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SPEAKER; THE HONOURABLE GERALD RYAN OTTENHEIMER

The House met at 2:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Fisheries.

HON. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by, I think, all of the residents of Branch and Point Lance that general area, the prayer of which calls upon the government to complete the North Harbour-Branch road. This, Mr. Speaker, is a very important link, a part of which is already completed, and a part of which will be completed this year. But the residents there realize, of course, that I think four or five miles will remain to be built and constructed, and are very anxious that the work on it continue.

This road, Mr. Speaker, is very important to the people of that community. Branch is becoming, it certainly has the potential to become, a very important fishing community.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Branch itself?

MR. W. CARTER: Branch, St. Mary's Bay. At the present time the Federal Government are completing a breakwater costing in excess of \$200,000, the Department of Fisheries, Provincial, has certain plans with respect to the development of the fisheries in Branch, and the completion of that road will certainly add tremendously to the economic viability, the economic potential of that community. It will also, Mr. Speaker, reduce the travelling distance from Branch to St. John's by forty miles. Without the road being completed, the people have to travel all the way down the Cape Shore, come out through Placentia, Jeryside, Freshwater and Dunville, an additional distance of forty miles.

So I am very pleased and very happy, Mr. Speaker, to support this petition, and I would ask the support of my colleagues, that it be tabled and referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to support

Mr. Neary:

the petition. But I am rather surprised to hear the former Premier ask questions about this road as if the hon. member -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Oh, no! I know all about Branch!

MR. NEARY: - did not know about it, because it was the former administration that started the construction of that road to provide a short-cut, really, to the Trans-Canada Highway and to reduce the number of miles. It has been very slow progress, Sir, very, very slow going on that particular piece of road, as on several other stretches of road in Newfoundland, including the Loop Road in Bonavista North and the road in Bonavista South.

But, Mr. Speaker, having said that I am not -

AN HON. MEMBER: And in Labrador South.

MR. NEARY: And in Labrador South. - quite sure whether the member for St. Mary's and the Capes (Mr. W. Carter) is going to get the support of all his colleagues on that side of the House, because I do not believe the member for Placentia East (Mr. Patterson) would agree with everything that was said by the hon. minister because I think one of the reasons for the slow progress was, and the member for Placentia East would probably bear this out, that the people in that area wanted all of the traffic to go towards Placentia instead of coming towards St. John's. So I do not know if there were any political overtones to slow down the construction of that piece of road or not.

And then there was the matter of the fish plant, where the fish plant should be located in Placentia or in St. Mary's or Point Lance or Branch or wherever it is. But anyway I think the people in that part of the Cape Shore are quite justified in asking to have that stretch of road completed. And I would like to see the government give every consideration to getting that piece of road completed this year. And one thing that I would like to ask the minister - he probably cannot answer my question - was whether his old friend Dolph Nash signed that petition or not?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Twillingate.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, I do not know of any petition that has come to the House in the present session since it opened that I approve and support more cordially than I do the one presented by the hon. minister. It seemed to me to be quite outrageous that that road did not exist. It seemed to me that there ought to be the great circle that you would go up from Placentia, go right on up the Eastern side of Placentia Bay to Branch, and then not have to come all of the way back again over that road, and that road itself, by the way, I greatly favoured improving, and some improvement has been made and I congratulate the hon. member for the district for the improvements that have been made, and I believe continue to be made on that main road Southward from Placentia extending all of the way to Branch.

But, Sir, it ought not to be necessary for a person having gone that far as to reach Branch to have to come back over the same road. You should be able to keep on going and make the grand circle. Now I had another reason to favour that. I went over it by helicopter, I got the helicopter one day and I flew the distance from Branch following the probable route of the road. And to my great disappointment that area of country between Branch and the place where the road comes to from the other direction -

MR. W. CARTER: St. Brides.

MR. SMALLWOOD: St. Brides - that that territory in between does not in fact contain the fine stands of timber that I had understood it to contain. I was quite disappointed. Nevertheless there is every possible reason for completing that great circle, that circular route. And so I am very hearty and very cordial in my support of the petition proposed by the minister because it happens to be one of my own pet projects, indeed so much so that I began it before I went out of office, the road has been begun. The bridge has been built across, you had to get across the bridge there right in Branch and then go on from there, and the road had actually been begun. Now I do not know how much of it has been added to it since I went out. If there is a petition in today through the hon. member

Mr. Smallwood:

for that district, it would rather suggest that the road has not made too much progress. In all events it has not been completed. I think it ought to be completed. This is perhaps not the year to be pressing for any substantial expenditure; I do not believe the government have the money. I do not believe they are going to have the money. And so, although I agree in principle, I think perhaps the government will have to think twice about any new capital account projects. But I support this. I am all for it. It is my own baby. Why should I not support it?

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

MR. J. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my colleagues to support the petition of the hon. member for St. Mary's-the-Capes on the road in question. And I hope that as has been indicated by the member for Twillingate, that while all of it may not be able to be done this year as requested in the petition, perhaps a substantial part of it could be done starting maybe this year, and next year and the year after. There is no question about the necessity for such a link up, and I am sure that all people who are familiar with the area, and certainly with the people down there, will certainly support the petition, and I hope as the minister lays the petition on the table for presentation to the department to which it relates, we will make every effort with his colleague to see that this road is brought about in at least two or three steps, and that it will be done. I am sure the Minister of Transportation knows the area quite well, and depending on the needs for capital works projects this year, capital expenditure, that perhaps something can be done. I am not sure where it lies in terms of Provincial priority, but we certainly do and I would want the member to know that we do support the prayer of the petition.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Placentia East.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, at the risk of offending or disappointing the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) I wish to support this petition. The road itself is certainly a good idea. It was started in 1966, and I think it is a little too long in the cards. I am familiar with that part of the country, and I certainly would like to see the road completed for the reasons outlined by the hon. member for that district.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Before the hon. member sits down, in 1966 it was commenced, he says, but that was from the opposite, was it not?

MR. PATTERSON: That was from the North Harbour end.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Yes, yes!

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure I support the petition that has been presented to the House of Assembly today by my colleague, the member for St. Marys - The Capes (Mr. W. Carter). The road referred to by the petitioners is a road that this government has done substantial work on for the past number of years. In fact, last year we spent substantial funds to carry out a total of five miles of reconstruction and new construction. This year the people have been informed that if at all possible there will be a new diversion and a new bridge constructed at North Harbour and, of course, every consideration given, and hopefully funds will be available for the carrying on of the work for the construction of this road which will link the North Harbour area with the Branch - St. Brides area. So I am very pleased to support the petition.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. John's East.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of some seventy-seven people, a few of whom come from the great district of St. John's East, a lot of the others come from the lesser districts in St. John's. We also, Mr. Speaker, have people

Mr. Marshall.

on this petition from the district of Gander, a substantial number of them, from the district of Conception Bay South and from other districts of hon. members in the Province.

Now the one thing, while all signators do not come from the same district, Mr. Speaker, they do have one thing in common in that they are all veterans of the Second World War, they are all employees of the Government of Canada at the present time who were transferred on Union in 1949 to the Government of Canada, and they all request the Provincial Government to take into account their pensionable service for the period while they were in service during the war, in some cases from 1939 to 1945, in the same manner as the provincial government now takes into account their service while they were actually working for the Government of the Island at the particular time.

Before getting into the petition I think the -

AN HON. MEMBER: Newfoundland.

MR. MARSHALL: No, the Government of the Island at the time. That was prior to Confederation.

MR. NEARY: They were not working in Labrador.

MR. MARSHALL: The petition, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could read the petition, because that explains it adequately although I will have a few more comments on it. "Whereas the Government of Newfoundland announced in its Budget Speech of 1975 that effective April 1, 1975, veterans who served in World War I and World War II and other major military conflicts would be eligible to have their war service to their country credited for pension purposes; and whereas the War Service Pensions Act, 1975 was duly enacted by the House of Assembly which provided that war service should be counted as pensionable service for these persons employed by the government of the Province for a ten year period; and whereas the act does not include the counting of war service of Newfoundland war veterans who were employees of the Newfoundland Commission of

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Government at the time of Confederation and were transferred at Confederation to various federal government departments in the Government of Canada. "

MR. SMALLWOOD: May I interrupt the hon member to ask him if this is a reference to persons, to Newfoundlanders, who worked for the government before the war, then served in the war, then resumed service to the government; or did their service to the direct civil service, service to the government, begin after their service in the war?

MR. MARSHALL: Well, some of them, Mr, Speaker, commenced before the war and some of them after, but the crucial period was that in 1949 on the transfer some of them were transferred to federal government departments, as it goes on to say here. "Whereas the act - this act that was passed by the government - did not apparently fully carry out the policies set forth in the Budget Speech in 1975 in that certain Newfoundland war veterans who were transferred to various federal government departments at Confederation do not receive credit for their war service whilst their comrades who were employed in the provincial government will receive such credit; and whereas the said war veterans who were transferred at the time of Confederation to the federal government departments appear to have been discriminated against in relation to war veterans who entered the civil service of the Province from the employed Newfoundland Commission of Government, now therefore we the undersigned petitioners hereby petition the hon. House of Assembly and request that steps be taken by way of legislation or otherwise to enable the war service of Newfoundland war veterans who were employees of the Newfoundland Commission of Government at the time of Confederation, and who were transferred to various federal government departments of the Government of Canada to be counted as pensionable service of the said war veterans provided the said war veteran has performed not

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less than ten years of pensionable service with the Newfoundland Commission of Government and the Government of Canada prior to addition of such war service."

Now it will probably take a few more moments,

Mr. Speaker, just to explain briefly the nature of the petition and why they feel they are discriminated against. By Term 39 (2) of the Terms of Union the Province of Newfoundland was to assume responsibility for pensionable service of employees prior to March 31, 1949 of those civil servants who were transferred to the Federal Civil Service. Now in fact, Mr. Speaker, and I would emphasize this, the Province actually pays amounts to the federal government which in turn pays it to those people who have been pensioned from the federal government. This it does in accordance with this Term of Union.

It, therefore, - that is the Government of the Province and not the Government of Canada - is responsible for those persons who retire and will retire from the service with the federal government for a period of service prior to transfer. And many of these people, I would point out, had no choice and were directed in which service they should serve.

Now since the Government of Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, is responsible for pensions with respect to all employees at the date of union, whether now employed with Newfoundland or Canada, it would appear discriminatory indeed to allow as pensionable service war service only of those working in the Provincial Public Service.

Now to illustrate this: If A and B enlisted in 1939, say, and they both returned in 1946 to the Civil Service of Newfoundland, and then in 1949 A goes to the federal government and B stays in the provincial government, the effect of the Pension Act is that B is recognized in 1975 for thirty-seven years, but A for only thirty years, and this is unfair. In other words A's pensionable service does not include the time he spent in service of his country while B does

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purely because B is a provincial civil servant. A is a federal civil servant. It is so, but do not forget the Province, under the Terms of Union, has assumed the obligation of paying the pension portion for those people who did transfer and who were in service prior to 1949.

Now the petitioners here feel this is unfair, and it does not carry out the policy of the government, and we cannot say - as I say, it is a Canadian government responsibility, because we assumed responsibility for all employees -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. gentleman's five minutes have expired. He will require the leave of the House to continue.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: By leave.

MR. MARSHALL: I shall not take too much more time, Mr. Speaker, but I do need a little bit more time to develop this.

To illustrate the unfairness and the discriminatory nature of it again, you could take the case of A and B in 1939 who were in the employ of the government of the day and B stays, does not go to war, and A does go to war, and they get up to 1949 and both of them transfer to the federal service. Now the provincial government under the Terms of Union has to provide for the pensionable service of B, who did not go to war from 1939 to 1949 for the ten years, but

MR. MARSHALL:

with respect to A, who goes into the federal service, they only have to provide for him for four years. In other words, they do not include his pensionable service. Now I know that the government recognizing this, Mr. Speaker, would not want its policy to be discriminatory and would want to right any injustice caused by unequal treatment. I also know and feel that some public servants of the day have apparently considered the matter and seem to have some difficulty in appreciating the clear obligation of the government here. Now they are right in their application of the act, but I do not think we can be imprisoned by the act itself because the government obviously is not run by civil servants. The government is run by the government here and it is up to the government here to make its policy apply fully if it is necessary for to do.

Now petitions of this nature, Mr. Speaker, are for citizens of the Province to redress their grievances. There are not too many people involved here. It is my understanding of the federal civil servants who were war veterans and come under the ambit of the terms of union, we are only talking really about ninety or ninety-five because this petition represents some ninety per cent of them in the Province itself. I cannot see myself, Mr. Speaker, - there are few petitions that have been presented in this House, I would give this opinion, although many of them, all of them have a great degree of importance, but there were few that appear to have a higher claim for redressing of grievances than this particular one.

Now, it is in the government's power and in its hands and I hope the government will act. It is somewhat easy for us in this day and age where most of us in this House - World War II is perhaps just a memory, if in fact with some people it is not even a memory. But with most of us we do not remember the harsh realities and we tend to romanticize the war. We tend to look at it in school boy fantasies as a great adventure as it were and tend to forget the fact that these are people who took six years from the prime of their life and went off to fight in a great battle at the time. It is easy for us to forget it at this time. But the fact

MR. MARSHALL:

of the matter is that many of these people now are coming to their retirement age. So the matter is becoming a matter of great urgency. As I say there are not many people involved. It is not my custom to advocate extra expenditure by way of pension, salaries or otherwise in this House because I feel that the precarious financial position in this country is such that we cannot afford the luxury of entertaining. This is a case, Mr. Speaker, where the policy of the government, with all good intentions, has operated, in my view, a discrimination against some people who should be treated equally with their comrades who served with them in the war itself and that I would ask then that the petition be tabled, placed on the table of the House, referred to the department to which it relates, that is to the Minister of Finance for attention, and I would hope that the government would see fit to give attention to this. It would not involve an awful lot of money. But it would certainly cure the situation, prevent unnecessary discrimination and recognize people who very deservedly deserve to be recognized along with their comrades who served with them in World War II and who are in the employ of the Provincial Government now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure on behalf of my colleagues to support the petition presented so ably by the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall). It was, to say the least, a rather complicated petition. It took me, at least, a great deal of time to completely understand what was involved in the prayer of the petition. But obviously there is an injustice. There is discrimination. Something very unfair is happening here to people, to the last people in the world who it should affect, those people who laid down their lives, not in this particular case, but took a chance on their lives in fighting for our country during the World War. Now I am not so sure, Sir, if this discrimination or this injustice or inequity was deliberate. It seems

MR. ROWE:

to me more that it was simply an oversight. The very complicated nature of the petition indicates that this could quite easily be an oversight that could be very easily rectified by a minor amendment made in the particular act to which it relates. Sir, I agree with the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) that there is a great deal of urgency with respect to this particular petition because some people are ready to retire. It certainly is not going to break, however desperate the finances of the Province may be, and it is not going to break the back of this Province, that one thing alone. It is not going to cost that much.

So in supporting the petition, Sir, I can only say that the Minister of Finance act as quickly and as promptly as he possibly can on this particular petition. I am sure he will be quite happy to get up and support it, straighten out this oversight and at the appropriate time, as quickly as possible, move the necessary amendment to that particular act so that these people who served the country so well during the war will get fair and just treatment.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I support the prayer of the petition, Sir. I want to congratulate the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) in the manner in which he presented this particular petition, Sir. I do not think in a good many years that I have heard a petition so well presented and the case so well stated as the member did in presenting the petition on behalf of the Legion members. It is a very, very good petition. There is a grave injustice there. It is something that probably we did not foresee when we passed the act in 1975 granting credit to veterans who had served in the Second World War, and I presume too in the First World War for that matter. There may be some people who have served in both wars. But I know that one or two of the gentlemen referred to in the petition came to see me recently to explain the injustice and the - I suppose what you could call the discriminatory aspects of their not getting credit for their time whereby the veterans in Newfoundland

MR. NEARY:

did get the credit. I think the case has been very well stated. I think the petition is justified.

I want to take advantage of the presenting of the petition, Sir, to remind the hon. the Premier on another matter in relation to veterans' pensions and that was in connection with the legislation that we passed in 1975 whereby we gave veterans credit for pensions, for time worked in the public service providing it was over ten years. We did not realize at the time that we were creating a little bit of an injustice there. If I remember correctly the Premier told the House that we would let the legislation go through and in the next session of the House the legislation would be amended because there were two or three outstanding cases that I know, and I believe the Premier is familiar with one at least, where a person has nine years of service in the public service and served his time overseas and he does not qualify to have it stacked to qualify him for his pension from the public service. The Premier promised to have that act amended. We have not seen any evidence of the amendment coming into the House yet. I have asked the Premier on a couple of occasions about it. The Premier indicated that the government intended to honour its commitment to the veterans in this particular case. So I would like to also while I am supporting the petition to remind the Premier of this commitment that he has made.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

HON. W. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, as has been indicated by some of the hon. gentlemen who rose to support this petition as I do, this is an extremely complex situation and one in which I am absolutely delighted and amazed that the hon. the Opposition House Leader grasped so quickly. He said it took him quite a little while to grasp the full significance of the thing. But now that he is fully familiar with it he supports it completely. All of us, of course, Sir, support completely any help or assistance or any rights that the war veterans of Newfoundland have. One has to be very, very careful when one accepts the rights and duties of another jurisdiction.

MR. DOODY:

In this case I talk of the Government of Canada. Many of the people who are signators to this particular petition, and many others whom we do not know of who are employees of the Federal Government, are entitled to the benefits and the Federal Government is responsible for their pensions. I can see absolutely no reason in the world why the Government of Canada should not recognize the war service of the people of Newfoundland who, as has been said, fought so valiantly and so well indeed. Indeed, Sir, I think the history of Newfoundland's participation in both World Wars puts the participation of Canada as a whole to shame. I think it is absolutely deplorable that the Government of Canada has not seen fit to recognize the war service of those employees of their government who served in the Newfoundland forces as being pensionable. This is the position

MR. DOODY: that we have been advocating. To extend the policy, Sir, to its ultimate and logical conclusion one would have to think in terms of all the employees of every jurisdiction in Canada, not only the federal government but indeed everybody who served during the Great War or Great Wars or minor wars or whatever wars, did have war service which is recognized under the War Service Pensions Act here in the Province, the War Service Pensions Act, 1975.

At that time we here in this hon. House recognized the right of all the employees who transferred or who elected to remain here in the Province and work for the provincial government of having their war service credited as pensionable service.

MR. NEARY: But who worked ten years here or longer.

MR. DOODY: Any changes in Newfoundland's pension legislation brought about since April 1, 1949, have not been accepted by the federal government as being applicable to Newfoundland transferred employees. Somebody mentioned, I think, during the presentation of the petition its being part of the Terms of Union. Well, since April 1, 1949, the federal government has refused to recognize any of the legislation that we have brought in to help those employees of the Government of Newfoundland as being applicable to those people who transferred to the federal service.

There are groups, Sir, to whom this situation applies. It is not only the seventy or eighty or ninety people who signed the petition. There are a great many more. We do not know how many of them there are. We do know that we have accepted responsibility for those employees of the Government of Newfoundland and we have credited them with their war service and we are delighted to do so. But we do feel, Sir, in supporting this petition, that the Government of Canada should recognize that those employees of Newfoundland who are now working for the federal government should have the same sort of recognition in Canada as other people of Canada who served in the Canadian Forces. And

MR. DOODY: we have offered; indeed I have written documentation to that effect, to work with these people in any way that we can to help them present their case to the Government of Canada. But I feel that it would be most unfortunate if the Government of Newfoundland were to accept what I think is the responsibility and the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada in terms of some of these pensionable employees.

MR. MARSHALL: Would the hon. the Minister permit a question before he sits down?

MR. DOODY: No.

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

MR. DOODY: No.

MR. MARSHALL: Okay, that is fine. Well the hon. minister obviously does not -

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

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, I think that in view of the fine support that has been given to the hon. gentleman's petition, there is not much need for me or, for certain for me, to add any words. I do most cordially support it and I must say that I was somewhat moved by the hon. member's eloquence in his references to war veterans. I do not know how many war veterans there are in this Chamber. I know I am not. I was too young for the First War, I am glad to say, and too old in the second, and so here I am alive and I might not have been if I had been of a different age. I do not know how many veterans there are in the House, but if there are they must have been moved as I was by the eloquent words of the hon. the member for St. John's East.

I gather that the minister gave his cordial support notwithstanding the slight suggestion of acrimony there in the latter part, as he sat down, was about to sit down. I gather that he supported the prayer of the petition and I certainly -

MR. DOODY: One hundred per cent.

MR. SMALLWOOD: One hundred per cent. I am glad to hear that.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present another petition from the District of St. Mary's - The Capes -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I did not realize that the hon. gentleman to my right wished to speak on the former petition, and he would not be able to do that if the hon. gentleman were to now present a new petition. So if the hon. the Minister of Fisheries will cede, I will recognize the hon. the member for Burin-Placentia West.

MR. CANNING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make it known that I am a war veteran, and I believe I am the only one in the House of Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CANNING: I heartily support the petition and I leave the fate of it to the rest of the House.

MR. NEARY: And the Sergeant-at-Arms.

MR. CANNING: I am not too proud of the party or the parties that I am involved with, the Liberal Party in Ottawa when we became a party of Canada, and we have had a Liberal Party here for twenty-three years. I am not too proud that nothing has been done about it. But one thing I can assure you, as a veteran of six years in the Royal Navy - I was very fortunate, never got a scar, I have no ill effects, I swam for my life three times, - so all I can say to those who served, and on behalf of those who served, is that they darn well deserve recognition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. the Premier, Sir, if there is any truth to the report in The Daily News of a possible enquiry into the project management of the Medical Health Science complex since it commenced?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, from the last three or four years there has been a continuous audit being done by John R. Parsons

PREMIER MOORES: Company, which has been submitted to the government on the progress and the properness of the project itself. However, the fiscal audit itself may not have been enough for the rumours. if you like, and the various stories that have been circulating, and it is the government's intention now to appoint an internal committee that will not just check on the books, but be from Public Works to check on the engineering that has gone on, also from the Department of Health to check on the facility itself. It is more, really, to make sure that the record is straight. If anything comes out of that report, Mr. Speaker, that is in the least bit suspect, it will be subject to an official investigation.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Would the Premier then indicate - I did not get it quite clear -- if the investigation or investigations that the hon. the Premier is contemplating, will they be held under the framework of a royal commission, a judicial enquiry or a Select Committee of the House? Or will it be an internal committee comprising of representatives of Public Works and Public Health and that sort of thing? Can the Premier make that clear?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It will be, first of all, officials of the Department of Finance - headed by the Department of Finance actually - the Department of Health, and the Department of Public works, who will go in and do a fairly thorough check on the thing. If anything comes out of that that is in the least bit suspect, further investigations of a different nature will go ahead.

MR. NEARY: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Will the hon. the Premier inform the House if there is any likelihood, because the same project managers were involved in the Carbonear Hospital, is there any likelihood that the internal investigation would include the work that was done by the same project managers, or contractors, or what ever the terms of reference

MR. NEARY: cover, in connection with the Carbonear Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: At the present time, Mr. Speaker, it is only the intention to carry on this particular exercise with the Health Science Complex.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: A question for the hon. the Minister of Transportation and Communications: Would the minister advise the House whether the engineers from his department have verified the safety of the Kippens Bridge as he indicated that they would do last weekend?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, yes, the engineers from the head office in St. John's are in the Port au Port area today and they were there yesterday. Upon their return tomorrow I will have the report with regard to the safety of the bridge and the possibility of having the bridge replaced this year.

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

MP. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask a question of the Minister of Tourism, I think. In so doing I would like to send over a copy of an ad which he may very well have, if I can find the page, in connection with some of the advertising that Brian Davies is doing. This copy I am sending over to the minister now appeared in the last few days in, I think, the New York Daily News.

AN HON. MEMBER: All over the place.

MP. NOLAN: Yes, right. And I am just wondering to what extent Mr. Speaker - I know the minister and the government are spending good money attempting to promote the Province and so on - to what degree, I am asking the question, is this type of advertising, if you like, counteracting some of the other efforts on behalf of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, if there is anything that we could do, or in fact should do, to counteract this type of thing because it seems to me that if you read it and wording alleged of the seals, "The air is full of their frightened cries mi mi mi and so on, the slaughter of the innocents." We look like the biggest bunch of butchers in North America.

MR. DOODY: That is just a fund raising ad.

MP. NOLAN: Yes, exactly. This is exactly as the minister says, an appeal for funds. But what goes before is what worries me. So I ask the government and I ask the Minister of Tourism or any other minister who might want to reply, do they plan anything to counteract this? Would it be advisable to do so or not? I also have copies of this ad for the press or anyone else who might be interested, for that matter.

MP. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. HICKEY: In response to the question by my hon. friend I think it is fair to say that up to this year we adopted a position that would indicate it was better to probably ignore Mr. Davies and whatever propaganda he was spreading in connection with the seal hunt and so on. It was felt to involve ourselves in any public relations effort to counteract would indeed only give him publicity, free publicity so

MR. HICKEY:

to speak, and probably not necessarily win for ourselves any change in the situation.

However the latest efforts this year certainly have been taken into account and have been monitored to a fair degree. I am not clear at this moment. I cannot tell my hon. friend in any kind of detail what we plan to do, but I can certainly say that there has been a change in our attitude in my department with regards to indeed the damage that will be done to the promotional efforts that we are making in terms of promoting the Province and attracting people here.

I might say that I have requested information on Mr. Davies as to his organization, as to his fund raising efforts, and I have some in my possession at the moment. When I receive the rest of the information I would hope at that time to bring it to the attention of my colleagues and ask their approval or direction as to what particular position we should take. I can say that certainly I for my own part feel very strongly about this and I think that Mr. Davies for the most part has gotten away with a great deal, that indeed he is much better off now, let me say, than he was when he came to the country and certainly a great deal better off than when he started this anti-campaign.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Better off financially?

MR. HICKEY: Financially in many ways, I suppose. So I think maybe - I do not want to say it for certain - there might well be an opportunity to put Mr. Davies and his organization in the proper perspective for those people who he is advertising to or directing his advertisements to by way of financial assistance, to put things in their proper perspective and indeed to show the other side of the coin with regards to Newfoundlanders who go to the seal hunt, why they go there and so on.

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

MR. PINEOUT: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked a couple of questions of the Minister of Health regarding the Special Advisory Committee on Health Manpower. In his answers he referred a couple of times to

MR. PIPEOUT:

the deployment of our doctor force and so on. What I want to ask him now is will this committee look at the other aspects of our health manpower including nurses and other people associated with the medical profession?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, the committee will be looking at practically all of the areas where manpower is involved. We might have to add some people to the committee as we go along in terms of providing expertise, knowledge in any given field. But the exercise is designed to make recommendation concerning the whole gambit.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary?

MR. RIDEOUT: Yes, I wonder, quickly, could the minister indicate whether or not nurses are now represented on the Committee as it now stands?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, offhand I really cannot say and -

MR. RIDEOUT: I do not think so.

MR. COLLINS: - it was not our intention to have representation on the Committee from all of the various disciplines in Health. The idea was to be able to draw upon the expertise of those individuals in trying to arrive at a solution, not a solution but some recommendations.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member LaPoile, then following him the hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations. Could the hon. minister tell us what is happening regarding the situation at Terra Nova Shoes Limited, Harbour Grace, in connection with this strike? Could the minister tell us if there are any new developments and why the management is still allowed to refuse to negotiate with the employees even though the minister has granted permission to prosecute the employer? What seems to be the delay? What is hanging it up?

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

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is well aware that the situation is now in the hands of the court, and, as I understand it, a court hearing was scheduled for today at Magistrate's Court in Harbour Grace to hear the case where the Labour Relations Board has asked the court to enforce their order, an order which required the company to negotiate with the union. What has happened, whether the court case has been postponed or whether

MR. MAYNARD: the case has actually been heard, I have not been informed up to this point in time.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Would the minister tell the House if there is any time limit on when these matters have to be brought before the court, or can they be postponed and delayed indefinitely only causing confusion and frustration?

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

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I would assume that the answer to that question would be well known to most hon. members of this House who make the laws in the Province. They should know what the laws are all about. Of course the court can postpone any number of periods of time. Once it is in the hands of the court there is no limit on how long the court can take to consider the problem, and if they want to postpone it that is completely up to them and certainly I am not about to interfere in the proceedings of the court now or at any other time.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Apart from the court and apart from the minister interfering, is the minister concerned about the fact that the Province has \$405,000 invested in Terra Nova Shoes by the way of a loan, and is the minister interested in protecting the government money that is in this shoe factory by bringing a little pressure to bear on the employer to negotiate with his employees and to recognize the union? Is the minister concerned about that?

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

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the money. Sure it is owed to the government. As I understand it, the amount of money that is on loan from government, any payments that are due are up to date,

MR. MAYNARD: but that is not the immediate problem; the immediate problem is the labour relations situation there. Our department has tried constantly over the life of the disagreement there, even though the court case has been going on, to try to get the parties back together. I understand that the union is quite willing to sit down and negotiate at any time, but we have not been very successful in getting the company people to sit down and negotiate.

MR. NEARY: Is this because they refused to recognize the union? What is the problem? Do they understand the laws of this Province?

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether they understand the laws or not. The laws are there. They have been ordered to negotiate and in order for that order to be enforced it is up to the courts. I cannot go out and take the man by the scruff of the neck and drag him in and beat him over the head and say, "You must negotiate."

MR. NEARY: It is our money, the taxpayers money.

MR. MAYNARD: Oh that is nonsense! Use some common sense.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage; following him the hon. member for St. John's East.

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

MR. J. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, this question is for the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications. Would the minister tell the House if he plans to pave the section of highway between Terrenceville and the Burin Peninsula Highway this season?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, any paving to be carried out or reconstruction work to be carried out in the hon. gentleman's district will be announced in due time either in the House of Assembly or outside of the House of Assembly.

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

MR. J. WINSOR: Would the minister tell us in view of the fact that Terrenceville is an important terminus for Canadian National boats operating on the South Coast with a hundred plus passengers at a time embarking and disembarking at this port every weekend, and another on a week day, would he give this paving further sympathetic consideration, a very strong consideration as it is a real quagmire in the Spring?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, every consideration will be given to that request, and I will be pleased to meet with the hon. gentleman and discuss the matter further.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. John's East.

MR. W. W. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Finance. Is it not the Provincial Government rather than the Federal Government which is responsible for pensionable service of Federal Government employees who transferred from the Commission of Government to the Federal Government for that period of service prior to 1949?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

MR. C. W. DOODY: Sir, the War Service Pensions Act in 1975 which was passed in May of last year does not apply to the various groups of employees who transferred to the Federal Government pursuant to the Terms of Union of Newfoundland and Canada. The Act as it was passed in this House was not intended to apply to transferred employees, because persons under the Terms of Union, the liability for pensions

Mr. Doody:

and the accredited pensionable services of pensionable transferred employees were fixed in 1949. Any changes in Newfoundland Pension Legislation brought about since April 1, 1949 have not been accepted by the Federal Government as been applicable to Newfoundland transferred employees.

The only changes which have been accepted by the Government of Canada are those resulting from errors or omissions made in 1949. The policy of the Federal Government is understandable from their jurisdictional point of view. The Government of Canada must be free to make policies for all of its employees, and that includes those people who have war service, and whether that war service is with the Dominion of Newfoundland or the Commission of Government of Newfoundland or whatever its status might have been at that time, or whether the war services with the Dominion of Canada, the fact of the matter is these employees are employees of the Government of Canada, and it is their jurisdiction.

