.96
* Petley (Michael Cook)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	2,894.93
Piccidally (Hilrey Strickland)	West Coast Drilling Ltd	2,226.37
* Pigeon Cove (Norman Gibbons)	Waltson's Drilling Co. Ltd	2,932.96
* Point Verde (Patrick McGrath)	Dynamic Drilling Co. Ltd	3,086.93
Port de Grace (Clayton Ralph)	Martin B. Hammond	3,348.00
Riverhead-Hr. Grace (T. Cleary)	P. Sullivan & Sons Ltd	2,530.10
* Riverhead-Hr. Grace (J. Mercer)	P. Sullivan & Sons Ltd	2,378.00
Robinsons (James Gale Jr.)	Waltson's Drilling Co. Ltd	1,579.84
St. Barbe (Mr. Doyle)	Waltson's Drilling Co. Ltd	1,841.16
St. Lunaire (Mr. Griquet)	Waltson's Drilling Co. Ltd	4,072.80
* St. Patrick's (Charlie Green)	J. Goodyear & Sons Ltd	2,088.86
Ship Cove (Bernard Brake)	West Coast Drilling Ltd	3,209.01
Ship Cove (Wallace Jesso)	West Coast Drilling Ltd	2,667.12
Ship Cove (Lindberg Jesso)	West Coast Drilling Ltd	2,552.98
Ship Cove (Lewis Wheeler)	West Coast Drilling Ltd	2,861.58
Shoal Cove East (W. Mitchelmore)	Waltson's Drilling Co. Ltd	4,073.48
Silverdale (Roy Wheeler)	J. Goodyear & Sons Ltd.	12,957.94

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MAY 26 1976

QUESTION NO. 650 BY MR. MOORES (CARBONEAR)
ORDERS OF THE DAY DATED DECEMBER 3RD, 1975

QUESTION

MR. MOORES (CARBONEAR): To ask the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing if his Department intends to finish construction of artesian wells, particularly those located in the Lower Island Cove to Northern Bay segment of the District of Carbonear.

ANSWER

My Department intends to finish construction of as many wells as available financing will permit.

MAY 26 1976

QUESTION NO. 651

BY MR. MOORES (CARBONEAR)

ORDERS OF THE DAY DATED DECEMBER 3, 1975

MR. MOORES (CARBONEAR) To ask the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

QUESTION:

The amount of popular support in favour of the introduction of the Local Improvement District of Adam's Cove to Kingston, and the length of time consumed in acquiring this support.

ANSWER:

First correspondence on this matter received June 9, 1971.

Petition circulated December 15, 1971

Petition received March 9, 1972.

Percentage in favour - 60%

Date of Incorporation August 16, 1972.

Hon J. P. Smalley

MAJ 6 1970

95. HOW MANY CASES WERE THERE OF LEGAL AID IN EACH OF THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1970-75 AND THE COST TO THE TREASURY EACH YEAR?

	<u>No. Cases</u>		<u>Cost</u>
1970-71	Nil		Nil
1971-72	Nil		Nil
1972-73	8	Net Claimable Expenses	\$ 2,734.22
Federal contribution 90% of Net Claimable Expenses			<u>2,460.80</u>
Net cost to Provincial Treasury			\$ 273.42
1973-74	270	Net Claimable Expenses	\$ 85,613.97
Federal contribution 90% of Net Claimable Expenses			<u>77,052.57</u>
Net cost to Provincial Treasury			\$ 8,561.40
1974-75	673	Net Claimable Expenses	\$200,606.35
Federal contribution 90% of Net Claimable Expenses			<u>180,545.72</u>
Net cost to Provincial Treasury			\$ 20,060.63

M. Kealey

MAY 26 1970

575. WHAT ARE THE NUMBER OF JOURNEYS INVOLVING PUBLIC BUSINESS WHICH THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE HAS MADE SINCE JANUARY 1, 1975 TO PLACES OUTSIDE CANADA, SHOWING FOR EACH JOURNEY THE FOLLOWING:

(a) THE NAMES OF THE COUNTRIES VISITED:

The United States of America and Switzerland

(b) DATES OF THE JOURNEYS:

New York - May 5-7, 1975 inclusive
Switzerland - April 12-27, 1975

(c) THE TOTAL COST TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, MEALS, GROUND AND AIR TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER EXPENSES:

Total cost of New York trip	\$ 451.50
Total cost of Switzerland trip	<u>1,895.00</u>
Total cost of two trips	<u>\$ 2,346.50</u>

(d) WHETHER OR NOT ANY MEMBER OF HIS STAFF, OR ANY OTHER PERSON, ACCOMPANIED HIM FOR ALL OR A PORTION OF HIS JOURNEY:

Mr. Vincent P. McCarthy Q.C., Deputy Attorney General accompanied the Minister to New York.

