



**PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND**

**THIRTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
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**VERBATIM REPORT**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1976**

**SPEAKER; THE HONOURABLE GERALD RYAN OTTENHEIMER**

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I do not think, you know, cameras should be brought into the Assembly. What is the purpose?

MR. SPEAKER: All I have is a request from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and the Newfoundland Broadcasting Company whether they can film this afternoon's proceedings. They did not give me any details. It was a verbal request. I told them that I would bring it up to the House, it was a matter for the House to decide.

MR. NEARY: Before we make a commitment, Your Honour, could we find out what the proceedings will involve this afternoon? What is the order of business?

MR. SPEAKER: Only the Government House Leader presumably can say what the government's intentions are. I am here and I follow the regular procedures as put forward.

MR. NEARY: Would we be asking too much, Sir, to have the Government House Leader to tell us what the order of business is before we agree to the cameras coming into the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Would one of the clerks, would one of the officers, please inform the two television stations that there has not been unanimous agreement.

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Speaker, that is not what -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! It is my understanding that I put the question to the House whether the two television stations would be permitted to film this afternoon's proceedings. There must be unanimous consent for it. It is my understanding that there is not unanimous consent, but in fact if there is unanimous consent then naturally they will be permitted. All I need to know is whether there is unanimous consent or not.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, before we give consent, can we find out what the proceedings are going to be this afternoon that they want to film. What is so special? What is so special about this afternoon that they want -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. gentleman presumably is not directing a question to me, because I do not know -

MR. NEARY: I am asking the Government House Leader.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I do not determine the order of business. The hon. member has addressed a question -

MR. NEARY: To the Government House Leader.

MR. R. WELLS: It is not my intention to answer the question.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister -

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Speaker -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. minister has indicated that it is not his intention to answer that question. Now what I need to know is whether there is unanimous consent or not?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I will put it another way. Is there any hon. member who objects?

The hon. member from Twillingate.

MR. J. R. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I asked you sometime ago if you would agree, provided that the House agreed, for a photographer, a still camera photographer, not moving, not television, but a still camera, colour camera, photographer to come there near the door and take one or two pictures of the whole Chamber and the members for inclusion in a certain book to come out next year. And Your Honour graciously agreed, and the photographer is the Governemnt's own photographer, Mr. Philip Smith, and I notice that he was out there, and if there is no disagreement, I hope we will all look handsome to appear in this book some time next Spring, in colour.

MR. SPEAKER: Is this agreed to?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed!

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I still do not know if we are in public session or private session.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

We are in public session. Strangers have been admitted.

MR. NEARY: Well, Sir, will it be in order now to welcome the three new members to the House?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. If the hon. gentleman will permit me that is my intention to do that.

I am pleased to welcome on behalf of all hon. members three recently elected members to the House of Assembly. On my left, the hon. member for Bonavista North (Mr. Cross).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: On my right, the hon. member for Ferrvland (Mr. O'Brien).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: On my left, the hon. member for Exploits (Mr. Twomey).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mr. Speaker, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has arrived.

MR. SPEAKER: Admit His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

HON. GORDON A. WINTER (Lieutenant-Governor): Mr. Speaker and members of the honourable House of Assembly:

This First Session of the Thirty-Seventh General Assembly of this Honourable House of Assembly is about to be prorogued but before releasing you from your duties I wish to convey to you my thanks for your careful and sympathetic attention to the important matters brought before you by my Ministers.

Seventy-seven pieces of legislation were enacted during this Session of the Honourable House of Assembly. Among these were two important pieces of consumer legislation, The Mortgage Brokers Act and an Act to establish a Department of Consumer Affairs and Environment. The establishment of this Department exemplifies the increased emphasis being placed on consumer protection by my Government.

The administration of justice in the province received great attention in this Session with the passage of a new District Courts Act, The Sheriff's Act, The Queen's Counsel Act and the adoption of model legislation relating to the interprovincial subpoena and international wills. The Extra-Provincial Custody Orders Enforcement Act was also passed. This latter Act is of particular importance as it will serve to prevent the taking of children who are subject to a custody order out of the province in which the order was given. The Highway Traffic Act has been amended to eliminate the restricted driver's licence and to increase the sanctions for impaired driving by providing for minimum licence suspensions.

Legislation has been enacted in the health field regularizing the practice of acupuncture and strengthening the powers of the Medical Care Commission to deal with physicians who may abuse the medical care insurance plan.

**MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:**

The Youth Commission Act has been enacted which will provide a vehicle for the young people of the province to influence the future direction of the province and to assist in the development of programs for our young people. Legislation has also been passed to reduce the voting age in local government elections to eighteen years to make the voting age consistent with The Election Act.

A number of important Acts have been passed in the resources area including The Mineral Act and The Quarry Materials Act which provide for a framework more suited to the development of our mineral resources. The agreement between my Government and Wabanex Energy Corporation Limited respecting the use of the mines at Bell Island for oil storage was ratified by an Act and it is my Government's hope that the feasibility study being conducted will lead to such a development.

The Crown Lands Act and The Quieting of Titles Act have been amended to provide for an expeditious method of clearing title to Crown land occupied by persons for a period of at least twenty years prior to January 1, 1977. This should prove advantageous to many people who have not been able to obtain clear title to their property.

The Workmen's Compensation Act has been amended to increase compensation payments to injured workmen and their dependents.

**MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:**

I thank you for the large measure of supply you have granted. I assure you that the appropriations which you have granted will be expended by my Ministers with care and efficiency.

It is my pleasure that the First Session of this Thirty-Seventh General Assembly be prorogued and it is prorogued accordingly.

MR. ROBERTS: On a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: A point of privilege, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I do not believe that I am permitted, that the rules will permit me to hear any hon. member on a point of privilege or on a point of order. As I understand it, His Honour has prorogued the House. The House is, therefore, prorogued, and I do not have authority to recognize any hon. member nor may hon. members address the Chair. His Honour has prorogued the House, and the House is in fact prorogued.

MR. ROBERTS: Well, Mr. Speaker, Your Honour is in the Chair. May we appeal Your Honour's ruling?