The Government of Canada and the other provinces all have their own provisions respecting war service. And the provisions vary according to jurisdiction depending on the circumstances within their various jurisdictions. The Government of Newfoundland simply cannot generally take over a responsibility that is the Government of Canada's, or the Government of Manitoba's or the Government of British Columbia's -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: - no matter - or indeed you could transfer the logic down the line to the employees of Bowring's or the employees of somebody else simply because they had war service. I mean, nobody in this hon. House is more cognizant of what happens to people who have had war service. My father served in the First World War in the Newfoundland Regiment, he was a prisoner of war and captured in the Battle of Monchy-Le-Preux, died a couple of years after he got home, and I was about a year and a half old, and I know the full affects of war service and what can happen. And there is nobody in this hon. House

Mr. Doody:

more sympathetic to the veterans and to what they have gone through than I am, because my family and my own circumstances they were a direct result of that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear,hear!

MR. DOODY: However the free crediting of war service under Federal legislation never applied to transferred employees insomuch as this was pre-Newfoundland, pre-1949 service. The Government of Canada never recognized war service in the Dominion of Newfoundland prior to 1949, and I think this is a grave injustice. However the provisions with respect to the election to purchase war service applied to all employees, and war service could have been purchased in the past by these employees, and is still available to be purchased, and the Government of Canada will make that service available if somebody wishes to purchase it. That is not the point in issue.

The point in issue is that these employees of the Federal Government want the Government of Newfoundland to purchase war service for them while they are employees of the Government of Canada, and that is difficult for the Government of Newfoundland to do while recognizing the right of these people to the recognition of their services as war veterans. Because if somebody in this hon. House or somebody in this hon. Dominion or country or whatever it is we have can differentiate between spilling blood in World War I or II under the Royal Newfoundland Regiment or doing it under the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, that to me is a distinction which I find extremely difficult because as I understand it, that was the way the story was told to me, all those people, all of us were involved in the same cause. And it seems most unfortunate that the Government of Canada refuses to recognize these things. And I think it is unfortunate that the Government of Newfoundland is placed in this position. What I do

MR. DOODY:

say and I have said is that we are prepared, willing, able and anxious to help these people in their fight with the Government of Canada to get recognition for the war service that they earned and that they did legitimately and well and honourably and decently. Indeed, who is against veterans rights? Certainly not I. Certainly not this government, Sir. What I am against is the fact that the Government of Canada refuses to recognize the fact that these people who are their employees are entitled to war services. I think it would be wrong for this government to accept that responsibility, and I think it is wrong of the Government of Canada not to accept it. That is the answer to the question as I see it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. DOVE: Mr. Speaker, could the minister indicate how much money is involved here in purchasing back these years of service? Could he indicate what the total amount - I do not know if he has specific figures - but the approximate amount of money that is involved here?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

MR. DOODY: It is impossible to put a value on it in dollars and cents because we do not know how many are involved. We do not know how many people are going to surface. We cannot even put a round figure on it. We do not know how many people there are who are working with - the act that we are talking about now as it was passed for war pensionable service entitled members of the Constabulary, the firemen, the warders, teachers, members of the general public service in Newfoundland, members of the House of Assembly and employees entitled to a deferred pension, people directly responsible to the Government of Newfoundland. The act did not apply and it specifically exempted transferred public service generally, which are people who are in the federal government, the former Broadcasting Corporation of Newfoundland employees and their pensioners - they are now federal government responsibility albeit of a crown agency - transferred

MR. NOON:

Newfoundland Railway employees and pensioners who are now employees of the CNP and should be a CN responsibility; transferred Gander Airport employees who are employees of MOT or their agency; former Newfoundland Hotel employees who are now CN employees. But of course these people we can locate and find but there are God knows how many other ex-Newfoundland war veterans who are working with the government of Manitoba, or working with the government of Nova Scotia, or working in a crown agency somewhere else in Canada who are employees of Air Canada or CN somewhere in Montreal. It is literally and figuratively impossible. This thing has been on the go now for I would say at least four years. They have been trying to delve into it and trying to put a figure on it, trying to put a number on it. It simply gets more complicated and more difficult as times goes on.

It is not only a matter of applying it and saying, "This is the cutoff point right here." How many dependents of people of war veterans who are still around who have not had these war services credited, applied to them, people who have passed on and whose widows and children are around who can make a claim if this thing is changed to fit the structure as is suggested? How many dependents or relatives of former Newfoundlanders or Newfoundland war veterans in other jurisdictions in Canada can apply to it? There is no real way of projecting it, no way we can put a number on it. But even if you apply it down to that line, then should we not also pay for perhaps the war service of people who are working for not only crown corporations as against federal government employees, but companies, independent companies or private companies or people who are in business for themselves. Why should their war service be denied them? Why should not the Government of Newfoundland pick that up also?

What the Government of Newfoundland has done and is doing is paying and picking up and giving credit for the war service of the people who are public employees of the Province of Newfoundland who served in whatever war. This is being done for those people for whom we have a direct responsibility, and we feel that to go beyond that is not only a matter of dollars and cents, as you point out, but a

MR. NOOBY:

matter of accepting the principle that we should be responsible for the employees in other jurisdictions. This is where we get into a great deal of difficulty. And quite honestly the answer to your original question - what is the dollar and cents figure? - I do not know.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEADY: Mr. Speaker, have a question for the government House Leader,

Mr. Neary.

the Minister without Portfolio, I would like to ask the minister if he has yet requested the options that Mr. Morgan is alleged to have had on the MacPherson property that was bought and sold to the Summer Games Committee?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister without Portfolio.

MR. WELLS: The answer to that, Mr. Speaker - and I think I should take a moment to outline the position with regard to this - as I see it the question that is of significance to this House, and to the people of Newfoundland whose House this is, is, one; how much did the Summer Games Committee pay for the land; and whether it was a proper price or not? Now that question has been answered by the Summer Games. Now the land was sold, and it is not of importance who sold the land as I see it. Now the record shows that Robert Morgan acquired land which it is public knowledge was owned by members of his wife's family, and he, we understand, got an option from members of his wife's family sometime in 1973 in order to buy that land. He subsequently sold it.

Now as I see the position, the Government of Newfoundland has no right to demand from him or from his family to produce these options. I have checked, or caused a check to be made in the Registry of Deeds this morning. The options are not registered. I have sent a message to Mr. Morgan and his family that if he wishes to provide the options that they would be tabled in the House of Assembly. But at the same time, as he knows and I know, I have no right, and government have no right, to demand these options from him any more than it would have a right to demand some document from somebody who might have sold the MacPherson property, the land, twenty or thirty years ago. The question really is did the Summer Games pay the right price or not, not what arrangements were made between this man, his wife and members of his wife's family. So as I say really in answer to the question, I have made the request. If Robert Morgan and his wife's family see fit or wish to present these options I will table them. If they do not, then that is a matter that rests with them.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary - the hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that in The Evening Telegram, the day before yesterday, that the minister is quoted as having said that he was satisfied with Mr. Morgan and that he had the option long before the Summer Games came on the carpet? What justification did the minister have for making this statement and being so definitive on that particular occasion making the statement to the House that this was perfectly proper, that the options were there, when in fact we do not know whether there were options or not?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister without Portfolio.

MR. WELLS: I only know, Mr. Speaker, that I have been told that the Morgan option was dated January 19, 1973. Now whether it is or whether it is not, I have not seen it. I was told it was dated January 19, 1973, and I think that was said by some other members of this House also. More than that I do not know.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary question.

MR. SPEAKER: I will recognize the hon. member for LaPoile on one additional supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Is the minister aware that in connection with one large piece of that property that Mr. Morgan bought from his mother-in-law for \$75,000, that Mr. Morgan did not have an option and resold the land to the Summer Games Committee for \$275,000? Is the minister aware of that? And does he not think that that is worthy of further investigation?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister without Portfolio.

MR. WELLS: To that point, Mr. Speaker, and I think it is very important to make this point. As to the first part of the question, am I aware of this option or whatever it is with his mother-in-law?

MR. NEARY: No option.

MR. WELLS: No option? No, I am not. But quite apart from that, I think that the important thing is whether or not the

Mr. Wells.

Summer Games Committee paid the proper price for the land, not what private arrangements there might be between members of the family.

MR. NEARY: What!

MR. WELLS: It is what the public paid for.

MR. NEARY: The minister has got to be joking.

MR. WELLS: No, no! The minister is not joking, Mr. Speaker.

In other words, if the Summer Games paid the right price, whether Mrs. MacPherson or Mrs. MacPherson's daughter or Mr. Morgan's wife or brother-in-law, how they shared up the money that came from the MacPherson land is of really no interest to the public of Newfoundland.

MR. NEARY: It is not commercial land, by the way, as the minister told us the other day. It is not commercial property.

MR. WELLS: My understanding is that it was.

MR. NEARY: It is not! I checked with the City Council. I checked with the Deputy Mayor yesterday morning. It is not commercial property.

MR. WELLS: If the hon. member has the information by all means lay it out. The information given to me is that it was zoned commercial.

MR. NEARY: It was not zoned commercial.

MR. WELLS: I am telling the information that was given to me, Mr. Speaker, if I may have a chance to do so. It was zoned commercial, and the plans were well advanced for the building of some sort of commercial - I think it was an apartment complex or something like that. If that is incorrect, then it

MR. WEIJS: is incorrect. But the whole point really, and the question is, Mr. Speaker, and should remain; what was the proper price for the land? If the price for the land was proper, really it does not matter to us which member of the MacPherson or Morgan family received the money, because that is an internal family matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The time has expired. The thirty minutes has expired. I cannot recognize any other hon. gentlemen.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! We are considering 605-03-07.

The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to respond with regard to construction costs, I want to respond to two or three questions that were raised at yesterday's sitting.

The member for Windsor - Buchans (Mr. Flight) asked, I think, a question with regard to the maintenance and upkeep of schools and if the department was responsible, and I suppose indirectly there is a responsibility there but the Department of Education in the construction of schools are responsible for location, basically with regard to bus transportation so that of course we would not have these excessive costs because we insist that schools be built in the centres of population. We are also concerned and have control over the size and the standards of buildings, the fire codes and so on, and of course the educational objectives I think we have some interest in that also. And the Department of Environment, and I believe a Division of Municipal Affairs are concerned and have an input into locations also from the health standards point of view.

When these schools are taken over by boards, or the boards assume control of them, they are responsible for the upkeep under the act of the Legislature, and I suppose to keep them in good repair. We do not have a very ardent inspectorate from the point of view of the

MR. HOUSE: Education Department, but the Department of Health has a division that inspects schools periodically to make sure that everything is kept in a good healthy condition. For instance, they made recommendations about ventilation, proper painting, water and sewerage facilities, good lighting and of course see that the blackboards and everything, the chalkboards are kept in good condition.

With respect to the capital grants on school construction, I did not mean to soft peddle yesterday. There was no such intention. The fact is that we have in from the Denominational Education Committees, projections for the next five years which will cost, I suppose, in the vicinity of \$100 million. These are not fully authenticated, it is just projections. I do not know if it is hard and fast projections. We asked them to present us with that and we have seen it and we have met with them on the matter.

Mr. Chairman, the fact is that this year, and we would be glad, very happy to be able to meet all the capital costs of school boards immediately. I think we would be delighted to be able to do it. But there are other facts of life which we must reckon with. And from the very day that I assumed responsibility for this department, I believe the first meeting or the first talk I had about education was with school boards and school superintendents and business managers and we talked about restraints, and we said that the government have said that there would be no major capital construction in the forthcoming year. The school boards were afraid then, at that time, that the \$11 million that we were projecting for this year would be cut back, and I allayed their fears by telling them that these commitments would be honoured and I believe school boards are aware of what the budget was going to do this year and I have not received a lot of flak about that particular thing.

With regard to long-term loans, which is getting a little bit out of my league, but it would mean that if we had to get

MR. HOUSE: the \$100 million to meet the capital costs, it would mean specifically that the government would have to go to the bond market for \$100 million and of course with the Provincial debt that we have now I do not think that is realistic at the present time.

On motion 605-03-07, through 607-02-02, carried.

MR. LUSH: I wanted to speak to 606.

AN HON. MEMBER: Already carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it agreed? It is agreed. Which item, 606 - ?

MR. LUSH: Do I have to give any particular item in that? Or can I speak generally to 606.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 606-01.

MR. LUSH: Okay. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. I missed a couple of numbers coming down through there.

On the 606, the supervision, there are some things there that I would like for the minister to comment upon. If I understand it by the heading under the supervision, it says it is for the salaries, travelling and office expenses for the 606, for the regional superintendents and their staff. Now the salaries alone, \$175,000, seem rather excessive, rather high. If it is what I am thinking about, the regional superintendents, we just have one at the moment although we have had two, I think, I might be a little bit incorrect there, but let us say it is two, if that is so to maintain the offices of the regional superintendents it is costing three times as much as what it costs to operate the minister's office itself and that seems to be rather excessive to me and having looked at that I would have to reconsider my own position with appointing the other superintendents, that indeed it is going to be as high as what this here is right now.

So I am just wondering whether the minister can comment on that, on why it appears that that figure is so high, so excessive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Chairman, the figure is in there for salaries for five regional superintendents, if they are filled. That takes in the five of the offices if they are filled. That is not for one or two. We have one in operation now. We are advertising another and trying to fill it at the present time and the vote is in there for the filling of the other three positions throughout the Province, That was recommended.

MR. LUSH: Well if that is so the total figure then of that would be what it would cost for the six, the total.

MR. HOUSE: The five.

MR. LUSH: The five, well that is fine. Thank you.

On motion 606-01, carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The items down to and including 607-02-03 have been carried.

On motion 607-02-04 through 607-03-05, carried.

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

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words on this special education heading that we are now into and probably get a few comments from the minister with regard to the special education in this Province, where we are going with it. For the information of the minister, I am not talking about physically handicapped, education of the physically handicapped. What I am talking about is special education in the sense of what we used to at one time call opportunity classes, or classes for the slow learners. This is an area of education, Sir, that concerns me. And I know of what I speak, because I have been involved in the education profession as most members know. It concerns me where these special education classes are taking our students. I have known students to be in those classes for four or five years and go nowhere and I mean, Sir, nowhere. They spend four or five years - the philosophy behind it, as I understood it, was to help them to get back into the mainstream of education, or maybe to get them into the general level of education in a trades school, somewhere where they could pursue useful trades and become useful to themselves and to society. I have not seen that happen in very many cases. I have seen students in those special education classes in the same class not go anywhere, not move anywhere for as high as four years and I am very concerned about that.

I know that parents are concerned about it too, Sir, because I have known cases where parents recently in the last year or two have refused to give their permission to have their children go into those classes. They have refused categorically to have their children go into those classes because they do not see where they are going, they do not see the result. I know that the theory, the philosophy behind those classes is good and I know that some students need it. But I have to say, and I am sad to say it, that it seems to me that the special education philosophy has fallen down, the system has fallen down somewhere.

We are spending \$916,000 on special education this year. It means that school boards and schools in particular can get a

MP. BIDEOUT:

teaching unit, one for every ten or twelve kids. It is great for the school and I have seen it operate that way. But my question, Sir, is: Is it good for the students and what is happening to them. I am very concerned about that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Education.

MP. HOUSE: Mr. Chairman, in responding to that, the special education programmes were never intended for what we call slow learners, and as a consequence the special education classes were designed to take people through as much as possible of a viable education programme through their total school years. It was not meant for slow learners. Slow learners were meant to come under remedial programmes. Under the philosophy of special education of course it is never the objective to get special education students back in the regular stream of the classroom. That is impossible because they need special attention. We have designated for these students one teacher per twelve pupils or a fraction thereof, I think, to give them the best possible training that we can in the school system.

The fact, of course, about where do they go from here, that is a problem that we are wrestling with. We have wrestled with it a number of years. One of the things of course that we have been trying to do is trying to get some programmes in vocational schools whereby these students are able to go in and not take trades, because you must remember that to go into the trades training you have to have the standard Grade IX, X or XI to get into trades training. But these students go into a year programme that will help them to be a helper, a carpenter's helper and we give them a smattering of three or four trades so that they can help in these trades.

We have a programme going in Gander this year for these kinds of students. We have another one in Corner Brook that has been going for two years, and these are pilot projects, and also we are contemplating putting another course in another part of Newfoundland this year. So that is that other part of it.

MP. HOUSE:

We are very concerned about it. Hopefully we will come up with some programmes in the Province to try to help them. The basic aim of course, is to try and give them the level of academic training that we can get for them because these students are very special.

The fact that a student is in a specific class for four years is not overly significant because normally we have three or four divisions. We have a primary and an intermediate and a junior high and high school combined. They could be in that class for four years but they would not be doing the same thing over a four year period.

MP. PINEOIT: If the minister would permit, I am aware of that division but what I am talking about is in a high school class for four years.

MP. HOUSE: Well the high school is the one that we are having a lot of problems with, that is true, and we are working with it, and as I say trying to arrange these programmes in vocational schools to get them in for some kind of occupational training is something that we are working towards. But as I said, you cannot get them into trades because the trades require various standards of grades.

MP. PINEOIT: I would also like to point out this to the minister - and I understand what he is saying - but I also know, Sir, that there has to be something wrong with our special education system, there has to be, because I have seen those kids after spending - you know, you could not do anything for them in the high school special education class, or so it was said. Yet a year or two later they turn up into - what is it you call it? - a BTSD programme in the trades schools. They would get through that, take a trade and now they are in the job market working fine. So that to me reads there is a lot wrong with our special education system that we have in the high schools and that is all I am referring to.

MP. HOUSE: Just one more response to that, Mr. Chairman. It is a fact that a lot of these pupils who go into the BTSD are not the kind of pupils who should have been in these special education classes. They

MR. HOUSE:

were not what they call the mentally retarded. They were the slow learner or the learner who had educational gaps in his background. Of course a lot of them came from schools that did not have adequate facilities at the time to do it. So when they got in these upgrading centers with these special programmes they were able to respond and of course the other thing they were responding to a job opportunity, I guess, and that encouraged them a little bit.

But in the meantime programmes of that nature, the RTSD are being looked at to be used perhaps in relation to special education programmes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, while we are on this general subject of special education there are a couple of comments I would like to make. I do not know if gentlemen to my immediate right realize it or not but they are being quite distracting.

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

The hon. member requires a greater measure of attention and silence when he is addressing the House.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I shall try again. I do not know whether the gentlemen to my immediate right are aware that they are being such a distraction. It is very difficult to speak. I do not intend to do so until I am accorded some kind of silence in Committee.

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

The hon. member finds it difficult to make his comments to the House.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the subject of special education, Mr. Chairman, I was very delighted to hear the minister say two days ago in Committee that a new registrar had been appointed to succeed the other lady who I presume had resigned or had transferred to another position. As some of us will know, the matter of registration of the physically handicapped child has been ongoing for a year or so and the work, I understand, has been partially complete. I am glad now that the work will continue under the supervision of the new

MR. SIMONS:

registrar. I just want to emphasize this matter here in Committee while we are on the head Special Education, because I hope none of us, and particularly no one in the Department of Education and nobody in government, will feel any particular consolation from the knowledge that in 1976 we are at last doing an inventory, as it were, a registry of the people we are talking about. That certainly is an important first step. But I would hope that none of us would take any particular solace or consolation from the knowledge that in a few months from now we will have them all neatly filed away on the appropriate size file cards.

I hope that we are cognizant right now, all of us, that while we do not know the actual numbers involved that we ought to be addressing ourselves very actively to the question of what kinds of programmes are needed to cater to these people. Now, Mr. Chairman,

MR. SIMMONS:

it is a subject that has not been discussed much either in this Committee, in this House or indeed around the Province. But what kinds of numbers are we talking about? I am hoping the registry in the department in the next few months will be able to answer that question, the question of how many physically handicapped people there are in the Province. I am going to take a guess at it, not to be a prophet in any sense, but to indicate how serious the problem is. My guess is based on some information I have. I understand - and I get this information from a report that I would recommend to all members of the Committee. It is called "One Million Children", otherwise known as the Celdic or the Celdic, however you choose to treat the "c", C-e-l-d-i-c, the Celdic Report produced in Toronto in 1970. It addressed itself to emotional learning disabilities in children. I get from it the following couple of bits of information which I believe are apropos to our situation here. I am told, for instance, that the British Columbia Central Registry of Handicapped Children and Adults, a registry, by the way, which registers any person who "has a disability severe enough to interfere with normal living, obtaining an education and later with earning a livelihood," and within that definition the B.C. Central Registry of Handicapped has registered voluntarily - the registration is voluntary - has registered people in the birth to twenty years of age category. I am told that they find after about twenty years experience that 2.65 of the total population in that age group have some kind of handicap, 2.65 per cent. Of that 2.65 per cent, over seventy have a disability which is either physical, organic or sensory; twenty-two have some degree of mental retardation; and just under eight per cent have a psychoneurosis or a personality related disorder.

Now, Mr. Chairman, without getting into the figures here too much, just recall that a moment ago I said the registry in B.C. has found that 2.65 per cent of the population, birth to age twenty, 2.65 per cent have a disability; of that 2.65 per cent, over seventy per cent have a physical disability. So overall if you take the 2.65 and multiply it by the seventy per cent you will find that overall 1.86 per cent of the people in B.C.

MR. SIMMONS:

in this age category have a physical disability. I will come back to that bit of information in a moment. The same report tells me that in the 1966 census forty-two per cent of the population of Canada was under twenty years of age, forty-two per cent. Now if you take those two bits of information, the bit as it relates to British Columbia which I gave you a moment ago, and the bit I just gave you for Canada as a whole, and project them over the present Newfoundland population you will get the following: Assuming the present Newfoundland population at 514,000 and taking the figure from the 1966 census which says that of Canada's population forty-two per cent are under twenty, projecting that figure you will find that at the moment we should have in the Province 216,000 under twenty years of age, 216,000. If you then take the figure for British Columbia which I mentioned a moment ago, the 1.86 per cent as having a physical disability, if you project that over those 216,000 people under twenty here in the Province you will get the rather alarming figure of 4,016 people. I am suggesting on the basis of projections that I have just mentioned that there are approximately 4,000 people under the age of twenty years in this Province with some kind of a disability, some kind of a physical disability. Included in these figures, Mr. Chairman, would be those in the broad definition, physical, organic, sensorial -

MR. HOUSE: Specific learning disabilities, that sort of thing?

MR. SIMMONS: Sorry, the minister?

MR. HOUSE: I say specific learning disabilities also included in that?

MR. SIMMONS: No, I am coming to that.

MR. HOUSE: I see.

MR. SIMMONS: The minister inquires about the implication for -

MR. MURPHY: Specifically in a broader sense, not

MR. SIMMONS: Right, yes. The minister inquires about the implication in the learning context. I am coming to that. But I am just spelling out the larger number first. I am told or I project, I deduce -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, it might be the time of the week, it is still early in the week and I am very short on patience. I do not see why I should have to come here and try and compete with a caucus meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: These are the men, Mr. Chairman, who are always telling me about the dignity of the House and that kind of thing. I cannot get a word in edgewise here for a caucus meeting going on to my right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. SMALLWOOD: It certainly is not that.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes it is.

MR. DOODY: To a point of order. I wish the gentleman would be more specific and indicate those people to whom he refers, because I have been listening very attentively, or trying to, to what he is saying, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! I am sure hon. members have no intention of interrupting or being in any way discourteous to other members addressing the House, but possibly they do not always realize that the conversations they are engaged in are rather intense and that their voices do carry. So I would ask hon. members to pay attention to these points.

The hon. member.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A moment ago I projected that about 4,000, 4,016 people in the Province have a physical, an organic, or a sensorial disability in a broad definition of the term. I would like to exclude a group from that number, if I could. I am told from another report, a report which the minister and his colleagues in the Atlantic Provinces had done the past two or three years, a report called the Atlantic Provinces Report of the Special Education Committee. That report, headed up by Doctor Kendall and a gentleman or two from our own Province, Mr. Cliff Andrews from the department, for example, served on that Committee and Mr. Downey of the same division was on the Committee from time to time - that report, the Kendall Report I shall call it, points out that in the Atlantic Provinces there are about 850 people in the age group I have talked about, birth to twenty years

MR. SIMMONS:

of age, about 850 who have visual or hearing handicaps. Now projecting that from a population standpoint that would mean that in Newfoundland there are perhaps 200 - if there is 850 in the whole Atlantic Provinces, probably 200 in Newfoundland. If you recall my figure a moment ago of 4,016, or round figures 4,000, with a physical disability and exclude from it the 200 I have just mentioned who have visual or hearing handicaps, you are still talking about 3,800 people who have physical disabilities other than the visual or hearing handicap. Now, Mr. Chairman, I have excluded the visual and hearing handicapped people because in many respects programmes exist for these two groups of people. We can talk later under the appropriate subheads about the adequacy of those programmes or facilities. But by and large programmes and facilities exist. So let us talk about the other 3,800. I say, Mr. Chairman, I allege that there are in round numbers 3,800 people, between 3,000 and 4,000 people, let us say, who have physical handicaps in this Province in the age group birth to twenty.

Mr. Chairman, I was alarmed by that particular figure as I am sure members of the Committee will be. Before mentioning it in Committee I decided I would talk to some people who are working with the handicapped at the provincial level. I shall not mention names here because I do not have the permission of the people concerned. But I had a couple of long conversations in the past day or so with people in position, let us say, people who hold responsible, administrative positions in rehabilitation programmes for the handicapped. I tried the set of figures on both of them and the comment I got from one was that he was not at all startled by the size of the figure.

Now, Mr. Chairman, for the purpose of what we are talking about here I am sure it is not important whether 3,800 is accurate or whether the number is 4,000 or 3,000 or 2,000 or 1,000.

Mr. Simmons:

The fact of the matter is that there is a large number of people out there who have these handicaps. Now the essential question insofar as the present estimates are concerned, the essential question is how many of these are presently being looked after either in the regular school or in special programmes? And there is the rub, Mr. Chairman, there is the question that nobody can seem to answer and I hope the registry in the Department of Education will eventually be able to answer.

I am told that at the Children's Rehabilitation Centre here in St. John's they have about 1,450 patients, that is to say, I do not mean they have 1,450 in the residence at a given time, but on an on-going basis at any one time they have about 1,450 patients, that includes all categories, and it will include some who are just coming into St. John's for a check up once or twice or three times a year. But I am told that of these 1,400 or so about seventy of these attend school while they are at the centre, which means that the other thirty do not attend school while they are at the centre. I am also told that the Rehab Centre receives patients on the basis of referral by doctors or by specialists, which means of course, Mr. Chairman, there must be a number who never come to the attention of the Rehabilitation Centre.

Now I do not think it serves any purpose to pursue this matter of figures any further. I just wanted to get into the record some idea of the appalling numbers we are talking. And I say again that I believe we will find when the registration is complete we will find there is somewhere between 3,500 and 4,000 people in the particular category which I have spelled out a moment ago. If that is so, Mr. Chairman, indeed if it is only half of that number, then the onus is on all of us to immediately address ourselves to programmes which will provide not only for their nursing care, a subject I mentioned earlier, but which will provide for their educational need as well. This one concerns me, Mr. Chairman, I have said so before, And I have heard the minister and I am happy with the direction

Mr. Simmons:

he is obviously going in. And my only reason for rising now other than to get into the record the possible numbers who are involved. My only other reason for rising is to emphasize again the absolute urgency of getting on with the task of providing adequate educational programmes for this particular category of student.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 608-01 carry.

On motion 608-01 carried.

On motion 608-02 -01 through 608-02-03 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 608-02-04 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, under 04, I am sorry you called 04 - I am sorry I want the next one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 608-02-04 carry?

On motion 608-02-04 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 608-02-05 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, under head 608-02-05 - Education and Maintenance - Blind Children. I am presuming, perhaps the minister can indicate with an nod, I am assuming that this relates to the government's financial input into the Halifax School for the Blind. Yes, the minister confirms this.

I have a couple of questions for the minister. Would he indicate what facility physical plant facility is presently being used, is it the same facility that has been used for a number of years?

MR. HOUSE: Yes.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, the buildings that were originally erected about 1870. And I am glad to hear the minister indicate he has a comment because this facility has a report to the minister informing him about three years ago to his predecessor, to his department three years ago a report of that time indicated that the facilities were not only outdated in the calendar sense of the term, but were in many respects much less than adequate, and indeed the report goes out of its way, as it were, to find enough adjectives to describe the inadequacy. It talks about the hazards, I do not have the report with me, but I remember underlining with my red pencil the adjectives,

Mr. Simmons:

and within one paragraph there were four or five criticisms of the facilities at Halifax, all of which called into very serious question the continued use of that facility for the purpose of providing facilities for the blind. Perhaps before saying anything further I will hear what the minister has to say on the subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Chairman, the particular head there, \$375,000, that is based on roughly \$10,000 per pupil that we send to the school per year. And that has been wavering around that amount for a number of years. I visited the School for the Blind in Halifax, and of course a lot of my colleagues have visited it, and previous ministers.

MR. NEARY: I visited it also.

MR. HOUSE: Did you?

It is a very inadequate building. It does not meet the standards for people living in it. And the point about it is, is the fact it seems to me, you know, the atmosphere does not look too good. But it is a very good programme they have got there.

MR. NEARY: The best we have got right now.

MR. HOUSE: Yes, it is the best we have got. It is a very good programme.

The idea is now the four provinces are going together on the erection of a new building built for the specific purpose of educating blind children in the Atlantic Provinces. That is going ahead now, the purchase plan is being looked after now. And of course the old building will be sold, and will reap a very good income, and the provinces are going in on this. And it is hoped to have one of the most modern facilities in Canada for the education of our blind students. Perhaps a little bit more programming than we have got now because I think we can get more into vocational work for these pupils.

MR. NEARY: The number of blind kids is getting less and less all the time.

MR. HOUSE: Yes, that is right. The number of blind - and incidentally the other thing is that the recommendations are of course that a lot of the people we have in blind schools, perhaps the less severe cases can be handled in special situations in regular school systems. That is being recommended also.

One of the things of course -

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, would the minister -

MR. HOUSE: Yes.

MR. SIMMONS: Before the minister leave that subject would he just mention at what stage the plans are, I mean has the contract been called or has a decision been made on, on the school, I mean?

MR. HOUSE: No. There are preliminary plans, I think. I have not seen them as yet, the plans. I think the preliminary plans are done, and they are at the point now of trying to acquire a block of land, and of course, they are trying to get that in the Halifax area, right near the doctors and the university so that they can use some of the services there.

MR. SIMMONS: What will be this Province's financial commitment to the capital cost though?

MR. HOUSE: Well that has not fully been determined as yet, but I would assume perhaps it will go about 28 per cent, 28 per cent less, of course, less the amount that we will get for the old building. Of course that is going to be put in as a total grant towards the construction. And I believe there is an amount of money besides that already on hand from a trust fund. That belonged, I think, in Nova Scotia, but it will be put toward the cost of that building also. I say it should not exceed \$500,000 of Provincial input. It should not.

MR. SIMMONS: There is nothing in this year's vote anywhere for it?

MR. HOUSE: Well there is nothing in this vote, if we have to get that amount this year of course it will be taken care of in some other way. I do not know if I will need it this year or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 608-02-05 carry?

On motion 608-02-05 carried.

On motion 608-02-06 through 608-02-07 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 608-02-08 carry?