(e) THE NATURE OF THE PUBLIC BUSINESS ATTENDED TO ON THE JOURNEY:

- (1) New York trip was re: Government bond issue
- (2) Switzerland trip was to attend Law of the Sea Conference at Geneva.

MAY 26 1975

REPLY TO QUESTION NO. 614 ASKED BY THE MEMBER FOR
LAPORTE, MR. STEPHEN NEARY, ON ORDER PAPER NO. 4/75

Question: To ask the Honourable Minister of Industrial and Rural Development to lay upon the table of the House the following information:

List of Designated areas in Newfoundland and Labrador that qualify for grants and assistance from DREE for infrastructure. Table all correspondence between the Province and DREE regarding the selection of these areas for water and sewerage, roads and schools.

ANSWER:

The Department of Rural Development does not have any programme or agreement with DREE for Infrastructure water and sewerage, roads or schools.

The Department of Rural Development under ARDA III, DREE provides for incentive grants to small industries and assistance grants to Regional Development Associations and are not restricted to any "Designated Areas", but apply to all areas of the Province.

23 November 1975.

MAY 26 1976

Order Paper Dated: November 24, 1975
Question Number: 123
Asked by: Honourable Member for Twillingate
Directed to: Honourable Minister for Mines and Energy

QUESTION:

For the average rate of annual increase of electrical consumption in the Province in the period 1960-75, and the estimated rates of consumption in the period 1976-1990.

ANSWER:

Prior to 1967 the load growth was approximately 6% per year (i.e., below the long-term national average of just over 7%). The average rate of growth in total consumption of electrical energy in the period from 1968 to 1974 has been 11%. During the same period the Canadian growth rate has been 7.6%.

The Island load growth is projected for the period 1976 to 1990 at the rate of 8.1%.

Order Paper Dated: November 24, 1975
Question Number: 124
Asked by: Honourable Member for Twillingate
Directed to: Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy

MAY 26 1976

QUESTION:

For a statement showing all increases in retail prices of electricity in the Province in the period 1970-75.

ANSWER:

Information regarding increases in the retail prices of electricity in the Province in the period 1970-75 is on file with the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities and is available for examination.

MAY 26 1976

Order Paper Dated: November 24, 1975
Question Number: 135
Asked by: Honourable Member for Twillingate
Directed to: Honourable Minister of Mines
and Energy

QUESTION:

For the total capital expenditure made by the Newfoundland and Labrador Power Commission or Corporation, by whatsoever name it has been or is known, since its inception.

ANSWER:

Approximately \$262,367,000 to October 31, 1975.

Order Paper Dated: November 24, 1975
Question Number: 139
Asked by: Honourable Member for Twillingate
Directed to: Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy

MAY 26 1976

QUESTION:

For a statement showing the rates charged by the Newfoundland and Labrador Power Corporation, and/or Commission, for electricity sold to the Newfoundland Light and Power Company Limited, or any other electric or other utility company, in each of the financial years 1970-75.

ANSWER:

- April 1, 1969 to October 31, 1972
 - i. First 8,250,000 kilowatthours per month at 4 mills per kilowatthour.
 - ii. All excess at 6 mills per kilowatthour.
- November 1, 1972 to March 31, 1975
 - 6 mills per kilowatthour for all energy.
- April 1, 1975 to December 31, 1975
 - 9.7 mills per kilowatthour for all energy.

Order Paper Dated: November 24, 1975
Question Number: 140
Asked by: Honourable Member for Twillingate
Directed to: Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy

MAY 26 1976

QUESTION:

For a statement showing, for each financial year 1970-75, the rate charged to the consuming public for electricity by Newfoundland Light and Power Company Limited, or any other electric or other utility company.

ANSWER:

Information regarding rates charged to the consuming public for electricity by Newfoundland Light and Power Company Limited or any other electric or other utility company is on file with the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities and is available for examination.

MAY 26 1976

Order Paper Dated: May 3rd, 1976
Question Number: 755
Asked by: Honourable Member for LaPoile
Directed to: The Honourable the Minister of Mines
and Energy.

QUESTION:

Cost per cord to transport wood from Goose Bay to the Linerboard Mill in Stephenville. (Shipping and stevedoring costs only are required for the purpose of answering above question).