DR. R. WINDSOR: Mr. Chairman, 608-02-08 - Centre for Learning Disabilities. I have a very special interest in the unit at the Institute for Learning Abilities at the University. I would ask the minister to clarify for me exactly the purpose of these grants or subsidy or what of \$50,000 for this unit. Would he mind sort of clarifying it for me?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: The purpose, Mr. Chairman, of that grant, it is a grant to the Development of Human Abilities, I think, Division at the University. And we have a school there where the teacher teaches special education teachers, or some aspect of their training goes to that particular person. And in so doing we utilize the normal class situation by bringing in pupils who have specific problems. And it is

Mr. House.

providing two services; one, it is providing us an on-the-spot situation for teacher training, and the other it is providing a service to the surrounding schools and this could be a service right throughout the Province if people can get them in there, and this is the identification of specific learning problems, and of course, some recommendation of action to be taken back in the regular situation. So that has been very useful, and very useful in both instances. So there is an extra amount put in for extra help this year for that particular programme at the university. But it is a service to school boards from the university.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on that head, did I hear the minister to say that 08, Centre for Learning Disabilities, is attached to the university? I am wondering if we are confusing two. I understood this related to the school at Torbay.

MR. HOUSE: No, the twenty-seven or part of the twenty-seven. Seventeen of the twenty-seven last year. That seventeen belongs there. The difference between the fifty-three and the twenty-seven is for the additional staff, a couple of additional staff members for the improvement of that unit.

MR. SIMMONS: Again for clarification: Where is the unit, at the university? Is that what the minister is saying?

MR. HOUSE: Yes.

MR. SIMMONS: I see.

On motion 608-02-08 through to 608-02-10 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 609-01 carry?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I rose on 609-01. Just a couple of questions here. Again I am referring to the same report, the report prepared by Dr. Kendall, and the report was somewhat critical of the physical accommodations being provided for the School for the Deaf at Torbay. I wonder if the minister would tell us what plans -

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Chairman, what is the date of that report?
I am not sure I am familiar to date with that report.

MR. SIMMONS: It is 1973.

MR. HOUSE: We have had one since then.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, I see. I just wanted the minister to indicate to me - he has anticipated my question - I wanted to know whether these comments still stand or if improvements have been made. I have never been in the school down there, I must admit, but I just wanted for my own information and that of the Committee to inquire as to what the up-to-date status of the conditions of the school might be?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: It is very difficult for me to see the difference in what it was then and now, because the Kendell report was something done a few years ago, and because of some problems that existed later, we had another report done through the Atlantic Provinces Special Education - we call it the Bunch report - and that, of course, has just been discussed at government level. There has been considerable improvement and, of course, they are recommending improvement both physically and, of course, with staffing also, and there will be additional staff, particularly for, I believe, the position of a superintendent. I am not exactly sure of that, but I think it is either a dean or a superintendent to look after the residences there. I cannot state in definitive terms how much improvement has been made, but there has been considerable improvement. However the Bunch report does state that we should do more and, of course, probably in the foreseeable future we will have some recommendations to present on that. I am not very definitive about that, because I cannot relate what was and what is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, let me put it a little more specifically. The reports I have on this school, the facility for this school at Torbay, are all secondhand both from the report, and from talking to someone on the subject in the last forty-eight hours indeed. Does

Mr. Simmons.

the department have any plans to either further upgrade the building or are there plans to relocate the school or to provide a new facility?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: Not specifically, not at the present moment. We realize the inadequacy, and we realize the need perhaps of the location of the building to be in an area closer to town, near the other existing educational facilities in town. But I went through the building, Mr. Chairman, and visited it, and it seems to be a reasonably good building and obviously there is room for improvement as in most of our institutional schools, and it is a matter of study now, and I cannot go any further than state that. The only thing I can say is that we are very concerned about the education of all pupils. I stated that in my preamble to introducing the estimates. And anything we can do to upgrade or provide facilities will be done and, as I said, it is a matter of continued study, and this is as far as I can go.

On motion 609-01 through to 610 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 611-04 carry?

The hon. member for Trinity - Bay de Verde

MR. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, there are a few questions I would like to put to the minister concerning the College of Trades and Technology and really I have similar questions to put to the minister relating to the vocational schools, the College of Fisheries, the polytechnical institute and have we reached MUN yet or have we passed it - and Memorial University. So with the permission of the Committee I would like to ask these questions now, which would relate to these different subheads rather than having to get up and consume the time of the community, get up four or five times and essentially ask similar questions. I could do that with the permission of the Committee and if the Chairman feels I am out of order he will no doubt give me a dart.

Sir, the first point - and it is a general question - I would like to bring up is something that was raised two or three

Mr. Rowe.

years ago when Mr. Speaker was Minister of Education. This was the whole business of the need for trying to standardize or equalize student financial assistance in the various post-secondary educational institutions in the Province. Now as the minister knows with respect to the College of Trades and Technology and the various vocational schools and even the Fisheries College, you do have the provincial allowance, which is available to the students, which does not amount to very much, but it is some small form of assistance. With respect to some other courses and some other students in these same institutions, the students can get the federal allowance which is a substantial allowance. Well, it is a salary almost. With respect to the university we have the student aid programme which for all intents and purposes amounts to a loan, and the students end up with a great substantial debt at the end of four or five or six years of study at the university. And the question I wish to put to the Minister of Education is: Has the minister, since he has been Minister of Education, or has the former Minister of Education, Mr. Speaker, or the officials of the Department of Education taken into consideration or studied the feasibility or desirability of trying to standardize in some way

MR. ROWE: the student assistance or student allowances or financial assistance that go to students in these different post-secondary educational institutions.

In other words what I am saying is this, that I fear that in the past, I do not know what the situation is now because the space at the College of Trades and Technology and vocational schools is limited to say the least, but in the past I was quite convinced when I had researched the problem two or three years ago when I was spokesman for education, that our students in Newfoundland were electing to go to the College of Trades and Technology and to take certain courses of study not because they wished and desired to take these courses of study, but because there was a nice salary involved, a nice federal allowance, Manpower allowance available to them for attendance at that institution. And I think this almost relates to some comments that the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) had to say, a place to go for the Winter and make money at the same time.

Now these same students told me, and there were quite a number of them, that their real wish in life, desire in life, was to go and study at the university. Well, why should I go to the university and get huge loans and owe a great debt at the end of my university studies when I can go over to the College of Trades and Technology, take a certain course and spend a year or two, get a good salary and if I am married get a better one and come out with a -

MR. MURPHY: Money in the bank.

MR. ROWE: - well I will not be led completely from the sublime to the ridiculous by the hon. member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy).

MR. MURPHY: Ridiculous is right.

MR. ROWE: But they would certainly come out better off financially speaking.

So I think in this Province of ours when we consider the amount of money, and I realize there are a lot of difficulties because

MR. ROWE: we are getting into federal government jurisdiction, provincial government jurisdiction and this kind of thing, and then you have got your various private sources of funds through scholarships and what have you. But I think it is time for this Province to probably show leadership in the whole nation with respect to giving students coming out of high school, giving them the opportunity to study the course that they want to take, you know, what they feel in their guts, what they want to take, whether it is at the College of Fisheries, or the College of Trades and Technology or a vocational school course or the School of Nursing, Mr. Chairman, the School of Nursing as opposed to schools of nursing or nursing schools as opposed to the School of Nursing at the university, whether it is the School of Nursing or Memorial University or in certain cases adult education courses.

But what I am trying to say is that if a person could take the course that he really wanted to take, based on his desire to do so rather than being swayed by what amount of money is available in the form of student assistance, it would be much desirable, much more desirable than the situation that we have at the present time.

MR. HOUSE: Where is the assistance greatest then, going to vocational schools?

MR. ROWE: The assistance - now I am relying completely on memory here, I had the charts here last year. I had it broken down, the numbers of students receiving the various forms of assistance, but the greatest assistance goes to - I cannot even remember the names of the courses, Obviously the minister if he does not have it should have it somewhere in his files there.

MR. HOUSE: I do..

MR. ROWE: But the greatest assistance went to these students who took certain courses at the College of Trades and Technology. In other words, they qualified for the Canada Manpower Allowance Programme, or whatever the heck it was called at that time. It

MR. ROWE: was the equivalent of a nice little salary and it was also dependent upon whether he was married, the amount he got, it was also dependent upon the number of dependents that the had. Now it was beyond the capacity of the Province altogether to provide, say, Memorial University students with the same formula, beyond the capacity of the Province altogether. But we do have that inequity for better or for worse with respect to financial assistance being available to students. And the minister, I would suspect, knows a heck of a lot more about it than I do in his capacity as Minister of Education. But the real question is, is the minister and his department studying and looking into the possibility of some day trying to standarize and equalize financial assistance to students attending post-secondary educational institutions so that they go to the place that they want to go, not to the place where they will get the greatest amount of money in the course of their study. I guess that is the question in nutshell that I could have asked through the various subdivisions that will be coming up.

Also, a couple of more questions, Mr. Chairman. I take it the minister got that one. Would the minister like to indicate--well let me just provide some background, When it appeared that the polytechnical institute was not going to really go ahead within the immediate future, and I think the handwriting was on the wall with that one some numbers of years ago, I think even before the previous administration left office it was still talked about. It was not certainly going to be planted there the next day. But when that started to sort of wither away because of the financial restraints, the minister of the day in 1974, Mr. Speaker again, the present Mr. Speaker, announced that the government had extended the teaching day for the vocational students in this Province. Now I would suggest that although he said vocational students it would also possibly apply to the College of Trades and Technology students, as well as the

MR. ROWE: vocational schools.

It was stated at that time in January, 1974 in the Throne Speech that the teaching day would be extended and this would be - it would be extended and introduced, and this would result in 1,000 vocational extra, an extra 1,000 vocational students in this Province. I wonder if the minister would care to comment on the success of that programme and if indeed we have attained that figure of 1,000, if we have surpassed it or if we have not reached it, 1,000 extra vocational students.

And probably in closing, the last final short question, one which I could play politics with, and that of course is the whole -

MR. NOLAN: You would not do that!

MR. ROWE: Of course I would not do anything like that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MURPHY: Not likely!

MR. ROWE: I was wondering if the minister, you know, could enlighten the Committee, and I might have been out somewhere when a question might have been put to him, but without getting into a political harangue about this, just what is the status of the residences for the College of Trades and Technology? You know, we keep hearing about the acquisition of property and the confiscation of property and plans being made up and tentative plans being made and I thought I heard that confiscation would have to be involved. But anyway acquisitions, certainly, of property have to be involved. Then we heard about tentative plans and I do not think we even really go to the point - yes, the final plans were in the hands of the officials at the College of Trades and Technology. Now that is the last I heard of it. Now plans are fine but plans do not make very comfortable living quarters for the students at the College of Trades and Technology. Would the minister just level with the Committee on that one? You know, heave it out of him, the full and whole truth about it, and as long as we get a satisfactory answer we will not badger the minister to death on a political basis but no wishy-washy stuff, please, Mr. Minister, on the answer to that question, because

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MR. ROWE: It is very important to the students at the College of Trades and Technology and it is -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROWE: There is a conference going on so before I carry on, Mr. Chairman, I would like to let the Minister of Finance -

AN HON. MEMBER: Tell us the financial statement.

Mr. Rowe.

Lay it right on the line. Tell the students at the College of Trades and Technology what is the status of that residence. When will building commence? If the minister does not know, let him say so. If building is to commence in two year's time or one year's time or three year's time, tell the students. Do not try to fool the Committee of the College of Trades and Technology students with wishy-washy statements, which I have not yet really heard from the minister in this regard. I think it is safe to say, Mr. Chairman, that over the past three or four years and with the passing of various Ministers of Education - passing politically speaking, departmentally speaking - with their passing so has passed the College of Trades and Technology residences. So I would like the minister to stand up straight, give it to the Committee as it is, not as he would wish the students to believe.- just these three questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I notice the hon. member for Trinity - Bay de Verde is a little more affable today, but I must say, Sir, that I have not yet seen the hon. minister not stand up straight. I do not think he has been lying down on the job piloting his estimates through the House. The hon. minister, in his first attempt at putting estimates through the House, has been very decent, very civilized, a real gentleman in providing the answers to questions that are put from this side of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, in connection with the College of Trades and Technology, although the residence part of it, I suppose, is disturbing to the students, that is not the real problem at the moment, Mr. Chairman. You have to get things in their proper perspective in connection with the College of Trades and Technology. You have to get your priorities straight. The residence at the moment is not the number one priority, is not the top priority in connection with that college.

Mr. Neary.

The number one priority is the expansion of the College of Trades and Technology, As I have said so often since we started the educational estimates that four out of five students every year or in the past four or five years have been turned away from the College of Trades and Technology because of lack of space. The doors have been slammed in their faces. Young men and young women in Newfoundland who want to take technical training, - not because, Mr. Chairman, as the hon. member for Bay de Verde (Mr. Rowe) pointed out, not because they are looking for a place to get in for the Winter to get the Manpower allowances, because that is not the culprit. The College of Trades and Technology is not the big culprit. There are other vocational training institutes and upgrading programmes that are the culprits in attracting people from welfare and unemployment insurance into courses where they can get in out of the weather in the Wintertime. But the College of Trades and Technology, I do not think, Mr. Chairman, you could put in that category. Ninety-nine point nine per cent of the students at the College of Trades and Technology are there because they want to learn a trade. They want to learn about technical training. They want to become technicians. And so in my opinion, Sir, the number one priority is to provide more accommodations and to provide more instructors and to provide more courses, more avenues of training for young men and young women in Newfoundland who would prefer technical training rather than get this little certificate from Memorial University that will not get them a job. They cannot find a job after they get their little certificates that we hear so much about.

So, Sir, I would like for the minister to tell the House just how the College of Trades and Technology proposes to deal with this major problem. Will the government and will the minister's department be dealing with this problem before September coming when we will again be faced with a major crisis as far as the number of applicants

Mr. Neary.

who have to be refused admission to the College of Trades and Technology are concerned? I understand that some of the courses have now been farmed out, that the minister's department, the government, are now using parts of the old sanatorium to run some courses in connection with the College of Trades and Technology, and these buildings are completely unsatisfactory. First of all they are almost too far out of the way, I suppose, for the convenience of the students, and the instructors. They are old buildings. They are buildings that were built there during the Second World War. And I do not know what condition the buildings are in. Perhaps the minister can tell us, but I can only assume that they are in very, very poor condition. But out of desperation the minister and his department had to take advantage of these vacant buildings that became vacant when they moved the T.B. patients into St. Clare's Hospital, that they had to haul their butts in somewhere to provide some space to take the pressure of the number of students who were looking for technical training.

And the minister might also tell us if his department is using any of the facilities at St. Bride's College, Littledale, for technical training? There is a magnificent institution, beautiful facilities, absolutely fantastic, including, I believe, excellent recreational facilities, a swimming pool and so forth. Maybe the thing to do is for the government to try to make some kind of a deal with the proper authorities to take over St. Bride's College, to take over Littledale and turn it 100 per cent into an institute for technical training. I do not know if this is possible or not. I do not know what kind of an arrangement the government has at the moment with the board or with whomever is responsible for the maintenance and the operation of St. Bride's College at Littledale. Is it too far out of the way? Is it a good alternative? Because, Mr. Chairman, I cannot help but impressing upon the Committee - and I believe the minister will agree that there is a sense of urgency with regard to this matter - that young men and young women today have come to the conclusion that you

Mr. Neary.

need technical training and vocational training, you need a trade in order to get a job. Somehow or other there are members of this House who doubt my word when I say that the reason the enrollment is declining at Memorial University, the reason the enrollment is declining is because students have come to the realization that they were brainwashed and hoodwinked into thinking that if you had a university education you were guaranteed to get a job, and that is not so. And today the trend has changed. The trend has changed to trades training, technical training, and there is no doubt about it at all, Sir, that we need to expand our technical training facilities in this Province, and the sooner we do it the better, and we should try to find some alternative before this September, when we are going to have another crisis in the field of technical training, when we will have to turn away by the thousands, turn them away from the College of Trades and Technology. There must be an alternative. Maybe the alternative, Sir, is to take the regional college in Corner Brook. Because, Sir, the minister can tell me all he likes that, you know, there is a two or three year course there. I would say myself that the courses out there are absolutely useless. Maybe the regional college in Corner Brook could be turned into a polytechnical institute, turned into a branch of the College of Trades and Technology. I believe it is worth considering, Sir. Maybe the university themselves are swinging towards technical training and maybe they will utilize the facilities at Corner Brook for technical training. I do not know. They seem to be kind of anxious to get into that field, and their status is certainly going to change if they do that.

And another suggestion I have for the minister, Sir.

A couple of years ago, believe it or not, there were vacancies in the residences over at Memorial University, and there was a deal made between the College of Trades and Technology and the university whereby

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Mr. Neary.

students attending the College of Trades and Technology from out of town were accommodated over at Memorial University in the vacant rooms in the residences. What I would like for the minister to do is to undertake to see that an inventory is done to see

Mr. Neary:

how many facilities are available over at Memorial University in these residences? There was some problem that developed there, there was a little bit of a complication that developed with regard to the students who stayed in residence over there from the College of Trades. Somehow or other the University would not accept the responsibility for collecting the rent or collecting the board and lodgings, that they wanted the College of Trades to do so, a little bit of a dispute arose and I do not know if that was ever resolved or not. But I know last year very few students were enthusiastic about taking advantage of the facilities made available over at the residences at the University. I do not know if there was any resentment on the part of the students or the Student Council over at the University that the students from the College of Trades and Technology would feel out of place. I do not know.

But, Sir, if the vacancies are there, Mr. Chairman, then let us use them. Let the minister do an inventory to see how many students can be accommodated in these residences over at Memorial University. If necessary, take the whole building and turn it over to the College of Trades and Technology, and let them put the out-of-town students in there, and let them set up their own bookkeeping system and let them collect the board and lodgings, if the University does not want to do it.

But, Sir, it seems to me that we have facilities running out of our ears. And what we need, Sir, is for somebody to sit down and do an inventory and see if we are utilizing these facilities to the best of our advantage. And we may all be very, very surprised to discover that the classrooms and the residences are not being utilized to their maximum benefits; that you will find classrooms even over at the University, I remember I was walking through there one day a couple of years ago, I believe I told the House this before, and I counted the number of classrooms that were vacant in the middle of the day, and I came across one where one of the professors was

Mr. Neary:

up stretched out on the desk having a nap.

MR. MURPHY: A what?

MR. NEARY: A professor stretched out on his desk in his classroom having a nap.

MR. MURPHY: A nap?

MR. NEARY: A nap, yes. Having a catnap in the middle of the day.

MR. HOUSE: He had been working for about sixteen hours.

MR. NEARY: And maybe he did work sixteen hours, Sir, but I am told that professors only punch in about two or three or four hours a week, and I have that from a very, very reliable source, very reliable. And then unless they are conscientious and go out and do research, and most of them are not that conscientious that they would go out and do research, they just read straight from the book, theory, no practical experience -

AN HON. MEMBER: I agree.

MR. NEARY: My friend is agreeing. Right straight from the book, no originality! And so, Mr. Chairman, let us find out, do an inventory of the physical assets that are available. The University does not own all of these buildings that are over there. Mr. Chairman, do you realize that we just spent \$11 million on an engineering building? The people of this Province, \$11 million on an engineering building, absolutely beautiful, fantastic. It is indescribable. But, Mr. Chairman, hon. members of this House cannot tell me that that building is fully occupied, that we have that many engineering students, that that building is going to be utilized to its maximum benefit. I think, you know, maybe the minister can sell me on the idea that it will, but I have very grave doubts. I would say that building, that engineering building could be taken and assigned to the College of Trades and Technology. You have to cut the garment, Sir, according to the cloth or cut the cloth according to the garment. You have to look, where is your need? Where is the need today for training?

Mr. Neary:

I mean, you know, maybe I am getting repetitious and tedious, but I cannot help it, I am trying to drive the point home.

MR. DOODY: Never.

MR. NEARY: Trying to drive it home.

MR. DOODY: Repetitious perhaps but never tedious.

MR. NEARY: No. Well, Mr. Chairman, but I know members are bored with all this I have said it so often. But the problem is there and it is real. And we have millions and millions and millions upon millions of dollars of physical assets that are not being used to their maximum ability.

And so let us take a look at it. If we can get one or two residences and make it available to the College of Trades and Technology well then pry it away from the University and give it to the College of Trades. The people own it. They are not a law unto themselves over at the University. And this is the kind of thing that I would like for the minister to look into, and I know the minister is doing the best he can. The minister cannot be all things to all men, but there it is, There is the problem. It has been there for the last four or five years. This year the same thing will happen. The 1st. of September will be here before we know it, and the doors of the College of Trades and Technology and the vocational schools will be slammed in the faces of thousands and thousands of young men and women who want to take trades training and technical training, not because they cannot get into the University or they cannot afford to go to the University, because they want to take that kind of training, because they know that is the only way they will be able to get a job, and earning a decent living for themselves and their families when they get married.

So I would like for the minister to come to grips with this problem. I am not going to belabour the point much longer. I think, if I have not over the last three or four days driven that point home, well, you know, it is just as well for me to give up. I know I get awfully discouraged in this House sometimes with the

Mr. Neary:

integrity and the honesty and the new morality, and that sort of thing that we hear so much about, and very little is done about it, and it is enough to get you down. But certainly, Sir, I would like for the minister to tell us how he intends to deal with this matter before the 1st. of September, before the new school year starts in September coming.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Chairman, I would say this is a very tall order if I am going to deal with that before this Fall.

With respect to the standardization of student aid, I am sure the hon. member from Trinity-Bay de Verde (Mr. Rowe) is aware that we do have three kinds of student aid, The Manpower we have got no control over, and that, of course, obviously, and they buy up a lot of the seats of course in these trade schools and technical schools. I do not think, and I believe I am speaking correctly here as far as I can, that Manpower will not buy seats at the University. So it is just for the Trade Schools, and of course to offset that we have our own programme Provincially for dealing with student aid for these students going into vocational schools and trades colleges, and of course rights depend on the martial status of the people and their proximity to the facility.

Have we been doing anything to try to standardize it? I cannot say that we have, because by virtue of the fact that there are three different programmes, but we have talked at the minister's level, inter-Provincially, trying to get changes made in the student aid programme or the Canada Student Loans Programme to try and help the students who are going to university. So to be quite frank with the hon. member, we have not put a lot of thought into it because of course we have no input into the Manpower Programmes.

With respect to the polytechnical institute, and of course I can embody two or three things here together, the concept, I think, basically was to have the Fisheries College and the Trades College combined into a polytechnical institute for all intense and

Mr. House:

purposes. And of course we had great visions just as everybody has in the past of having that particular facility. And that is one of the reasons of course, by virtue of the fact, that moving towards that we have not extended to any great extent the other facilities that we presently have. The polytechnical institute is something that is still under discussion. And we had reason, Mr. Chairman, to believe that if the Federal Government had an extremely large input into the technical schools of the past that they would have the same kind of input into the polytechnical institute, because it is a kind of an institute envisaged to counterpart the university only in the technical field. And in view of the fact that Canada through its Manpower Programmes have been promoting trades training, we had every reason to expect that there would be a fair amount of input from the Federal Government for that particular institute.

Now the minister in presenting the estimates last year stated that this year we would go ahead with the polytechnical institute provided that we got input from the Department of Regional and Economic Expansion. And the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs is still going ahead with trying to get some input on that particular one. I think we have received the word back that we are not going to get any input in the vocational wings

MR. FOUST:

we talked about. Perhaps that is a little bit more understandable. But there has been no turning down the polytechnical institute. But there has been no great amount of encouragement either. As I said earlier before, I think the most encouragement we got is about an indefinite maybe. Of course, the discussions are still ongoing. So there was no statement last year that the polytechnical institute would go ahead. According to what I read in the estimates, it stated it would go ahead if we got the necessary help that we had anticipated from DEFE. Now the planning is still going ahead. Of course, I stated earlier that the preliminary plans would be completed by the end of May. That is impossible because we have had to revise it, revise the original schematic plan to provide more residential space and more lab space and less classroom space. It had to be revised. So what is in the estimates today is just for preliminary planning.

With respect to the policy announced a couple of years ago, the extended day policy there was provision made - I do not think it was made totally for 1,000 students - there was provision made for a total of 740. We could have taken an extra 740 students. The district vocational schools took 440 and the College of Trades and Technology took 100 extra students. That was 540. We had a number of places unfilled that particular year, in that particular year it was announced, and what the member for Trinity-Bay de Verde(Mr. Rowe) refers to. We had 200 places available when school opened in that year. This year when school opened we had 225 places available in vocational schools. We went seeking students to fill these. With respect to the College of Trades and Technology, there has been some extension. As the hon. member for LaPoile(Mr. Neary) said, we moved some of the labs and classrooms and some of the students to the facilities on Topsail Road. That is being extended this year. I think most of the medical laboratory programmes will be out there. I believe that unit or the College of Trades next year will be able to take 125 more students than it currently has. Of course, they will be taken in mainly with the new programmes that I announced the other day in computer studies and the appraisal assessment technology and so on.

MR. HOUSE:

I am not going to get into a debate about the university, whether the university can give some of its facilities to the College of Trades and Technology or not. But when you refer to the junior college in Corner Brook I want to point out that there has been discussions, and I do not know how far this has gone because they are three privately operated groups - the Junior College coming under Memorial University, the Trades College under its own board and the Fisheries College under its board - there has been discussions regarding co-operative services to the extent where, for instance, the junior college may do some of the academic programmes required for the various trades. When you go to the trade school you do both academic upgrading, I would presume, or some subjects, sciences, and you do your technical training besides. There has been discussions with these three groups to see if some of the things that are done in the trade schools could be done in junior college. I do not know how far that is advanced. But that was the original plan and there has been discussions on it.

With respect to the residences - but first of all with respect to Littledale College, we are not using that facility. That belongs to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation, I think. It is a private unit.

AN HON. MEMBER: The university is using it sometimes.

MR. HOUSE: Well, we are not using it at the Trades and Technology or the Fisheries College. With respect to the residences, the land has been acquired. The plans have been completed. The only thing I can say to the hon. member, it is deferred for this fiscal year.

On motion 611-04 through to 618 carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall 619-01 carry?

The hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. T. LUSH: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to speak to 619-01 near the Adult and Continuing Education. I do not want to prolong this. I just want to point out again some of the things that I have been saying about the necessity for adult education in this Province. I think the minister gave the most startling statistic for the necessity for an ever greater

MR. LUSH:

effort in this particular area. I refer specifically, of course, to the upgrading with respect to adult education. As I have said, the minister certainly gave the greatest statistic for the necessity of this when he spoke about the 80,000 to 100,000 adults in this Province that are functionally illiterate. I tried to point out the many implications that this has for education, not only with respect to the training of the adults themselves, of course which is certainly desirable to make them more qualified to enter into the labour force, to make them more qualified to cope with the problems of living in the complex society of today. That is very desirable. But I also mentioned another factor which I want to emphasize again. I mentioned the importance of the home with respect to educating children. I have mentioned the study which indicated that the influence of the home on the achievement of children was very significant. I think for this factor as well that is very important that we pay more emphasis to adult education. I realize that we have been making some effort in this respect. But I think we have got to make a greater effort in view of these circumstances, and to elaborate on the latter point of the influence of the home on children. I am sure the minister is aware of students who come to school from homes where education is not regarded very highly, that these kids have a severe disadvantage when coming to school with children who were exposed to books and magazines see their parents read continually, that people who do not see this, of course, are severely restricted.

So for these reasons, Sir, I would suggest that we give ever more attention to adult and continuing education. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Carbonear.

MR. R. MOORES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak to 612-04, Manpower Training Programmes. I would like to start off first, Mr. Chairman, by saying that -

AN HON. MEMBER: You cannot speak to it -

MR. R. MOORES: I can just refer back to it, can I not?

AN HON. MEMBER: On the total.

MR. R. MOORES: Yes, on the total.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): Speak a little louder please.

MR. R. MOORES: I beg your pardon.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): I cannot understand you.

MR. R. MOORES: There has been an objection to my speaking on 612-04 but I understood from one of the elder members of the House that this was permissible to refer back to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Speak to the total by leave.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: By leave.

MR. CHAIRMAN: By leave, yes.

MR. R. MOORES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you hon. members of the House.

I would like to say first of all, Mr. Chairman, that I am more than impressed with the ability of the hon. Minister of Education so far during the entire debate on the estimates of his department. I have been watching him for the past couple of hours and I do not really know where the man gets the information but it seems to be coming out in almost computer like form. Believe me, Sir, I am impressed with your honesty and your knowledge of your department in the just eight months, I think it is, that you have been minister.

With regard to the Manpower Training Programmes, in the Late Show last week I referred to the BTSD Programme and its decentralization, At that time I did not have long enough to get to the point that I wanted to get to concerning decentralization in Carbonear. It is all right for some hon. members to speak and say, "Well, so what, you are taking fifteen seats out of Carbonear out of a total of ninety." But as the member for that district I am supposed to be as responsive to one or two people as I should be to 100 or 200 and in this case that is exactly the situation. One or two instructors have already been informed that they have to be transferred and the Canada Manpower Centre in Harbour Grace has already

MR. R. MOORES: been informed that there will be a cutback in seats.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Canada Manpower Centre in Harbour Grace informs me that there are presently ninety prospective students for the class in Carbonear. Now according to them, that means six months waiting period for any individual student to get into that course in Carbonear, if you drop sixteen per cent off, which is what is being done to the number of places, you add an additional month to the waiting period.

Now the demand is there. Students want to enter the course. Students want to go to Carbonear for that course. Then why is it necessary, what logic is there for the department to decentralize it?

Let me reiterate just for a second what I said in the Late Show. All that the department is doing is prolonging the inevitable. If you move fifteen students or places to another location, for instance Bay Roberts, Harbour Grace, Bay de Verde, next year in the overall goal of the programme to give to a student a vocational training in plumbing or electrical or electronics, he has to go to Carbonear to finish, to comply with that objective, so why decentralize it? Why bring it to Bay Roberts when twelve months later the man has to go back to Carbonear to finish it? Now if you use the argument for decentralization this year, why does it not apply the following year? It cannot apply for two reasons: One, because it is nonsense; and, two, because the clientele, the type of student who attends a BTSD course is not the type of student who wants to stay home with his wife. He is normally unmarried. He is normally an elementary or high school dropout who is five to ten years in the labour force.

So the hon. minister is absolutely wrong when he says that you have to decentralize to decrease the threat factor. I say that the hon. minister, who has been very honest, very capable

MR. R. MOORES: to this point in the debate, should accede to my request to review the situation as it applies to Carbonear. Population concentration, attractive facilities, good social life, we have the staff in Carbonear, there is a guidance counsellor at the Carbonear Vocational School and there is only, I understand, one school outside of Carbonear which has a guidance counsellor and that is Stephenville. Number two, there is a BTSD supervisor in Carbonear who is there for no other reason other than to supervise BTSD, the upgrading programme. Are you going to transfer him too? Are you going to have a BTSD supervisor in every decentralized location? No, of course not because that would be increased expenses for the Province. And you have the demand, population, staff, the facilities, the BTSD programme is already there in Carbonear, you do not need to add facilities, you do not need to take away, you do not need to do anything, just leave it alone. So that is staff, facilities, and demand. More important the demand, because if you have demand you automatically, that is an automatic indicator that the hon. minister is wrong to decentralize. If a student in Baccalieu or anywhere wants to go to Carbonear to study then why is it necessary to decentralize?

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HOUSE: To start I want to respond to both the hon. member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) with respect to the adult continuing programme to do more.

The whole idea I think of our adult and continuing education programme is to try to attract as many people into it for the very reasons you spoke, for the home benefits, for the social benefits, and for the opportunity to get upgraded. And to attract more people into this was the whole concept, one of the whole concepts of the community college where people will be able to identify their own needs and the needs for specific kinds of programmes. And there has been a great emphasis by virtue of the fact that we have appointed a director, a director of community

MR. HOUSE: colleges to emphasize the importance of adult education.

The other thing with respect to the hon. member for Carbonear (Mr. R. Moores), I was on the Late Show the other day, I said what I had to say on it and of course I am sure you know there are pupils there who would want to go to upgrading, I am sure there are also people in Bay d'Espoir and Burin, but if the hon. member could make a deal with the other two hon. members from Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Canning) and Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons), we will think about it. We were going to replace some from Carbonear into Bay d'Espoir and Burin, and I suggested that if he would make a deal with you people we would think about it.

On motion Head VI - Education, without amendment, carried.

Head X - Health

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, before I get into what I have to say I would like to join with the member for Carbonear (Mr. R. Moores), in congratulating my colleague on the tremendous job, in my opinion, which he has done. It has been a great debate in terms of the philosophy of what we are doing and what we should be doing. But what I propose to do, Mr. Chairman, is to outline to the Committee very briefly, to outline to the Committee the areas in which the funds which are mentioned are to be spent and hopefully as the debate progresses any information which hon. members might need I will certainly be only too glad to provide them with it.

The Department of Health, as you know, is the second largest spender in the estimates this year. Our total is \$194 million, which is an increase of approximately \$20 million over last year. As hon. members realize a great proportion of that money goes into the operation of hospitals. I have a breakdown here which I could give of the \$194 million. \$174 million represents the estimated expenditures on current account. That is the estimated expenditure required to operate the health care system for the financial

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MR. COLLINS: year. The remaining \$20 million, Mr. Chairman, represents estimated capital expenditures, and the capital expenditures are basically those required for the completion of new facilities and the renovation of existing facilities and for planning. And I might say, in talking about planning, is that

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funds have been made available this year in my estimates to continue the planning for the extension of the Grand Falls hospital, commonly known as the Central Newfoundland Hospital, funds are in the estimates for planning for the new hospital at Clarenville, and funds are also provided in the estimates for planning for the new hospital on the Burin Peninsula. These three, the extension and the two new facilities, in our opinion, Mr. Chairman, are absolutely essential, and while there has been a need this year because of financial restraints to curtail any further expenditures on capital account at this time, it was the wish of government to continue with the planning, have all the planning done so that when the time arrives whereby funds are available for the construction then the planning work will have been done. This planning, I might say, has been done in conjunction with the various boards which are responsible for the operations of those hospitals.

The major component of the \$174 million expenditure on current account will, as I said before, be used by the various hospitals, some of which are operated by boards, others which are operated directly by the Department of Health. A considerable amount, a grant of nearly \$9 million will be needed to assist the Medicare Commission in carrying out its operations, and there will be a fairly extensive grant of \$5.8 million made to the School of Medicine at Memorial University.

Now in the Budget Speech, Mr. Chairman, we announced that it was the government's intention this year - again because of the restraint position in which we find ourselves - that 200 hospital beds would have to be closed across the Province. We took this position for two reasons: Number one, because of the financial restraints; and number two, in response to the federal government's request of us that we would make every endeavour, as all the other

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provinces were requested, make every endeavour to curtail the rapidly escalating costs in terms of hospital services, particularly, because that is where most of the money goes, and expenditures under the Medicare programme, which is not nearly as great. All the provinces, as hon. members know, have made some effort. Ontario, for instance, has gone about closing hospitals. We are not in a position in Newfoundland to select any particular institution to close. But in line with the thinking in New Brunswick and even in Alberta, Alberta is going along not because of financial restraints at all, I suspect, but merely to show their good intentions in co-operating with the provinces and with the federal government.

After the Budget Speech, Mr. Chairman, I undertook to meet with the Newfoundland Medical Association, and with the Newfoundland Hospital Association. In fact, I believe it was the day following the presentation of the budget by my colleague, the hon. Minister of Finance, that I met with those two groups, and it was essential, of course, that we would meet with them first, because after all the doctors who represent the Medical Association are the people who generate a great amount of activity - just to put it mildly - a great amount of activity, all the activity in fact in the hospitals as it relates to beds, and that is where the cost is. We also met jointly with them and the Hospital Association. We pointed out what we were up against in terms of financial restraints, pointing out to them, which they already knew, of course, the desire of the federal government to find ways and means of reducing, not necessarily reducing costs, but holding costs at a certain level. And I must say, Mr. Chairman, that at that meeting, which was attended by all the senior officials of my department, was a very good meeting. All of the people involved, the Hospital Association and the Medical Association were sympathetic, and realized that we had a job to do, and they were quite willing to do their bit in helping us bring about what was necessary. We undertook then, also, to go around the country, Labrador and the Island part of the Province and meet with

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about what was necessary. We undertook then, also to go around the country, Labrador and the Island part of the Province and meet with all of the individual hospital boards. I am sorry?

MR. SMALLWOOD: Were you going to bring the whole P. C. Cabinet?

MR. COLLINS: That is all right. There are not supposed to be any Conservatives on this side of the House.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Not many.

MR. H. COLLINS: Not many.

Anyway, we did then start meeting with all of the boards across the Province, and most of those meetings were conducted by some of the senior officials of the department. All of the individual institutions, and all of the individual boards have now been met with with the exception of two, and please goodness before this week is out those remaining two will have had discussions with my officials. I also undertook at that time, at the original meeting to come back to the Hospital Association and the Medical Association and review the results of the meetings which we had with the various hospitals. I would hope - it has taken longer than we anticipated - but I would hope that certainly by the end of May, hopefully before the end of May, we will be in a position to assess the whole situation and be able to make some more definitive statements as to where we are and what the implications of the financial restraints will be. I would like to reiterate again that it is our desire to be able to bring about bed closures if that has to be the route, but to bring about the savings which we set out to do without any layoff of staff, I cannot guarantee that. Nobody can at this time. But with the co-operation of all concerned, I am pretty sure that we will be able to accomplish that.

Mr. Chairman, a considerable amount of money is required, as I have said, for the operation of the various hospitals, government owned and board operated, A considerable amount of money is needed as we go down the road in the provision of medical services in the various communities of Newfoundland, in our dental

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health programmes, public health nursing, public health inspection services. All in all, all the services very close to the people, services which one could argue, I suppose, that cannot be cut back in any way, but I am of the opinion, and I think all of my colleagues are, that in this period of restraint there is no single department can escape the need to restrain and constrain or whatever term you might use. And while my estimates, as I have said, have increased from \$174 to \$194 million this year that is a considerable increase, and I am sure that with the co-operation of all the people involved and the health care system that we can do what we set out to do without impairing the health delivery system.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I recognize the hon. member for LaPoile, I would like to welcome to the galleries a delegation from the town of St. Anthony, Mayor Joe Ollerhead, Deputy Mayor Albert Sheppard and Town Manager Wes Boyles. Welcome to the Chamber, and I trust your stay will be enjoyable.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, for a government, Sir, that is going to spend \$194 million this year in health services, health care in this Province, certainly we would have expected, Sir, a much more elaborate explanation from the minister on how that money is going to be spent and a kind of a general statement on the state of the health of the people of this Province at the present time. Instead of that, Sir, we got a few paragraphs read off by the minister that certainly would not enlighten the Committee to any great degree, although I am not going to delay the estimates of the Department of Health if I can possibly help it. I do not know what the other members on this hon. side of the House will do. I hope that the health estimates will pass before six o'clock this evening so that we can get on to some of the more controversial departments

MR. NEARY.

Like Finance and Industrial Development and Municipal Affairs and Fisheries and so on and so forth, get into the ones - obviously the government, Sir, the government is deliberately avoiding calling the more controversial departments. They are sort of calling the motherhood departments, like Social Services, like Health and Education and that sort of thing although vast amounts of money are being spent in these departments, and they do have some major problems. They are not the real departments that we really want to get our teeth into. We want to get at the Finance Department, for instance. And I doubt very much, Mr. Chairman, I will say that the time will run out before we will get a crack at Municipal Affairs and Housing, at the Fisheries Department, at the Finance Department and at the Justice Department. Time will run out before we will get a crack at them. So the amount of time that I am going to spend on the Health Department is going to be very little.

Mr. Neary:

First of all I want to say that I am not going to start playing politics with the minister and his department over the fact that the government were unable to fulfill its commitments to construct hospitals in Clarenville and in Marystown on the Burin Peninsula and to expand the hospital in Grand Falls. As the minister indicated, and rightly so, when there are restraints and cutbacks and belt-tightening it affects all departments. And fortunately and thank God, in this Province we are not as bad off today as they are in the Province of Ontario, the rich, wealthy Province of Ontario where thousands of beds have been closed, whole hospitals have been closed down, and there are major layoffs, and I understand -

AN HON. MEMBER: And the Health Minister is cracking up.

MR. NEARY: Well maybe the Health Minister is cracking up. But, Sir, the thing that strikes me about it is that there are major layoffs in the hospitals and this brings me to my first question that I want to put to the minister. As a result of these layoffs of nurses and so forth in Ontario, are we now flooded with applications in Newfoundland from nurses in Ontario who would like to come here to work in our hospitals because we do have a little bit, I believe, of a shortage of nurses? Are we getting the backlash? Are we getting applications from Ontario from nurses and other hospital staff, technical people and so forth that, you know, who are interested in coming to Newfoundland?

But I still want to say this, Sir, even though I recognize the fact that we have restraints and cutbacks I cannot help but giving the government a little rap on the knuckles for going around in September before the election and building up people's hopes that there were going to be new hospitals constructed and that there were going to be expansions to the hospital in Grand Falls, and there was going to be a new hospital built out in Channel, Port aux Basques in my own district. I have to give the government a flick for being hypocritical and for being a little bit parasitical, I guess.

Mr. Neary:

before the election. But nevertheless now fortunately, I suppose, or unfortunately, I do not know how you could put it, the people recognize the fact, except in Clarenville; when the oil refinery closed down there they were hoping to use this to pressure the government into building that hospital that was promised in Clarenville. And I do not know whether the government is going to yield to that pressure or not. I do not think hospitals really should be built for make-work projects, The hospitals are built to take care of the sick and the suffering and the people who need medical care. It is like senior citizen's homes, you know, You are not in style now in Newfoundland today unless you can get a senior citizen's home for your community. And the argument that I always hear used, Oh, look how many jobs it is going to create, and look how much business it is going to leave in the community. And that is not the real reason for building hospitals or building senior citizen's homes. You build them because there is a need for them to take care of the people who are unable to fend for themselves and the people who are sick and the people who are suffering and in need of medical care. That is the whole reason behind it, not to try to boost the economy of a community or of an area.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: It is very sensible.

MR. NEARY: Well, it is sensible, Sir, but nevertheless I still got to give my flick to the government and to the Leader of the administration, to the P.C. Party generally for hoodwinking and misleading the people before the election.

Now Trudeau has taken the government off the hook, not only on the hospitals, but taken the government off the hook on a good number of things. And no wonder the Premier of this Province welcomed the wages and price controls and the guidelines that were laid down by the Government of Canada; it gave the government the out that they needed. Well okay, so be it; not a thing we can do about it now.

Mr. Neary:

But there are some things that we can do something about, Sir, and I am going to throw a few suggestions and a few ideas at the minister and then I will be finished with the hon. minister, and as I say I hope the estimates will go through quickly because most of it is motherhood anyway in the Department of Health, so that we can get at some of the more controversial departments, can really get at the ones where the meat is, where the controversy is, where the nitry-gritty is, the stuff that I really want, Look, I have got a briefcase over here, an evidence file, you know, that I call it, and some of these departments that I really want to get into.

But in the meantime I want to suggest to the minister something that I mentioned before and that is it is about time that the minister's department now started calling tenders for eyeglasses in this Province. I put the question to the House before, I put the suggestion before the House following the visitation of the Royal Commission on the Eyeglass Industry in Canada when they came to Newfoundland, and there were reports publicly, and there was no denial of these reports of the kick backs in the eyeglass industry.

You know, Mr. Chairman, no wonder I get so discouraged and so downhearted and so depressed sometimes about the going-ons in this hon. House when I hear statements made both inside and outside of this House accepting dishonesty. People seem to accept the fact that the Public Treasury can be gypped and that the Public Treasury and the taxpayers can be ripped off, a new morality, a new political doctrine we have. It does not make any difference about how much is paid for the property, as we heard here this afternoon, it does not make any difference about that if the Public Treasury was ripped off, if the people were gypped, if there was collusion, if there was conspiracy; that does not make any difference.

MR. WELLS: Which subhead is this?

MR. NEARY: Well, I am talking about the eyeglass industry, but I am just relating it to another matter that came up this afternoon. Because in the eyeglass industry we are told, I was there at the

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hearings, I was the only member of this House who was interested enough to go to these hearings, I was told about the ripoffs in the eyeglass industry, about how Imperial Optical has a monopoly, and how they were giving kickbacks to the ophthalmologist, and the ophthalmologists.

MR. WELLS: Here we go!

Mr. Neary: No, they did not attend, not one ophthalmologist attended these hearings. And some optometrists who were there admitted, some optometrists, I was there and heard with my own ears admitted that there was kickbacks. And somehow or other this is all accepted as being perfectly legitimate and perfectly legal, nothing wrong with it. No. The minister shakes his head, but it is not right. Certainly it is not right, Sir, that is why I suggest to -

MR. WELLS: There is an inquiry, is there not?

MR. NEARY: There is an inquiry. It is a Federal inquiry, and it is being done under a Federal Act. But what I am suggesting to the minister is that there is no reason in this world why the government of this Province should not set a good example by calling public tenders for eyeglasses. And I have discussed it with the minister's official, I have discussed it with the minister himself. And I cannot foresee one problem in this world in calling tenders for eyeglasses, and let the chips fall where they may.

I had a gentleman come to see me about a month and a half ago from Halifax, Nova Scotia, an optician -

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I cannot compete, Mr. Chairman, with the -

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): I will ask the hon. members to my left -

MR. NEARY: No, it is outside, it is not on the left, Sir, it is outside in the corridor.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): I am sorry. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to check this outside. Thank you.

MR. NEARY:

But, Mr. Chairman, this optician came to see me from Halifax and he told me that public tenders are called in the Province of New Brunswick, that the Government of Nova Scotia is in the process of calling tenders for eyeglasses, Prince Edward Island is in the process of doing it, and there is no reason I cross-examined the gentleman every way, shape, and form, and I took him down to meet one of the minister's officials. And I got the shock of my life when I discovered -

MR. COLLINS: This is no fault of the official.

MR. NEARY: No, I suppose, it is no fault of the official because this just happens to be the way that things are done in this Province. We do things, we accept things, do it in a sloppy way - they do not have a price list of eyeglasses in the minister's department. And you ask any of the minister's officials, "Well, how do you arrive at the price of eyeglasses?" "Well, I take a look at it. If I think it is too high, I draw a line through it and send it back, and say, 'Boy, we are going to take \$5 off it or \$10 off it!'"

MR. NEARY:

That is no way to do business. You can call public tenders. There is no reason in this world why you could not call public tenders for eyeglasses. I would like for the minister to tell us if the government intends to do this or not. Then, Sir, I want to find out about the act. Does the minister, does the department, intend to bring in a new act regulating the practice of ophthalmology and optometry and opticians in this Province? One thing I learned, Mr. Chairman, I will tell you, you know one thing about politics -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Got her down pat.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir, I have got her down pat - ophthalmologists, optometrists and opticians. I tell you one thing that when I started to do my research into the eyeglass industry in Newfoundland -

MR. DOODY: The one with the longest name is the most expensive.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. DOODY: The one with the longest name is the most expensive.

MR. NEARY: The one with the longest name, I will tell you, not only is the most expensive, are booked up probably until about September, but you have to go to a specialist before you can get to the ophthalmologist which is, in my opinion, completely unnecessary. It is money that is coming out of M.C.F., in my opinion, unnecessarily. But, Sir, that is one thing about politics, you learn a lot, and I tell you I have learned a lot. When I was researching the eyeglass industry I did not know but an ophthalmologist was something that washed up on the beach down in my friend's district of St. Georges. But now I know what it is, an ophthalmologist. I can tell you what it is. I know what an optometrist is and what an optician is. I know all about kickbacks. I learned all about that along the route. I found out that Imperial Optical has a monopoly, not only in Newfoundland, but right across Canada. That is the reason there is no competition. That is why you are paying the high prices for eyeglasses in this Province. That is why people in rural Newfoundland do not get the service they should be getting on their eyeglasses. Their eyeglasses are sent out in the mail. Sometimes contact lenses are sent

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out in the mail, and the manager of some department store out in Corner Brook will fit them. Can you imagine the damage that could be done to a person's eyes? It is a real racket, the eyeglass industry, not only in Newfoundland, right across Canada it is a racket. It is about time it was straightened out. But I kind of got sidetracked there for a moment. I want to find out about the act. I understand via the grapevine, and I tried to get a copy of the act. But the minister very courteously and very gentlemanly told me that members of the House are not entitled to have a copy of the act in advance. But they can give it to the ophthalmologist and the optometrist and the various associations involved. But the members of the House, the elected representatives of the people, cannot get a chance to look at it. So the act has been passed around. I have not seen it. I suppose if I put myself to enough trouble I could probably get one of my friends who is an ophthalmologist to -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: - usual reliable sources.

MR. NEARY: My usual reliable sources tell me some of the things that are in that act. Some of the things that are in the act I do not like and some of the things that are in the act I do like. One thing we have to get straight in our mind is that the optometrists are not doctors. We have optometrists, as the minister knows because I went and spent an hour one morning discussing this with the minister in his office, and pointed out to the minister that there are optometrists who have names on their doors who have their shingles hung out saying "Doctor So-and-So, Optometrist". You can even look in the telephone directory and you will see, "Doctor So-and-So, Optometrist". They are not doctors as my hon. professional friend, the member for Mount Scio (Mr. R. Winsor) can tell you. They are not doctors. I hope that they will not be recognized under the new act as doctors. The ophthalmologists are doctors.

Mr. Chairman, one thing I would like to see in that new act and that is that ophthalmologists and optometrists be forbidden by law to retail eyeglasses, to sell eyeglasses and frames, that they be barred under this act

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because this is where the racket comes in, or part of the racket - that is not all of it - that they will be forbidden by law to retail eyeglasses that you go to an optometrist and then he sends you downstairs and fits you for a pair of eyeglasses, eyeglasses sometimes that cost in the vicinity of \$70.00 or \$80.00 and \$90.00 and \$100.00. I do not know if members are aware or not of what the profit is on eyeglasses. It is way ahead of the booze business, I can tell you that. The pair of glasses that the minister has right in his hands there, I would say from my usual reliable source of information, just taking a look at the lens and taking a look at the frames, I would say their total value would be about \$12.00.

MR. DOODY: Less than that.

MR. NEARY: And I would like to know what the hon. minister paid for these.

MR. SMALLWOOD: The price was higher.

MR. DOODY: I paid \$3.00.

MR. NEARY: Three dollars? Do hon. members realize how much a set of contact lenses cost?

MR. DOODY: That is not in my league, boy. These are not paid for yet.

MR. NEARY: I am told by people who know, who make the lenses, that they cost not more than ninety-nine cents. But the profit is made on the fitting. That is what takes the time, the fitting.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Knowing how to make them is \$100.00.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. SMALLWOOD: Knowing how to make them -

MR. NEARY: The material cost less than \$1.00, believe it or not. I would say it is less than fifty cents. But I think I was told ninety-nine cents. But it is the fitting that takes the time and that is what -

MR. SMALLWOOD: The plumber charges \$1.00 for tapping the pipe and \$50.00 for knowing where to tap it.

MR. NEARY: That is right. Well, Sir, this industry needs now to be regulated. Obviously they have not been able to subject themselves to self discipline. They are like the lawyers, only the lawyers have the best closed shop in the world. They have not been able to discipline themselves yet and regulate their members and discipline their members. We will soon have to take steps in this House to regulate them. But now I am talking about the ophthalmologists, the optometrists and the opticians. It is time now that we had a new act. The old act, I believe is, what is it, fifteen or twenty years old - seventeen years, is it? Does the member -

AN HON. MEMBER: About twenty years.

MR. NEARY: Fifteen or twenty years. Not an amendment and you should see the act - a couple of pages.

MR. SMALLWOOD: It is all left to the society.

MR. NEARY: Ah! Everything is left up to the society. Now they are talking about wanting representation on the board and all this sort of thing. They want the right to be able to say who gets a certificate to be an optometrist and an ophthalmologist and an optician. They want to run the whole show. They leave it wide open for discrimination. I say that the government should not put it in their hands like we did with the lawyers.

MR. HOUSE: We should not give them any certificate.

MR. NEARY: No certificates, my friend out in Corner Brook says, with the Regional College. But, Sir, it is a pretty serious matter and one that we are going to have to be very careful about. Once the board is set up I think there should be a consumer on the board; not just leave it to the people in the industry, put a consumer on the board.

MR. MURPHY: Someone who wears glasses.

MR. NEARY: Well, not necessarily. But I do not think we should discriminate against people who do not wear glasses. I do not wear glasses myself and I need a pair in the worst kind of a way. I tell you now I am getting to reach the stage now where I have to hold the telephone directory down here in order to see it and then I can hardly see it.

MR. DOODY: Does that cut off your sources of information now?

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, I was offered, I was offered - fortunately I had dinner today with a gentleman who is a very good friend of mine, my hon. friend, the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) and myself. The three of us sat down and we wined and dined together today. That gentleman, I am sure, would test my eyes for me for a very -

MR. SMALLWOOD: That is not all he would do.

MR. NEARY: - for a very low charge. But I would like to hear about this act. When are we going to get it in the House? Are we going to get it this session or, Mr. Chairman, is it going to be like the denturists? Are we going to set up a committee? We have had a committee now on the go of some of the elite of St. John's, some of the cocktail set, two years trying to figure out whether we should legalize denturists in this Province. In the meantime they are out practicing. They got their - down in my hon. friend's district, down in Grand Bank I think it is, a denturist opposed my friend in the last election and nearly beat him. Well if he did it, it is a good thing I did not go down there or we would have a new Minister of Justice today. But here you have a denturist who is out actively practicing. You have them all over Newfoundland. They are -

AN HON. MEMBER: Give their teeth and all.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir, they are providing dentures for about, I would say, perhaps my friend could correct me on this, the gentleman who is in the dentistry field, they could probably sell you a pair of dentures for about one quarter or one-fifth of what it would cost - no? Will the hon. member enlighten me then?

DR. WINSOR: I will speak to that subject later on.

Mr. Neary.

Well, okay, Sir, I look forward to the hon. gentleman making his comments, but there is a substantial saving, a substantial saving for the ordinary poor people of this Province, for the little man by going to a denturist and getting his plates, his uppers and his lowers. And I know the arguments. I know what the member will tell us about how you have to go and get your mouth and your gums checked for pyorrhea, oh, all sorts of other things, and whether there are any signs of cancer and all this sort of thing. But, Sir, once all that is done, then the gentleman should be given a slip, a prescription or whatever it is, a slip, and say, "Okay, boy, you got a clean bill of health. You do not have to buy your dentures from me. You can shop around and buy them from whomever you want," providing, of course, that these people are licenced and that they maintain certain standards. Why should not the people have that privilege? And we have been two years now monkeying around with that. Mr. George G. R. Parsons, I believe, is the head of the committee. I do not even know if the committee is meeting now or not. But they are certainly dragging their heels if they are, and we were hoping to have legislation two sessions ago legalizing the denturists in this Province. They are out now practising illegally. It is just like bingo in this Province. Bingo is illegal, and nobody does anything about it. Denturists practising, that is illegal, and I am not suggesting that anybody do anything about it, because it is a good service. It is a good service. The poor people would be ripped off again but for the denturists, and they were driven underground for awhile, but now they are up, out in the open. They have their shingles hung out, and it is about time we had an act brought into this House, and that is another matter that I would like for the minister to explain.

I made reference a few moments ago to Medicare. Well, everybody today is concerned about the medical health costs in this Province, about Medicare, about how it is likely to become such a burden and such a drag on the public treasury. Well, one of the reasons I gave the

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minister a few moments ago was the fact that before you can go to see a specialist, before you can go to see an ophthalmologist - and even the ophthalmologist, themselves agree that this is wrong - you have to go to a G.P. to get a note to go to an ophthalmologist to get your eyes tested. You know MCP is in some regard a little bit of a racket too. There are a lot of things that need to be tightened up and so I can understand why the authorities are becoming concerned daily about Medicare. Medicare could bankrupt the Province if we did not watch it. The doctors are coming in for another raise, I believe, the first of June. I do not think it is very much. What is it, five, six, seven per cent? Seven per cent of an increase, or something like that. Probably a lot of them deserve it. There are a few of them who do not deserve it. It is just like everything else Mr. Chairman. It is just like everything else. You have one or two rotten apples which can spoil the whole barrel, and you got the same thing with MCP. You got two or three rotten apples that spoil the whole barrel and make it bad for everybody else. And all you have to do is look at the report of the Medical Care Commission, and you can see who is ripping off MCP. And so I do not blame the government for being concerned. There is no point in pawning off the blame on the Government of Canada and saying they are cutting back on Medicare, they are cutting back on hospital care and that sort of thing.

MR. COLLINS: They cannot do very much without the co-operation of the Province.

MR. NEARY: That is true. They cannot do very much without the co-operation of the Province, but I made a suggestion the other day that I am going to toss at the minister again now. I would say in the hospitals in this Province that at least thirty per cent of the patients who are occupying these expensive hospital beds should not be in hospital at all. They should be in a home, a nursing care home, or a home for geriatric care. There is where the real need is in this Province, and these institutions can be operated for about half the cost of

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operating hospital beds. These people do not need medical care, but they need personal care, and they need nursing care, and so I would like to find out what the minister has in mind in that particular field. But, you know, if the government of Canada is going to cut back and we have to accept it, and there is not much we can do about it, then we have to start looking at the alternatives. And that is one of the alternatives, to have scattered throughout this Province a series of homes for nursing care so that all these people who are now occupying hospital beds, and not only hospital beds but people also who are in overcrowded boarding homes, and the people who are in private homes where their children and their relatives are trying to care for them, and cannot cope with them, and the doctors will not admit them to hospital. Some of the stories that you hear and some of the phone calls that I get and the letters that I get are really heartbreaking. I know in one case recently my wife was looking after an old lady who could not get into a home. They could not get her into a home anywhere, and my wife used to have to go every morning and evening to give the lady a bath, to attend to her bedsores and the lady died, oh, about a week ago, but this went on and on for weeks and there is no doubt about it that it created a terrific hardship, and there was an awful lot of suffering involved. And I think probably every member of the House knows at least of a dozen cases in his own district.

But apart from that, I remember when I was Minister of Social Services that the hospitals, the social workers, and the doctors used to call me up from the hospitals and say, "For God's sake will you take these people out of the beds. We have to get people in for surgery and we have to get people in who need medical attention, and our beds are filled up with people, mostly elderly people, but people who are down, who are incurable, who need

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personal and nursing care and that is all they need. Will you try to get them in the Hoyles Home or will you try to get them in a home for us." The doctors used to call me up and plead with me. You had to wait for somebody to die. I would say right now there is a list of several hundred at Hoyles Home, 300 or 400 or 500, and you have to wait for somebody to die. And I know for a fact that some people used to pick up the paper every day and read the obituaries to see if anybody died in the Hoyles Home, and I could almost tell you before I had read the newspaper with the number of phone calls that I would get in the office, that somebody was dead at Hoyles Home. They used to read the obituaries and find out if there was a vacancy over there so they could get their poor old mother or their poor old father or aunt or somebody who was seriously ill into Hoyles Home where they needed nursing care.

Medicare is going to be a real problem. There is no doubt about that, and I do not envy the minister's job at all of trying to cut corners and affect economies with regard to Medicare. It is going to be a big job, but it has to be done, and the minister has to get the co-operation of the medical profession, and the minister also has to get the co-operation of the people, because there are a lot of people who are abusing medicare. Sometimes you down in the hospitals and you see the same crowd there day in and day out, and half of it is not necessary at all. The half of it is upstairs. But they still have to go in and they sign their MCP, they pass in their MCP number. But it is a big problem, and I hope that the minister will be able to cope with it.

Mr. Chaitman, before I take my seat I want to say a word of praise and offer a word of congratulations to Mr. Edgar House who retired recently, who was head of the Newfoundland Tuberculosis Association in Newfoundland for so long that later became

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what is it called now? - The Newfoundland Tuberculosis And Respiratory Disease Association. For years I suppose when I was living and working on Bell Island I collected funds, I collected thousands and thousands upon thousands of dollars for the Newfoundland T. B. Association, and I think in all my travels and all the people I have ever met I do not think I have ever met a gentleman, as fine a gentleman as Mr. Edgar House who in my opinion did an outstanding job for people in this Province who had chest diseases, and a gentleman who made a major contribution in the elimination of T. B. in this Province. Mr. House retired last week, and I do hope that he will have many, many happy years of retired life. He deserves it. He did a magnificent job, and I think that the House should recognize the contribution that he made to people who have diseases of the chest in this Province.

Mr. Neary:

And then one other thing that I would like for the minister to comment on - I hope the minister is making notes - is that we were told there a couple of years ago that every hospital in Newfoundland was going to be placed under a board. I do not know if the government have changed its policy in this regard or not, but all the hospitals are not under boards at the present time, and the policy seems to be slowed down considerably. I do not know if there has been a change of heart, but I would certainly like to find out.

And I would like to find out also what will happen to the newer part of the General Hospital when the Health Science Complex is open, if it is ever open - we are about a year overdue now, and the cost has gone up by \$15 million or \$20 million, - but what will happen when the General Hospital is located now over at the Health Sciences Complex? Will the veterans' ward, for instance, that new part of the building, will the newer parts of the General Hospital be abandoned? Will they be closed down? Or will the minister take advantage of this situation to use the new part - tear down the old wings, the old parts and use that for nursing care, geriatric care. This is something similar to what the people out in Corner Brook want done with the Western Memorial, and I think they have a very justifiable case, and I think there should be a number of these institutions right across Newfoundland. But I would like to find out.

The former Premier can verify this that we talked about it many times, and we had come to the conclusion that the newer part of that hospital could be used for a nursing care institution. And so I would like to find out if the present administration intends to follow the policy that was laid down.

And then what about the nurses' residences? You are going to have the Health Sciences Complex over here on the campus of Memorial University, and you are going to have the nurses' residences down here by Quidi Vidi. Will the nurses' residences still be used? Will it still be occupied? Will transportation be provided back and forth?

Mr. Neary:

Just what will happen to the nurses' residences? Will it be closed up? Will nurses have to go out and find boarding houses? What will be the relationship to the nurses' residences to the new Health Science Complex?

And also I would like for the minister to tell us, and this is most important because we never really had, since the former administration got the Royal Order of the Boot, we never really had a detailed, comprehensive report of the Medical School. How are we doing with the Medical School? I wrote over the other day, I called over to the public relations man over there and I got some statistics and some information that I published in the newspaper because people had been calling me and asking me for the information, but it certainly looks very encouraging indeed for the future of doctors in this Province, I think there are 187 students there at the moment, and about 83 per cent or 85 per cent are Newfoundlanders.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Yes. I was really thrilled when I got the statistics. We do have an agreement with the Government of New Brunswick whereby we take ten students from New Brunswick and they pay for these ten students, but apart from a few students from other provinces of Canada, and maybe - I do not think there is any from the United States, maybe one, but there are no students from any other country in the world except from Canada and maybe one from the United States or two from the United States. And so I was really pleased about that. But I think it is time we had an accounting now of what is going on in the Medical School. How are we doing? Are we managing to get the necessary staff, the research people, the backup people? A lot of members were under the impression that it was an illusion of grandeur that the former administration had. Do they still feel that way? Just give us a general accounting and let us know how we are doing.