ANSWER:

The cost per cord to transport wood from Goose Bay to the Linerboard Mill in Stephenville is as follows:

	<u>ACTUAL</u>		<u>BUDGET 1976-77</u>
	<u>1974/75</u>	<u>1975/76</u>	
Loading Cost - Goose Bay	3.04	2.92	3.03
Shipping	23.44	25.48	23.25
Wood Recycling & Handling	3.90	2.57	3.41

C O N T E N T S

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Statements by Ministers	
Mr. Hickey made a statement concerning disturbances at the Gushue's Pond Park.	8763
Commented on by Mr. Rowe.	8765
Presenting Petitions	
In behalf of Premier Moores, Mr. N. Windsor tabled two petitions seeking that the fish plant at Bide Arm be reactivated.	8766
Spoken to by:	
Mr. Neary	8767
Mr. Smallwood	8768
Mr. Rideout	8769
Mr. Lundrigan	8770
Mr. Roberts	8770
By Mr. Patterson in behalf of residents of Fair Haven who object to the presence in the community during the Summer months of horses and cattle not owned by residents of the community.	8774
Spoken to by:	
Mr. Rowe	8774
Mr. Callan	8775
Mr. Rousseau	8777
By Mr. Doody in behalf of residents of Healey's Pond, Conception Harbour, seeking to have the road upgraded and paved.	8778
Spoken to by Mr. J. Winsor.	8779
Notices of Motion	
Mr. Doody gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce Bills Nos. 72 and 67.	8779
Mr. Hickman gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce Bill No. 66.	8780
Answers to Questions for which Notice has been Given	
Mr. Maynard replied to Question No. 362 asked by Mr. Smallwood.	8780
Mr. House replied to a question raised the previous day by Mr. Lush concerning the equivalency testing programme.	8781
Answers were tabled to Questions Nos. 617, 650, 651, 60, 117, 108, 95, 575, 614, 123, 124, 135, 139, 140, 755.	8783

C O N T E N T S - 2

Oral Questions (continued)	Page
The question of title to former Newfoundland Railway property in the Trinity South area. Mr. Rowe, Mr. Hickman.	8787
Query as to whether title to the property should revert to the Crown in right of Newfoundland. Mr. Rowe, Mr. Hickman.	8788
Query as to whether title was passed over to the Crown in right of Canada, not to Canadian National Railways, Mr. Smallwood, Mr. Hickman.	8789
Query as to what action government has taken to expand the jurisdiction of the Parliamentary Commissioner. Mr. Neary, Mr. Hickman.	8790
Query as to whether a recent decision of the Supreme Court restricts the Ombudsman in gaining access to records. Mr. Neary, Mr. Hickman.	8791
*Mr. Neary expressed dissatisfaction with the answer and gave notice he wished to debate the matter on the Adjournment.	8792
Query as to why certain provincial parks are opened for the season while others have not. Mr. Flight, Mr. Hickey.	8792
Query as to whether advertising is placed in national journals promoting the tourist industry. Mr. Strachan, Mr. Hickey.	8793
Query as to why a specific advertisement refers only to the Island section of the province. Mr. Strachan, Mr. Hickey.	8793
Query as to whether Mr. Hickey's tie is an 'official' tie. Mr. Roberts, Mr. Hickey.	8795
Query as to whether the manufacturer or vendor of the tie have been licenced to use the Provincial crest. Mr. Roberts, Mr. Hickey.	8796
Surplus of nursing assistants. Mr. Neary, MR. H. Collins.	8797
Query as to where the number of classes for teaching nursing assistants will be cut back. Mr. Neary, Mr. H. Collins.	8798
Query as to whether the Province has a shortage or surplus of X-ray and lab technicians. Mr. Neary, Mr. H. Collins.	8798
Land freeze in the Bay Bulls area. Mr. Simmons, Mr. Lundrigan.	8798
Involvement of the provincial government in a federal government project to construct a centre for fishery control in the area. Mr. Simmons, Mr. Lundrigan.	8799

C O N T E N T S - 3

Oral Questions (continued)	Page
Query as to whether the administration is involved in any activity that would lead to the development of alternate harbour and port facilities at Bay Bulls to supplement the St. John's operation. Mr. Simmons, Mr. Lundrigan.	8800
Stadium for St. George's. Mrs. MacIsaac, Mr. Wells.	8801
Replacement for Scrivener Projects Newfoundland Limited at the Health Sciences Centre. Mr. Neary, Mr. Rousseau.	8802
Query as to who are the overseers for the project. Mr. Neary, Mr. Rousseau.	8803
Query as to how long such a situation can last. Mr. Neary, Mr. Rousseau.	8803
 Orders of the Day	
Motion 11 - That a Select Committee be established to enquire into and report upon the prospects for Newfoundland and Labrador, including the prospects for economic growth, etc.	
Mr. Roberts	8805
The motion was defeated.	8829
Motion 10 - That this House directs the government immediately to implement those recommendations of the Food Prices Review Board's report on "Food Prices in Newfoundland; Comparison with Mainland Regions," etc.	
Mr. Nolan	8829
Adjourned the debate.	8859
Adjournment	8859