And the other thing, the final point that I have to make

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before I sit down is in connection with occupational health. I would like for the minister to tell the House because we have heard so much about it in the last few years, and we are so concerned about asbestos at Baie Verte, silicosis at Buchans, silicosis at the mill in Labrador City, health hazards at the phosphorus plant at Long Harbour, and so on and so on. I would like for the minister to give us a progress report on all these very, very serious situations and tell the House just how precisely what is being done. How many cases have been uncovered? What is being done in the way of a continuing programme to cut down on these occupational health hazards that we are all so concerned about? And I know the minister's department handles one aspect of occupational health. Unfortunately it is scattered throughout two or three departments. I think Workmen's Compensation, who is responsible to the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations, they are responsible to a certain degree for occupational health, The Minister of -

MR. CROSBIE: The Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. NEARY: - Mines and Energy is responsible for another aspect of it. But I believe the most important one of all, Sir, is the Minister of Health. And I understand the minister seconded a gentleman recently, Dr. Peters is it?

MR. COLLINS: Dr. Colohan.

MR. NEARY: Dr. Colohan who was a gentleman one time, I believe he was Administrator of the Sanitorium.

MR. COLLINS: Right.

MR. NEARY: Who certainly should be familiar with this particular field. And I know the gentleman well myself. I had some dealings with him years ago when I was associated with the TB Association. But I would like to find out what Dr. Colohan is doing. And for the minister to give the House the progress report.

And I look forward - now I hope the minister has made his notes. It is 5:30, he has a half an hour in which to reply. I am sure that no other hon. gentleman on this side of the House will

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want to ask the minister any questions. I think I have pretty well covered the situation. And then probably once we dispose of the Department of Health then we can get on to the Department of Finance which is probably the most controversial one of all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Twillingate.

MR. J. R. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman who just sat down much be an optimist. I do not know how many hours the Committee took to debate Education, Six, eight, ten hours?

MR. HOUSE: About that time.

MR. SMALLWOOD: And there was not a single minute of that time, in my opinion, wasted. Indeed the subject of education in Newfoundland and an expenditure of over a quarter of a billion dollars in one year deserved a tremendous amount of careful attention and debate by this Committee. Not a minute over was spent on the subject of education.

Now we come to a matter of giving the Queen's Ministers almost a couple of hundred millions of dollars of the people's money to spend on Health. Surely it will be agreed that public health is possibly the most important single matter there is or can be. You think of roads, you think of parks, and you think of courts and police, and you think of housing, and you think of schools, but surely, Mr. Chairman, health of the people is about as basic a matter as there could be. What is the good of anything else without health, without a healthy people, without a people who are energetic, and in good shape because they are in good health. What have you got? What can you have without a healthy people?

So public health which, of course, is public really only in two senses, first that it is public money that pays so much of the cost of it, and second, the health of individuals has a very strong bearing on the health of the public at large. Health really is a matter for every last individual in the Province, every man, every woman, every child. And so when you come to this Committee and later the House asking for almost a couple of hundred millions of dollars it is a matter that demands, demands consideration, debate,

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discussion by the whole Committee.

Now I do not know how many hours will be devoted to Health, to a couple of hundred million, to be exact \$194 millions, I do not know how many hours. But, Sir, when you stop to think of it, Education and Health and the Public Debt, Transportation and Communications, the Social Services that we used to called 'Welfare',

MR. SMALLWOOD: Municipal Affairs and Housing, one of the most basically important matters that could come before this House or any public body. And when you take Rehabilitation and Recreation, which I think is largely welfare - well, it is largely associated - and then when you take Forestry and Agriculture, and then you take Mines and Energy and you take Tourism and you take Fisheries and you take Public Works and Services and Industrial Development and Consumer Affairs, there you have thirteen great departments of state, thirteen with thousands of employees, literally thousands. I suppose the Department of Health alone has what - three, four, five thousand employees? Would the minister be able to say, could the minister say offhand the grand total number of employees in the Department of Public Health, 5,000 or 6,000 maybe.

MR. COLLINS: It is more than that. It is bordering on 10,000.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Bordering on 10,000 persons.

MR. DOODY: Including the board members.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Exactly, nearly 10,000 people, that is what we are discussing in this debate that started here an hour ago, nearly \$200 million, and nearly 10,000 people. Now are we going to skimp that debate? Is that going to just go through like that? Thirteen departments of major importance. Now they are not the only departments there are. Because you have in addition, you have the great Department of Finance, which is at the very heart of Newfoundland's public affairs, is it not, the Department of Finance? And you have the Department of Justice. "Let justice be done though the Heavens fall." The Department of Rural Development, the Department of Manpower and Industrial Relations; You have five other departments, thirteen major, five not major in amount but some of them most major in importance, in their very character and their very nature.

Now, Sir, if this Committee were to devote ten hours debate to each of these major matters, that is what this House meets for. That is why there is this House, to debate, to consider together

Mr. SMALWOOD: collectively, this cannot be done as in a Quaker meeting where everyone sits dumb and silent. The very heart and essence of Parliamentary life is debated and if each of those thirteen major matters got ten hours debate from fifty members, because Mr. Speaker does not engage in debate, if fifty members of this House between them give ten hours discussion to each of those major subjects it is 130 hours, and then if two hours be given, altogether, to the Department of Justice and to the Department of Manpower and Industrial Relations and the Department of Rural Development and the Department of Finance, if each of those five got just two hours altogether, each one of them, that is another ten hours and so you get 140 hours and do not think for one moment that if this Committee gave a total of 140 hours debate and discussion on the whole fabric, the whole structure of our public affairs, that that would be too much. Oh, admittedly an occasional word of nonsense would be uttered because we are not perfect, an occasional bit of foolishness would be spoken because we are not all great statesmen, only say ninety-five per cent of us are great statesmen. You must make allowance for some that are not great statesmen. They are just modest, they are medium statesmen.

So there are going to be foolish things said. They are said in the best of Houses. They are said even in the Mother of Parliaments at Westminster, in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, silly and foolish things are said and they are going to be said in this House as well. But 140 hours devoted by us collectively to a consideration and a debate on the great affairs, public affairs of our Province is not a minute too long, but we have been limited to seventy-five hours and the reason we were limited to seventy-five hours is that the administration looked at all the twenty-three years before they came in office and they said really seventy-five hours is a lot because there were many years when not half that

much time was used up but they were forgetting that the Opposition in those twenty-three years amounted to some number ranging from three hon. members sitting on this side of the House, up to six or seven. So they could not use up very much more if any than they did. They could indeed have used more time but they were dispirited. It is not a very encouraging thing for the whole of the House to be filled on that side and on this side three men. That is not encouraging. For me it would not have made any difference. If I had been one of those three I would have revelled in debate anyhow. I would not have been discouraged. But I am afraid that mostly the members of the Opposition did not really have the heart to use up the time they ought to have used in behalf of the people of the Province. It would have been a better government.

I admit that. I know that to be true. My administration in those twenty-three years I was Premier would have been a better administration if the Opposition had been better. A good Opposition makes a better government. I plead with the hon. minister, who is the Government Leader of this House, I plead with him in the name of foreplay, of common sense, I plead with him to appeal to his colleague next session, to change this very, very wrong, there is no argument in favour of it, no argument! Do not tell me that because in the House of Commons at Westminster where they have 750 MP's, where they have had to limit time of everything, the number of speakers from each party is agreed on in advance privately and Mr. Speaker is informed privately of who is to speak and the order in which they are to speak and then that is the end of that debate. It has to be done in a House of 750 members.

MR. WELLS: How would the hon. member feel about taking the estimates out of the House altogether in this House and into Committee?

MR. SMALLWOOD: I would agree with that, provided always that the debate that would occur in the full Committee of the House after the Public Accounts Committee or any committee had examined it and considered it, that the debate in the House would be limited but it would not need as much time as we need now; I am not talking about the seventy-five. Yes, I would agree with that. That is done. That is done in all modern parliaments and it is a necessary thing to do. But so long as that does not exist, limiting us to seventy-five hours is a crass almost, well, morally a criminal act, morally.

MR. MURPHY: We have wasted about ten debates on the same thing, day after day after day after day.

MR. SMALLWOOD: That may well be so.

MR. MURPHY: Why waste the debate? Get into the estimates. That is what we are here for.

MR. SMALLWOOD: That must be left to the individual judgement and conscience of each individual member.

MR. MURPHY: Then we will have fifty-one different judgements.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Maybe so. We are fifty-one different persons.

MR. MURPHY: Government has other things to do.

MR. SMALLWOOD: We are here representing fifty-one different geographical segments of the Province and we have equal rights to talk except that the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, by our own rules, can talk a little longer and so on. That is a detail.

MR. CANNING: Would the hon. member permit a question? What does the hon. member think that the people of Newfoundland will think of us in a few days time when we pass the estimates on Fisheries without debate or question?

MR. SMALLWOOD: What will they think? I will tell you, Mr. Chairman, in answer to the hon. member, my friend; the people of Newfoundland will just think a little less of us than they already think. The people of Newfoundland are not lost in admiration of this House, and I do not blame them.

Now the amount that the minister is asking, and he regrets that he cannot ask for more - he probably has had a struggle to get his colleagues in cabinet to agree, especially the Minister of Finance, to agree to this gigantic sum of \$194 million. There probably has been scratching and scraping and snarling and rowing if the present cabinet is anything like mine, my cabinet for twenty-three years, in that regard. There would be very hard fought battles, and the minister finally got his colleagues to agree that he should come in here and ask us for \$194 million, which is the second largest amount in the budget. The largest is Education, \$264 million, over one quarter of a billion dollars, up \$40 million above last year. Then second comes Public Health, \$194 million, up - how much is it up? - \$20 million on Education, \$20 million up on Public Health.

Now we come to item (3), not in the order in which they appear in the estimates, but in the order of the amount of money. Now what would hon. members guess is item (3) in the amount of money to be spent?

MR. MURPHY: What does difference does it make. We are discussing Public Health now. This is entirely irrelevant.

MR. SMALLWOOD: The hon. gentleman's opinion is that I am being irrelevant. Well my opinion of what is relevant on this particular vote and his opinion vary by, you know, a million miles. But I am going to go by my opinion, and my interpretation so long as the Chairman does not disapprove. The only limit on my interpretation of this particular vote at this particular time, the

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only limitation on that is His Honour, the Chairman, and His Honour, the Chairman, knows that I am absolutely in order. This is the beginning of the Department of Health. On the beginning of the Department of Education we talked for hours and hours and hours here on Education, and all kinds of matters generally and broadly related.

MR. MURPHY: To education.

MR. SMALLWOOD: No broadly and generally related, which is very broad and very general if the Committee will remember the debate we had here on Education, and that debate was quite in order. It was quite in order.

Now the third big item of expense is what?

MR. DOODY: Consolidated -

MR. SMALLWOOD: The debt.

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

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

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Chairman, are we going to discuss ten, fifteen, twenty-five headings? Are we not now discussing Heading X, Department of Health? Are we going to have a comparison between eleven, fourteen, twenty-seven, eighty-nine, one hundred and thirty-seven? What relevancy has it to the Department of Health?

MR. SMALLWOOD: Most certainly we are.

MR. MURPHY: Just be quiet, one moment. I am stood up. I have the Chair. Mr. Chairman I ask you for a ruling. Are we discussing now Heading X, Department of Health, or are we discussing the whole budget of whatever it might be? I would like a ruling on that, Sir. I think it is very important, because otherwise there will be time wasted here on irrelevancies that will have nothing whatever to do with Health and the hue and cry will say that the government did not allow time for discussion of the different items.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Chairman, on that point of order which is very badly based -

MR. MURPHY: Let the Chairman rule.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I am speaking to the motion.

MR. MURPHY: The hon. member ran the government for twenty-three years, now let the Chairman or the Speaker run this one.

MR. SMALLWOOD: And I am not to speak to it?

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

The hon. member for Twillingate is speaking to a point of order.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I am speaking to the point of order.

The Committee is asked to vote \$194 million for Public Health, okay. What I am doing is comparing - I am talking of the fantastic increase in the amount over last year, and I am comparing it with other increases. I am not going to talk about Transportation. I am not going to talk about Social Services, or Municipal Affairs or Rehabilitation and Recreation or Forestry and Agriculture or Mines and Energy or Justice or Tourism or Fisheries or Public Works or Industrial Development or Rural or Manpower or Consumer Affairs. I am not going to talk about these, Your Honour. I am going to talk about these when they are called. But on each of them, when the matter is first introduced by the minister, and before they get down to the nitty-gritty of the individual items making up those estimates of that particular department, before that I am indulging myself, as I believe to be my right, in a general, broad review of the Department of Health in the light of the other votes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

The hon. members will realize that the rule regarding relevance in the debate is probably one of the most difficult to apply, and if other comments wish to be made I think that before making a ruling I would certainly hear them.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Chairman, my comments on this matter would be thus. The seventy-five hours - and quite apart from any debate as to whether seventy-five hours is adequate or not adequate - these are the rules of this House as they stand. Now this is provided for the Opposition to test the government on its financial matters on the expenditures under the various headings. Now this is a debate, a general debate on the Department of Health. In my personal opinion the debate itself should concern the Department of Health.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: Now there may be comparisons with other departments or something like that. I think it is a question of common sense and degree, Mr. Chairman. In other words if in a speech a member is going to allude to another department and to say that it has advanced somewhat in expenditures or something like that, an allusion is one thing, a detailed discussion of another department is another. So I think it imposes a considerable burden on Mr. Chairman, but I think the hon. member should confine his remarks obviously to a general discussion of the Department of Health. He may, as I see it, allude to other departments, but not make these the burden of his speech.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Nor am I. I will do that I hope as each individual department is called up for debate. Did Your Honour rule?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

If there are no further comments: The position that the Chair has taken up to now is that the consensus of feeling or the consensus of unspoken opinion, shall we say, in the House, governs to some extent whether an hon. member is being relevant in his remarks or not or unless he is clearly outside that area. Up to the present time, therefore, I did not make any ruling on any member speaking in the debates in terms of relevance, because the question was not raised by other hon. members. It has now been raised, and I would say that

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the feeling of the House is as ably stated by the hon. House Leader that reference can be made to other departments, to other matters that have been discussed to some extent, but that these should not be gone into in elaborate detail. And I would not at this point in time say that the hon. member for Twillingate's remarks were clearly outside those limits. But I am sure that he is greatly concerned about the progress of the proceedings in the House, and that he himself has sensed the feeling of all other hon. members.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Twillingate.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Yes, thank you, Your Honour. Let me resume not quite where I left off because I would like to have an unbroken picture here. We have already voted, I believe, the Committee has voted \$264 million for education. I am not going to talk about education. We have done that. I am merely reminding the Committee that we have voted \$264 million, over a quarter of a billion. Now we are asked to vote \$194 million for public health. As I have said, the minister undoubtedly, sincerely regrets that it could not be a lot more. I am sure that the minister would like to have the authority of Cabinet to ask this House to vote money to build a new hospital in Clarendville. He would love to do that. He would love to ask the House to vote a large sum to enlarge the great hospital at Grand Falls and to build a new hospital up around the Burin Peninsula and so on. There are many other things, I have no doubt, he would like to have authority from Cabinet to ask the House for, but he has not done it. But nevertheless he is asking us to vote \$194 million. Now I suggest to the Committee that when in fact we are asked to vote \$264 million for Education and \$194 million for Health and \$124 million to service the public debt—the third largest item of expenditure, up \$32 millions—and \$110 million for Transportation and Communications and \$60 million for Social Services and \$53.5 million for Finance and \$52 million for Municipal Affairs and Housing and \$30 million for Rehabilitation and Recreation and \$29.25 million for Forestry and Agriculture and \$24 million for Mines and Energy and over \$23 million for Justice and \$22 million for Tourism and \$16 million for Fisheries, \$14.5 million for Public Works and Services, \$8 million for Industrial Development, \$4.5 million for Rural Development and \$3.5 million for Manpower and \$2.25 million for Consumer Affairs, when we are asked to do that, Mr. Chairman, it is right and proper and our bounden duty here as a Committee to ask ourselves if in fact we ought to vote these incredible sums of money. We should ask ourselves have we got it to grant, to vote. If we authorize the minister now to spend \$194,213,000 on public Health, can we do it

MR. SMALLWOOD:

without having some feeling of confidence that the money is going to be there for him to spend. Now I must point out to the Committee that the mere fact of the Committee and subsequently the House voting sums of money to the government does not mean that it is mandatory on the government to spend those amounts. The only amounts that are mandatory are the statutory amounts - the salary of the Auditor General; the servicing of the public debt. Now I do not know what else. Years ago before Confederation it was statutory the salaries of the judges of the Supreme Court, the salary of His Excellency the Governor. Those were statutory amounts. We did not vote them. They were automatic. They were statutory. Now the only statutory amounts now, I believe, - we can discuss them, we do not have to vote them - are the servicing of the public debt and the salary of the Auditor General.

MR. NEARY: You can increase the salary of the Auditor General now without coming to the House.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Who can?

MR. NEARY: The government can.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I do not think they should be permitted to do. But this is news to me.

MR. NEARY: They have done it.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I do not think -

MR. NEARY: The Ombudsman and the Auditor General, their salaries have been increased twice and not reported to this House.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Ah! But increased as subject to confirmation by the Committee and the House, surely. Surely these amounts are now in - no, is the Committee asked in fact to authorize the increase in salaries for the ombudsman and the Auditor General?

MR. NEARY: Oh, it has already been done.

MR. HUTCHMAN: If I may, the Committee - hon. gentlemen will recall, Mr. Chairman, that last year the Ombudsman Act provides that the salary of the ombudsman shall be the same as that of the chief magistrate, so that he would be beholden -

MR. SMALLWOOD: It is automatic.

MR. HICKMAN: There would be no way of his being beholden to the government.

MR. SMALLWOOD: It is automatic. If the government, having authority to do, increases the salary of the chief magistrate then automatically ipso facto is that the salary of the ombudsman goes up accordingly.

MR. NEARY: But under the new Financial Administration Act the government can increase the salary of the Auditor General without coming to the House.

MR. SMALLWOOD: All right, I will buy that. I do not want to argue it. At the moment, just at the moment it does not seize me, it does not hold me very much. What I am saying is this - and I do not propose to say it on every vote that comes before the House, that would be boredom unendurable. But it is an unspoken speech I am making. I would wish every hon. member to say, well, this man from Twillingate is not saying it but it is in his mind. He is going to vote for this money and yet he says he does not know if the government are going to have that money to spend.

MR. WELLS: Could the hon. member resume his remarks after supper?

MR. SMALLWOOD: Yes, we meet again at eight.

MR. WELLS: Yes. I move the Committee rise, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rule has been adopted for this sitting. I do now rise until eight o'clock.

The Committee resumed at 8:00 P.M.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

The hon. member for Twillingate.

MR. J. R. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Chairman, in my considered opinion one hundred and ninety-odd millions for Public Health this year is not enough. It is just not enough. It should be more. It should be millions more, perhaps \$20 millions, \$30 millions more than is purposed. It is far too little, this \$194 millions, if the Province's public health needs are to be met. I am sure the minister agrees with that. It should be at least \$20 millions more this year than it is, which would bring it up to around \$214 millions. And next year then it should be at least another additional \$20 millions or more over and above what it should be this year. That would bring it to a total of about \$234 million next year. And so on, year after year, \$20 millions to \$30 millions additional spending on Public Health each year as one year follows the other. Because, Mr. Chairman, the need grows, and it grows, it does not diminish, it grows. The need to spend more money on Public Health does not shrink, it grows year by year. And the physical needs do not shrink, they increase. You need more hospitals, you need larger hospitals, we need, Newfoundland needs more beds, and therefore we would need more staff, and therefore more food in those health institutions, and therefore more drugs, and more dressings, and more supplies and equipment of all kinds. I am not talking about an increased need arising from inflation. I am talking about an increased need of actual physical things that you can see and weigh and measure.

Now only ten years ago, and this is incredible, the grand total amount we spent on Public Health only ten years ago was not quite one-sixth of what the minister is asking us to give him this year, not quite one-sixth, just ten years ago, up in ten years from \$32 million a year to \$194 million, six times as much. And it still is not enough. It is not enough, Mr. Chairman. But it is

Mr. Smallwood:

millions of dollars more than we have got. This \$194 millions is millions piled on millions, more money than we have actually got, than we are going to be able to spend. Let us face it! Let us face it! If we do not face it tonight, we will face it before the financial year is over.

The amount of \$194 million is \$10 million, \$20 million, \$30 million, \$40 million more than we are going to have to spend. We are not going to have it. And I will tell you why we are not going to have it; it is because we are deciding in Committee of Supply, we are deciding to spend \$32 million more this year to service the debt than we spent last year to service the debt, \$32 millions up in one year. It is because we are spending - what is it? - \$40 millions more on education this year than we did last year. It is because right down the line, go right through the estimates in all of the great departments of state, and the smaller departments as well, we are deciding, if we adopt these estimates, we are deciding to spend millions, to spend tens of millions, to spend scores of millions, to spend hundreds of millions of dollars more than we spent last year.

Mr. Chairman, you say to me, "Did you say hundreds of millions more?" Mr. Chairman, I did. We are proposing to spend \$240 millions more money in this year than we are now on than we spent last year, a quarter of a billion up. That is why the Minister of Health, with the normal altruism and idealism of any worthwhile minister, anxious to spend and build and build a better Newfoundland with better health services, anxious to do that, with that ambition, and if he did not have it I would not think too much of him. I would not think too much of any Minister of Health in Newfoundland today, knowing what our needs are in public health, I would not think very much of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I would not think too much of the Minister of Education or any minister who did not have the ambition to build more, to create

Mr. Smallwood:

more, to make Newfoundland better in his own particular field, requiring millions of dollars more with which to do it. I would not think much of any minister who did not have that ambition, and that intense desire because it so happens, Mr. Chairman, that I think as I look across from me in this House I see hon. gentlemen who in every one of their instincts is a Liberal. Now I am not trying to insult them, I cannot read that from this distance. This is a double -

MR. PECKFORD: Tory times are hard times.

MR. SMALLWOOD: This is a width of two sword lengths.

MR. PECKFORD: You are being a Conservative.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I am being a Conservative?

MR. PECKFORD: Right.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Yes? Well, I do not think there are very many Conservatives over there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SMALLWOOD: And virtually no Tories. Very few if any Conservatives, and precious, and no Tories except possibly one, possibly two, and with them it is more a gag, I think, than anything else. I do not think that even they, really down deep underneath, are Tory at heart or Tory in mind, Tory in spirit, Tory in belief, Tory in philosophy, Tory in ideology. I doubt if there is a solitary Tory over there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SMALLWOOD: The hon. gentleman ought to remember that the only hope they have got politically is for the people of Newfoundland to come to the conclusion that they are not Tories. I am sure of that. I am sure of that, if ever I knew anything in this life I know that, that the people of Newfoundland have had enough of Toryism for many long years to come - and the quicker the hon. gentlemen take off the pretense of being Conservatives and Tories. Look at it, is this a Tory budget in Health? Would you call that a Tory budget? No, Sir. Would you call the Education estimates Tory, Conservative?

MR. DOODY: Not true! Not true!

MR. SMALLWOOD:

Oh, come on, come on. The hon. gentleman is just stretching the meaning of the word out of recognition.

MR. DOODY: No, no, no.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I would say that virtually every act and every action and all policy of the hon. gentleman opposite is as Liberal as you could imagine -

MR. DOODY: It is very progressive.

MR. SMALLWOOD: - except for one part of true Liberalism which is reform. There is not too much reform envisaged in the administration's policies. I will tell you why, Mr. Chairman. Would Your Honour tell me how much time I have left?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has just begun, so he would have forty-five minutes.

MR. SMALLWOOD: No, Your Honour. This is a continuation of my - to be fair, I was -

MR. NEARY: No, no, it is not a continuation. No, no.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Well, I do not want to overdo it. Can I take five or ten minutes maybe?

AN HON. MEMBER: Of course.

MR. SMALLWOOD: All right. Do hon. gentlemen want me to go on?

MR. NEARY: You can have forty-five minutes if you want.

MR. COLLINS: Go ahead, take forty-five minutes.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Ah! I am overwhelmed by the generosity of the hon. gentlemen. I am overwhelmed.

AN HON. MEMBER: The member has until quarter to nine actually.

MR. SMALLWOOD: The member has what?

AN HON. MEMBER: Until quarter to nine.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Yes. Well, I do not want until quarter to nine. I wanted to - I do not want to get up and say to every minister as he introduces his estimates, "You are not asking for enough. You ought to have more. But we cannot give you even what you are asking for, because there is not going to be that much money." I cannot say that to every minister. I cannot say that. I mean it would be too boring. It would be too monotonous. I

MR. SMALLWOOD:

will be thinking it. I will tell you, Mr. Chairman, the reason. The reason is this. The administration, the government are asking the Committee of Supply to give them \$29.25 million for Forestry and Agriculture. The gentle, civilized, fair, gentlemanly minister did not succeed with his colleagues in Cabinet in getting more than \$29.25 million. So that is what he is asking for. The virulent and aggressive and militant Minister of Mines and Energy -

MR. NEARY: Bully boy!

MR. SMALLWOOD: - was not able to get more than \$24 million. The Minister of Tourism was not able to get more than \$22 million. The Minister of Fisheries, who is undoubtedly the best Minister of Fisheries since -

MR. CROSBIE: Aiden Maloney.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SMALLWOOD: Aiden Maloney, I think. I do not think there is any doubt of that, the best Minister of Fisheries since Aiden Maloney, and yet all he has been able to get is \$16 million. The Minister of Industrial Development, who is perhaps the most ambitious minister in the House, an energetic and ambitious minister, is able to get only \$8 million, and Rural Development, the same minister is \$4.5 million. Now that is \$103 million, that is \$103 million. Mr. Chairman, \$103 million in the six most basic departments of the government. Now, I am not going to write down Municipal Affairs and Housing or Transportation or Finance or Health or Education. I say that the six departments of the government in Newfoundland today - Forestry and Agriculture, Mines and Energy, Tourism, Fisheries, Industrial Development and Rural Development are the geese that lay the golden eggs. They are the departments that concern our economy. Those six departments are asking this Committee to give them \$103 million which are - now remember - the basic departments that make the mare go, the basic departments, \$103 million. Now throw in another \$20 million. Manpower, \$3.5 million; Consumer Affairs, \$2.25 million and Public Works and Services, \$14.5 million - that is another \$20.25 million. Add that \$20.25 million to the \$103.75 million for the basic, productive departments of the government and you got \$123 million, which is about \$1 million less than the servicing of the public debt which

MR. SMALLWOOD:

is \$124 million. God in Heaven, where are we and whither tending! Where are we headed? The great basic departments, leaving out the great social departments - Justice, Welfare, Education, Health and so on - leaving them out, the great basic departments of the government, with three others thrown in to make weight, still come to less than the service of the public debt to which this year the Minister of Finance shamelessly, without even as much as a smile, soberly, shamelessly, comes in and asks us to give him \$32 million more than we gave him last year - well, I was not here last year - \$32 millions more to make it a total of \$124 millions just to service the debt.

MR. DOODY: Sure we can renege on the interest.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Well, no, we cannot renege on the interest because, Mr. Chairman, that would be ruination. The name of Newfoundland would stink to high heaven, and not only would it mean that the Government of Newfoundland would have its credit destroyed, but half or two-thirds of the commercial firms in Newfoundland would have their credit destroyed at the same time. It would be ruination for Newfoundland if we reneged on the public debt. Now let me say this, that it is impossible for a Province to go bankrupt. An individual can go bankrupt. A company can go bankrupt. We had one go bankrupt in Come By Chance here the other day. But a government cannot go bankrupt. They go bankrupt only if they do not pay their debts. Their main debt is \$124 millions this year. But they can always pay that by spending less on Fisheries, spending less on Education, spending less on Public Health, spending less on Forestry and Agriculture, spending less on Mines and Energy, spending less on everything else, cutting back, retrenching, slashing here, slashing there and forcing Newfoundland to live at a lower standard of living for as long as it was necessary to keep us from going bankrupt. We can always service the debt. But to service the debt, going up as it is this year, we are adding \$275 millions to the debt. We are not borrowing that much but we are adding that to our public debt. We can go on borrowing until finally the

MR. SMALLWOOD:

people who lend the money say, "Look, you are a good fellow. We like you. You come from a snug little Island. You are a lovely people. You are trying hard. But you have gone out of your depth. No, no money." Now at that point the Minister of Finance would hurriedly see the Premier and say, "Premier, boy, I do not know. We cannot raise a nickel." "What?" "No, cannot raise a nickel. They have said no to us, 'No!'" "Well, what are we going to do?" "Call the Cabinet together." And the Cabinet is -

MR. DOODY: Fire the minister.

MR. SMALLWOOD: No, no, no, no. You have to fire the whole government if you are going to punish. It is the government that have driven the debt up to this point, not the Minister of Finance. As a matter of fact, he has only been Minister of Finance - how long?

MR. DOODY: About four years it seems like.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Yes, it seems. But how long - less than a year is it not?

MR. NEARY: Seven or eight months.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Less than a year.

MR. MURPHY: Will you stick to the Health estimates?

MR. SMALLWOOD: I do wish that the hon. gentleman, the minister, my old dear friend who sat opposite me for so long as Leader of the Opposition, I do wish that my dear friend would remember that when a minister of the Crown introduces his estimates in a general review, then it is our right to have a general review, to say you are asking for too little, you are asking for too much. Later we will come to discuss and debate the individual items which will not interest me too much.

MR. MURPHY: I do not wish to curb the hon. gentleman, but any reference to Health in his remarks have been purely coincidental. I mean that. Really I am quite serious on this.

MR. SMALLWOOD: That is a witty remark.

MR. MURPHY: No, it is not witty. It is an actual fact.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Worthy, for which the hon. gentleman is so well known in this House and outside the House. But he is not going to argue, I hope, that

MR. SMALLWOOD: when estimates are presented and the minister presents an outline that it is not the right of individual members of the House, or all of them for that matter, to discuss the thing in the broadest possible terms, comparing it generally with other estimates and other departments and comparing it generally with the whole proposed expenditure of the government? I hope he is not going to propose that.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I think that is all I want to say on the estimates. But will you take it as spoken when the estimates come up for - not the debt, that I deserve - but Transportation and Communications, Social Services and the Department of Finance, Municipal Affairs and Housing, I would love to give the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing the most ardent, the most warmhearted, ardent support to get what he is asking for here, \$52 million. I would love to do it and I would wish to God that the money will be available for him, because that is not nearly enough. In my own constituency of Twillingate there is \$1 million needed there, one district.

MR. PECKFORD: \$1 million.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Well, at least \$1 million.

MR. PECKFORD: I would say \$13 million or \$14 million.

MR. SMALLWOOD: All right. That is just one constituency and there are fifty-one constituencies. So the hon. gentleman is not to be envied. I do not lust after his job. I have not a tinge of jealousy or desire to be Minister of Finance, or for that matter to be minister of anything in the administration opposite except that of Finance, or even better than that, the Finance Minister's boss. So that we can turn Newfoundland about and head her in another direction.

MR. D'ORIGAN: The hon. gentleman wanted to cut back five minutes ago and now -

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

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to remind members of the House that in order to address the House, to speak in the House, that you have to be in your own seat. Perhaps some of the new members -

MR. SMALLWOOD: The new Premier!

MR. NEARY: - may not realize that and the hon. member, Sir, who just spoke is not yet Premier. He may be ambitious but he is not yet Premier of this Province.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: - noble and true.

MR. SMALLWOOD: It is a noble ambition.

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

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Chairman, to that point of order. Has it been established and ruled by Your Honour that a member in Committee is not allowed to speak only from his own seat?

MR. SMALLWOOD: His own place in the House.

MR. W. CARTER: His own place.

MR. DOODY: It is a time-honoured -

MR. SMALLWOOD: And then he must be uncovered. He has to take his hat off.

MR. DOODY: He has to be uncovered but not indecent.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I do not see anyone with his hat on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! To dispose of the point of order, it is my understanding that if an hon. member addresses the Chair he should be in his own place. I was not aware that the hon. Minister of Rural and Industrial Development had addressed the Chair, so one did not take cognizance of his remark.

The hon. member for Twillingate.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Coming events are said to cast their shadow before, and I do not know if the hon. Minister of Industrial Development and the hon. Minister of Rural Development, who happens to be one and the same Minister, has been chosen by his colleagues to lead them and to become Premier of the Province, and I do not know if His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor has been informed and has agreed. And I do not know if the hon. member for Humber West (Premier Moores) has agreed either. I have doubts on the latter.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: No doubt His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has a tip, a very surprise tip on us.

MR. MURPHY: The usual reliable sources.

MR. SMALLWOOD: The same source?

MR. NEARY: Deep Throat.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Not the same source?

MR. NEARY: The inside track.

MR. NEARY: They think I get the Orders-in-Council delivered to me every day.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Chairman, if I were sensible I would not talk the way I am talking. I would not do it. Because before you know it I am going to be plastered, or even perhaps smeared as a man who has been talking doom and gloom -

MR. NEARY: You are sounding like a Tory.

MR. SMALLWOOD: No, I am not a Tory, nor am I even a Conservative except right now in a matter of the public finance of this Province, and there are about six other hon. members in the House who share my fears and have precisely the same understanding that I have about the financial state of Newfoundland, only they are not saying it. Two have more or less broadly said it, two others have more or less broadly said it, all of them on that side of the House. And on this side of the House I have not heard one syllable except from myself -

MR. NEARY: Not even in private conversation?

MR. SMALLWOOD: In private conversation, yes, but I am talking about on the floor of this House. What I find flabbergasting is that virtually every hon. member of this House, and I would guess, I am not sure of this, but I would guess the new members who have just been elected, it is a new experience to have been elected by the people, their fellow citizens, in their constituencies to come in here to

MR. SMALLWOOD: represent them. They want to do a good job. They want to be good members and they are concerned, very much concerned and the danger is perhaps even to the exclusion of all else they are deeply concerned with getting things done for their own constituencies. A water and sewer system here, a bit of paving there, a new road rebuilt somewhere else, an artesian well put here and this, that and the other thing. As I was a member for a good many years, still am, I too wanted to get things for my constituency and this is a good man's case and a good woman's case. Sure. But before too long mine will not be a voice in the wilderness. Every hon. member of this House in less than a year will be saying, "Joey was right."

MR. NEARY: Drop right dead in our tracks.

MR. SMALLWOOD: "He was right. He knew what he was talking about." Why should he not? If a man for twenty-three years, up to four years ago-- that is not long ago-- just up to four years ago wrote every budget speech--

AN HON. MEMBER: You wrote them all, Sir?

MR. SMALLWOOD: Every one, twenty-three of them. If a man did that he ought to know something. What is the song -

MR. SIMMONS: That is where you want to run is it?

MR. SMALLWOOD: - the black man who died the other day, the great singer -

AN HON. MEMBER: Robeson.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Paul Robeson's song, Old Man River, "he must know something".

MR. NEARY: But did not Dr. Rowe put a paragraph in one budget speech?

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Did the hon. gentleman write them on his own?

MR. SMALLWOOD: Every word I dictated. I did not write any. I dictated. And the lady who took the dictation is now the private secretary to His Honour, the Speaker of the House. Miss Duff came to my home every year on Roaches Line, a few times I did it in my office, Mr. Walter

MR. SMALLWOOD: Marshall would come, he was the Deputy Minister of Finance, he would bring along two or three of his officials, and I would walk up and down the floor and dictate the budget speech and I would say, "We spent," and I would turn and say, "How much was that," he would give the amount, "We spent \$13 million last year and in the coming year we propose to spend," "What is the amount," and he would tell me the amount and I would fill it in. They would carry - because they had the figures before them.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: How long did it take the hon. gentleman -

MR. SMALLWOOD: To do a budget speech? About a day.

MR. NEARY: Two days.

MR. SMALLWOOD: About a day. Everybody knew in the House that every budget speech was written by me, and I am merely stating the fact, and the fact has a moral to be drawn from it. The moral to be drawn from it is that if I do not at least I ought to know something about the public finances of this Province. I ought to, if I do not.

MR. MORCAN: It did not say much for the Finance Minister though.

MR. NEARY: You have got to give Dr. Rowe -

MR. SMALLWOOD: They delivered those budget speeches magnificently.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SMALLWOOD: That is except for those that I -

MR. NEARY: Except the late Neddy Spencer.

MR. WELLS: To a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. gentleman would express himself now on the relevance of all this.

MR. SMALLWOOD: This is all

MR. SMALLWOOD:

very relevant to the request of the minister and of the administration for \$194 million that they have not got in their hearts, nor they are not going to have to be spent on public health, very relevant to that. That is the heart of what we are talking about here. That is going to be the heart of every departmental estimates, every block of departmental estimates that will be brought to this House. That is the heart and the essence of it. You are asking this Committee to give you authority to spend money that you are not going to have. You are not going to have \$1.25 billion cash. That is what your estimates provide for, \$1,250,000,000. You have not got it. You are not going to have it. Therefore you cannot spend it. Now it is true that you might do this year what you did last year. Last year you brought in a budget in the Spring of the year for \$1 billion, the first \$1 billion budget. Then in the Fall you brought in a budget to amend it. Now you may bring in this Spring a one-and-one-quarter billion dollar budget and in the Fall when the by-elections are over bring in another budget, more and nearly correct than this one. And you might get away with it, depending on what happens in the by-elections.

Now I could go on saying this over and over *ad nauseam*, not only *ad nauseam* but *ad disgustum*, if there is such a word.

MR. DOODY: If there is not there should be.

MR. SMALLWOOD: If there is not there should be. I am not going to make this same speech with every minister. If, *af*, and when there is a debate on the budget, I say, "If," -

MR. CROSBIE: There will be.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Well, that is interesting to know. In this year?

MR. CROSBIE: This year.

MR. SMALLWOOD: This year there will be a debate on the budget. In that debate I may have a few words to say.

MR. DOODY: No, Sir, that you will not. You will have many words.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Well, all right. Maybe it deserves many words. Maybe that particular budget in Newfoundland at this particular time requires some very blunt, plain speaking. I will say this to the affable minister,

MR. SMALLWOOD:

who, by the way, is a revelation to me, if I may say so. I do not remember that I ever laid an eye on the hon. gentleman until I came in this House -

MR. DOODY: I delivered The Confederate for you when you were printing it down on Water Street.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Well, I am delighted to know that. I heard -

MR. DOODY: I was almost thrown out of the CYC over it.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I heard that the hon. gentleman was an ardent Confederate and an ardent Liberal -

MR. NEARY: We are old buddies!

MR. DOODY: Never, never, never!

MR. SMALLWOOD: Not ardent, just a Liberal, just an ordinary medium Liberal. However the hon. gentleman has impressed me enormously with his erudition, with his ready wit and with his sense of humour and his pleasant way with him. I would say that his Leader is probably very proud and very happy to have him at his elbow. But I will also say this, that the hon. minister wishes that the devil himself had the Department of Finance.

MR. DOODY: I got no sense.

MR. SMALLWOOD: No, that is right. He would be unemployed. The Premier could move him into, say, -

MR. DOODY: I am being discriminated against.

MR. SMALLWOOD: - could move him into the Department of the Environment or somewhere like that which is less responsible, let us say, than the department -

MR. DOODY: Too late. After these two budgets the Environment just could not take it.

MR. NEARY: We are the only ones who do not pay unemployment insurance contributions.

MR. SMALLWOOD: We do. Is not our pension contributory?

MR. NEARY: No, we do not.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Not contributory?

MR. NEARY: We are the only Province -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Has that been done away with?

MR. NEARY: We do not pay unemployment insurance.

MR. SMALLWOOD: No, but we contribute to our pension, do we not?

AN HON. MEMBER: Our pension fund, yes.

MR. NEARY: Not unemployment insurance premiums.

MR. DOODY: You are all right. You will be in for a long time yet.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Right. Now then if you want to adopt the whole block of Health estimates I will vote for it, but on that clear understanding I do not think you will spend it because I do not think you are going to have the money.

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

MR. T. RIDEOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I should probably thank the hon member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) for his suggestions on how we should go about handling the Health estimates earlier this evening. I cannot say I agree with him, but his suggestion was well taken. I want to say from the outset, Sir, there was some comment at the beginning of discussion of the Health estimates in relation to hospital closure and so on. We were comparing ourselves with Ontario. That, Sir, I would suggest, puts us in the wrong ball park altogether. There is no way we can compare this Province with health facilities or many other facilities, I would submit, with Ontario. To say that there are no controversies within the Health Department is not the way I look at it at all. The Health Department to me is a very important one. It is a large department, as has been mentioned by other hon. members here this evening, as we all know. There is \$194 million being spent in the Health department this year. That in itself, I would submit, dictates that we take just as hard a look, just as long as look at this department as any other. I propose that we do that in this debate.

I want to say a few words that the minister referred to in his opening statement about the close-down of the couple of hundred acute care hospital beds that were referred to in the budget. There are two things, Sir, about that that really shocked me. One is that the decision

MR. RIDEOUT:

itself is so contradictory. The decision itself is full of contradiction, I would submit, because there is either one of two possibilities: We either have enough acute care hospital beds in this Province, or we do not. Now if we have enough then I would submit we can justify closing down some of them because we could say that they are not needed. That is if we have enough. If we have enough also, how can we justify talking about hospital expansion? How can we justify talking about new hospital construction if we have enough beds now? Now, on the other hand, if we do not have enough, and I would submit that we do not from some research that I have done, if we do not have enough, then fair game, new hospital expansion is certainly in order, new hospital construction is certainly in order. But certainly not in order is closing down 200 acute care hospital beds at this time in our history.

Now I know we have to practice restraint. I know we have to practice retrenchment. But we have to talk about priorities. We have to get our priority system straight. We are talking about the lives of people when we are talking about the Department of Health. We are not talking about exploration of some unknown species. We are talking about human lives. That in itself dictates that we have to tread very carefully, I would submit, Sir, to this Committee. If the need is there, and I would submit it is, then we just cannot brush it off in the face of economic restraint. The Clarendville Hospital, I would submit, is needed. I am sure most hon. members of this House would agree with that. Burin Peninsula Hospital is needed. The extension at Grand Falls Hospital is desperately needed.

MR. MORGAN: And the Bonavista Hospital.

MR. RIDEOUT: And the Bonavista Hospital. There are a number of others that have been talked about, are needed. In fact you could go a little bit further and say they were promised and they are expected. But how can we justify that in terms of cutting back 200 acute care hospital beds? I think, Sir, the Minister of Health, and this is not a personal accusation, the minister should have dug in his heels in this particular case. If we need more hospital beds, and I think we do, then how can we justify cutting back on what we have? If we do not have sufficient beds and facilities

MR. RIDEOUT:

now, then the minister should not, he should have dug in his heels and not allowed his colleagues to cajole or to force him into cutting back on what we have now. We cannot have it both ways, Sir. That is the point. We cannot have it both ways. Either expansion is justified, and I think it is, or it is not. It is one or the other. If it is, well then we are going about it the wrong way by cutting back on what we have now.

I would submit, Sir, that many of our present hospitals have reached, and indeed in many cases they have surpassed, the limits for which they were built. The Grand Falls Hospital again, because it is closer to me than most of the others, but the Grand Falls Hospital is a regional hospital. It cannot now cope with the case load of the area it serves. The government recognize that. I do not have to remind the government of that. They recognized it a couple of years ago, maybe even longer back than that, when they entertained thoughts of expansion, in fact promised expansion, repeatedly promised expansion but it has not come to pass. So if that is the case, if it is needed, and we all know it is, then I would say we are off in the wrong direction. The result is that the people of the Central Newfoundland area, and I believe some parts of the South Coast as well, will be subject to undue hardship and suffering in the medical sense. There are very large waiting lists. They cannot put money before the lives of people. That is what it boils down to. We cannot do it that way. This is one area, this is one priority area where we have to get our priorities straight and stick to it. Despite restraints we have to stick to priorities in this particular department. Our people are the most important resource we have, and if we are going to play around with dollars and look in terms of cutting back on beds and facilities then I say, Sir, we are off in the wrong direction.

MR. RIDEOUT: Again, closer to home, the Baie Verte Hospital; you know, ten or twelve years ago the Baie Verte Hospital was built for two doctors. I believe today there are eight or ten doctors operating out of that hospital. They are working in an area that is ridiculous. They cannot even handle the people who are coming in there. They are practically like storing codfish, they are heads and tails. There is no room for them to work because of the expansion of population in that area over the past number of years.

I want to say a few words also, Sir, with respect to occupational diseases as it relates to the minister's department. I am fully aware that occupational diseases are not the total responsibility of the Minister of Health. I am not sure that that should not be the case, though. I think something, that the minister should move in this direction, that the whole area of occupational diseases is being kicked around and bamboozled around for too long in this Province, not only in the present administration but in the past also. It should, I submit, come under one ministry and under one department, and I would submit that the Minister of Health's department is the proper place for occupational diseases to be placed. But that be as it may, that is not the case right now but I hope it is an area in which we can move, but I do want to say a few words about occupational diseases. I know it is not the minister's total responsibility.

We are dealing, Sir, with many potentially deadly situations in this Province and is there anything more important that I could talk about here tonight than that? We are talking about the lives of people in industry. Not only the lives of the people working in the industry but the lives of the people in a whole area. I think of Baie Verte, I think of St. Lawrence, I think of Labrador City; is there anything more important to which we could address ourselves in this debate on the Department of Health than talking about

MR. RIDEOUT: occupational diseases, occupational hazards?

MR. SMALLWOOD: Not only the workers, it is the whole population.

MR. RIDEOUT: Yes, that is right, Sir, the whole area. There is nothing, in my opinion, more important to which we could address our thoughts and our attention at this particular point. And I am not convinced from what I have seen up to this date that the government grasp the seriousness of this problem. Now maybe they do. I might be going off in the wrong direction but I am not convinced from what I have seen that the government grasps the full seriousness and the full importance of this particular problem. The action that I have seen so far does not indicate to me that such is the case.

There are many areas in occupational health hazards and the occupational field where legislation is needed. It has not been forthcoming, and Health should take the lead, I believe, in that. Health should insist that this be done and this certainly falls within the minister's level of responsibility.

It was about a year ago that a brief was submitted by the Steelworkers Union to a group of ministers, one of whom was the Minister of Health, and I believe the others were Manpower and Industrial Relations and Mines and Energy. A number of very sensible, worthwhile recommendations were placed before those ministers at that particular time. But I do not see any particular evidence of any action taken on these recommendations to this date.

They talked about, for example, the enactment of legislation to establish standards of thrust limit value with regard to noise pollution, noise exposure, radiation, dust and noxious fumes, and these standards are to be constantly revised in the light of new information and to replace current guidelines. That is an area where Health could certainly take the lead in proposing legislation. It has not been done up to this point, and that brief is over a year old now.

MR. RIDEOUT: Incapacitated employees should be accorded the opportunity to move to work areas, or given an opportunity for retaining or relocation without cost to the employee. We have not seen any action in that particular field.

And one that is very important is that should workers acquire respiratory or other incapacities from hazards in industrial work places, they should be deemed to be - to have compensation paid to them and to be paid pensions unless the employer proves such incapacities are not work related.

Now that, Sir, is very important. That would put the onus of proof on the employer and not on the employee, and this is the area and this is the direction in which we should be moving. It is in this area and this direction that the Department of Health should be taking the lead and I do not see any evidence of that at this particular moment.

I want to say a few words specifically about the situation in Baie Verte as it relates to Health. I cannot help but remember a TV programme I saw a few months ago on national TV, I believe it was last October, sometime around there, when the then Minister of Mines and Energy of this Province (Mr. Barry) undertook in no uncertain terms on a national TV programme to investigate the health conditions at Advocate Mines in Baie Verte. He was the Minister of the Crown from Mines and Energy, granted he had not been re-elected but he still held the position of Minister of Mines and Energy - I have the tapes of that particular discussion, the notes or the transcription of that particular discussion in my files here - undertook in no uncertain terms to investigate the health conditions at Advocate Mines in Baie Verte. And what have we seen? We have got a Cabinet Committee made up of departmental officials who looked into the situation somewhat but, Sir, that is not an investigation. It is only a substitution for one.

The Union had Dr. Morgan in down there some months ago and looked at a number of workers, a very small percentage of the workers at Advocate Mines in Baie Verte. He made some recommendations. He

MR. RIDEOUT: came up with some very important findings, but to this date nothing concrete has happened. Something might be talked about, yes, but we are not seeing any evidence of what is going on in this very vital, important field of occupational health hazards in the industrial sense.

We have been told lately that the world authority as I know it from my research on asbestos related diseases and asbestosis, Dr. Sellikof from Mount Sinai University in New York, is about to come in and do a study of all the workers at Advocate Mines in Baie Verte, not just fifteen or twenty or thirty like Dr. Morgan did, but the whole works of them, do a study on all of them, coming into Baie Verte.

MR. SMALLWOOD: What about the people outside the plant?

MR. RIDEOUT: I want to get to that.

MR. SMALLWOOD: The general public, men, women and children.

MR. RIDEOUT: I want to get to that in a few minutes, Sir, if you do not mind. But there is no encouragement from the government for this study to take place. Dr. Sellikof is not accepting any financial help from the Union, nor do I think he should, nor from the company, nor do I think he should. The government should be out there begging this man, this authority on asbestosis and asbestos related diseases to come into Baie Verte to determine once and for all what the situation in that town is. We should be begging him to come in there. He is going to come on his own but with no help from us as a government.

500 people working in that operation! The best knowledge we have available to us today tells us that the incubation period for asbestosis and other asbestos related disease is fifteen to twenty years. We have not even begun to see the result of what is going to happen down there. Nobody wants to be an advocate, a prophet of gloom and doom, but can we sit back and moan and groan in twenty years time when it all hits us in the face! We have got to take the bull

MR. RIDEOUT: by the horns now. We have got to grapple with that situation now and I submit that we are not doing it.

Now that is the workers, What about the area? What about the Baie Verte Peninsula? Officials of the Provincial Department of Health, I believe, and other department have indicated that there could be some problem with drinking water in the area. A thing as vital as drinking water, you cannot live without it, a self-evident fact, a self-evident truth, and there could be a problem with it. It is not enough to say - you know, we got to study it I know, it is a new thing, we have never experienced before in Newfoundland. This is the only and the first asbestos mine we have. But we should be moving rapidly in that area and getting in the most knowledgeable and best experts we can get. When you are talking about something as vital as drinking water you are not talking about the 500 men who are employed in the plant, that is bad enough, you are now talking about the 10,000 people on the Baie Verte Peninsula, men, women and children.

Sir, I submit to you it is a very, very important problem and we have to face it squarely now, not wait for the incubation period for asbestosis to come about, not sit back and wait for another St. Lawrence to slap us in the side of the cheek. We have to face it now, and maybe if we face it now then the problem will be somewhat alleviated and somewhat dealt with when the thing takes full course after another eight or ten years. I believe the mine is open thirteen years now already. We have to do something about it now.

Now it almost makes you believe that the government wishes to speak with forked tongue when you have the minister saying there is going to be a full fledged investigation, on the other hand you do not see anything happening. It almost destroys your belief in anything anymore when it is something that is so vitally important as the health of a whole area.

Mr. Rideout.

Now I mentioned Dr. Morgan a few moments ago. He did a study down in Baie Verte a few months ago on behalf of the union. Well his study was not conclusive, and he said so in his report, and he recommended that within a year there would be another one, and now it is about a year and Dr. Sellikof, as I have said, he is coming in with or without government support or whatnot. He is coming in.

But Dr. Morgan made some very interesting observations about the situation in Baie Verte. He talked about the town, the mines and, you know, he talked about a whole different series. The town itself, you know, - we are talking about the men, women and children when we talk about the town itself, not the plant. "Citizens are exposed to gross amounts of asbestos fibres from a number of sources", he said. It is enough to make you shake on your feet. "Gross amounts of asbestos fibres from a number of sources." You know, you would think it is down around the mine area and that is it. "Unstabilized tailings dictate that it blows over the town with will according to the prevailing winds." Gravel samples in driveways are said to be around 25 per cent asbestos fibre by weight with the children out playing in the likes of it. You are not knocking the company. You cannot knock the company. We should be forcing them to do more about it, and they have embarked on a programme to do more about it. But, Sir, I am afraid it is not enough, and it is too serious a situation to take chances with. It is too serious to take chances with if we want to avoid what is almost certain tragedy in that area.

Dr. Morgan notes that the surrounding hills have the appearance of Winter with the trees covered with white asbestos presumably blown from the tailings and so on. He goes through a whole series of observations. He goes into his medical findings and so on. I will not go into them all. But then he goes into a series of conclusions, and I think, Sir, that is something we should concern ourselves with and

Mr. Rideout:

be very open with. He notes that there were no frank asbestosis cases detected by his survey. But we must remember that the operation is only going about thirteen years, and medically the incubation period for asbestosis is around twenty years. That is not something new. That has been well documented years ago. We know that. We are playing with time here. We have to do something, you know, almost immediately. He says that the safety precautions in Advocate Mines' operation are inadequate. Do we not have a responsibility to ensure that the safety precautions are adequate? The doctor notes that they are inadequate. We certainly, as legislators and the Legislature, should be able to do something about that. He says, "The environmental monitoring in the mine and the mill and the town is inadequate." Can we not do something about that? Or are we to sit back and let it continue to be inadequate? Sanitary facilities and so on, and the company's policies are inadequate with regard to sanitary facilities. Health education of the workers at Advocate Mines has been neglected. Such a vital thing as educating the people as to the potential hazards, or the potentially hazardous conditions in which they are working, neglected down through the past thirteen years at that operation. Can we let that go on? These are not things that take a great amount of study and to do something about. These are things that we can act on now with relative speed. "There is a community health hazard," he says, "from the asbestos contamination of the environment." A community health hazard - Baie Verte, Fleur-de-Lys, Coachman's Cove, Wild Cove, Seal Cove, all within a twenty mile radius of Advocate Mines, a community health hazard!

"The residents of Baie Verte are not being informed of the public health hazards," the doctor concludes, "posed by the current practices at Advocate Mines." They are not being informed,

Mr. Rideout.

left in the dark. It came out in the open a few months ago. "Baie Verte physicians must consider more seriously the possibility of asbestos related diseases. The Baie Verte workforce could almost certainly expect⁷ - almost certainly expect - and we do not have to go to Baie Verte, Thetford mines, the town of Asbestos in Quebec and down through the United States. That is the experience they are drawing from. But the doctor says, "The Baie Verte workforce can almost certainly expect over the next fifteen years to produce a number of cases of asbestosis -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Cancer.

MR. RIDEOUT: Mesothelioma is related to that.

- and an excess over the number expected of cancers of the lungs." That is his conclusion. Now if that would not put a chill down your spine, Sir, what would? And it is sitting there right in our lap, waiting for us to do something about it. He says, "There are no obvious plans for the handling of the early asbestosis victims in regards to retraining, relocation, etc. at work." There are no obvious plans, and we are only about, at the most, ten years away from the normal incubation period of asbestosis, and lung cancer related diseases. Are we going to wait, as I suggested earlier, until it hits us in the face before we start to do something about it? Are we going to make provisions with the Workmen's Compensation Board now about how such victims are going to be treated? Or are they going to have to linger at home and probably be dead while we are fighting their cases before the Workmen's Compensation Board - as was experienced in St. Lawrence. It was the most shocking thing I have ever read in my life that book, Dying Hard, at St. Lawrence. I do not want to see one written on Baie Verte, Sir. It is unfortunate that we cannot learn from that tragedy. "Worker participation in environmental monitoring, hazard identification and corrective action," he says, "is inadequate." The most simple

Mr. Rideout.

things are inadequate, inadequate, inadequate in almost every conclusion you look at. When are we going to make it adequate? Is that not our responsibility? "There is confusion," he says, "regarding the flow of workers' medical information" and so on. He says, "There are communication problems between medical staff and workers and management," and so on. "The mine and the mill, including the crusher, should employ the best possible technology for minimizing the fibre exposure of the workers. Such a policy at the present time - again - is inadequate. The air quality monitoring should be extended, but now it is inadequate. Showers and adequate double locker systems are not there." That is another inadequacy. "Contamination of the environment from outside the mine should cease. This means stabilizing the tailings pile, prohibiting the dumping of waste in the town and reduction of fibre emissions from all sources," cut off completely. The town should have an environmental assessment - "The town should have an environmental assessment to determine the locations and amounts of asbestos in the town due to previous contamination." That could have been done.

MR. SMALLWOOD: All these statements are quotations from?

MR. RIDEOUT: Dr. Morgan, who made a study down there a few months ago.

MR. MURPHY: On whose behalf?

MR. RIDEOUT: The union had this man in there, I said that earlier. The union had this gentleman in there. The union.

AN HON. MEMBER: Tell me what is happening there?

MR. MURPHY: Did everybody get a copy? I am just wondering.

MR. RIDEOUT: Everybody that I know of got a copy in Baie Verte. This is his final report now. It was made public as far as I know months ago.

MR. ROWE: A lot of publicity.

MR. RIDEOUT: Yes, there was a lot of publicity.

Mr. Rideout.

You know, environmental assessment - you know, it could be done now, an environmental assessment. Certainly we could be working on it or about to begin work on it or something. How long do we have to wait? "A town clean-up campaign," he says, "may be needed to rid the town of asbestos accumulated through long-term exposure." The more I think about this report the more I shudder at the thought of Dr. Sellikof coming down and what he is going to report. "The townspeople," he says, "including the children should be educated in

MR. RIDEOUT:

the health hazards of asbestos, instructed in the handling of contaminated material " - They have it in the driveways down there, or they have had it, crushed stone from the mine. Children are probably using it as we probably used marbles - "And advised of the extreme health hazards of smoking in the asbestos contaminated environment."

"Health surveillance of the workers should be extended. All Advocate workers should be registered for a system of lifetime health surveillance." Some of them are not startling. Some of them are not very difficult to implement. I would like to see some evidence that we are doing that. Some of them, as I mentioned earlier, the company has begun to do something about them and for that I give the company all the credit in the world. I believe over the next five years they intend to spend something like \$2.5 million or \$3 million or something like that containing the problem of asbestos dust escaping from their operation there. Great! But how far do we expect the company to go unless we are going to insist, and how far are they going to go unless we set very stringent standards? That is what we have to concern ourselves with.

We must become more active, Sir. We must ensure that everything possible is being done, that no stone is being left unturned. I am looking forward, really, although with some degree of impending tragedy, to the coming of Dr. Sellikof. As I suggested earlier he is recognized all over the world as the leading authority on asbestosis and asbestos related diseases.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Tell me how much over what period of time -

MR. RIDEOUT: What is that?

MR. ROUSSEAU: The amount the the company is prepared to spend on this.

MR. RIDEOUT: I think, speaking from memory, I believe it is \$2 million or \$3 million over a five year period. It is in some range like that. I could be a bit wrong on the exact dollars, but I am pretty

MR. RIDEOUT:

sure the programme is stretched over five years.

As I was about to say, I think it is a good thing that Dr. Sellikof is coming down there. Nobody, lest somebody be inclined to say we are preaching gloom or we are about to frighten people to death - that is not the purpose. But, Sir, what greater responsibility do I have as the member for a district that contains a situation like that than to bring it before the legislature of this Province. I can see no greater responsibility I have than to do that. I do not want to see Advocate mines close down in Baie Verte. Of course I do not. But if there comes a time when we have to make a value judgement, if there comes a time when we have to play around with the lives of 10,000 or 15,000 people-maybe it will not come to that - maybe we have it within our technological grasp to be able to do something about it if we move now, and I believe we do, you know, indicators that I have looked at have suggested that. I believe we do.

But to get back to the original trend of thought, if there comes a time you have to make that value judgement, then I know where my judgement will be. You have to be concerned about jobs and people cannot live without jobs. But you must also be concerned about the lives of the people and in the jobs they are working. In the age when we are sending men to the moon, do we not have at our disposal the technology to do something with that operation? I believe we do, and we have to get the best brains available, the best experts available and do something about it. And we cannot tarry with the problem any longer. We cannot do it any longer, Sir. It has been sort of dealt with in an inactive manner long enough.

That is Advocate Mines in Baie Verte. What about the problem facing us at Labrador City and the IOC operation?

MR. ROUSSEAU: More than \$6 million this year.

MR. RIDEOUT: Spent at it?

MR. ROUSSEAU: For dust control.

MR. RIDEOUT: Dust control. Again as I understand it from people I talk to, there is a great problem of dust control at Labrador City.

MR. POUSSEAU: Mr. Crosbie and myself - I agree with the member, by the way, that is a problem that is bothering the public today -

MR. RIDEOUT: That is right. I have been informed that there are in Labrador City at this present moment among management and union alike detected, known cases of silicosis. I cannot prove medically that it is true, but I have been told that.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Twenty-four.

MR. RIDEOUT: I have twenty-seven.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Twenty-four and three unknown.

MR. RIDEOUT: I did not want to mention the number but seeing the hon. minister did, my figure is twenty-seven at this present moment. And I am very happy to hear that there is going to be some money spent on the dust control in Labrador City. But these are deadly situations. We cannot let them go on. We cannot tarry one day with them. The most speedy way we can deal with those things, my God! Is it not common sense that we will do it? We have to! And if it means a few thousand dollars investment by the government, economic restraint cannot interfere. If it means encouraging Dr. Sellikof to come in, let us encourage him. Let us get the best the world has in and look at the situation and advise us what to do about it and then carry out his recommendations to the tee! We cannot do any less.

The operation in Labrador City, as I just mentioned, has been there long enough. It has been established as a potential health hazard for quite some time. We know it exists. But how long do we have to know they exist before we start to do something about them. I am not saying nothing has been done. I am not that naive. I know some steps have been taken. But we tend to be too slow, Sir. That is what I am saying. We tend to tread too softly. We do not want to sensationalize and frighten the people of any area,

MR. RIDEOUT:

but you cannot let that interfere with making reasonable and rational decisions at a time when the lives of people are at stake. You cannot do that. We must move ahead and move quickly in these areas. Mr. Chairman, that is all I have to say at this moment. I will have more to say later.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. WOODROW: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few remarks also on the topic of health. First of all I would like just to start out by congratulating the Minister of Education. I did not get a chance to see him personally today, but I feel that he did a wonderful job in view of the fact that it is his first time here in the House handling estimates and everybody will agree that he did a terrific job. He seems to have almost, you know, a boundless amount of knowledge at his disposal. He could answer any question. I really want to go on record as congratulating him.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Just your average super star.

MR. WOODROW: Absolutely.

Also, I want to mention all the previous speakers before me, and I have to be frank when I say that the member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) is practical in his approach, not only to this particular topic, the Department of Health, but to all the other estimates as well. I liked when he said - and I think this is terribly important - that all of us are trying to help our districts. I think that is terribly important. I like, in fact, when a member gets up and says that, because I am sure that there is nobody in this House who is not anxious to help his district. I think I said earlier that generally speaking we want to help the Province. We have to do what is in the best interests of the Province, and naturally in particular what is in the interests of our own district, and do it once again with sincerity and honesty. That is to my mind the important way to face this House of Assembly. Nobody can downgrade

Mr. Woodrow.

the openness and the sincerity of the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary). Nobody in fact can deny him. In fact he comes out in the open and he just tells it in other words at it is. And he also gives courage to a lot of us new members to the House of Assembly.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Younger than all of us.

MR. WOODROW: Younger than all of us, yes. Well, a lot older than you are, the hon. member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan).

Also the frankness of the member who just spoke, the member for Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout), I have to draw a similarity in the few remarks that I have to say with what he said. Now I know that it is difficult in any age, but especially in this particular age of our history, it is terribly difficult for a minister, any minister of the Crown, to make up his estimates. After all I am sure he is trying to do his best, not only for the district that he represents, but also the minister, whether it be the Minister of Health, the Minister of Education, or what have you, he has to think of the whole Province of Newfoundland. And I feel he must have many sleepless nights in trying to be fair and square with everybody.

I want to say a few words now about the Western Memorial Hospital in Corner Brook.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Do you want to enlarge that?

MR. WOODROW: Well, we would like to, sure. Of course, we would. It is going to come. It seems that I am the only member here now from this particular part of the Province tonight. But I would like to say that since 1972, this government spent \$21 million on the Western Memorial Hospital in Corner Brook, and I think it takes something like \$3.5 million to operate it. But I think what we have to remember when we speak of the Western Memorial Hospital in Corner Brook, we are speaking of the West Coast. In fact, we are speaking - this is the way I have it down - we are speaking of from St. Anthony in the North, Baie Verte in the East. Then we speak of

Mr. Woodrow :

Port-aux-Basques in the West and Bay d'Espoir in the South.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Bay d'Espoir is Grand Falls.

MR. WOODROW: Bay d'Espoir is Grand Falls, is it?

What I am getting at is it is not really the hospital in general, but I am speaking about extended care, because over the past four or five months there was some question as to whether we should do renovations to what is referred to as the old Western Memorial Hospital.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: The hon. member is getting worse when he is back on his territorial district.

MR. WOODROW: In any case I am really glad, you know, that the government saw fit to take this into consideration, but once again we are thinking about extended care and, of course, geriatric patients, once again from St. Anthony in the North and still use Baie Verte in the East and Port aux Basques in the West and Baie d'Espoir in the South.

Now I also believe - I am not certain of this - but maybe the member, the hon. Minister of Social Services could probably check this out, I understand that if the old Western Memorial Hospital were taken over by the Department of Social Services, I understand there could be a cost-sharing with Ottawa, cost-sharing on a fifty-fifty basis. I do not know whether this is a fact or not, but it certainly is something to my mind worth investigating. Perhaps the minister has already investigated this.

Now, homes for the aged. In fact I am getting many calls from people, say, from the West Coast in general, getting calls from them to try to find places, try to get them into places like the Interfaith Home in Corner Brook, the Hoyles Home, St. Luke's Home, or St. Pat's Home, and, of course, as we all know, these homes are crowded. In fact they have a very long waiting list.

Mr. Woodrow:

And I am sure that this is the concern of the government, and I know that they are trying to do all they can. But I would think that we should get away from the notion of these large homes, like, for example, Hoyles Home or St. Luke's Home or even, for that matter, St. Patrick's Mercy Home. I think we should think of small condominiums, you know, for example, maybe let us take, for example, Lark Harbour, for example. If you had a place in Lark Harbour built, maybe they could take maybe possibly anywhere from ten to twenty people.

MR. MURPHY: A motel not an institution.

MR. WOODROW: Yes, exactly so, yes.

And it leaves the people in their home atmosphere. After all I think this is a very human thing we are talking about, when you are talking about the aged. It is a very human thing we are talking about, and I also want to make a distinction between the aged who are well, and the aged who are sick. These are two different types of people altogether. Of course now I am probably going to hit my hon. friend here, my hon. colleague to my left - not the Minister of Forestry, no - when I say that I, too, am concerned about denturists and dentists. Now I know one example. I know of a concrete example. It happened within the past week or so. I know a person who went to a denturist to get teeth, just the under set of teeth.

MR. MURPHY: A single yet.

MR. WOODROW: Yes, I know. I realize it. But we have to say it. Seventy-five dollars he paid the denturist, and \$125 to the dentist, a difference of \$50.

MR. MURPHY: What was the mileage guarantee on them?

MR. WOODROW: The mileage? I do not know. But I understand that the teeth are made by the denturist. I may be wrong. I do not know. I will just have to speak. In fact these are facts, and in fact I can produce documentation on this if necessary. So I think really -

Mr. Woodrow.

after all really, you know, I am thinking of the ordinary people
and I also want to say this in passing that it is rather strange -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Young): Order, please!

I would ask some hon.gentlemen to keep quiet.

MR. WOODROW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Young): I would ask the hon. member for
Twillingate to lower his voice.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Chairman, I would offer my hon. friend
my sincere apologies. The last thing in the world I would want
to do is to fail to let his voice be heard by everyone.

MR. WOODROW: I thank the hon. member.

It is rather strange, and I do not know why, but,
you know,

MR. WOODROW:

everything in fact taken in the line of teeth, the line I am on now, getting my teeth into it really, why is it they have to be more expensive in St. John's than in Corner Brook? There is quite a difference.

MR. MURPHY: Is there a big difference in the prices there?

MR. WOODROW: There is, yes, hon. minister. There is in fact quite a difference. It is something I think that we should bring before this hon. House of Assembly.

MR. MURPHY: They have not got one complaint in Consumer Affairs of \$23 a bus fare, not to my knowledge.

MR. WOODROW: I see. From St. John's - not from any -

MR. MURPHY: If there are any I am just wondering what the story is.

MR. WOODROW: I see.

DP. J. COLLINS: I would say that they charge more here in St. John's.

MR. WOODROW: Again, of course, the optometrist or the eyeglasses - we have to speak for the ordinary people as the member for Trinity-Bay de Verde (Mr. Rowe) - in fact I happened to be out in his district there a couple of weeks ago. I was not spying or anything like that but in his district there are the same type of people as I have, the ordinary people. I am talking about the ordinary people.

AN HON. MEMBER: Watch out for the next election.

MR. WOODROW: Yes. So -

MR. NEADY: Did the hon. member have Bren Howard with him?

MR. WOODROW: Bren Howard, no, no. It is nothing to do with Bren Howard.

 Eyeglasses I found over here in St. John's more expensive. Perhaps they try to take advantage of the strangers when they come in. I do not know. But in any case they are really more expensive. Of course the ordinary people have to come in. They come in from my district, the Bay Of Islands district. They have to come in to Corner Brook to buy their eyeglasses and so on. I would like also to say, and say it very openly, that the optometrists, they have become

MR. WOODROW:

very wealthy men over there. I think perhaps, you know, maybe the profits are too high. I think it is something that we have, as hon. members of this House of Assembly, to think about.

Now I said I was going to mention something to compare with what the hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout) said. We have the dust from the cement plant in Corner Brook. When I was in city council I brought this up many times and I really do not know what has been done about it. But people have showed me their cars, for example. In fact, the dust was so thick and so solid in the car that it is just impossible to get it off. In fact, there is no means to my mind of getting it off the car at all. It is something that maybe the hon. minister could look into and I feel sure that he will when he gets around to it.

Now also the question of Medicare: I am wondering how we can afford not to have it. Our people now are used to Medicare and if it is cut down even in fact to the slightest, I really feel it is going to be very difficult on our people. But however I am sure that the hon. minister is looking into this and trying to do his best on it.

Now something else that alarms me, in fact it has alarmed me for many years, especially over the past decade, I should say, and that is the exorbitant cost of drugs. Glory be to God, it is frightening! It is frightening to think that just the smallest amount of drugs, they are so exorbitant in price, they cost so much! Here again we are thinking of the ordinary people. How in the name of God, I often wonder, how can our people survive at all?

So these are matters I think which we could give some thought to. I believe, generally speaking, every member who speaks I think he is probably speaking about the same matters. It is about the same all over. I wonder sometimes if the trouble with everything is - even trouble with the Light and Power - I wonder is it because people are so money mad and money crazy. They just want to get everything for themselves. They do not want to think of the ordinary person

MR. WOODROW:

at all. They do not want to give him or her a chance to live.

Now I realize the importance of private enterprise, but by the same token if people would only give the ordinary man or woman a chance to live, that to my mind is the important thing. That is the reason why - I do not think the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) was here in the House when I mentioned his name. I want to say again that I admire the openness and the sincerity of the hon. member in all he is doing. In fact, he has never belittled any new member of this House. He gets up and he makes us feel that we are at home. He realizes that this is the people's House and all of us from the fifty-one districts - forty-eight of course represented at the present time - we were elected for the people. They must have seen something good in us to elect us.

MR. NEARY: That is right. And never feel uncomfortable in the people's House or ashamed of anything or apologize for anything in this House because you can feel completely free.

MR. WOODROW: Words of wisdom, I would say.

So these, Mr. Chairman, are the few remarks that I have made. I did not wind them off into a harangue or anything at all. I realize how difficult it is, as I said before, in this age we are living in, inflation and what have you - every minister, as I said earlier, must have it difficult to try to make up his estimates and after all he is human and I am sure he must be thinking about the people also. So I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Twillingate.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Chairman, on this asbestos business I have noticed in newspapers in Canada, the United States and England this year a number of rather alarming references, alarming to me and news to me. I did not realize until I read these how serious the thing is. Here is a story in the New York Times from California. It is dated April 19. It is pretty recent. A case taken in court against an asbestos company's doctor. It is a landmark case according to legal

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MR. SMALLWOOD:

observers, since it was the first time an employee had successfully sued a company doctor for malpractice stemming from an occupation related disease, pneumoconiosis, more commonly known as asbestosis. Now this person got an award of \$350,000 which is

Mr. Smallwood:

a pretty substantial sum, Eight lawsuits altogether totalling at least \$50 million in damages have been filed against Dr. Wise for malpractice and against the company for falsely and fraudulently suppressing information concerning the dangerous nature of the products made at the asbestos plant. Neil Armerido, Johns-Mansville spokesman in Denver said, "The suits concern delayed symptoms" that is interesting, "delayed symptoms from conditions that existed many years ago before anyone recognized what asbestosis was." Stephen Casam, a lawyer who represents three of the retired workers suing the company said however "That medical books written twenty years ago described asbestosis and stated clearly that the only way to arrest it was to remove the worker from the environment and that Johns-Mansville was aware of this." It goes on and on and on. But it winds up "His complaint on behalf of Ruba Rubking, who was also retired on disability from Johns-Mansville, asserts that the company wrongfully failed, now (1) to warn the workers of the nature of the material they were dealing with, (2) to provide workers with adequate protective masks to protect them from asbestos dust, (3) to provide information to physicians employed by the company as to the true nature of the risk involved in the work, (4) to employ qualified physicians (5) to employ qualified physicians to do follow up readings on x-rays, and finally to advise the physicians of the development of chest pathology and/or pulmonary disease in the workers!"

Then from The Toronto Star January 1 past, Montreal, listen to this, Mr. Chairman, "At least 55 per cent more Quebec workers, at least 55 per cent more Quebec workers, received government compensation payments last year compared with the previous twelve months because of disabilities incurred by breathing asbestos dust, fibres! A spokesman for the Workmen's Compensation Board says, "By December 1 past 542 workers ha received compensation in 1975, 542 compared with 351 in 1974!" Then so and so said, "Final figures for the year would show almost 600 workers receiving compensation because of asbestos, and asbestos related respiratory ailment." And that does not mean to say that 600 cases

Mr. Smallwood:

are the only ones either, he said, they are just the known cases. Then it says that asbestosis causes a hardening of the lungs.

And here is one from The Sunday Times of England, "The householders, now not workers in and around the asbestos mine, but householders are to be warned that asbestos can be a danger in the home as well as in the factory. The warning from the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection will point out that asbestos dust in the home can cause serious lung disease, asbestosis and cancer. The hazards of asbestos might affect almost anyone" - then it goes on, "The handyman, dust from sawing and drilling asbestos sheet." Imagine that. Imagine the millions of people who have taken sheets of asbestos board and have sawn it to use it in construction. "The handyman, dust from sawing and drilling asbestos sheet. The motor mechanic dust from brake and clutch drums, office workers and school children disintergrating asbestos spread by ventilation systems, construction and demolition workers, dusty work through disregard of safety at work laws. Even the housewife a possible danger from worn ironing pads and oven fittings. Britain imports 172,000 tons of asbestos fibre every year; about half is made into building materials such as insulation board, tiles, paint and asbestos cement products." Then Dr. Muriel Newhouse of the TUC Centenary Institute of Occupational Hygiene, who is an authority on asbestos diseases said so and so, "When asbestos dust is inhaled it may cause two diseases, (1) a long-term hazard is asbestosis, a formation of scar tissue on the lung which often leads to premature death. The other, liable to result from much shorter term exposure is a type of cancer called mesothelioma, which is fatal. Exposure can also increase susceptibility to common lung cancer and cancer of the bowel, in the latter case the danger may arise when asbestos is swallowed." Now how can you live in a town where there is an asbestos mine and mill and somehow or other not swallow some asbestos dust?

MR. NEARY: It is impossible.

MR. SMALLWOOD: "Exposure can also increase susceptibility to common lung cancer, and cancer of the bowel. All types of asbestos, not just the notorious blue type" - does anybody know what type we have in Baie Verte? Is it blue? However, it says, "All types of asbestos not just the notorious blue type may cause cancer. But there is usually a delay of some ten to twenty-five years after exposure to asbestos before the cancer is apparent. No one knows how little exposure to asbestos may bring a cancer risk. It may be like radiation; any exposure carries some risk." Then comes this work mesothelioma is most commonly found among ship workers who use quantities of the material, asbestos factory workers, and insulations workers who are exposed to asbestos in their jobs. But a number of people who lived near asbestos factories or shipyards, though without ever working in them, have also died of the disease." Does that not scare you, if living near a shipyard where a fair amount of asbestos fibre material board is used will cause death from cancer or asbestosis? What about a whole town in Baie Verte itself?

"In fact people exposed to asbestos dust for a short a period as a day may be at risk. One man who spent a day sawing up asbestos cement sheets to make two sheds suffered mesothelioma some fifty years later. Another victim that had transpired, had merely handled her brother's overalls when they were contaminated with asbestos."

"The experiments now - there is a research unit at Penar in South Wales - the experiments there have shown that mice exposed to blue or white asbestos dust for as little as a day in conditions equivalent to uncontrolled human exposure have developed mesothelioma." Oh it goes on and on, "The increased risk of common lung cancer in people exposed to asbestos is particularly acute if they smoke." Do the men smoke in and around Baie Verte? Well, if they smoke the danger is increased substantially of getting lung cancer. "Smoking and asbestos is a death certificate. It increased the risk of lung cancer ninety times, said Professor Donald Bowes, a Glasgow specialist who has made a special study of asbestos risks."

It goes on, "It is the fine invisible dust that gets on the bottom on the lungs that causes the health problems. This dust is

MR. SMALLWOOD:

carried on the wind. Anyone living down wind from a factory or shipyard could be at risk." How about living down wind from an asbestos mine, an open-pit mine? How about living down wind -

MR. NEARY: A stockpile.

MR. SMALLWOOD: What?

MR. NEARY: A stockpile.

MR. SMALLWOOD: How about living down wind from an asbestos factory?

How about living down wind from a great stockpile of asbestos rock?

MR. MURPHY: That is one thing. They are lucky in that asbestos takes up an awful lot of back -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Well, a lot of it, a lot of it, but not all of it because the wind -

MR. MURPHY: In a sense.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Yes, yes indeed.

MR. MURPHY: Most of it is carried down.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Listen to this, Mr. Chairman. "Last week a school in Cheshire - that is where my people came from over 300 years ago, Cheshire in England - "Last week - now this is a couple of weeks old, about three weeks old - it says, "Last week a school in Cheshire was closed and 900 pupils sent home after asbestos dust was found leaking into the warm air heating system." Nine hundred students out, get home. Asbestos has gained such a bad reputation as a health hazard that three national industries now have a ban on the use of nearly all asbestos products. British Rail - that is the nationalized railway system of the United Kingdom - British Rail led with a ban in 1967 after the deaths of two Yorkshire railway men who had been employed in coach building. It then built special sheds in every main rail workshop for the handling of asbestos in coaches. Two years later the Central Electricity Generating Board, now the nationalized production and distribution of electricity in Britain, the Central Electricity Generating Board, followed suit by banning all asbestos products in its buildings and going over to mineral and

MR. SMALLWOOD:

glass fibres. The post office, that is the British Post Office System, the post office finally banned all use of asbestos in its buildings in 1975, last year. Here is one from the Financial Times.

MR. NEARY: According to that the thing to do is to close the place down.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Well there must be something less drastic than that. But as the hon. member for Baie Verte said if you have to make a choice between the health and the lives of 12,000 or 15,000 people and closing down the mine and the mill what choice would you have if that became the choice. Well let us hope and pray to God -

MR. RIDEOUT: It might be a lot better if certain steps were taken.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Let us hope that that is not the choice, that we can indeed avoid having to make that choice. Well so it goes, so that what the hon. gentleman has said on this asbestos matter is deadly serious. I am sure that the hon. the Minister of Health is very acutely aware of it. He is a knock about Newfoundlander, an outharbour man, a bay boy like myself. He has knocked about Newfoundland. He would have a very, very vivid feeling of the seriousness of it. I am sure - how could anybody believe that the minister is not worried about this? He would have to be inhuman. He would have to have a very, very thick hide indeed. I do not think he has that. I wish he could, before the night is over, I wish he could get up and assure us that this is not just a lot of alarmist propaganda, that the hon. gentleman's speech from the district that contains that great asbestos mine was not just a lot of alarm, baseless alarm, but that the matter is very deeply serious and that he is absolutely determined, come what may he is determined to do everything on earth that can be done, that ought to be done to reduce and maybe eliminate altogether whatever risk there is now for the women and the children and the infants and the babies and the adults and the workers in and around the mine and the mill, he reduce greatly or eliminated altogether whatever risk there is. I am sure -

MR. NEARY: I would be impossible to eliminate them.

MR. SMALLWOOD: It may be impossible to eliminate it, Mr. Chairman. I hope it is not. I do not know. Quite frankly I do not know whether it is or not. I hope the hon. gentleman is wrong. But certainly it should be possible, greatly, to reduce.

Now, this asbestos thing is a pretty profitable thing. I opened it. I brought that company to Newfoundland. I went down and opened the mine. It was quite a combination. The great tin king of Bolivia - what was his name - Patino was one of them, the Barron - what is his name, in Belgium, I forget his name, I was afterwards at his place outside Brussels - and M.J. Boylin and about four or five companies formed this - what is it called? the Bale Verte Mining Company, what is the name?

AN HON. MEMBER: Advocate Mines.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Advocate Mines, they formed it, huge companies, companies accustomed to producing asbestos, companies accustomed to selling it, marketing it and companies accustomed to using it, manufacturing it into asbestos cement board and into pipes and tubes and you know, what is it?

AN HON. MEMBER: Insulation.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Insulation, but also asbestos cement, tubing, pipes for water and for sewerage disposal and so on. Companies doing that, large companies from all over the world combined into this Advocate Mines. They are a very rich outfit. If the Iron Ore Company of Canada or Wabush Mines - which is it, Iron Ore Company - which is the one that is spending the \$50 million the next five years?

AN HON. MEMBER: The Iron Ore Company.

MR. SMALLWOOD: And Wabush Iron, are they going to spend some?

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. SMALLWOOD: All right. If the Iron Ore Company of Canada - and they having not been making such enormous profits, as I understand. They lost \$50 millions, \$60 millions, \$70 millions in one year.

AN HON. MEMBER: \$48 million.

MR. SMALLWOOD: \$48 million.

AN HON. MEMBER: \$48 million the year before last.

MR. SMALLWOOD: And iron ore is not as profitable as asbestos anyhow.

MR. SMALLWOOD:

If they can afford to spend \$50 millions in the next five years, surely the -

AN HON. MEMBER: They have spent that already.

MR. SMALLWOOD: I thought the hon. minister had said that in the next five years they are going to spend \$50 millions.

MR. ROUSSEAU: In the past five years.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Oh! In the past five years they have spent. Well I am lost. I do not -

MR. ROUSSEAU: I think in this year on dust control at the Iron Ore Company in Labrador City, by the end of 1976 they will spend \$4.4 million and \$6.2 million purely on dust control.

MR. SMALLWOOD: \$4.4 million and \$6.2 million is over \$10 million.

MR. ROUSSEAU: This year.

MR. SMALLWOOD: In the one year.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Between that -

MR. SMALLWOOD: I see, I see. At last - I am so stund and I am so stupid the minister must not blame himself. He must blame me. As I have said here sometimes I can explain a thing to you but only God in Heaven can give you the intelligence to understand it when I do explain it. That is what the hon. minister should be saying to me because I certainly misunderstood him.

However, \$4 million, \$5 million, \$6 million, whatever it is, if a company producing iron ore, which is far less profitable than asbestos, can spend that kind of money to reduce health hazard there, why can Advocate Mines not be required to spend a very large, maybe a much larger sum of money, to reduce the hazard in Baie Verte? I do hope the minister will tell us what is in his heart about all this.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. John's South.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, when the hon. minister introduced the estimates for his department he was very brief in his remarks. I certainly

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DR. COLLINS:

commend him for it. Taking up that, the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) then suggested that the estimates for the Department of Health should be dealt with very rapidly. I am sure he was being rather facetious in that. I am certainly glad that, facetious or not, that his suggestion was not taken up because the Department of Health and the health system in our Province is a vitally important one, as we all realize. I would certainly compliment the hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout) on stressing the need for many aspects of health care. He made a very forceful case.

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whereby we should not cut back on certain services, particularly ones that he was concerned with in his own district, and I certainly agree with him on that. However, I do not think that even taking his very strong advocacy to heart, I do not think we can say that the health care system can be divorced from cost considerations. Health like everything else, as has been said in this debate, health is part of the whole picture, and we do have to pay a lot of attention as to how much it is costing the Province. Probably one of the biggest points that has been considered by all people concerned with our health care system at this point in time is its cost, its escalating cost, not only in this Province, not only in other Provinces but at the federal level.

However, Mr. Chairman, the concern for costs in health care is nothing new. There has always been a desire and an approach to reduce costs in health care, and particularly in hospital care. We are hearing a lot nowadays about the excess costs of acute beds, and again this is not new. I might just run over some of the ways that in this Province we have attempted to deal with the costs of acute hospital care. Traditionally, of course, the limitation on the building of hospitals was the main approach, and I can well remember when I personally first started practice, and I will speak particularly of the child health care.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Young): Order, please!

Would hon. members be a little quieter, please.

DR. COLLINS: I remember dealing with problems in child health care in very inadequate facilities. I am most familiar with St. John's, and in the hospitals, the private hospitals in St. John's, most hospital care for children had to be given in small little rooms, very inadequate visiting facilities, very inadequate laboratory facilities for these particular patients. There is no doubt about it that this was

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a very effective way of limiting hospital and health care costs. However it was intolerable, because our mortality rate and the length of mobility and so on was quite out of line with what was acceptable and what was comparable with other provinces in Canada.

Another approach,- and I think that there may be some confusion in this matter - another approach more recently was to try to achieve rapid discharge from hospitals, and one favourite approach in this regard was to use home care programmes. Now I might say that I could speak on this subject with some knowledge, because I was involved with the St. John's Home Care Programme in its experimental stage in association with Memorial University, the community medicine part of Memorial University, and with most of the hospitals in St. John's. A programme was devised whereby home care for hospitalized patients, that is patients who went into hospital for a certain period of time, were then discharged to home care and certain facilities and services were laid on to deal with these patients, and the object was to diminish the length of time the patient spent in hospital. There were three points to this experimental programme, one was to see if effective home care could be given, and this was proven to everyone's satisfaction, scientifically proven. The second thing was, was it acceptable to the patients? And again this was proven without any doubt whatsoever. So the programme was effective and it was acceptable. However, when the cost saving aspect was looked into, it was quite clear that there was absolutely no cost saving. Now that may surprise some people because this seems to be an easy way out of the dilemma. But if you think about it, it is not surprising. It was found that when the patients could be discharged home they had in fact completed the most expensive part of their total hospital or illness care course. In other words, by the

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time they could go home the cost factor to the hospital for the continuing care of those patients had diminished to such an extent that the cost of dealing with the patient at home was exactly the same. As a matter of fact, on some occasions it was more expensive to complete the care at home than it was to leave the patient in hospital until he would be discharged at the usual period of time.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Expensive to whom?

DR. COLLINS: Expensive to the total programme. And also it did not diminish the actual hospital budget, because when a patient who was by this time a low-cost patient, if I can use that rather offensive term, by the time the patient was discharged, the low-cost patient was discharged, a new patient was put into the same bed who was now a high-cost patient, because he was at the beginning of his care, and it is at the beginning of care that most costs are incurred. So in actual fact the cost to the hospital did not decrease, it increased.

So what home care does - home care programmes do not diminish current costs. What they do diminish, of course, they do diminish, in time, capital costs, because if you can turn over your patients, even though they are high cost care throughout, if you can turn them over more rapidly, obviously you have to build fewer hospitals and fewer such institutions in the future so that home care programmes do have a capital benefit. But it would be a mistake to think that home care programmes have a current expenditure benefit.

Another way that hospital and health care costs were controlled was to limit budgets to hospitals. And there is no doubt about it that this again was effective to some degree, but what it did mean - because it was an indiscriminate measure - it did mean that beneficial services often suffered from the budget

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costs as well as the not so beneficial or marginal services. So it was found that the whole organization was operating on a less effective level, and this again necessitated the need to open further institutions because of the relatively low efficiency factor in the hospital with the diminished budget.

We are now at another phase, that is we are closing beds, and I -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Would the hon. gentleman allow me to put a question to him? The fact that the most expensive part treating a patient is the first part and then later it costs less, and if he does go home the hospital is stuck, so to speak, only with the most expensive part of his treatment, all right. If we can accept that, what about the other point that the quicker you can get patients in and out of hospitals, the more patients you can take in and, therefore, would require that correspondingly fewer beds and fewer buildings and fewer everything else, because you make a greater use of the existing beds, although I can see that the costs might be terrific?

DR. COLLINS: Yes, that was exactly the point I was making that it can have beneficial effects on capital account. You would have to build fewer hospitals to keep up the increasing demand. But I was trying to point out that it would be a mistake that if we have hospital bed costs averaging out at, say, \$100 a day, if you would just bring in a home care programme, you would drop it down to \$80 a day. You do not drop it down to \$80 a day. You would probably increase it to \$110 a day, but in the long haul it is beneficial because you can get as much use out of one hospital as you would out of two hospitals. There is no doubt about that.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Or one and one-half.

DR. COLLINS: One and a half. Now the present administration has now advocated controlling hospital costs by closing some beds. I certainly have no quarrel with that. I think that the administration was forced to take some sort of stopgap measure. The costs were at such a stage that something immediate had to be done. But I am sure that this will not be looked upon as the final answer because the beds that will be closed will tend to be the lowest cost beds. This is inevitable. Any hospital which - and the hospitals have control. The administration, the Department of Health, does not go in and say, "You will close this bed, that bed, the other bed." It will be left up to the hospitals to decide which beds close. They will tend to close the hospital beds that they can most easily dispose of, and these tend to be the lowest cost beds.

The suggestion has also been made that to deal with this factor, this difficulty, we should open convalescent type of beds and this again would seem to be the answer. But again if you look at it this is not the answer. We tend to think of the average bed cost as applying to every bed. But this is a fallacy. You may well have a patient in a hospital bed and his daily cost will add up to possibly \$200, and you may have the patient in the next bed and his cost to the hospital will add up to \$50.00. I fail to see how moving the fifty dollar patient out of the acute hospital where he is only costing the hospital fifty dollars and putting him into a convalescent home where it will cost fifty dollars to keep him, how this is any saving to anyone.

MR. NEARY: The Government of Canada will pay a subsidy.

DR. COLLINS: There may well be some factors in terms of funding and so on. But I believe it is true to say that the federal government will not fund those types of convalescent institutions whereas at the present time they will fund the acute hospital.

Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that most of these measures have such major defects or such temporary effects that we cannot look to those as being the answer. Surely the answer is to increase the efficiency of

DR. COLLINS:

the hospitals that we have. In other words, to try to reduce the cost of our present hospital beds. Now the big question that arises out of this is how can it be done. To answer that question to go right back to the public funding of health services. Prior to public funding there was an effective safeguard in terms of costs. That is that the individual patient involved had close supervision of the costs expended, the funds expended in his regard with his physician as his advisor. But this was under someone's direct control.

When public funding of health services was instituted, or even before that when private insurance schemes were instituted to help spread health costs over longer periods of time, I think the move was wrong there because they tended to fund in terms of, say, medical care or nursing care or physiotherapy care, something along those lines. When the hospital insurance scheme and the medical care insurance scheme came into effect they continued in the same way. Now these had built in, open-ended costs. There was no control by anyone. The patient had surrendered his ability or even his interest in controlling these costs. The physician had no requirement, the doctor had no requirement put on him by these schemes to pay particular attention to costs. He was not responsible. He was not the responsible agent for costs. So naturally costs went up because they were totally unsupervised.

If we could only go back-and I might say that this was advocated by certain groups at the very beginning - if we could only go back and only fund publicly those health problems which required funding. Many aspects of health care now are not strictly speaking important in terms of health. They are more personal care aspects of health care that have very little effect in terms of danger to life, in terms of danger of length of life, even in terms of discomfort in life. They are almost conveniences. But the way our schemes are set up these are publicly funded just as much as significant health hazard processes are.

DR. COLLINS:

I do not see myself how health costs can be controlled - and they have to be controlled. Everyone can see who looks into this matter that if they go up at the present rate they are they will get so far out of line that there will be some total collapse. They do have to be controlled. But personally I do not see how they can be controlled unless we do revert in some degree to a scheme whereby we will not publicly fund all aspects of health care as it is now conceived. We will fund significant disease processes or significant health hazards. We will fund preventative measures in terms of health and a large measure of personal care will be returned to the individual who will be in a position to supervise and control and usually and hopefully limit the amount of expenditure in his regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Mount Scio.

DR. WINSOR: Mr. Chairman I wish at this time that I had the sort of expertise of the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Smallwood) and the gall of the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) to sort of make this very difficult speech for me as a new member. These issues which I intend to comment on are very important to me. I am in a sort of a difficult position. As a member of a profession which has a very long and honourable background and again as a backbencher in government I sort of very carefully today wrote possibly about three or four speeches and tried to put my own thoughts in a way that probably would not offend anyone. But as the day went on one realizes that one owes it to himself to speak probably unencumbered by guidelines, maybe which are really artificially imposed on one.

MR. SIMMONS: Does that give you the right?

DR. WINSOR: No, not really but maybe on certain points. First of all I will start off on things which I am fairly familiar with and then probably get into more media things.

The dental school, I would like to have a few comments on. I have practiced dentistry for twenty years here in Newfoundland, in St. John's mainly but I am fairly familiar with the outports. I grew up there and spent the younger part of my life there. At present we have

DR. WINSOR

seventy-seven dentists in Newfoundland. This gives us a ratio of about one to 7,700. In 1985, by some statistics by academics, we would need 255 and by 1995, some 285. This would bring us down to a ratio of one to 2,464. Now this again is where I have my own ideas. I honestly do not think that we can judge our needs in dentistry and dental manpower by the conditions in Nova Scotia or Ontario or in other probably more advanced parts of our country, advanced in dental sort of care or advanced in the populace being trained in wanting dental care I think is the best way to put it.

Dr. Winsor.

I think that we would function quite well in Newfoundland with about 157 dentists by 1985. This would give us a ratio of about 1 to 4,000.

AN HON. MEMBER: How many do we have now?

DR. WINSOR: Seventy-seven.

In the urban areas, of course, you are going to get a natural influx of dentists and our ratio I think will improve fairly rapidly in the city of Corner Brook, Grand Falls, Gander and St. John's area. It is in the isolated areas which is going to create a real problem because the population is so scattered that it is almost impossible. If you get a young graduate out of dental school today, he is highly trained, keen on prevention, keen on doing conservative dentistry; he goes to an area in the coast of Newfoundland, he is there for a year or two at the most. If we could only in these areas put in a hygienist or have a sort of a training programme to sort of lay the seed for modern dental services, but it is difficult for a young dentist to come out of university and go to these areas, and probably function as efficiently as he could. Now in a lot of these areas I think we are going to have to get more into mobile clinics. We had a successful kind of demonstration last Fall up in Glovertown, and now that clinic I think is, Mr. Minister, at the Janeway Hospital, run by the Janeway Dental Department, and I think they have plans for it for the coming year, but this and probably some sort of maybe floating dental clinic, some way that we could utilize our dental students between maybe the third and fourth year. That could be a way to get some more manpower.

So in 1985 statistically we should have approximately fifty-seven dentists that are practising today still in practise - I hope I am one of them. We will need 100. So we have to find 100 dentists. Now what are our options to get those? One would be a dental school at Memorial University.

AN HON. MEMBER: That would be utterly ridiculous.

DR. WINSOR: I agree. I think it would be absolutely ridiculous. It would us somewhere between \$30 million and \$40 million. It would cost you \$2 million or \$3 million a year to operate. You would have a heck of a time getting faculty for it because dental educators are like hen's teeth. They are very, very hard to get.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Is the hon. member saying that the capital cost of a dental school would be \$30 million or \$40 million?

DR. WINSOR: Between \$30 million and \$40 million.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Well how much is the Medical College costing?

MR. NEARY: Fifty-five million.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Well, for a dental college that much money!

DR. WINSOR: I think the way that figure was arrived at was that a lot of the facilities at the Medical School that we could probably use for certain courses and so forth, like biochemistry, physiology and so forth with the Medical School, the way we did at Dalhousie -

MR. SMALLWOOD: Would that reduce it?

DR. WINSOR: That would reduce the cost.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Greatly, would it not?

DR. WINSOR: It is still, they estimate, about \$30 million or \$40 million. That is for a dental school of about thirty students. It is an expensive operation, very expensive.

MR. DOODY: Would the hon. member say that that is Dalhousie's estimate?

DR. WINSOR: And Dalhousie would be about the same, probably a bit more now.

MR. ROBERTS: More students.

DR. WINSOR: Well, that is another thing I would like to mention. Dalhousie has talked about going to sixty-four students a year. If we graduate in the Maritime Provinces sixty-four dental students a year, by 1985 we would have to export 42 per cent of our dentists out of the Maritime Provinces. We would be flooded. Out of all the Atlantic Provinces we would be flooded.

So the one option that sort of appeals to me, which has been suggested to Dalhousie, is not aim so high, to go for about forty-five students. I personally would like to one good sized dental school in the Maritime Provinces for selfish reasons for the profession. One, we need dental specialists in all dental fields. We need orthodontists, we need oral surgeons, we need specialists in children's dentistry and so on. If we have a good sized dental school, one in the Maritimes, then we could get into specialist training. And now even if Dalhousie starts within a year or so to expand it means 1982 or so before we will get the benefit of any students out of Dalhousie. So I think the government has instituted a very effective programme of recruiting dentists from Europe, from the U. K. mainly, and if we can get three or four good, qualified dentists from the U. K., location grants, help them set up, and guaranteed minimum income, which, I think, is already in existence for them.

MR. NOLAN: Would the hon. member permit a question; if I may? I am wondering if the dentists from the U. K. that he made reference to are qualified similar to, for example, as the hon. member - I noticed that there has been some controversy about nurses, for example, coming in from the U. K., they have got to do upgrading courses in obstetrics and so on - would the dentists be qualified equally as those, say, coming out of Dalhousie or would they have to go through some training as well?

DR. WINSOR: In the U. K. there are two types of dentists. One is a B.Ds., which I think is equivalent to the Canadian B.Ds. Then there is an L.Ds. which is a shorter case, which is not sort of acceptable in Canada unless they have further training. But the B.Ds. is, I think, Mr. Minister - I do not think they have to do anything other than what I would do if I went to Nova Scotia and practicing and that is to pass a simple basic examination, which just shows you have not forgotten what you learned ten years ago.

Dr. Winsor.

Yes, we could recruit three or four from other countries and help them locate in areas in Newfoundland, and then if we could place seven or eight of our own Newfoundland students in Canadian universities. Now the pressure at dental schools, I understand, is sort of lessing in the sense that it is not as difficult today if a person is qualified to get accepted into Toronto, McGill or Dalhousie. And we do have, I think, a subsidy thing of a certain amount per year for a student, and he accepts it for four years, and he serves those years in an area outside of St. John's, Grand Falls, or Bonner Brook, and he serves for those years in Newfoundland.

MR. ROWE: How much is involved to educate and train a dental student?

DR. WINSOR: Oh, you mean at the university. It is expensive. I think you are talking maybe for a four year dental school course. It is close to \$100,000, some \$80,000 to \$100,000. It is probably the most expensive professional courses.

MR. DOODY: You almost need an instructor per student.

DR. WINSOR: Yes, the ratio of instructors per student is extremely high and the materials and so on that you use.

Now okay, if we could get our own kids into the Canadian universities we can cope with this sort of desperate shortage, and if Dalhousie then goes ahead and expands - there is argument between a sixty-four and a forty-five class, but either one would benefit us - I think that our dental needs probably will be fulfilled in the reasonable future. But one thing I would like to see us do and that is not to spend too much effort in recruiting dentists from underdeveloped countries to come here and not give our own students a chance to become dentists. And I think this is very important because now with, what I gather, is the national health system in England and with the economic situation in England that it is not too difficult to get dentists to immigrate to Canada. But we have to sort of give priority, I think, to our own students and give them a chance.

MR. MURPHY: Is that happening doctor? Is that happening
whereas practicing dentists here have to find places within
universities? Are we sacrificing our own kids because we are
bringing someone in that is to be trained?

DR. WINSOR: I do not think is effective at this stage,
but it could develop

DR. WINSOR:

Now dental care; one thing I would like to strongly say and make it sort of fairly concise is we spend about, I think it is approximately \$2.5 million on dental care. I would like to see about three-quarters of a million dollars of that spent on prevention. I think it is absolutely ridiculous. In twenty years I do not know how many holes I have filled in kids teeth to see them come back six to eight months later with their teeth in an atrocious state. They nor their parents do not have any conception of prevention, diet and all the other things. But we know in dentistry that if the public listened to us and did what we told them to do we could probably exist quite well on about one dentist for 5,000 to 6,000 people, if people practiced proper prevention.

Also combined with that fluoridation. I am a great advocate for it. It has been endorsed by every reputable public health group in the world. It is absolutely safe. It is desperately needed in a low income area like Newfoundland. It is simple. I think our Department of Health has gone as far as they can go in a democratic society. They will pay half the cost of installation. They will pay half the cost of the expense of running this system, which is not really that much. I think at the discretion of the department in some areas they will be even more lenient than that. But we could eliminate again sixty per cent of dental problems, breakdown of teeth.

The whole thing is so - I see it every day and I have seen it for twenty years, so excuse me if I get a little emotional. But when you see things that are in a desperate, atrocious, filthy condition that need not be, then I think one tries to do something about it and I think we can do it in Newfoundland. People have been receptive where we have tried to get through to them. Most of us in general practice probably have not spent and have not had the time to get out and talk to schools and so forth, but now with the Department of Health having dental hygienists on staff - and these girls are tremendously well trained in this preventive field and will, I think,

DR. WINSOR:

pay for themselves many many times over. Fluoridation, I think you have my feeling on that.

Now I think I will get to the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) about denturists. Now this is a very difficult one for me because I am damned if I do and I am damned if I do not. Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. I have to understand the government's position. They have to be receptive to public sentiments, public demand where things that can be done probably to satisfy that demand. I can see where they tend to probably sometimes go that way - maybe a little, in this case, too far.

The dental profession historically has always been against denturists in practice on their own. That feeling probably has changed somewhat. We still feel that if they are to be licensed they should be under the supervision of a dentist who is after all the person who has the training to deal with the whole mouth. It is just ridiculous to take a section of the medical profession to deal with the eye and say that you can, say, take a six months or a years course to do certain things and give them all the privileges of the position, to use drugs and so forth. This I disagree with also.

MR. NEARY: But you have a crowd who did six courses and now they are eye doctors.

DR. WINSOR: Yes, in two or three months. I think - well let us take my own point of view - I think denturists now are a fact of life. We have to make sure that when they become legalized that they give the best possible service to the public that they can give with the help of government and with the help of the dental profession. I think anything less than that would be a mistake by certainly the dental profession and by government. This is an embryo profession or vocation. They are not a profession, they are a vocation. They are an embryo vocation. They have not the expertise at this stage probably to set up their own training programmes in this Province. If the public of Newfoundland are to get the treatment which they deserve, this should be done. It should be done with government assistance and probably the dental profession should help.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Would the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him, what is it that a denturist does? Is it that he just makes the dental plates? Does he prescribe? Does he not only make them but decide what kind to make and all that? Is no dentist involved? Just straight from the patient to the denturist, is that it?

DR. WINSOR: That is it. The denturist deals with the patient directly.

MR. SMALLWOOD: And no one else but the denturist.

DR. WINSOR: No one else. Now I think we could argue and talk about this -

MR. SMALLWOOD: All he does is make plates?

MR. WINSOR: Makes plates.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Does not extract or anything else?

DR. WINSOR: No, Sir.

MR. DOODY: He has a clear impression of us.

DR. WINSOR: There are many things, and I am not going to bore the Assembly tonight by talking about all the problems that one can get into with the mouth or any part of the human body where one makes a prosthetic appliance. I know from my own sake, and I speak for myself, I think I would have to look at my own techniques very carefully if I as a dentist and if the dental profession is sort of scared of denturists opening up and dealing with the public. The dentists are not going to be hurt in this. The demand for dental care will increase rapidly over the next generations to come. We are going to have all we can do to conserve teeth, periodontal treatment, orthodontic treatment and every other aspect of dentistry.

I know in my own practice I would estimate that less than one-tenth of one per cent of my income in the last ten years has been in full dentures.

AN HON. MEMBER: One-tenth?

DR. WINSOR: Yes. I can back that up.

AN HON. MEMBER: One-tenth of what year's salary?

DR. WINSOR: In the last ten years has been out of full dentures.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Has been from what?

DR. WINSOR: From full dentures.

MR. NEARY: Does the hon. member have a technician?

DR. WINSOR: No. Any denture work that I do I deal with Associated Laboratories which is a sort of a commercial laboratory.

Now again, and this is something I think for the member for Twillingate's (Mr. Smallwood) benefit, people sometimes have the impression that the dentist takes, what Newfoundland sometimes calls the 'pressure' and sends it to the lab to get them and all of the sudden this magic denture appears which the dentists then sticks in the patient's mouth and then rips off the patient. This is so far from the truth that, you know, it sort of sickened me over the years to hear these stupid arguments. The average dentist, if he follows the accepted denture-making techniques, would take about six to seven appointments to make a denture. There are a lot of factors he considers, joint, depth and so forth and articulation, all sorts of things that are technical. But it does take about six to seven appointments. I would say the sixth and seventh would be follow-up treatment, grinding in the bit after the patient has had the dentures and so on.

I have had patients in my office from denturists who have been reasonably happy with their dentures. I have had others who have not been happy. I have had them go to denturists and get a blob of wax put in their mouth and it is taken out and then the next day they go and pick up their dentures.

MR. NEARY: You have the reverse too. You have those who get dentures from dentists who are not satisfied.

DR. WINSOR: Oh, yes. There is nothing that any profession does for an individual that you can guaranteed 100 per cent satisfaction. When you are dealing with the human body this is not possible but you do try to keep your average of success high.

So if anybody, a dentist or a denturist did this sort of quick mush bite in the one appointment or two appointment procedure - I could charge fifty or sixty dollars for a denture and make a profit

DR. WINSOR:

on it. I cannot compete with the denturist in price if I am going to make the dentures the way I want to make them or most dentists want to make them. So I think there is no comparison or no argument there when you are talking about a highly qualified professional man and you are talking about a technician with probably a few months or a year at a lab making teeth and never seeing human beings until he gets out directly to start working on them.

Dr. R. Winsor:

There are a couple of other points there. I would hope that when this act is brought down that the denturists will only be allowed to make full dentures. They were in the beginning, I think, requesting to make partial dentures which they can get into a lot of problems because you are dealing with their normal healthy teeth, with other things that, I think, only a dentist is equipped to cope with.

MR. MORGAN: There were recommendations like that when the special committee first sat.

DR. R. WINSOR: Yes. And the same thing with immediate dentures, tissue after the sort of trauma of extraction takes a few, sometimes up to months to heal, and therefore a qualified person who is used to dealing with diseased tissue should have that responsibility to decide.

Now there is one question again that I hope the government does not do, and does not request the dentist to sign a slip for the patient to say that his mouth is healthy. I think if the denturists are going to be legalized they have to take certain responsibilities, and people who go to them have to take certain responsibilities. If they want denturist service they cannot have the benefit of the dentists. And I will tell you why; you come in to me to get a denture made and I look your mouth and I examine, Now I know I probably seen you before over the years, or when I make the denture we will be seeing you again in the future for relines and so on. And also at that stage I do not have to put my professional reputation with a signature on a slip of paper saying your mouth is healthy, I will examine it reasonably, and usually when we make dentures if there is any suspicion we will x-ray. But if an individual comes in -

MR. NOLAN: Does a dentist ever give a slip of paper saying your mouth is healthy?

DR. WINSOR: No, I am talking about with the denturists there, it was a question of having to get a slip from a physician or from a dentist before the denturist could make it. I do not think the physician is very happy about this.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Was this a proposal?

DR. WINSOR: There was whether Cabinet - now you see this act is going to go to Cabinet. It is up to them.

MR. SMALLWOOD: In other words - may I? - what the hon. gentleman is saying is this, namely, that there was a proposal that a denturist could go ahead and make a plate provided the patient for whom he made it brought to him from a dentist -

DR. WINSOR: or a physician.

MR. SMALLWOOD: - a certificate that his mouth was healthy.

MR. DOODY: A recommendation from the Committee of the House of Assembly.

DR. WINSOR: Or a physician.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Or a physician, yes.

DR. WINSOR: I would be glad to do that, and I am talking for myself. Now please do not misinterpret me. I am no spokesman for the dental profession, I am a spokesman from the member for Mount Scio. If I have to give somebody a clearance of their mouth I would only do so if I have about four or five x-rays on the upper and lower jaw, that is the only way it can be done, and with a good visual thing. So it is not just a matter of a patient zipping in, a dentist having a quick look, sign a slip of paper, and say, "Your mouth is healthy go." He cannot and no professional man can put his name to a paper saying your mouth is healthy unless he does examine it thoroughly.

So I hope that when they do that that either the option will still be on the patient to come and get her or his mouth examined if the patient request it, but I do not think it should be in the act. And I also would feel that, yes, I think I mentioned this before about the government assisting in setting up proper training facilities to train denturists. I do not think we can sort of carry on indefinitely with just apprentice type of training. I think it is too complicated for that. We may have to put up with it for the first few years, but I think government should consider some sort of a formal training programme for them.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Where? The University or where?

AN HON. MEMBER: A polytechnical institute.

DR. WINSOR: A polytechnical institute would be excellent.

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

MR. J. NOLAN: I wonder if I could ask a question of the hon. member? I am just wondering what the differences are, if any, and maybe this should be directed to the House Leader or some lawyer, what is the difference in legal protection, if you like, that I would receive, (1) as being treated by a dentist, and (2) being treated in whatever manner by a denturist? What, if any, difference is there?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Mount Scio.

DR. WINSOR: When they become legalized I doubt if there would be any difference at this date since they are working sort of a little bit on the grey side of the law there is no act legalizing them, yet they have not been prosecuted. I do not know, I would say at this date it would be rather dicey ground for any insurance company if anything were to happen. But when they become legalized, of course, no problem.

Again I think I mentioned fees. It is very difficult to sort of get into that in detail because we all charge differently in the profession. We have a suggested fee schedule. You would sort of -

MR. NEARY: You are not like the lawyers, You do not have a book locked up in your top drawer that nobody can get to see it.

DR. WINSOR: No. I do not know if they do, but I know we have a suggested one, and we charge basically on what the time involved in doing the service not in materials. And this again is a misconception of the public. Again running an office in St. John's can certainly be sometimes more expensive than out in isolated parts, and therefore your difference in fees in certain areas.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Oh, oh!

DR. WINSOR: Pardon?

MR. ROBERTS: All through more profits I guess is it?

DR. WINSOR: Well the income tax is going to take it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

DR. WINSOR: Well I think wages; you would have to pay certain municipal taxes and office rent in St. John's and so on. It is certainly higher than, you know - and I think even after a dentist owned all of his equipment, and he is in practice for many years, he will still run on a 50 per cent overhead regardless of what gross he makes. So if he makes \$100,000 gross, it is \$50,000 that goes in expenses not counting income tax. This is just straight office expenses. This is statistically proven.

A couple of other points before I close: The cost of hospital care - I have been five years on the Medical Advisory Committee at the Janeway Hospital and I am chief for their Dental Department. Now one request I would like to make to the minister is that this is a children's hospital, and it is Newfoundland's children's hospital, it is bursting at its seams. It is not just a hospital where there are beds for sick people. It is a hospital with that, but it also gives innumerable other services such as communications clinics with parents, speech therapy, poison control and dozens of others, cleft palate, and you name it. So because of all of this subsidy type of services that this hospital is giving that space is really at a premium, and I know that sort of every square inch of - that is the main building plus any space they have scrapped together on the other side of that road going up the White Hills has been used to maximum efficiency, and to the point we are really, with the number of, without patient visits and patients going through the hospital, that if any hospital in the Island needs expansion, and the first one, be it next year or the year after, Mr. Chairman, when you do get some money consider the Janeway.

But that utilization at a children's hospital too as I wanted to say cannot be so callously calculated as in an adult hospital. You are dealing with a completely different ball game there with the kids coming in from around the Province who sometimes do not see their parents during their stay in hospital, and it is impossible to send sort of a kid who is recovering well, and if he were from St. John's probably could be sent home, but because he is

DR. WINSOR:

still at a stage where infection could set in they cannot take the chance of sending that kid back to Hermitage Bay or other isolated parts of the Island. So therefore your bed utilization there cannot be so stringently enforced.

The adult hospitals-I would like to see institutions,- and I think the member for St. John's South (Dr. Collins) covered that adequately-for recovery care where patients can care for their own rooms, and in some cases,I think,as they do in the United States now, and cook their own meals, it is great therapy for a patient getting over surgery of some type, and certainly it would make the cost much cheaper.

Health insurance is another thing I think government is going to have to face. We as a profession argued against cross-the-board free medical care when the Howe Commission was sort of introduced back in 1964 when the Medicare came in. It was inevitable that we were going to have to face it, costs are going up, those people in our society who can afford to pay,I think Ontario scheme, the British Columbia scheme where there are sort of insurance premiums, it is going to have to be done and we are going to have to face it sooner or later. I do not like the term fees. It makes the person on the very lowest part of the income scale \$5,or whatever you set it,the term fee is going to be just probably much more out of proportion than it would be to the people in the higher brackets. And I think health insurance is the only feasible way, and it is going to have to be done.

DR. WINSOR: As more and more people in our society demand sophisticated health care, costs are going to rise above reason if great care is not taken to maximize utilization of all facilities.

Now the other thing, and I am just going to end off with this, as one who was treated in one of my jobs at the Janeway was to be on call and I have treated many a kid who has sort of been badly injured in automobile accidents, through windshields and so forth and picked out bits of teeth out of faces and eyes. I strongly recommend and again probably I should preface this, the ways that we can sort of utilize our medical facilities to the maximum benefit of all and one of the best ways we can do this is do more in prevention. Seat belts should be mandatory and I think anyone in my own case, and I am sure many physicians who have seen results of people not wearing a seat belt at an impact of thirty, forty miles an hour, after they have seen the results would always wear one. And again the speed limit be reduced to fifty-five. And I think this would eliminate the carnage on our highways, needless suffering to people and it makes economic sense too. Thank you very much.

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Chairman, what I have to say will be very brief, I can assure you. First of all I would like to congratulate my hon. friend who just spoke, an old friend and an old dentist and a man who knows whereof he speaks and a man I think who has done very good work, very fine work in dentistry over the years, not all of which he has told perhaps because of modesty but I listened very attentively to what he had to say. I frankly am for denturists. I do not mind saying that. He may disagree with me although I do not think he does. He has accepted the fact that they have come, The only question I ask is, you know, why were they not here fifteen or twenty years ago? That is the one thing that certainly occurs to me and also I cannot help but feel that the dental profession obviously have a vested interest in keeping them out.

MR. NOLAN: It may be have been only one tenth of the income for my hon. friend for the last ten years but it depends on who you talk to at the time. I obviously accept every word that he says because I know him very, very well. But there are those who have worked in dentist offices. You have heard remarks reported by them in the press over the last few years. You have heard them on radio or television perhaps. Maybe the members of the Committee may have talked to some such people and so on who will tell you how simple it is, all the dentist does and how they can turn out a dental plate for, you know, fifty-five cents and charge you fifty-five dollars. I mean, I have heard things that might sound exaggerated but I have heard things just that extravagantly. I am not saying it is authentic or true, but we have heard some fairly exaggerated figures.

One of the great things that I have often wondered about in dentistry is the - I am wondering to what extent good dentistry is available only to those, I am thinking about the young people primarily at the moment, who have money. Because it is something you have obviously to pay for and how many parents today, and historically in Newfoundland for that matter, could really afford to - I am not saying that the dentists' rates are exorbitant, I am not suggesting that, I am just saying that with all the other demands I am wondering often times if dentistry, if you talk about priority lists, how far down the line does it lie? And I would think that there are many, many cases in Newfoundland of those who have gone without proper dental care, eye care and so on, strictly because of the lack of dollars. And this is a pretty, pretty sad thing when you realize some of the things we have spent money on in the past.

Now there has been some discussion from time to time about the medical college here in Newfoundland. I remember one time when I was in Cabinet someone who allegedly knew told me, and I spoke of it in fact at one time and in fact against it on the basis of the information I had, that Newfoundland, if you looked at what the medical college

MR. NOLAN: was going to cost us here, you could take the young Newfoundlander, a med. student, send him away to Halifax or wherever to train and pay him I think \$100,000 a year while he was doing it and still do it cheaper than putting that medical college up there. And by the way that came from a medical person, that information. So if so you have to again look at the priorities.

However, when I say and shoot from the lip on things like that I have to consider a little fact that came home to me just a couple of years ago and I was reminded when I heard the hon. Mr. Chairman address his remarks to the turn over in beds and so on, I mean this is being done now, a much faster turn over now than there has ever been before. And where it was struck home to me just a few years ago I think back in 1968 I had a gall bladder operation here in St. John's, I think it took me two weeks, by the time I went in and came out. And then a couple of years ago my younger brother, my only brother, who had a very serious heart condition and had reached the point where he had to go and have open heart surgery and the question was should he go away to Toronto, as many people have done and are doing, or whether it should have been done here in Newfoundland? So being the older and only brother I picked up the phone one day and I phoned Dr. Gus Rowe, who was a former Minister of Health, and I believe now associated with the medical college and I questioned him obviously on a personal basis as to what advice I could offer to my brother and so on. And he advised me privately; he explained what he knew about the situation here and so on in terms and with an expertise that I would not hope to duplicate obviously, but whatever he said he convinced me to advise my brother which I did to have the open heart surgery here. And I mean I would not advise anyone on any medical problem or legal problem but I did it on the strength of what Dr. Rowe had advised. Of course he also said, "By all means, if you feel that it would be better to send him to Toronto, do so." But he had it here and the point I was trying to make was this, that I had been in for two weeks for a gall bladder

MR. NOLAN: operation, I brought my young brother to the General Hospital, I believe on a Friday. The next Friday he was home, having had open heart surgery done here, a six hour operation or something, where they have to graft from the leg into the heart and so on. I mean it was quite a hairy operation, but done by a man who perhaps would not have been here had the medical college not been there, I suppose I am accurate in saying that, Dr. Cooze, a quite remarkable young man and I believe there was a Dr. Crosbie who worked with him at the time. They were a sort of a medical team on this. But I mention this only because it was very personal to me but also because I am sure that Newfoundlanders often times feel that up along is better, wherever it may be, and in no matter what profession you are talking about or what service you need. But I mention this only to point out the fact that you must have, and I am no authority on it, I only mention a personal experience of mine, a quite remarkable, I mean this is going on all the time. I mean we do not hear about it. There are many other things going on I am sure in the medical profession as well that we do not hear about.

I know of remarkable work, for example, that was done over the years out at the old Sanitorium on Topsail Road. I have known of cases where men who have been crippled for years, and ladies came in bent over, literally bent, had spent a lifetime like it and have walked out of that hospital, and I know them. I know their names and I know the doctors who worked on them, who walked out as straight as a whip. They just never had the access to the facility and to the expertise as demonstrated in the cases that I know about by orthopedic surgeons, very fine personnel, and, you know, I believe that the history of medicine in Newfoundland to a large degree is still very much unwritten and the part that has been played by all people, whether it be in the political level, the civil service - I think of a late colleague, at least in this House, the hon. Dr. James McGrath, a former Minister of Health and all the wonderful doctors, nurses

MR. NOLAN: and all the hospital staff and so on that have practiced in this Province. So it is certainly not my point here to either delay the Committee or in fact to criticize the minister. I do not consider myself sufficiently versed, but I thought that perhaps by at least explaining a couple of things that I knew as facts and not as fiction that it might be of some interest to the House and perhaps help to justify the minister's plea for additional expenditures and to let my old colleague, the Minister of Finance, know that I will fight for every cent on that basis.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Health,

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, to respond to all of the statements which have been made is going to take a little bit more time than we have unless all hon. members are ready to let the estimates go through. I do not know what their feeling is over there. There are a few minutes at my disposal anyway. I should deal with them in order. The first hon. member to speak tonight was the hon. member from LaPofle (Mr. Neary). He mentioned various pieces of legislation. I can tell him - I am sure he is aware of the fact - that the bill to permit the practice of acupuncture is now on the Order Paper. A new optometry act is in the makings and an act governing denturists is also in the pipeline. These, Mr. Chairman, are major. Hopefully we will get them in this session. They are major pieces of legislation.

With regard to the denturist bill, which will be coming forth, please goodness, there was a select committee of the House which went around the Province, I believe also went to Nova Scotia, and conducted hearings. After that report was submitted there was a committee established, Mr. George C.R. Parsons being the chairman of it, along with some other knowledgeable people, to take the select committee's report and then recommend appropriate legislation to government. That report has been received, was received some time ago. Of course, with such an important matter, naturally we had to have our officials look at it and determine what was the best approach. I can say at this time that we have just about made our minds up. Unless we run into some undue delays in terms of having the legislation drafted, it is my hope that both of those bills will be before the House before this session closes.

The hon. members mentions the fact that he called upon me before about the need to call tenders for the supply of eye glasses for indigent people which we supply them to. I have discussed this matter with the officials. Ordering eye glasses is not as simple as ordering a screw driver or a Stillson wrench or something like that. There are some

MR. COLLINS:

restrictions. But I would hope that they will come up with ways and means whereby we can find some way to call tenders so that we will insure that we will be getting the very best price. I am just about satisfied now, Mr. Chairman, that we are getting a real good price on the eye glasses, the frames which we buy.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. COLLINS: Well it is a matter of opinion. But at any rate, we certainly want to make sure that the dollars we are spending, that we are getting maximum benefits from them. I can give the committee the assurance that we are looking at that very seriously.

I dealt with the Optometry Act. The hon. member mentions whether there should be a consumer on the board. I think that is the board which would follow in the act. That is something we will certainly take a look at. He mentions also the occupation of acute care beds, the new federal proposals and so on. I was interested in listening to what my friend, the hon. member, the Chairman of the Committee and that tonight, the hon. member from St. John's South (Dr. Collins) have had to say. I believe, in fact I am sure - and we have made a request to the Federal Government, many of the provinces have - that the time has come for a complete and total global review of all health programmes. People refer to the open-endedness of the H.I.D.S., the Hospital Insurance Diagnostic Services Act and it is an open-ended bit. Medical care is not much better. However these were federal acts. Of course, the Province has had to operate within the guidelines laid down in that federal legislation. We are convinced that given some flexibility - and the flexibility is not there now - given some flexibility in terms of establishing other types of programmes, we believe that the health care system can be improved and that in the long run it can be done with less money. However, I should warn the committee that from a short term point of view that is not possible because if we are going to get involved in home - well not necessarily home care - but in chronic care type institutions, extended care,

MR. COLLINS:

geriatrics, whatever we might refer to them as, if we are going to get involved in those types of institutions, and the Federal Government are making it pretty easy maybe for us now in terms of cost sharing, the cost once the patient is in there, but the short term implications in terms of capital required to construct, to find the mortar and the bricks and the steel to construct those types of institutions, that is a different story. That is going to cost a lot of money.

MR. NEARY: Just go borrow it.

MR. COLLINS: Well it is not all that easy. We have a lot of senior citizens' homes across the Province now which we would hope would qualify. But once you start to look beneath what the Federal Government passes along to you sometimes, once you start to look beneath and read between the lines, look at the small print, as my hon. friend would say, then we find that a lot of the institutions would not qualify.

MR. NEARY: Well, we bought a hotel one time and turned it into a home for severely handicapped and physically handicapped and medically handicapped adults.

MR. COLLINS: That is not to say that with some renovations and improvements and the addition of certain types of staff and so on that that cannot be done. But certainly it is something -

MR. SMALLWOOD: To be sure the Government of Canada has been competing to make these payments.

MR. COLLINS: Well, that is something else because if we look at what has happened with the H.I.D.S. bit whereby they have unilaterally decided to terminate the agreement in 1980. With Medicare they have decided to put ceilings on the amount of cost sharing for the next three years. If they are going to do that how can we be sure, even though they offer us a nice platter of additional cost shared programmes, how can we be sure they will not cancel that in three years time or five years time?

SOME NON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. COLLINS: So, Mr. Chairman, it is not all as easy sometimes as it sounds and certainly not as rosy as one might think when we look at some of the programmes which the Federal Government comes up with.

MR. NEARY: What about the federal equalization grants?

MR. DOODY: They will not do that either. They are cancelling the operational guarantees and are cutting back on equalization.

MR. COLLINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, if you look at the implications of that, one of the reasons we are in such a fortunate position in terms of the amount of the federal cost sharing under H.I.D.S. and Medicare is because it is all related to the national standards. Those standards are established by Ontario and Quebec and British Columbia and Alberta. If, for instance, Alberta and Quebec and Ontario or some of the richer provinces decide to go the tax point way and they do succeed in selling the Federal Government on that approach, you know, we have not got much choice but go the same way because our dollars coming in on the formula which is now used for health shared programmes would be less, well it would be almost infinitesimal.

MR. DOODY: We are finished.

MR. COLLINS: We are finished. That is right. We are finished.

Mr. Chairman, I think before I get involved in occupational health - that is going to take some time -

MR. DOODY: We will raise the committee.

MR. COLLINS: Raise the committee and report some progress, I suppose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is moved that I report progress. Those in favour "aye", contrary "nay", carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report have passed estimates of expenditure under the following heading: **Number VI Education**, all items without amendment, and report having made further progress and ask leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chairman of the Committee of Supply reports that the Committee has considered the matters to them referred, have passed all items without amendment under Heading VI and have considered further matters to them referred and ask leave to sit again.

On motion report received and adopted.

On motion that the Committee ordered to sit again on tomorrow.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn until three o'clock tomorrow afternoon and that this House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER: It is moved and seconded that this House do now adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 3:00 p.m. Those in favour "aye", contrary "nay", carried. This House is now adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 3:00 p.m.

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